

Income gains widely shared in early post-war decades—but not since then

Line chart represents real family income between 1947 and 2018, as a percentage of 1973 level. Three lines start out about 50% in 1950 and then begin to diverge around 1980. The 95th percentile has gained 180% by 2018, while the median has gained about 110%, and the 20th percentile has gained a little less than 100%. The breaks in the 95th percentile line indicated implementation of a redesigned questionnaire in 2013 and an updated data processing system in 2017. The source is The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities using US Census Bureau Data.