Factor by which the average salary in the securities industry exceeded that of other U.S. workers between 1929 and 2008: 2.3
By which it does today: 3.6
Portion of financial-services workers who say that they must "engage in unethical or illegal activity to be successful": 1/5
Percentage of black professional U.S. women who aspire to "a powerful position with a prestigious title": 22
Percentage of white professional women who do: 8
Percentage change since 2002 in the birthrate among unmarried U.S. women aged 35 to 39: +52
Among unmarried U.S. teenagers: –32
Percentage change in the past four decades in the size of the average American family: –10
In the square footage of the average newly built American home: +60
Percentage change since 1993 in the suicide rate among black U.S. children aged 5 to 11: +87
Among white U.S. children: –32
Tuition cost of Icon Academy, a four-day summer camp devoted to "teaching teens how to monetize their talents": $3,000
Percentage change since 2009 in the number of federal prison inmates aged 65 and older: +42
In inmate health-care expenses: +29
Estimated average number of names added to the FBI's criminal registry each day: 11,000
Number of facial composites created with DNA from litter in Hong Kong for use in a local public-shaming campaign: 27
Estimated number of government officials executed so far this year in North Korea: 15
Estimated percentage change in the past year in the number of beheadings performed in Saudi Arabia: +267
Number of executioner jobs advertised on Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Civil Service website in May: 8
Factor by which polygamous Saudi and Emirati men are more likely than monogamous ones to suffer from heart disease: 4.6
Percentage change since 2003 in the portion of Americans who say that polygamy is "morally acceptable": +129
Percentage change over the past three decades in the number of U.S. gyms and health clubs: +455
In the U.S. obesity rate: +65
Hours of television watched each day by the average U.S. kindergartner: 3.3
Percentage by which a kindergartner who watches more than an hour a day is more likely to be obese: 73
Last year in which Pope Francis watched television: 1990
Percentage change since last year in the number of minority-produced network television shows: +3
Percentage of this increase attributable to Tyler Perry: 100
Percentage of white and black Americans, respectively, who said in March that race relations were "generally bad": 35, 58
In May: 62, 65
Rate of homicides of black men in major U.S. urban areas: 52 per 100,000
Of police officers in the same areas: 3 per 100,000
Estimated portion of fatalities following police use of Tasers in which "excited delirium" is cited among the causes of death: 1/5
Number of years since 2000 in which traffic accidents have been the leading cause of U.S. law-enforcement deaths: 12
Percentage of all vehicle miles traveled in the United States that are traveled by motorcycles: 0.68
Percentage of people who die in U.S. road accidents who are motorcyclists: 10
Number of crashes involving Google's self-driving cars that have occurred since testing began in 2009: 13
Percentage of those crashes attributable to human-driver error: 100
Average annual number of traffic jams at Yellowstone National Park caused by drivers' rubbernecking of bears: 840

Figures cited are the latest available as of June 2015. Sources are listed on page 94. "Harper's Index" is a registered trademark.