Among two-parent, one-earner families, the proportion with low income in 1989 (18.2%) was up from the 1980 rate (15.8%) Statistics Canada says. Those families with two-earners had almost the same rate (5.2% versus 5.3%).

"Two-parent, one-earner families had an average income of \$42,171 compared to \$54,697 for two-earner families," the agency said in a report on family incomes.

Average income across the country for all types of families was \$50,083 last year, 3.3 per cent higher than in 1988 on an inflation adjusted basis.

Since 1984, when the upward trend began, real income had increased 11.5%, Statistics Canada said.

AVERAGE FAMILY INCOMES LAST YEAR BY PROVINCE

\$57,330 49,734 49,442 46,551
49,442
46,551
44,860
43,123
42,978
40,670
39,648
38,726
\$50,083

SOURCE: STATISTICS CANADA