

Incomes increased for the richest fifth of the population last year, but fell for everyone else

RICHEST 20% UP

£940

POOREST 80% DOWN

£250

POOREST 20% DOWN

£381

What does this mean?

Last year disposable income – the amount of money households have left to spend after all taxes and benefits – increased for the richest fifth of the UK population, but fell for the poorest. That means that the rich got richer, the poor got poorer and the country became more unequal. It suggests that there is a risk that most people are not benefiting from the UK's economic recovery and that things are only getting better for the richest.

Explaining the data

This data compares the 'equivalised disposable household income' for 2011/12 and 2012/13, finding was published by the Office for National Statistics as part of 'the effects of UK tax and benefits on household income 2012/13 study.' ONS have found that the recession did have a small effect on reducing inequality, but it now looks as though inequality may be set to increase. The figures are available online via <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/publications/re-reference-tables.html?edition=tcn%3A77-333039>