

**Table 1**  
**Average Income of Iowa Families, 1978-1980, 1988-90, and 1998-2000**  
 (Adjusted for inflation)

Income group	Average Income			Percent Change		
	1978-80	1988-90	1998-2000	1978-80 to 1988-90	1988-90 to 1998-2000	1978-80 to 1998-2000
Richest fifth	91,903	96,250	131,668	4.7 %	36.8 %	43.3 %
Next-to-highest fifth	59,015	58,199	69,013	- 1.4 %	18.6 %	16.9 %
Middle fifth	44,875	43,633	49,940	- 2.8 %	14.5 %	11.3 %
Next-to-bottom fifth	32,338	30,715	34,094	- 5.0 %	11.0 %	5.4 %
Poorest fifth	16,037	14,736	16,586	- 8.1 %	12.6 %	3.4 %
Ratio: Top to Bottom	5.7	6.5	7.9			
Ratio: Top to Middle	2.0	2.2	2.6			

Source: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and the Economic Policy Institute in their report, *Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends*, April 2002.

# The Iowa Policy Project