

# Real Earnings – February 2010

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 - February

Year	Private Sector		Manufacturing	
	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (Feb. 2010 dollars)	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (Feb. 2010 dollars)
2005	15.94	18.12	16.44	18.69
2006	16.50	18.07	16.71	18.30
2007	17.17	18.39	17.05	18.26
2008	17.82	18.26	17.57	18.00
2009	18.47	19.01	18.09	18.62
2010		18.93		18.48

Stagnant prices and a slight increase in average hourly earnings gave a small boost to purchasing power in February.

- Real average hourly earnings were up 3 cents over the month but down significantly year-over-year. In manufacturing real hourly earnings were up 4 cents over the month and down 14 cents over the year. February 2009 real earnings were relatively high due to significant deflation at the end of 2008.
- Over the year, real average weekly earnings were down 1.2 percent thanks to a .9 percent decline in hours worked and a .4 percent decline in real average hourly earnings.

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

Next release: April 14, 2010

UAW Research Department  
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