Income Inequality Among Families in Rhode Island Has Increased Since the 1970s

Inflation-Adjusted Change in Incomes
Late 1970s to Late 1990s

Dollar Change % Change
Poorest Fifth . . . -$1,340* -9%
Middle Fifth . . . $6,450* 14%
Richest Fifth . . . $66,450* 71%

Inflation-Adjusted Change in Incomes
Late 1980s to Late 1990s

Dollar Change % Change
Poorest Fifth . . . -$3,780* -22%
Middle Fifth . . . -$750 -1%
Richest Fifth . . . $35,150* 28%

* Change is statistically significant at the 95 percent level of confidence. No statistical significance test was conducted for percentage changes.

Source: Economic Policy Institute/Center on Budget and Policy Priorities