

Real Earnings – November 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 - November

Year	Private Sector		Manufacturing	
	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (Nov. 2009 dollars)	Average Hourly Earnings	Earnings Adjusted for Inflation (Nov. 2009 dollars)
2004	15.85	18.02	16.30	18.53
2005	16.32	17.91	16.68	18.31
2006	16.99	18.34	16.92	18.26
2007	17.66	18.20	17.41	17.94
2008	18.34	18.79	17.94	18.38
2009	18.74		18.39	

- Real average hourly earnings were down nine cents in November as inflation outpaced weak wage growth. In manufacturing, the decline was six cents.
- On a year-over-year basis, real average hourly earnings were down five cents in the private sector and essentially flat in manufacturing.
- An increase in hours worked offset the decline in real hourly earnings resulting in a small increase in real average weekly earnings. Average weekly earnings were \$622.17 in November.

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

Next release: January 15, 2010

UAW Research Department
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