

AMERICAN SOCIAL CLASSES IN THE 1990s¹

	Upper Class	Lower-Upper Class	Upper-Middle Class	Lower-Middle Class	Working Class	Lower Class
% of American Population (approximate)	1%	2-5%	15-20%	25-30%	30-35%	15-20%
Typical Professions/Jobs		Corporate Executives; Professional Athletes; Owners of smaller scale businesses	Doctors; Lawyers; Middle and Upper Corporate Management; Owners of smaller scale businesses	Lower status White Collar Jobs; High Paying Blue Collar Jobs	Blue Collar and Clerical Jobs	Unemployed; Lowest paying Blue Collar and Clerical Jobs
Income derived from	ownership of key corporate capital	high salary/investment	salary/investment	salary/wage	salary/wage	salary/wage
Incomes	Annual income from the billions to hundreds of millions	Annual income from the millions to hundreds of thousands	above the median of \$41,000 annually	Close to the median of \$41,000 annually	At or below median of \$41,000 annually	(1995) Poverty Level family of 4 = < \$15,570 individual = \$7,900
Education	Graduate and Professional Degrees	Graduate and Professional Degrees	Graduate and Professional Degrees	Some College	High School	Some High School
Children's Higher Education	College	College	College	Perhaps 4-year College; more likely 2-year College; few will attend Graduate School	Perhaps 4-year College; more likely 2-year College;	Some High School
Home Ownership	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, but many rent	rent

¹ Chart based on information presented in John E. Farley, *Sociology* (New York: Prentice Hall, 1998), 202-203.