Utah

Income Inequality Grew in Utah Over the Past Two Decades

Utah’s Richest Families vs. Poorest Families

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 5.4 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 4.4 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 30th largest in the nation.
- The very richest families — top 5% — have average incomes 8.1 times as large as the poorest 20 percent of families.

The gap between Utah’s richest and poorest families is 50th largest in the nation.

Utah’s Richest Families vs. Families in the Middle

- The richest 20 percent of families have average incomes 2.3 times as large as the middle 20 percent of families.
- This ratio was 2.0 in the late 1980s.
- This growth in income inequality is the 36th largest in the nation.

The gap between Utah’s richest families and families in the middle is 42nd 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 $2,713, from $19,008 to $21,721. This is an increase of $160 per year.

- The average income of the middle fifth of families increased by $10,309, from $41,168 to $51,477. This is an increase of $606 per year.

- The average income of the richest fifth of families increased by $34,090, from $83,573 to $117,662. This is an increase of $2,005 per year.

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