

## Please explain this line from Lou Dobb's recent column...

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.econ/2006-10/msg00053.html>

---

- *From:* "Brablo" <[gestureofrespect@xxxxxxxxx](mailto:gestureofrespect@xxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 4 Oct 2006 07:07:57 -0700
- 

"Real median earnings of full-time working males fell nearly 2 percent last year, according to the Census Bureau, while the real wages of working women fell by 1.3 percent. Despite that, real median household income did manage to rise slightly last year, though that small gain was the first increase in household income since 1999."

On one hand he says that median earnings fell between 1.3%–2.0% (for all males and females, married and unmarried) for last year, but at the same time, he says that real median household income managed to rise last year. This implies to me that on the average, all men/women (married/unmarried) earned about 1.65% less than last year (since this is midway between 1.3%–2.0%), but \*households\* (i.e. married couples) earned slightly more, and that households are a subset of "all males and females, married and unmarried." NOTE: This is just my interpretation of the data.

I thought that earnings and income mean the same thing. After all, they mean the exact same thing in financial statements.

More of his article can be found at:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/US/10/03/Dobbs.Oct4/index.html>

.