method, (2) the prior method, and (3) the C-CPI-U from 2000 onward combined with the PCEPI for prior years. Recall that the C-CPI-U is not available for years prior to 2000.

Real median household income in 2021 adjusted to 2022 dollars using the R-CPI-U-RS ($76,510) is not statistically different from the estimate using the C-CPI-U ($76,330). For 2000, the median income estimate in 2022 dollars adjusted using the R-CPI-U-RS is $71,760, which is 6.4 percent higher than the estimate ($67,470) adjusted using the C-CPI-U. For 1967, the estimate of median household income in 2022 dollars using the prior method ($54,940) is 12.6 percent higher than the estimate using the C-CPI-U and the PCEPI for earlier years ($48,780).

Figure C-2 reports estimates of annual growth in real median household income according to the C-CPI-U and the R-CPI-U-RS for the past 5 years (from 2017 onward). Chained price indexes tend to estimate slightly lower rates of inflation. Annual changes in inflation-adjusted income appears to differ (lower declines in the past 3 years and higher growth in the prior 2 years according to the C-CPI-U), but none of these within-year differences are statistically significant. If the Census Bureau had used C-CPI-U to adjust prior year estimates for inflation in recent reports, neither the direction nor statistical significance of the changes would be different from the published estimates. And if the Census Bureau had used the R-CPI-U-RS to adjust last year’s estimate to measure the change in real income between 2021 and 2022, again, neither direction nor the statistical significance of the change would be different.

Note: The data for 2017 reflect the implementation of an updated processing system. The C-CPI-U is the Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers. The R-CPI-U-RS is the Consumer Price Index Retroactive Series. Statistically significant indicates the change is statistically different from zero at the 90 percent confidence level. Information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions is available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar23.pdf>. Estimates may differ slightly from other published data due to rounding, incorporation of final values of the C-CPI-U, and accounting for sample overlap in significance testing.