

Real Earnings – August 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 - August

Year	Private Sector		Manufacturing	
	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (Aug. 2009 dollars)	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (Aug. 2009 dollars)
2004	15.75	17.94	16.20	18.46
2005	16.18	17.75	16.63	18.25
2006	16.83	17.78	16.83	17.78
2007	17.51	18.17	17.35	18.00
2008	18.18	17.81	17.78	17.42
2009	18.65		18.26	

- Inflation outpaced earnings growth in August as real average hourly earnings fell four cents in the private sector.
- The earnings picture was a little worse in manufacturing where earnings were down two cents even before adjusting for inflation, and 12 cents after.
- Over the past 12 months, real average hourly earnings have grown 84 cents, or about 4.7 percent.

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

Next release: October 15, 2009

UAW Research Department
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