The following table shows (in column 3) the percentage of the total pool of married men, divorced and widowed men and women, and single men and women age 20 and over (rather misleadingly labeled "tax units" under the assumption that any and all of them might theoretically have been "income" earners) who actually filed returns each year.

Table A0: Reference totals for tax units and income

	Tax units			Income (excluding capital gains)		Income (including capital gains)		Inflation
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Year	N. tax units N. tax returns		(2)/(1)	Total income /	Average income	Total income A	Average income	CPI
	(thousands) (	thousands)	(%)	(millions 2000 \$)	(2000 \$)	(millions 2000 \$	(2000 \$)	( p(2000)/p(n)
1913	37,701	358	0.9	480,989	12,758	480,989	12,758	17.4076
1914	38,513	358	0.9	480,268	12,470	480,268	12,470	17.1843
1915	39,154	337	0.9	492,960	12,590	492,960	12,590	17.0141
1916	39,790	437	1.1	544,831	13,693	552,681	13,890	15.8124
1917	40,387	3,473	8.6	563,361	13,949	567,799	14,059	13.4688
1918	40,451	4,425	10.9	534,260	13,208	537,810	13,295	11.4726
1919	41,052	5,333	13.0	530,830	12,931	540,483	13,166	9.9848
1920	41,909	7,260	17.3	483,394	11,534	492,223	11,745	8.6225
1921	42,835	6,662	15.6	436,067	10,180	440,010	10,272	9.6556
1922	43,543	6,787	15.6	500,266	11,489	510,033	11,713	10.3048
1923	44,409	7,698	17.3	567,487	12,779	578,910	13,036	10.1226
1924	45,384	7,370	16.2	572,981	12,625	588,406	12,965	10.1024
1925	46,190	4,171	9.0	589,131	12,754	620,340	13,430	9.8560
1926	46,940	4,138	8.8	604,950	12,888	630,438	13,431	9.7584
1927	47,723	4,102	8.6	619,649	12,984	651,177	13,645	9.9474
1928	48,445	4,071	8.4	641,912	13,250	693,544	14,316	10.0785
1929	49,085	4,044	8.2	678,079	13,814	725,328	14,777	10.0785
1930	49,750	3,708	7.5	622,694	12,516	637,336	12,811	10.3369
1931	50,462	3,226	6.4	573,062	11,356	578,706	11,468	11.3343
1932	51,117	3,877	7.6	488,247	9,551	489,812	9,582	12.6358
1933	51,757	3,724	7.2	481,465	9,302	488,770	9,444	13.3148
1934	52,430	4,094	7.8	535,684	10,217	540,669	10,312	12.8770
1935	53,147	4,575	8.6	587,946	11,063	598,817	11,267	12.5630
1936	53,844	5,413	10.1	653,771	12,142	675,305	12,542	12.4386
1937	54,539	6,350	11.6	694,447	12,733	702,059	12,873	12.0063
1938	55,342	6,204	11.2	648,171	11,712	658,203	11,893	12.2389
1939	56,181	7,633	13.6	701,067	12,479	709,924	12,636	12.4127
1940	57,115	14,665	25.7	746,234	13,065	754,617	13,212	12.2898
1941	57,392	25,855	45.0	876,435	15,271	886,481	15,446	11.7045
1942	57,736	36,538	63.3	1,024,331	17,742	1,031,289	17,862	10.5732
1943	58,250	43,602	74.9	1,195,041	20,516	1,210,493	20,781	9.9653
1944	58,656	46,920	80.0	1,274,511	21,728	1,289,904	21,991	9.7987
1945	58,997	49,933	84.6	1,252,872	21,236	1,285,938	21,797	9.5784
1946	59,297	52,817	89.1	1,191,811	20,099	1,233,454	20,801	8.8280
1947	60,118	55,099	91.7	1,159,544	19,288	1,183,856	19,692	7.7168
1948	60,825	52,072	85.6	1,193,880	19,628	1,218,138	20,027	7.1585
1949	61,537	51,814	84.2	1,193,117	19,389	1,210,661	19,674	7.2308
1950	62,446	53,060	85.0	1,306,832	20,927	1,340,774	21,471	7.1592
1951	63,060	55,447	87.9	1,359,720	21,562	1,389,819	22,040	6.6350
1952	63,684	56,528	88.8	1,416,803	22,247	1,441,219	22,631	6.4922
1953	64,273	57,838	90.0	1,492,937	23,228	1,512,810	23,537	6.4407
1954	64,928	56,747	87.4	1,489,846	22,946	1,524,333	23,477	6.4086
1955	65,589	58,250	88.8	1,608,893	24,530	1,661,662	25,334	6.4344
1956	66,257	59,197	89.3	1,709,657	25,803	1,754,072	26,474	6.3393
1957	66,947	59,825	89.4	1,734,734	25,912	1,767,978	26,408	6.1190
1958	67,546	59,085	87.5	1,697,095	25,125	1,735,613	25,695	5.9581

Source: Income Equality in the United States, 1913-2002

Thomas Piketty, EHESS, Paris, and Emmanuel Saez, UC Berkeley and NBER

http://elsa.berkeley.edu/~saez/piketty-saezOUP04US.pdf, page 65