

Real Earnings – December 2007

Every month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases data on real earnings for production or non-supervisory workers in the private sector. Real earnings reflect the value of workers' paychecks adjusted for inflation. They indicate whether or not wage increases have actually translated into an improved standard of living.

Real Earnings Stats at a Glance

Year	November Average Hourly Earnings, Private Sector	November Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (November 2007 dollars)
2002	\$15.15	\$17.59
2003	\$15.48	\$17.70
2004	\$15.85	\$17.48
2005	\$16.31	\$17.37
2006	\$16.99	\$17.78
2007	\$17.63	\$17.63

- Average hourly earnings of production/non-supervisory workers in the private sector were \$17.63 in November (seasonally adjusted). Hourly pay for manufacturing workers averaged \$17.36.
- Although actual earnings were up in November, earnings adjusted for inflation were down. In the private sector, they fell 7 cents over the month and 15 cents over the year. In manufacturing they fell, 10 cents over the month and 31 cents over the year. Higher inflation and a weaker labor market will likely leave workers with diminished purchasing power in the coming months.
- Large increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) drove real manufacturing earnings down to 2001 levels.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics report can be found at:
<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/realer.pdf>

Next release: January 16th, 2008

UAW Research Department
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