

## Real Earnings – April 2010

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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 - April

Year	Private Sector		Manufacturing	
	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (April 2010 dollars)	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (April 2010 dollars)
2005	16.02	18.07	16.47	18.57
2006	16.65	18.11	16.74	18.20
2007	17.28	18.32	17.20	18.23
2008	17.93	18.31	17.64	18.01
2009	18.53	19.06	18.15	18.67
2010		18.96		18.51

- Consumer prices fell in April and average hourly earnings rose providing a boost in workers' purchasing power. Over the month, real earnings rose 5 cents in the private sector and 2 cents in manufacturing.
- Despite some modest month-over-month increases, in the past five years real earnings in the private sector have grown very slowly, just under 5 percent in 5 years. In manufacturing, real earnings in April 2010 were actually 6 cents lower than in April 2005.
- Real average weekly earnings rose about \$3.56 to \$633.26 on increases in both average hours worked and 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: June 17, 2010

UAW Research Department  
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