

## Real Earnings – January 2008

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Every month, the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases data on real earnings for production or nonsupervisory 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	December Average Hourly Earnings, Private Sector	December Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (December 2007 dollars)
2002	\$15.21	\$17.70
2003	\$15.48	\$17.71
2004	\$15.88	\$17.57
2005	\$16.37	\$17.51
2006	\$17.07	\$17.82
2007	\$17.71	\$17.71

- Average hourly earnings of production/nonsupervisory workers in the private sector were \$17.71 in December (seasonally adjusted). Hourly pay for manufacturing workers averaged \$17.35.
- Inflation adjusted earnings in the private sector rebounded from a drop in November but remained nine cents lower than December 2006. Workers' purchasing power now is the same as it was in 2003.
- Flat earnings in manufacturing left workers with lower inflation adjusted earnings in December. Real earnings in the sector were down five cents from November and off 35 cents from December 2006.

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

Next release: February 20, 2008

UAW Research Department  
January 16, 2008