

and 22.7% of persons in those two age-groups, respectively, with mobility or self-care limitations in 1990.

#### Employment Status

- From 1990 to 2000, the proportion of the population of Tennessee age 16 years and older who were in the labor force remained stable (64% and 63.5%, respectively). The unemployment rate decreased from 4.1% to 3.5%.

#### Income

- The median household income in Tennessee rose from \$24,807 in the year before the 1990 Census to \$36,360 in the year before the 2000 Census, an increase of almost 47%. The Tennessee median household income was still lower than that for the U.S. in 1999, which was \$41,994.
- In Tennessee at the most recent Census, the median earnings for male full-time, year-round workers were \$32,313, and for female full-time, year-round workers they were \$23,978, a difference of 25.8%.
- Median family income has also risen dramatically in Tennessee over the decade, from \$29,546 in 1990 to \$43,517 in 2000. This total amounts to an increase of 32.1%.
- Per capita income also rose sharply in Tennessee, from \$12,255 to \$19,393, an increase of 36.8%, between 1990 and 2000.

#### Poverty Status

- In 1999, 13.5% of persons in Tennessee were at or below poverty level, which is a decrease from 15.7% in 1989. The 1999 national average is 12.4%.
- Poverty rates by age-group remained relatively stable with one exception - that of seniors age 65 years and older, whose poverty rate went from 20.9% in 1989 to 13.5% in 1999, a decline of 35.4%. By contrast, although experiencing declines in poverty rates over the decade, rates among persons aged 0-17 declined from 21.0% in 1989 to 18% in 1999, while rates for persons age 18 and older fell from 13.9% in 1989 to 12% in 1999.

#### Home Ownership Rate

- The 2000 home ownership rate in Tennessee is 69.9%, compared to the U.S. rate of 66.2%.