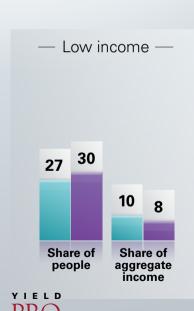
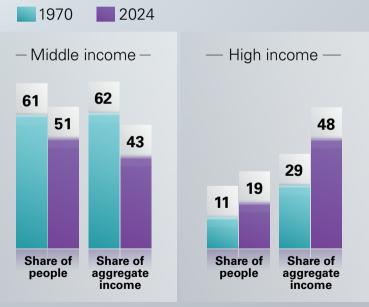
America's middle class is shrinking

Over the past five decades, the distribution of Americans across income classes—and their share of total income—has changed. The middle class has shrunk both as a share of the population and in terms of aggregate income. The high-income group's size and share of income have increased, while the low-income group's population share edged up while its income share declined. Share of people and aggregate income associated with U.S. income classes in 1970 and 2024 (by percentage):





SOURCE: PEW RESEARCH CENTER. THIS CHART SHOWS THE SHARE OF PEOPLE AND AGGREGATE INCOME ASSOCIATED WITH U.S. INCOME CLASSES IN 1970/71 AND 2021 (IN PERCENT). MIDDLE INCOME IS DEFINED AS AN ANNUAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME BETWEEN TWO-THIRDS AND DOUBLE THE NATIONAL MEDIAN INCOME.