

Real Earnings – April 2007

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	April Average Hourly Earnings, Private Sector	April Earnings Adjusted for Inflation <i>(April 2007 dollars)</i>
2002	\$14.84	\$17.04
2003	\$15.28	\$17.17
2004	\$15.60	\$17.17
2005	\$16.02	\$17.03
2006	\$16.63	\$17.05
2007	\$17.25	\$17.25

- Average hourly earnings of production/nonsupervisory workers in the private sector were \$17.25 in April 2007 (seasonally adjusted). Hourly pay for manufacturing workers averaged \$17.19.
- Inflation in April offset wage increases, leaving workers' purchasing power unchanged over the month.
- Over the past year, workers' earnings have, on average, risen by more than the rate of inflation; the purchasing power of an hour's pay in April was 1.2% higher than in April 2006.
- Workers in manufacturing continue to fare worse than the average private sector worker. Inflation-adjusted pay for manufacturing workers is up just two cents from April 2006. Current earnings are down over 3% from their November 2003 peak.

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

Next release: June 15, 2007

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