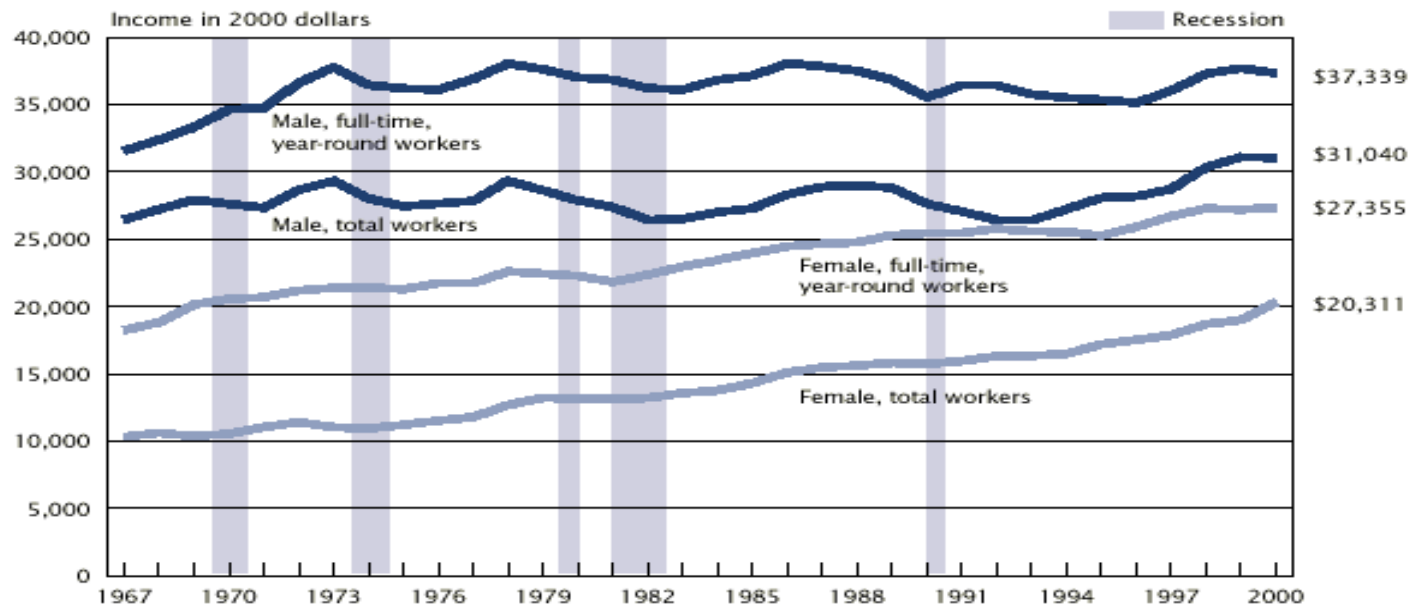


Living Wage Information

Figure 3.
Median Earnings of Workers 15 Years Old and Over by Work Experience and Sex: 1967 to 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, March 1968-2001.

A Living Wage – as defined by the WV Development Office

The prominent definition of living wages is the assumption that the wages paid must support an adequate standard of living including food, housing, health care, transportation, and other needs. That is where scholars and experts end their agreement. There is no set formula for calculating a living wage. Some authorities insist that it is connected to the poverty guidelines. Some professionals insist that it is connected to the cost of living categories' associated percentages (i.e., housing 30%, food 15%, transportation 10%, utilities 6%, health care 7%, and miscellaneous 32%) The National Priorities Project estimates an overall living wage for West Virginia at

