

Real Earnings – June 2009

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 - June

Year	Private Sector		Manufacturing	
	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation <i>(June 2009 dollars)</i>	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation <i>(June 2009 dollars)</i>
2004	15.67	17.81	16.11	18.31
2005	16.08	17.81	16.53	18.31
2006	16.73	17.75	16.77	17.79
2007	17.42	18.01	17.29	17.87
2008	18.04	17.70	17.73	17.39
2009	18.53		18.10	

- Flat wages coupled with a jump in the price level led to a decline in workers' purchasing power in June compared to May.
- Average weekly earnings were \$611.49, a 1.2 percent decrease from May, after adjusting for inflation.
- Despite the decline from May's level, real earnings in June were still higher than in June 2008 in both the private sector broadly, and manufacturing specifically.

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

Next release: August 14, 2009

UAW Research Department
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