Missouri

Income Inequality Grew in Missouri Over the Past Two Decades

Missouri’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 7.1 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 5.9 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 22nd largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 12.9 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

Missouri’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 2.6 times as large as the middle 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 2.2 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 22nd largest in the nation.

Gains for Rich Families Outpaced Gains for Poor Families

Between the late 1980s and the mid-2000s:

- The average income of the poorest fifth of families increased by $1,745, from $15,978 to $17,722. This is an increase of $103 per year.

- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $6,021, from $42,245 to $48,266. This is an increase of $354 per year.

- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $32,790, from $93,830 to $126,619. This is an increase of $1,929 per year.

MISSOURI: Richest Families Had Greatest Income Gains Over Last Two Decades

Based on the latest available data (2004-2006)
Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute
Pulling Apart: A State By State Analysis of Income Trends
Available at: http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.htm