



**kids
count**

2000 U.S. CENSUS BRIEF

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT ♦ One Union Station ♦ Providence, RI 02903

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RHODE ISLAND HOUSEHOLD INCOME GAP WIDENS DURING THE 1990S

The median household income provides one measure of the ability of Rhode Island's families to meet the costs of food, clothing, housing, health care, transportation, child care, and higher education.

According to Census 2000, in 1999 one-half of all Rhode Island families earned less than \$42,090 and one-half earned more. The Rhode Island 1999 median household income was slightly higher than the United States 1999 median household income of \$41,994. In Connecticut (\$53,935), Massachusetts (\$50,502), and New Hampshire (\$49,467), families had higher median incomes than in Rhode Island. Vermont (\$40,856) and Maine (\$37,240) had the lowest 1999 median household incomes in New England.

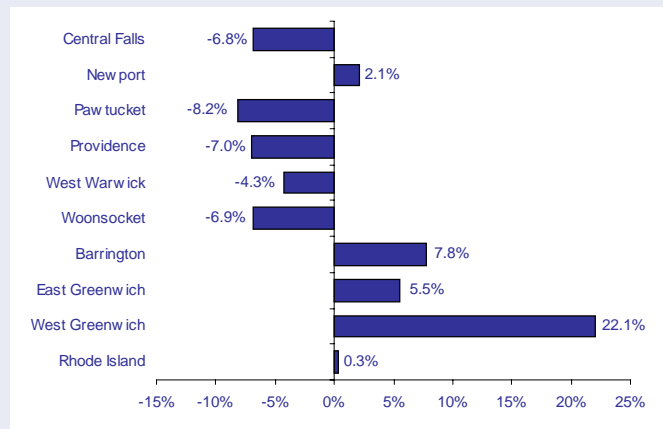
Though all the cities and towns in Rhode Island show a dollar increase in median income from 1989 to 1999, adjusting for inflation reveals a drop in real income for the poorest communities. In general, communities with the lowest median household incomes lost income throughout the 1990s, while communities with relatively higher median household incomes gained income. The town of Barrington had the highest 1999 median household income in the state at \$74,591, followed by East Green-

wich at \$70,062, and West Greenwich at \$65,725. In Central Falls, Providence, Woonsocket, and Pawtucket – where 1999 median household incomes were the lowest – the median income was less than half this amount. In Central Falls, the median household income was \$22,628, in Providence, \$26,867, in Woonsocket, \$30,819, and in Pawtucket, \$31,775.

In all but one of the core cities, those cities with child poverty rates over 15%, families have fewer real dollars than in 1989. Real median household income dropped by 8.2% in Pawtucket, 7.0% in Providence, 6.9% in Woonsocket, 6.8% in Central Falls, and 4.3% in West Warwick over the last decade. Only Newport experienced an increase (2.1%) in real income. In communities with relatively higher 1989 median household incomes, median income increased throughout the

1990s. Median household income increased by 7.8% in Barrington, 5.5% in East Greenwich, 22.1% in West Greenwich, and 29.4% in

**Change in Adjusted Household Income
Core Cities, Cities with Highest 1999 Median
Household Income, and Rhode Island**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Exeter. Between 1989 and 1999, Rhode Island had the 9th largest increase in the gap between the richest 20% of families and the poorest 20% of families.*

Earnings are highly correlated with education levels among cities and towns in Rhode Island. The highest income communities in the state have far higher educational attainment levels than those with the lowest median household incomes. For more information on educational attainment levels in Rhode Island, please see *Census Brief* Number 7.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census of the population every ten years. The most recent was completed in April 2000. This series of reports highlights information most relevant for community leaders, policy makers, advocates, and others concerned with the status of children and families in Rhode Island. Additional information on child well-being and Census 2000 can be found on the Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Web site at www.rikidscount.org.

*Source: *Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends* (April 2002). Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Economic Policy Institute.

RHODE ISLAND 1989 AND 1999 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

CITY/TOWN	1989 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	1989 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (1999\$)*	1999 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME	CHANGE IN ADJUSTED HOUSEHOLD INCOME	
Barrington	\$ 53,058	\$ 69,222	\$ 74,591	\$ 5,369	7.8%
Bristol	\$ 34,165	\$ 44,573	\$ 43,689	\$ (884)	-2.0%
Burrillville	\$ 37,156	\$ 48,476	\$ 52,587	\$ 4,111	8.5%
Central Falls	\$ 18,617	\$ 24,289	\$ 22,628	\$ (1,661)	-6.8%
Charlestown	\$ 36,040	\$ 47,020	\$ 51,491	\$ 4,471	9.5%
Coventry	\$ 37,230	\$ 48,572	\$ 51,987	\$ 3,415	7.0%
Cranston	\$ 34,528	\$ 45,047	\$ 44,108	\$ (939)	-2.1%
Cumberland	\$ 40,683	\$ 53,077	\$ 54,656	\$ 1,579	3.0%
East Greenwich	\$ 50,896	\$ 66,401	\$ 70,062	\$ 3,661	5.5%
East Providence	\$ 31,007	\$ 40,453	\$ 39,108	\$ (1,345)	-3.3%
Exeter	\$ 38,179	\$ 49,810	\$ 64,452	\$ 14,642	29.4%
Foster	\$ 40,795	\$ 53,223	\$ 59,673	\$ 6,450	12.1%
Glocester	\$ 40,000	\$ 52,186	\$ 57,537	\$ 5,351	10.3%
Hopkinton	\$ 36,737	\$ 47,929	\$ 52,181	\$ 4,252	8.9%
Jamestown	\$ 41,518	\$ 54,166	\$ 63,073	\$ 8,907	16.4%
Johnston	\$ 32,596	\$ 42,526	\$ 43,514	\$ 988	2.3%
Lincoln	\$ 37,082	\$ 48,379	\$ 47,815	\$ (564)	-1.2%
Little Compton	\$ 41,187	\$ 53,735	\$ 55,368	\$ 1,633	3.0%
Middletown	\$ 35,228	\$ 45,960	\$ 51,075	\$ 5,115	11.1%
Narragansett	\$ 35,545	\$ 46,374	\$ 50,363	\$ 3,989	8.6%
New Shoreham	\$ 31,471	\$ 41,059	\$ 44,779	\$ 3,720	9.1%
Newport	\$ 30,534	\$ 39,836	\$ 40,669	\$ 833	2.1%
North Kingstown	\$ 40,419	\$ 52,733	\$ 60,027	\$ 7,294	13.8%
North Providence	\$ 32,321	\$ 42,168	\$ 39,721	\$ (2,447)	-5.8%
North Smithfield	\$ 41,449	\$ 54,076	\$ 58,602	\$ 4,526	8.4%
Pawtucket	\$ 26,541	\$ 34,627	\$ 31,775	\$ (2,852)	-8.2%
Portsmouth	\$ 42,474	\$ 55,414	\$ 58,835	\$ 3,421	6.2%
Providence	\$ 22,147	\$ 28,894	\$ 26,867	\$ (2,027)	-7.0%
Richmond	\$ 40,975	\$ 53,458	\$ 59,840	\$ 6,382	11.9%
Scituate	\$ 45,170	\$ 58,931	\$ 60,788	\$ 1,857	3.2%
Smithfield	\$ 42,523	\$ 55,478	\$ 55,621	\$ 143	0.3%
South Kingstown	\$ 36,481	\$ 47,595	\$ 56,325	\$ 8,730	18.3%
Tiverton	\$ 36,170	\$ 47,189	\$ 49,977	\$ 2,788	5.9%
Warren	\$ 31,637	\$ 41,275	\$ 41,285	\$ 10	0.0%
Warwick	\$ 35,786	\$ 46,688	\$ 46,483	\$ (205)	-0.4%
West Greenwich	\$ 41,250	\$ 53,817	\$ 65,725	\$ 11,908	22.1%
West Warwick	\$ 31,625	\$ 41,260	\$ 39,505	\$ (1,755)	-4.3%
Westerly	\$ 34,844	\$ 45,459	\$ 44,613	\$ (846)	-1.9%
Woonsocket	\$ 25,363	\$ 33,090	\$ 30,819	\$ (2,271)	-6.9%
Rhode Island	\$ 32,181	\$ 41,985	\$ 42,090	\$ 105	0.3%

*The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index (CPI-U-RS) is 187.1 for 1989 and 244.1 for 1999. To adjust 1989 median, mean, and per capita dollar values to 1999 constant dollars, multiply 1989 dollar values by 244.1/187.1, or by 1.304650.

Note: Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, and Woonsocket.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000 Census.