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The have-lots who are struggling on £370k a year: How the 'squeezed upper-middle class' find it hard to maintain private education and huge properties - despite their six-figure salaries

The 'squeezed upper middle' class on six-figure salaries are struggling
Despite earning £100,000 to £370,000 a year they complain of feeling pinch
They find it hard to maintain private education and large properties
Professor Danny Dorling said 'have lots' are common in London

By [TANIA STEERE FOR THE DAILY MAIL](#)

PUBLISHED: 01:07, 22 September 2014 | **UPDATED:** 12:05, 22 September 2014

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Spare a thought for those trying to live on £100,000 to £370,000 a year – it is, apparently, just not enough.

Once they have clawed their way into the top one per cent of earners, they soon find themselves struggling to keep up with those making even more. Dubbed the 'squeezed upper middle', they don't find it easy to maintain their six-figure lifestyles. Although they might earn up to 14 times more than the average worker, they still complain of feeling the pinch.






The 'squeezed upper middle' class are struggling to live on £100,000 to £370,000 a year. That's because the gulf between them and the super-rich at the very top of the one per cent bracket is so great. Soon, as their vast incomes are gobbled up on private education for their children and big properties, they become resentful and envious of those with even more wealth. Those who make up the top half per cent above them, with salaries that can run into the millions, include bankers and footballers.

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Danny Dorling, a geography professor at Oxford University, describes the trend in his book *Inequality and the 1 per cent*. He said the have-lots were particularly common in London, where so many of the super-rich live. 'It would be very hard to find someone in London with a household income of between £200,000 and £350,000 who told you they felt comfortable, and that is remarkable,' he told the Sunday Times.

WHAT YOU NEED TO BE IN TOP 1%			
Net household income	 Couple, no children	 Couple, two children (age 10 & 14)	 Single
Today	£160,000	£200,000	£100,000
2009-10 In today's terms	£121,400 £138,300	£186,200 £212,000	£80,900 £92,200
1989 In today's terms	£42,000 £91,800	£64,400 £140,800	£28,000 £61,200

As a couple with two children, you need to earn £200,000 to be classed in the top one per cent. He said those in this bracket often mistakenly regarded themselves as the 'squeezed middle', even though with the average UK income at just under £27,000, they are somewhat beyond the middle. The average for the top one per cent of earners is £369,000.

The squeezed upper middle includes senior managers, lawyers, accountants, BBC executives, hospital consultants and university vice-chancellors. To be in this group, a single person has to earn at least £100,000, a childless couple £160,000 and a couple with two children £200,000.

Professor Dorling says those in this group are likely to begrudge paying for other people's education through their taxes, while shelling out for their own family privately.

Peter York, a social commentator and co-founder of the management consultancy SRU, said: 'People who are doing very well consider themselves hard done by, as in London and the South-East they are squeezed out of the places they want to live, squeezed into private services they can't afford and psychologically squeezed by the presence nearby of the luxury life.'

The upper middles have an 'unrealistic vision of the world', according to Mr York, because they constantly compare themselves with the super-rich. Calculations by the Institute for Fiscal Studies show members of the squeezed upper middle have enjoyed earnings growth of 118 per cent in the past 25 years.

Yet the price of status purchases has risen faster: a four-bedroom property in central London has gone up by 523 per cent, for example, and private day-school fees by 461 per cent. However, there is little public sympathy for high earners who claim to be struggling.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office minister Mark Simmonds faced criticism when he resigned last month, saying he and his wife could not afford a family life on a joint income and expenses of about £140,000.

Another top earner decided to swap careers when he realised that as long as he was paying the top rate of tax there would be little money left after school fees for three children.

Divyang Mistry, 50, earned £200,000 as a director of a corporate communications firm, but still had to borrow money from his father to buy a family home in Hertfordshire.

He decided to change job and set up two online companies, which meant he could keep more for his family by paying less tax.

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[smackie](#), Middle England, United Kingdom, moments ago

We are lucky enough to fall into this category, however we never complained about 'struggling'. Far from it - we save, invest and live within our means. Yes we could afford brand new cars and a bigger house but elect not to. We are secure and comfortable but know that it could all go wrong tomorrow. We both agree that this country does punish the those who strive to be successful and tax them to death. Last year we paid over £100k in income tax alone; although i don't agree with them, I completely understand why there are tax avoidance schemes. Maybe if tax system was fairer across the board there would be more paid into the treasury.

[Lisa](#), London, United Kingdom, moments ago

For those being vile, you're jealous. For those saying live within your means, you're right. I grew up in a council house, paid my way through university doing cleaning and bar jobs. I worked damn hard, and whilst my husband and I aren't quite in the top 1%, we share a six figure salary between us (no children). We've managed to buy a 3 bed semi in a nice area of greater London that needs total renovation and we're still looking at £2.6k mortgage a month. I drive a small car, I shop in Lidl and our luxuries are dinner out maybe once a week and a great holiday each year. We work 50 hour weeks each and I'm not sitting on my backside fanning myself with £50 notes whilst the 'staff' clean my house. I'm comfortable, because I live within my means. Simple.

[Roy t](#), Guildford, United Kingdom, moments ago

Whine whine. moan moan, they've got more than me !

[Ricardo](#), London, United Kingdom, moments ago

Poor folks - could we organize a benefit concert or something?...or maybe they should do what the rest of us try to do- align our income and outgoings. Large houses and private schools are luxury items, if you cannot afford them, get rid of them.

[June](#), Canvey Essex, moments ago

Its all very well being sarcastic, but these people would be the ones who keep the economy moving and others in work, free up places in the schools and in the NHS, have huge rates bills etc which keeps ours down, and mostly have huge tax bills which also keeps ours down. No, I'm not one of them but their being very rich is NOT what is keeping others poor, they would be poorer still without huge salaries at the top

[rob40](#), Preston, 7 minutes ago

Me and my wife jointly earn £120K a year yet we haven't had a holiday for 5 years. Struggle to pay for trips for our son. (One to the US I've had to say no to). Can't afford to fix the cladding at the front of the house and haven't changed cars for 10 year and we live in Preston Lancashire. How you plebs manage is beyond me

[Liz](#), London, 8 minutes ago

"The gulf between them and the super-rich at the very top of the one per cent bracket is so great. " Well the gulf between the rest of us and the super rich is even greater! I earn around £37K a year which is more than the average but a large portion of my salary goes on mortgage, commuting and bills (I am single so pay everything myself). I don't go out much or buy designer stuff. I used to work for one of the super rich and find the difference in our lifestyles is laughable but I don't try and outspend those who earn more than me. These people sound ridiculous. They need to re-evaluate their priorities and thank their lucky stars. If they want to swap for a week or two, I am happy to oblige though.

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