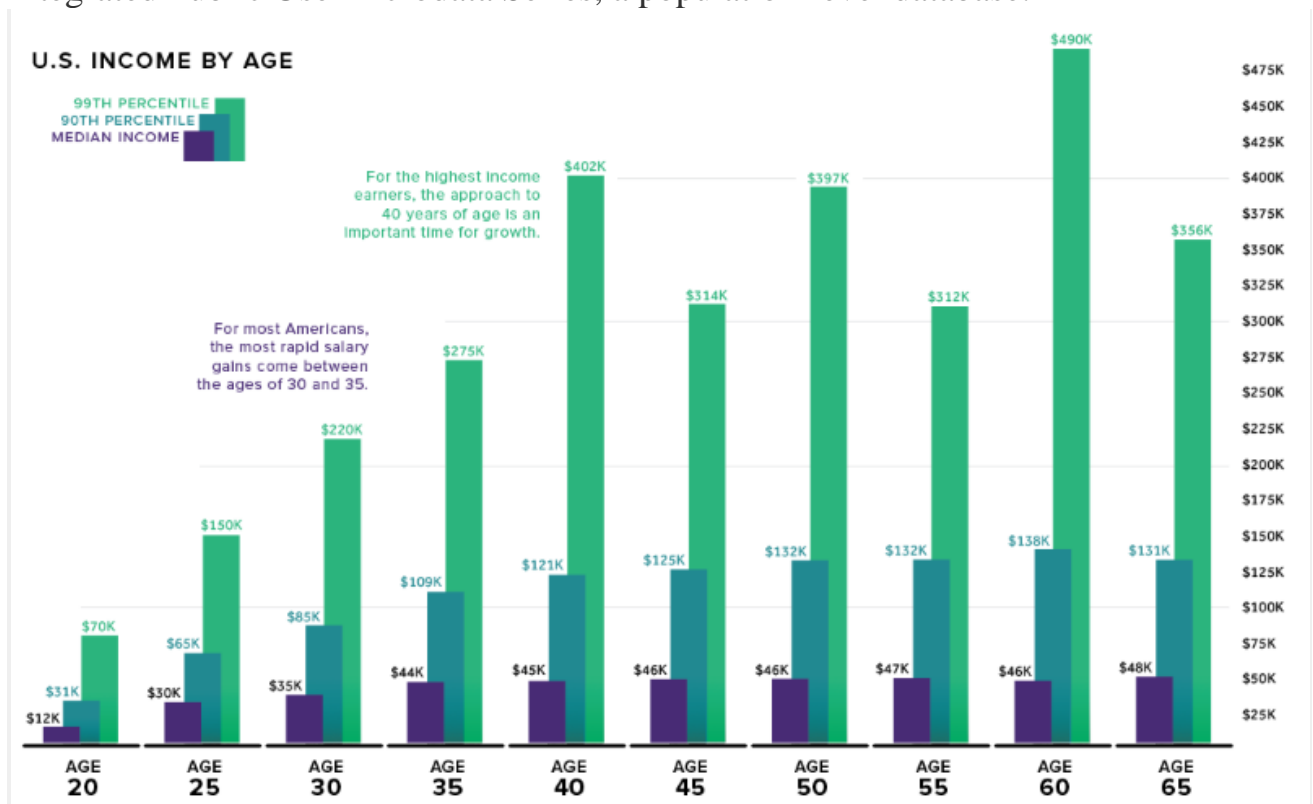


This chart shows how much Americans make at every age — how do you compare?

Maria LaMagna
7 hrs ago

Are you between the ages of 30 and 35? You really are making the most rapid salary gains in your career, if you're like most Americans.

The business and investing website Visual Capitalist created [a chart to show Americans' income at every age between 20 and 65](#), based on data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, a population-level database.



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What Visual Capitalist found: The run-up to age 40 is most important, whether you are in the 99th percentile of wealthiest Americans, or you make the median income in the U.S.

After that, salary gains are much smaller. For example, the median salary for an American at age 40 is \$45,000, according to the chart.

After that, the median salary increases just \$1,000 every five years, if it increases at all. By age 65, the person who made \$45,000 at age 40 will make \$48,000.

The wealthiest Americans see a similar pattern, although their salaries are much higher.

By age 40, those in the 99th percentile make a whopping \$402,000.

But after that, their salaries may actually drop. That is, until they reach age 60, where on average they make \$490,000.

That said, individual salaries will vary widely, Visual Capitalist points out.

The ideal income is \$95,000 a year for individuals to reach peak life satisfaction, according to researchers at Purdue University and the University of Virginia.