

Louisiana

Working-Poor and Near-Poor Families in Louisiana Are Hit Harder by the Income Tax Than Those in Most Other States

Louisiana's 2005 income tax threshold

Rank among the 42 states with income taxes

(The income level at which families begin paying income tax)

(1 = lowest threshold)

- For single-parent families of three: \$11,000 6
- For two-parent families of four: \$16,400 11

Louisiana's 2005 income tax levied on working-poor and near-poor families

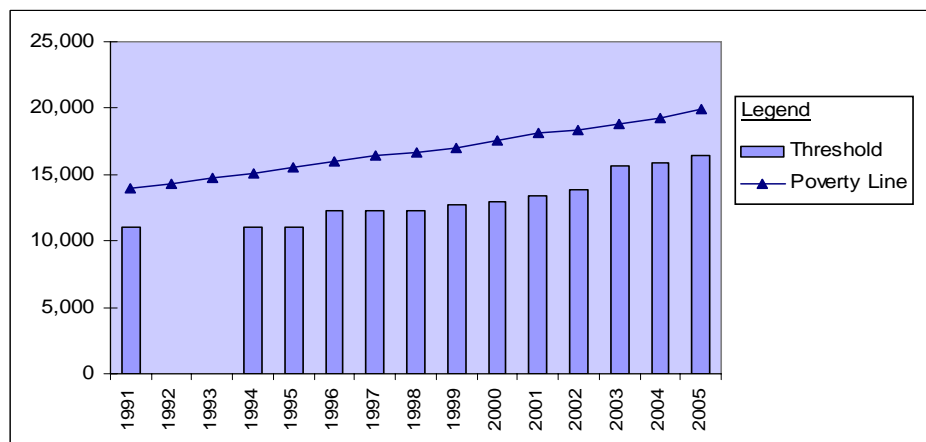
Rank (1 = highest tax)

- For families of three with incomes at the poverty line (\$15,577): \$155 5
- For families of four with incomes at the poverty line (\$19,961): \$178 11
- For families of three with minimum-wage earnings (\$10,712): \$0 (tied for) 7
- For families of three with incomes at 125% of poverty line (\$19,471): \$305 9
- For families of four with incomes at 125% of poverty line (\$24,951): \$279 19

Since the early 1990s, Louisiana has consistently taxed families of four with income below the poverty line, and the tax it levies on such families has grown faster than in any other state.

- Between 1991 and 2005, Louisiana's tax threshold for a family of four held relatively steady compared to the poverty line. In 1991, a family with income of 79 percent of the poverty line owed income tax; by 2005, Louisiana's tax threshold had inched up to 82 percent of the poverty line.
- Between 1994 and 2005, the amount of tax Louisiana levies on families of four at the poverty line increased from \$83 to \$178, an increase of 62 percent after adjusting for inflation — the largest of any state.

Income Tax Threshold for Family of Four



Year	Threshold
1991	\$11,000
1992	no data
1993	no data
1994	\$11,000
1995	\$11,000
1996	\$12,300
1997	\$12,300
1998	\$12,300
1999	\$12,700
2000	\$13,000
2001	\$13,400
2002	\$13,900
2003	\$15,600
2004	\$15,900
2005	\$16,400