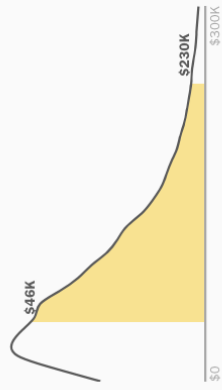
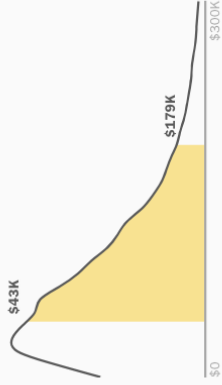


Comparing experts' definitions of the American middle class

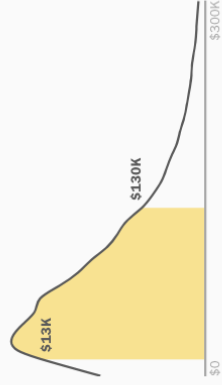
Share of U.S. households that meet each definition, with annual household incomes ranging from \$13,000 to \$230,000 a year*



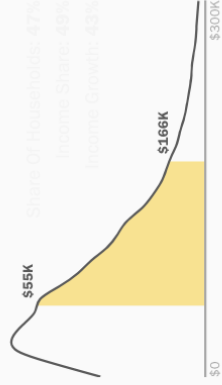
Cashell
—Congressional Research Service
Household income between \$40,000 and \$200,000 in 2007



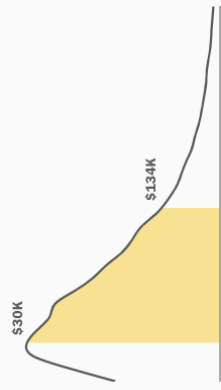
Estache and Leipzig
—European Center for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics and the World Bank
30th to 90th percentiles of household income



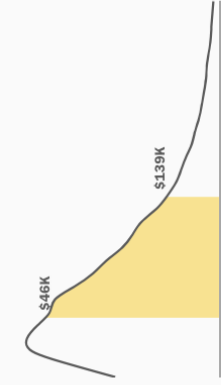
Kharas 1
—Brookings Institution
Household income between \$12 and \$120 per capita per day in 2016



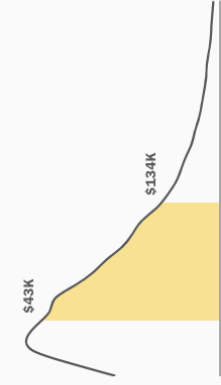
Self-definition 2
—Brookings
Based on share of people who self-identify as middle class in 2015 Pew Survey



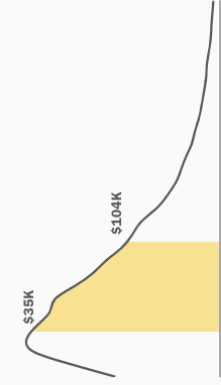
Easterly
—New York University
20th to 80th percentiles of household income



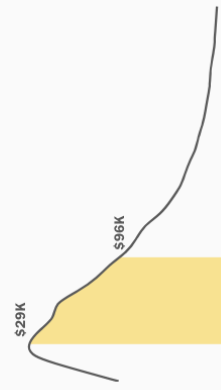
Pew Research Center
—Pew
67% to 200% median income



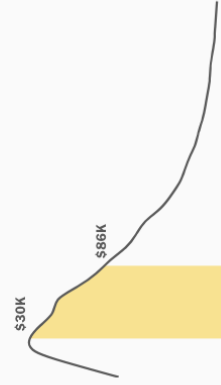
Williams and Boushey 3
—UC Hastings and Center for American Progress
30th to 80th percentiles, plus those over 80th without a BA



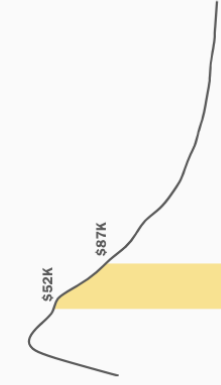
Krueger
—President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers
50% to 150% median income



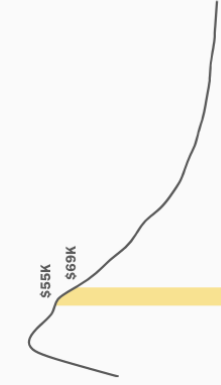
Rose 4
—Urban Institute
150% to 500% federal poverty level



Reeves and Busette
—Brookings Institution
20th to 60th percentiles of household income



Thurow
—Massachusetts Institute of Technology
75% to 125% median income



IMF Staff Note
—International Monetary Fund
40th to 50th percentiles of household income

Income share: Share of total U.S. pre-tax, pre-transfer income in 2016. Income Growth: Growth in average household income since 1980, adjusted for inflation using the PCE deflator. Share of Households: Share of U.S. households in 2016.

1 Kharas' original global definition of the middle class includes all those in households with per capita daily incomes of \$10 to \$100 in 2005 purchasing power parity dollars, updated to 2016 to account for inflation.

2 We make the strong assumption that individuals rank themselves in order—that is, that the 47% who identify as middle class are located between the 39% who identify as lower or lower-middle and the 12% who identify as upper or upper-middle.

3 Visually, we represent only the income range of the 30th to 80th percentiles. Estimates of the share of households, share of income, and growth in average income include households in the top income quintile in which no household member has a four-year college degree (about 5% of all households in 2016).

4 We combine Rose's definitions of the lower-middle and middle class. He separates the two at \$50,000.