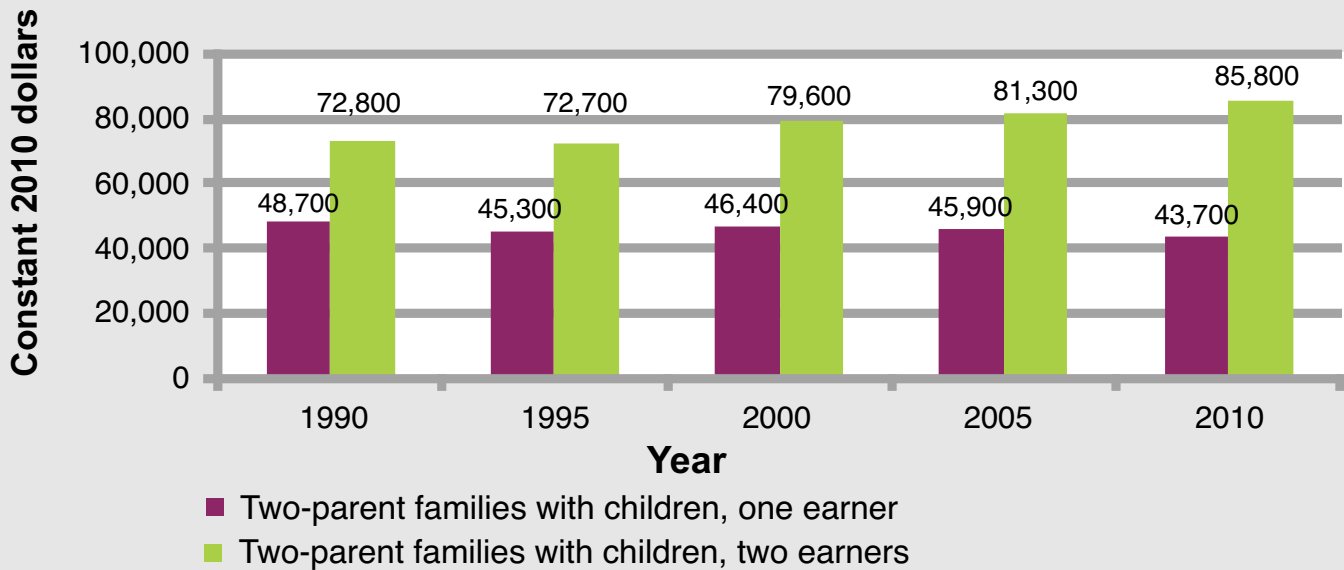




### 4.2.3 Income

**Fig. 4.2.3 Median market income, couples with children by number of earners, Canada, 1990-2010**



\*Total income before tax minus income from government sources

Adapted from Statistics Canada CANSIM database <http://cansim2.statcan.gc.ca> table no. 202-0203, accessed on June 29, 2012.

Children living in two-parent families with two earners were better off in 2010 compared to 1990 with an average income increase of 15%. Single-earner families showed an 11% decrease in income from 1990 to 2010.

### Implications

The median income of single-earner families with children decreased over the two decades. With little to no gains in income, accompanied by increases in spending and debt, many of today's families are walking a "financial high wire".<sup>1</sup> Furthermore, living in a two-earner family reduces the likelihood of poverty. During the recession, two-earner couples with children had one of the lowest poverty rates among all family types (3.4%).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Vanier Institute of the Family. "Fascinating Families." <http://www.vanierinstitute.ca/include/get.php?nodeid=341>, accessed on June 29, 2012.

