

# City of Austin spending and Affordability

Spelman  
Sep 2013

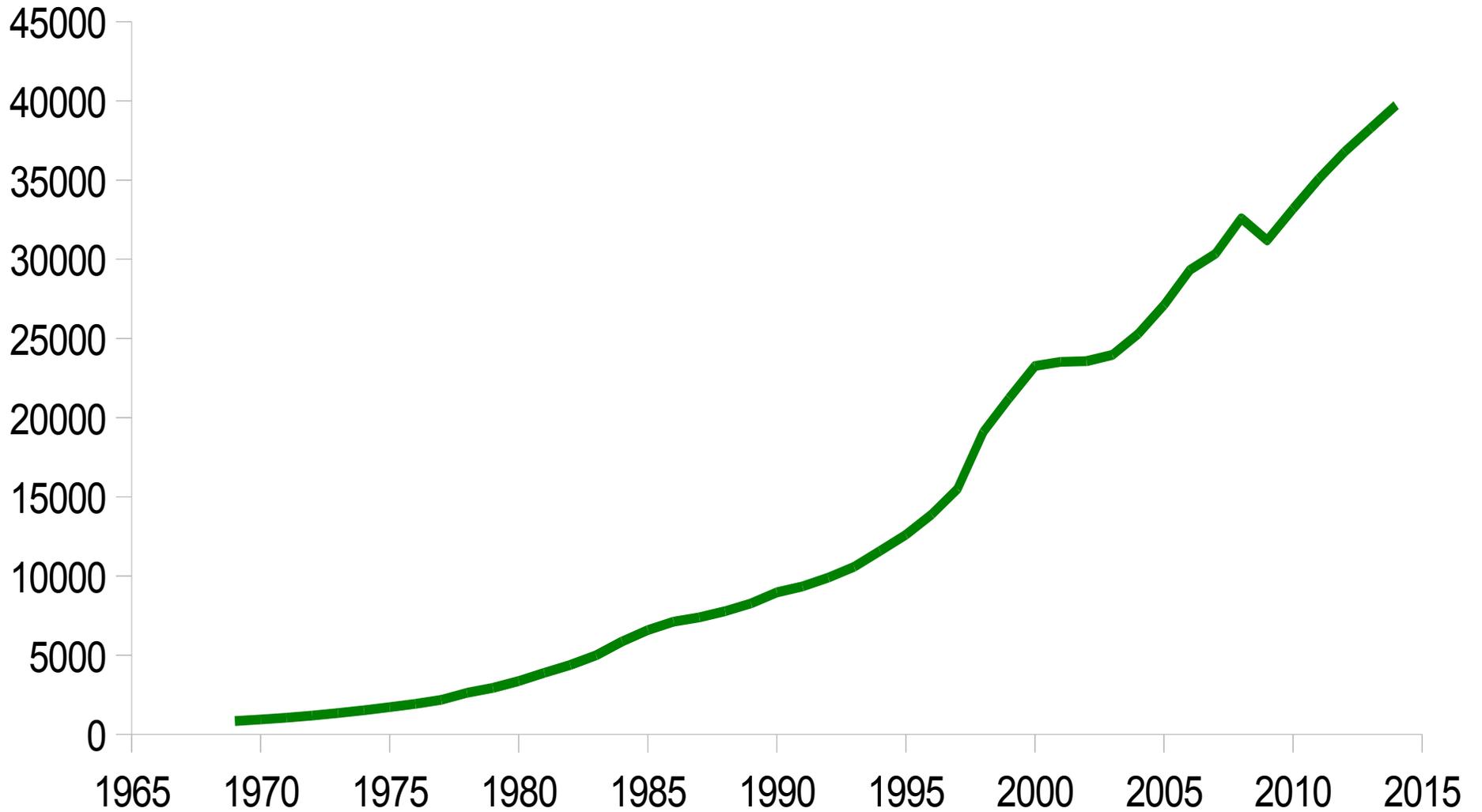
# Is city spending sustainable?

- Spending has increased over time
- So has the income of Austin residents.
- Is spending increasing faster than income?

If so, we are making the city less affordable.

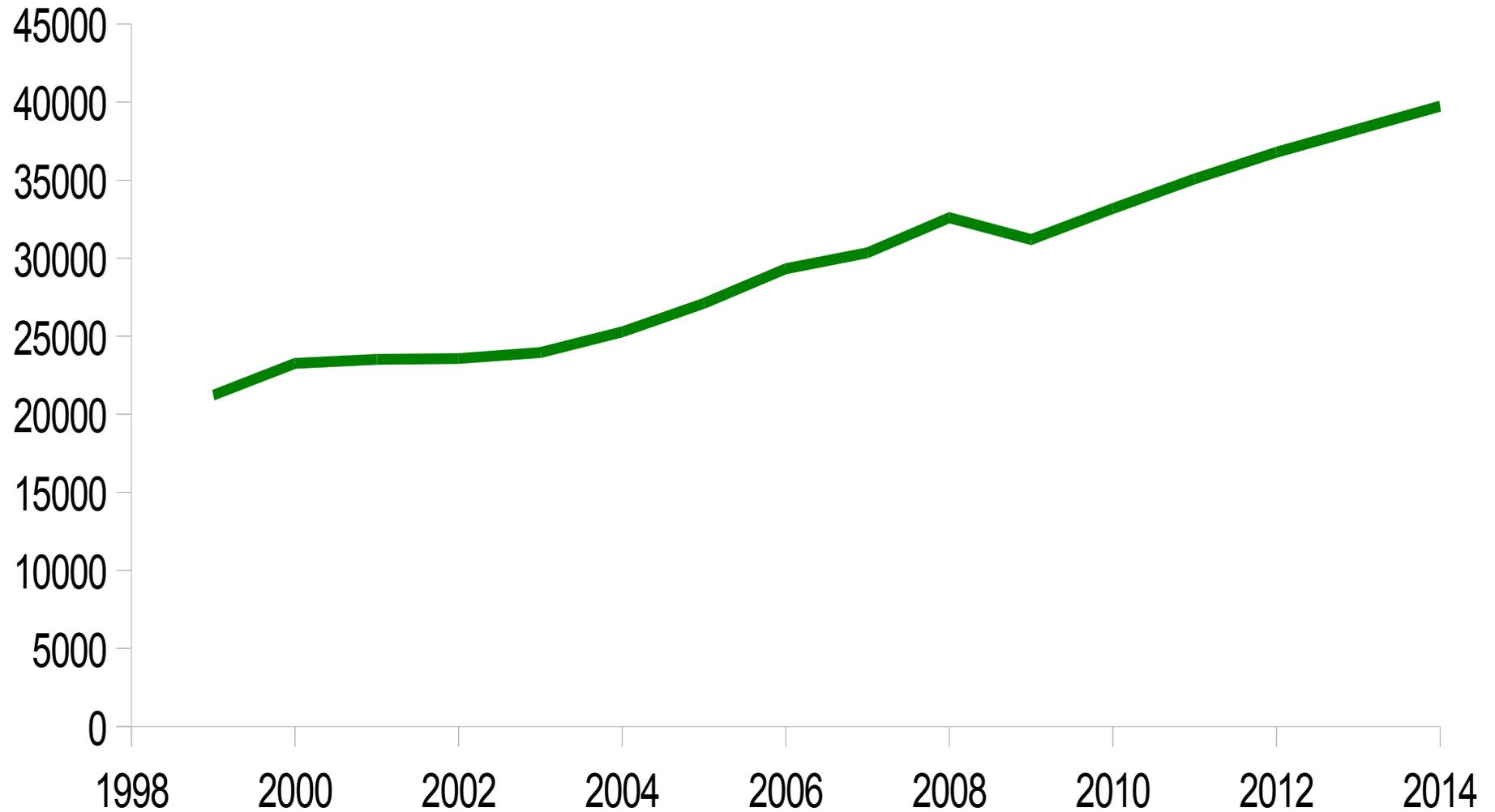
# Austin has grown richer

Total resident income (\$M)



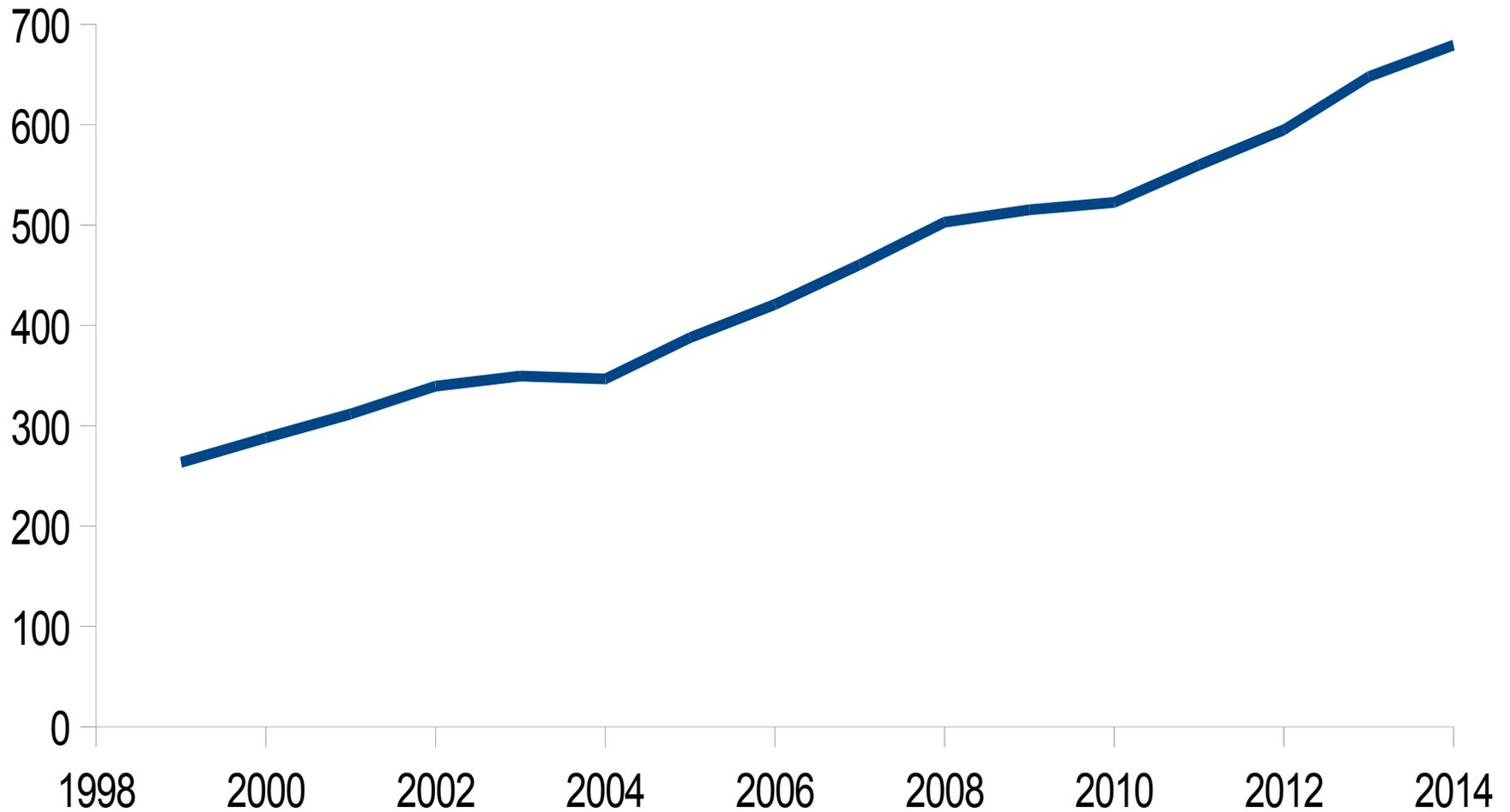
# This is true, even since 1999

Total resident income, 1999-2014 (\$M)

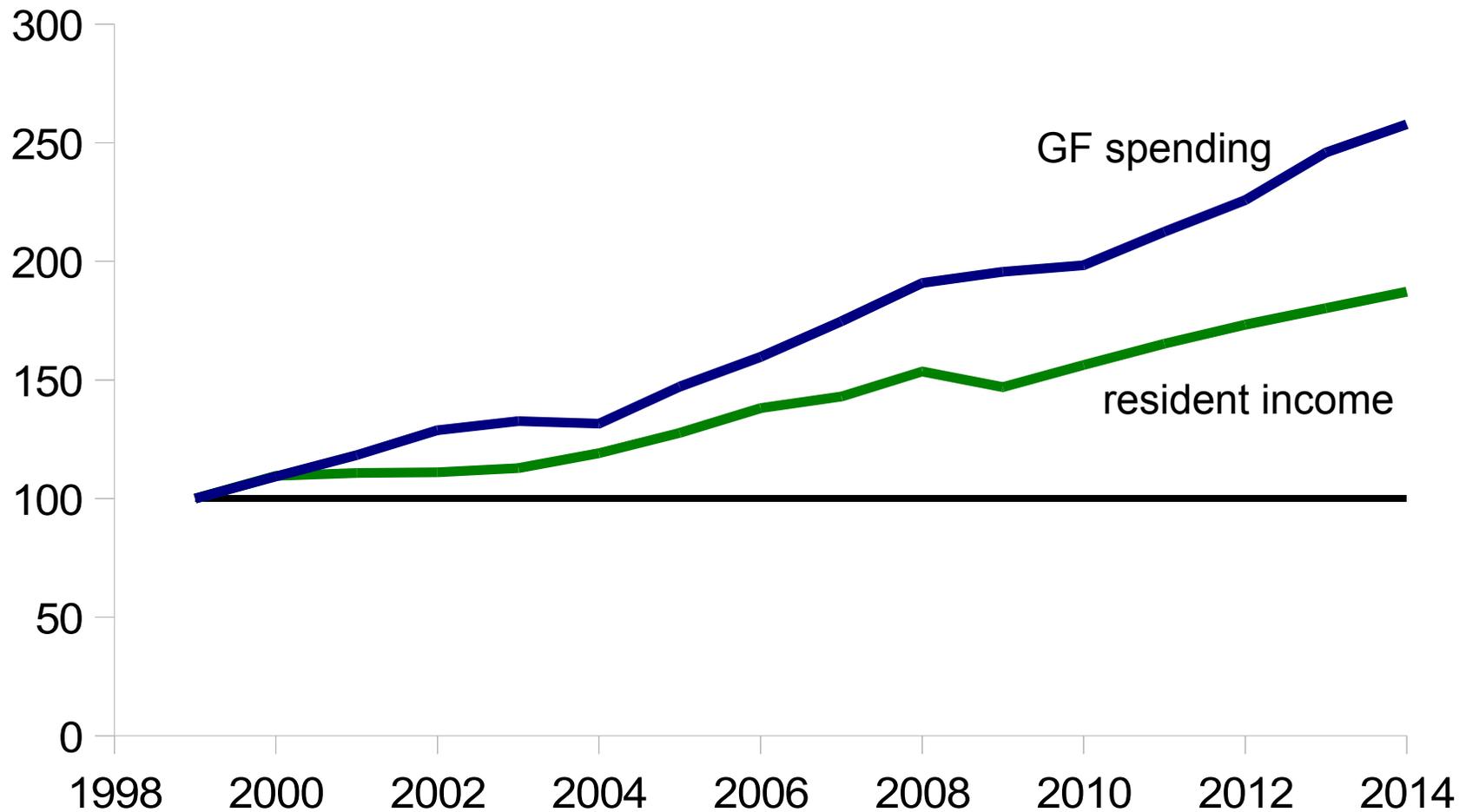


# The General Fund has increased, too

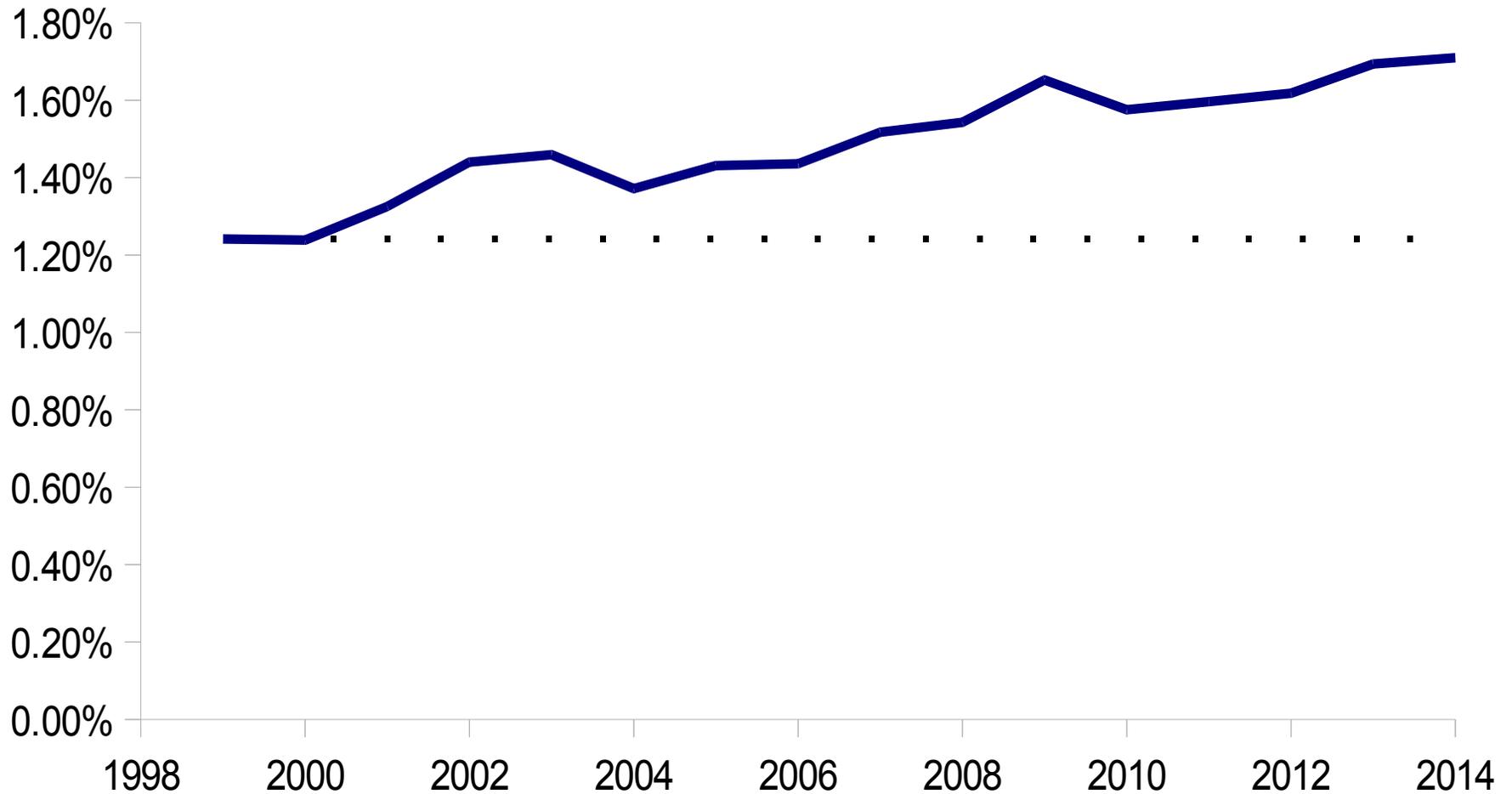
GF spending, FY 1999-2014 (\$M)



# Spending has increased faster than income

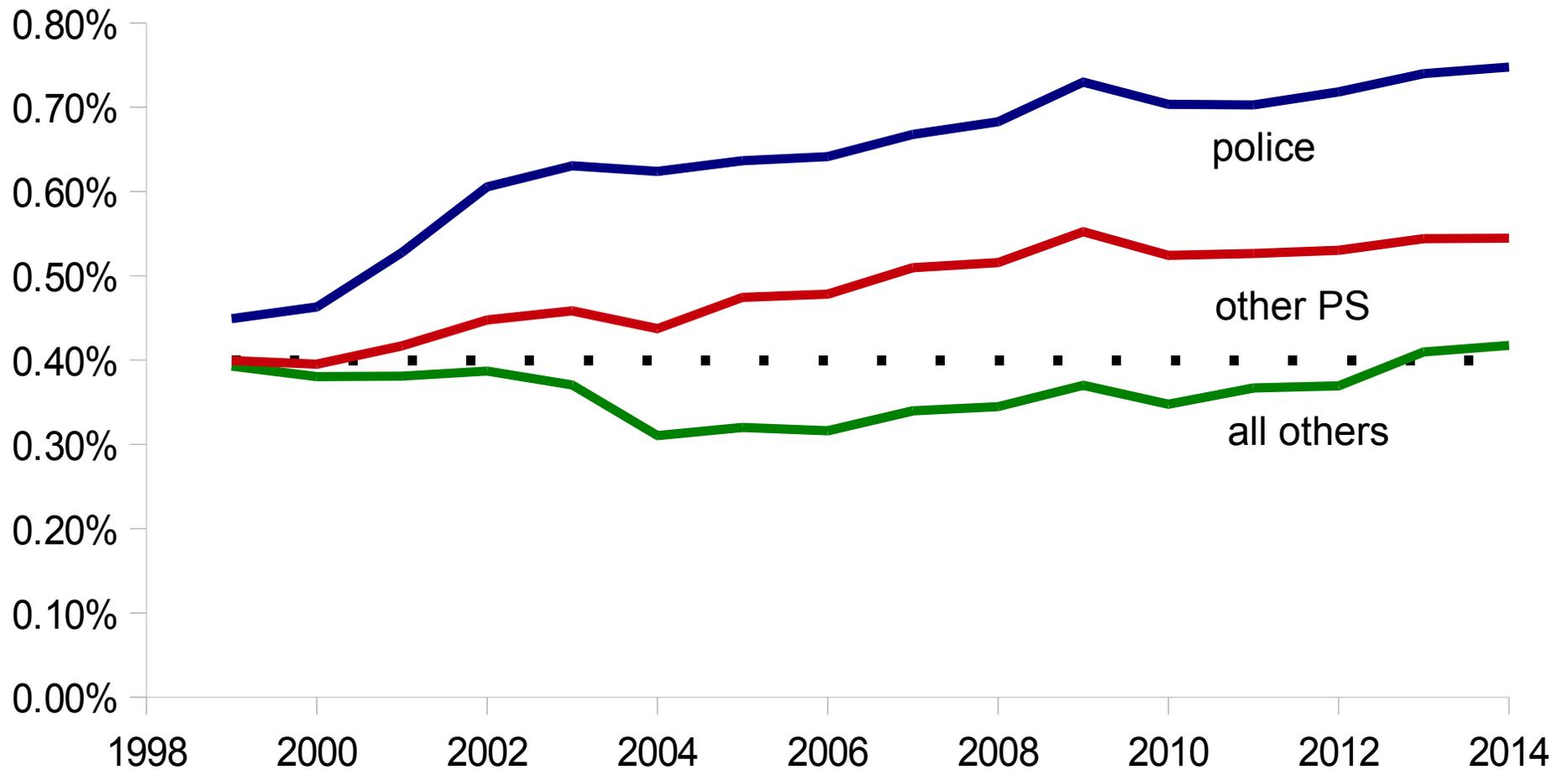


# What percentage of total income is spent on the General Fund?



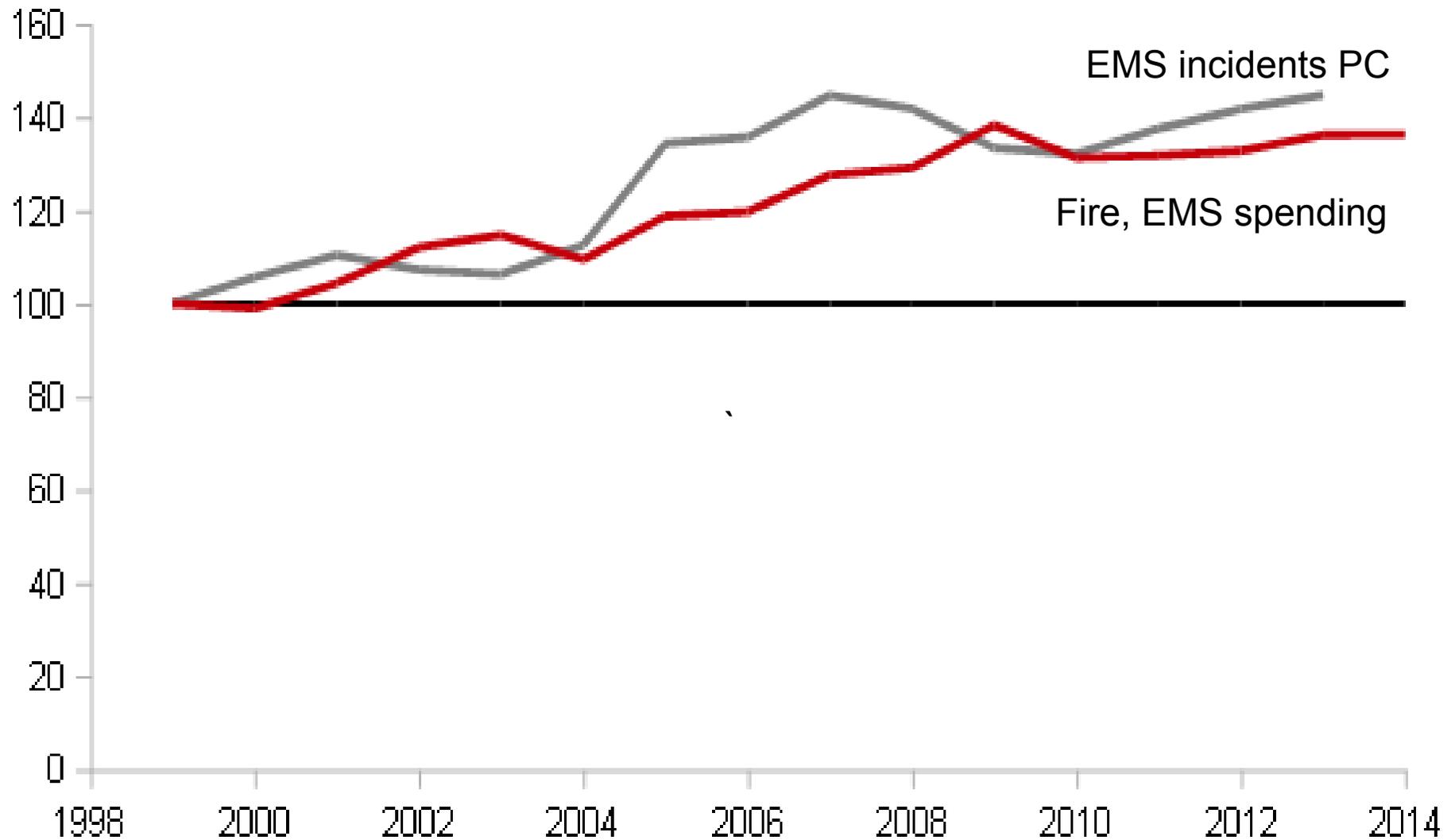
# Public safety accounts for 95% of the increase

Percent of total income by category

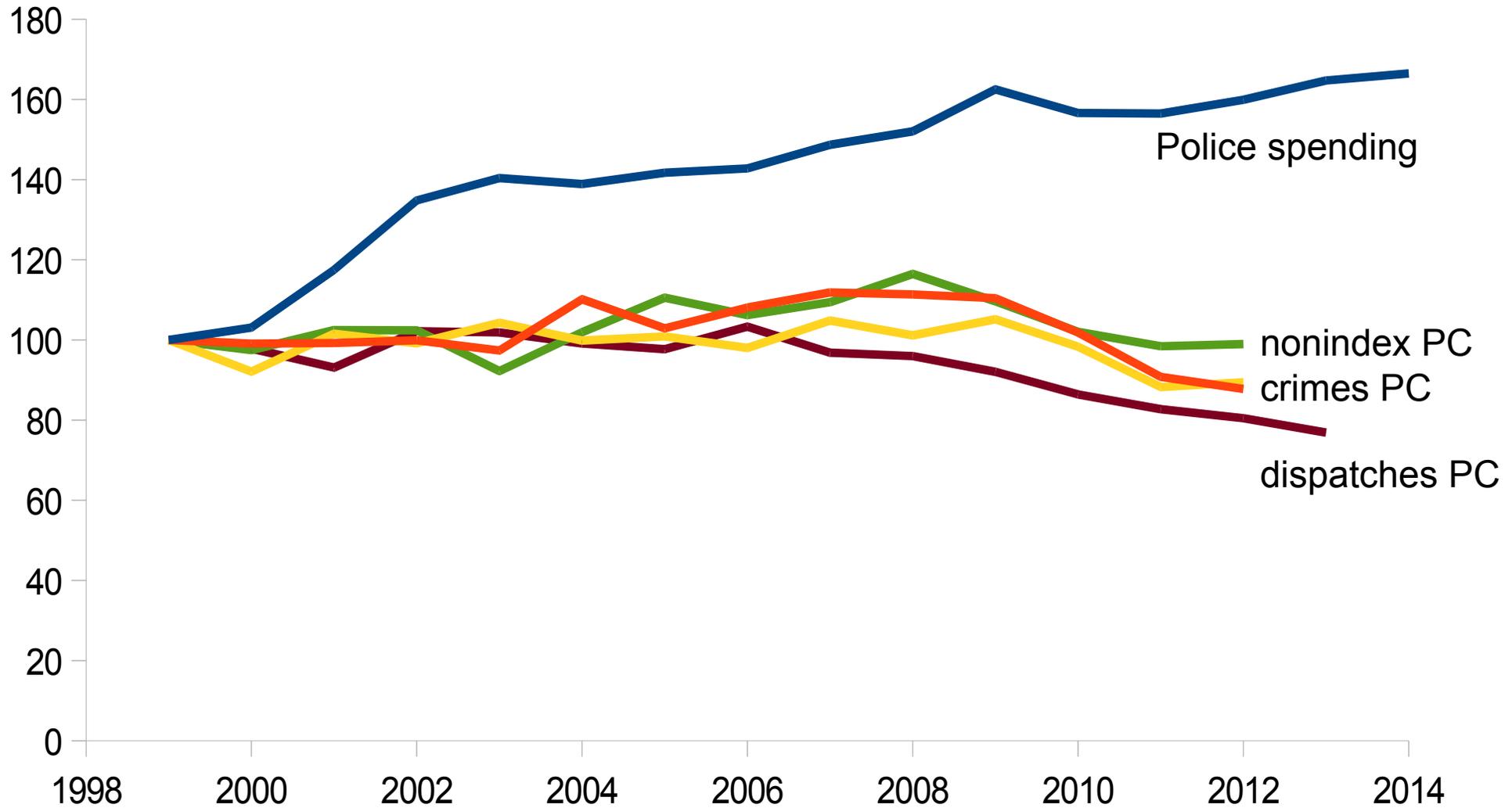


# Fire, EMS spending roughly track workload

Index (1999 = 100)



# But not police: Workload appears nearly constant



- Police are working hard, but
- Spending per capita and spending per dollar are both way up, even though
- Crime rates, nonindex offense rates, and 911 call rates are flat or down.

Police spending accounts for 60% of the total increase in GF spending per dollar.

This is a policy issue,  
not merely a management issue

# Lots of explanations

- More special events
- Longer, better offense reports
- More traffic congestion
- More directed patrols
- More backup

This costs money.

We have an affordability problem.

# Some (policy) questions

- Are we using officers appropriately at special events?
- Do we need officers on H&B trails at night?
- Can we make offense reporting more efficient?
- What's the best way to make driving safer?
- Is directed patrol time well spent?
- Do we need to change our backup policy?