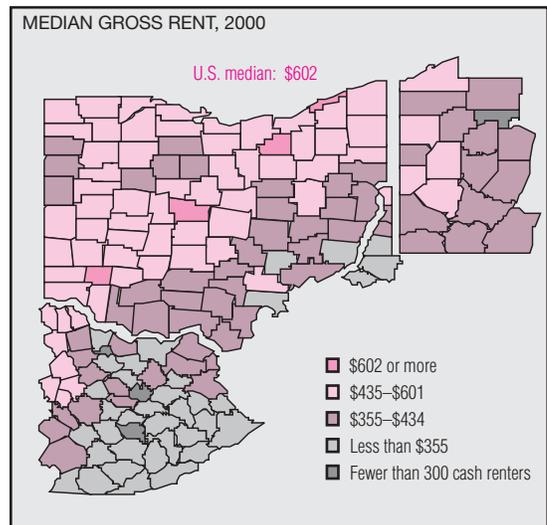
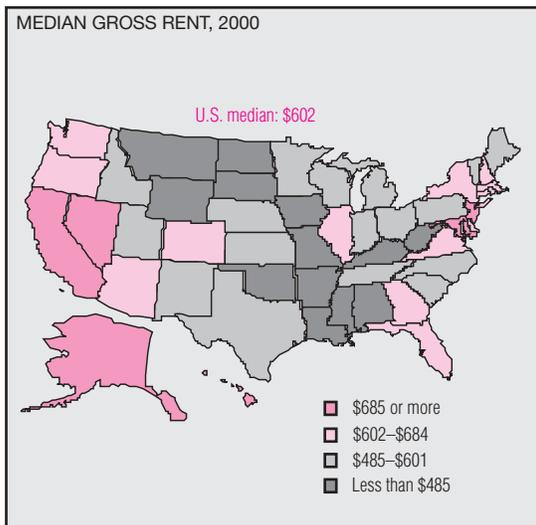
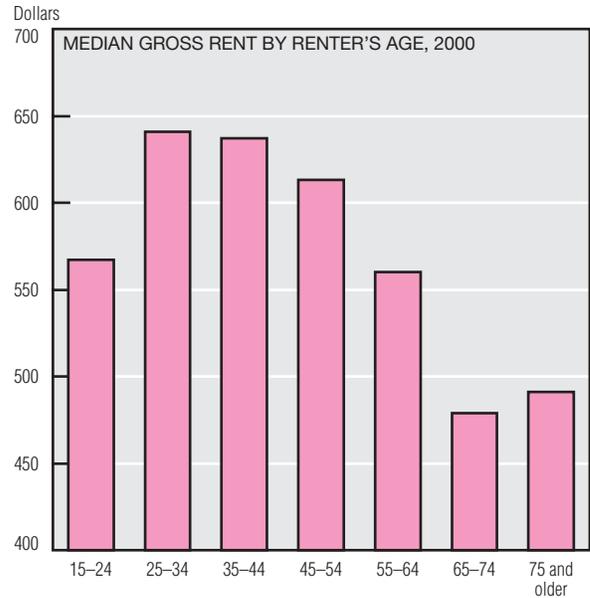
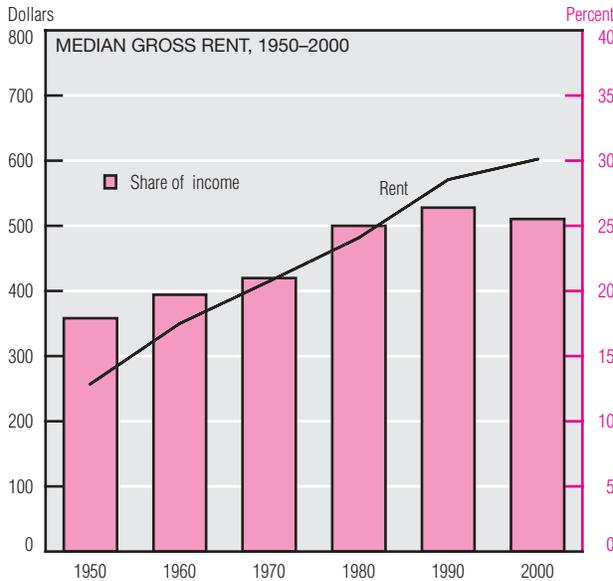


Rental Costs



NOTE: All rents are monthly rates.
 SOURCE: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

More than a third of the U.S. population resides in rental property. In 2000, the share of renters (33.8%) was the lowest recorded in census history. The same year, the cost of renting was the highest in census history, with a median monthly rental cost in the U.S. of \$602. Monthly rents have risen steadily since 1950, even after adjusting for inflation. Although monthly rental costs in the 2000 Census were higher than in the 1990 Census, rent as a share of income fell slightly over the last decade.

Renters aged 25 to 34 tend to pay the highest median rents, and roughly

half the people in this age group in the U.S. rent their primary residence. Only heads of households aged 15 to 24 rent more frequently (over 82%). They tend to pay lower median rents than the group aged 25 to 34, however, because many in this group are students or just beginning to work full time.

Nationwide, the states with the highest median rental rates are Alaska, Hawaii, California, Nevada, Maryland, and New Jersey, while the states with the lowest median rates are found in the Midwest and the South. Within the Fourth Federal

Reserve District, the highest median rates are found in counties adjacent to the cities of Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Columbus. Lower rents are found in the Appalachian area of the District and in the tobacco-farming and mining regions of eastern Kentucky. Among cities with more than 10,000 people, three Fourth District cities rank among the 10 least expensive in the nation in median rental rates: Erie's rents are the nation's second lowest, while Cincinnati's are the fifth lowest and Dayton's are the seventh lowest.