

What Income Level Is Considered Middle Class?

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What is considered middle class? It might take more money than you think to reach this income tier. The Pew Research Center defines middle class, or middle-income households, as those with incomes that are two-thirds to double the U.S. median household income.

However, because the cost of living and average income varies so widely from state to state, the income needed to be "middle class" in one state could be much more or less than what it takes to be middle class in another. Using Pew's definition of middle class, GOBankingRates analyzed data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey to determine how much two-, three- and four-person families need to earn in every state to qualify for this classification.

California

- **2-person family middle-class income range:** \$50,117.34 to \$149,604
- **3-person family middle-class income range:** \$54,870.99 to \$163,794
- **4-person family middle-class income range:** \$62,647.68 to \$187,008

Nevada

- **2-person family middle-class income range:** \$42,436.46 to \$126,676
- **3-person family middle-class income range:** \$46,585.10 to \$139,060
- **4-person family middle-class income range:** \$52,754.46 to \$157,476