

# News

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**Bureau of Labor Statistics**

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## REAL EARNINGS IN MAY 2002

Real average weekly earnings increased by 0.3 percent from April to May after seasonal adjustment, according to preliminary data released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. This was due to a 0.2 percent increase in average hourly earnings and a 0.1 percent decrease in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). Average weekly hours were unchanged.

Data on average weekly earnings are collected from the payroll reports of private nonfarm establishments. Earnings of both full-time and part-time workers holding production or nonsupervisory jobs are included. Real average weekly earnings are calculated by adjusting earnings in current dollars for changes in the CPI-W.

Average weekly earnings rose by 3.2 percent, seasonally adjusted, from May 2001 to May 2002. After deflation by the CPI-W, average weekly earnings rose by 2.4 percent. Before adjustment for seasonal change and inflation, average weekly earnings were \$500.25 in May 2002, compared with \$484.56 a year earlier.

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Real Earnings for June 2002 will be released on Friday, July 19, 2002.

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\* The estimates of average weekly hours and average hourly and weekly \*  
\* earnings have been revised with the release of May data to reflect new \*  
\* employment benchmarks; the introduction of probability-based sample \*  
\* estimates for transportation and public utilities, retail trade, and \*  
\* finance, insurance, and real estate; and the updating of seasonal \*  
\* adjustment factors. Unadjusted data have been revised from April 2000 \*  
\* forward. In addition, seasonally adjusted hours and earnings series have \*  
\* been revised from January 1997 forward in accordance with the usual \*  
\* practice of revising 5 years of data. \*  
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**Table A. Composition of change in real earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls**

Year and month	Average hourly earnings	Average weekly hours	Average weekly earnings	The Consumer Price Index <sup>1</sup>	Real average weekly earnings
	Percent change from preceding month, seasonally adjusted				
2001:					
May	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.4	-0.2
June	.4	.0	.4	.2	.2
July	.3	.0	.3	-.3	.6
Aug.	.3	-.3	.1	.0	.1
Sept.	.3	.0	.3	.5	-.2
Oct.	.2	-.3	-.1	-.4	.3
Nov.	.4	.3	.7	-.1	.8
Dec.	.3	.0	.3	-.2	.6
2002:					
Jan.	.2	.0	.2	.2	(2)
Feb.	.2	.3	.5	.2	.3
Mar.	.2	.0	.2	.3	-.1
Apr. <sup>p</sup>	.1	.0	.1	.6	-.4
May <sup>p</sup>	.2	.0	.2	-.1	.3

<sup>1</sup> The deflator for the constant-dollar series presented in this release is the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).  
<sup>2</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.  
<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

**Table B. Percent change in earnings from the same month a year ago for production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls, seasonally adjusted**

Year and month	Average hourly earnings		Average weekly earnings	
	Current dollars	Constant (1982) dollars <sup>1</sup>	Current dollars	Constant (1982) dollars <sup>1</sup>
2001:				
May	4.2	0.5	3.6	-0.1
June	4.1	.9	3.5	.3
July	4.1	1.4	3.5	.9
Aug.	4.1	1.4	3.2	.5
Sept.	4.1	1.6	3.2	.7
Oct.	3.8	1.9	2.6	.6
Nov.	3.9	2.3	3.0	1.4
Dec.	3.8	2.5	3.5	2.3
2002:				
Jan.	3.8	2.9	2.9	2.1
Feb.	3.5	2.6	3.5	2.7
Mar.	3.4	2.1	3.4	2.2
Apr. <sup>p</sup>	3.2	2.0	3.2	1.9
May <sup>p</sup>	3.2	2.4	3.2	2.4

<sup>1</sup> The deflator for the constant-dollar series presented in this release is the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).  
<sup>2</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.  
<sup>p</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 1. Earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls in current and constant dollars<sup>1</sup> by industry, not seasonally adjusted**

Industry	Average hourly earnings				Average weekly earnings			
	May 2001	Apr. 2002 <sup>P</sup>	May 2002 <sup>P</sup>	Percent change May 2001 - May 2002	May 2001	Apr. 2002 <sup>P</sup>	May 2002 <sup>P</sup>	Percent change May 2001 - May 2002
Total private: <sup>2</sup>								
Current dollars .....	\$14.21	\$14.69	\$14.67	3.2	\$484.56	\$499.46	\$500.25	3.2
Constant (1982) dollars .....	7.89	8.10	8.09	2.5	269.20	275.34	275.77	2.4
Goods-producing:								
Current dollars .....	15.83	16.26	16.30	3.0	642.70	653.65	658.52	2.5
Constant (1982) dollars .....	8.79	8.96	8.99	2.3	357.06	360.34	363.02	1.7
Mining:								
Current dollars .....	17.42	17.68	17.68	1.5	768.22	747.86	758.47	-1.3
Constant (1982) dollars .....	9.68	9.75	9.75	.7	426.79	412.27	418.12	-2.0
Construction:								
Current dollars .....	18.18	18.68	18.65	2.6	730.84	724.78	727.35	-5
Constant (1982) dollars .....	10.10	10.30	10.28	1.8	406.02	399.55	400.96	-1.2
Manufacturing:								
Current dollars .....	14.75	15.20	15.23	3.3	600.33	620.16	622.91	3.8
Constant (1982) dollars .....	8.19	8.38	8.40	2.6	333.52	341.87	343.39	3.0
Service-producing:								
Current dollars .....	13.72	14.25	14.21	3.6	447.27	463.13	463.25	3.6
Constant (1982) dollars .....	7.62	7.86	7.83	2.8	248.48	255.31	255.37	2.8
Transportation and public utilities:								
Current dollars .....	16.65	17.31	17.24	3.5	634.37	657.78	660.29	4.1
Constant (1982) dollars .....	9.25	9.54	9.50	2.7	352.43	362.61	364.00	3.3
Wholesale trade:								
Current dollars .....	15.71	16.09	16.09	2.4	600.12	614.64	616.25	2.7
Constant (1982) dollars .....	8.73	8.87	8.87	1.6	333.40	338.83	339.72	1.9
Retail trade:								
Current dollars .....	9.67	10.01	9.97	3.1	277.53	288.29	290.13	4.5
Constant (1982) dollars .....	5.37	5.52	5.50	2.4	154.18	158.93	159.94	3.7
Finance, insurance, and real estate:								
Current dollars .....	15.72	16.23	16.20	3.1	559.63	581.03	579.96	3.6
Constant (1982) dollars .....	8.73	8.95	8.93	2.3	310.91	320.30	319.71	2.8
Services:								
Current dollars .....	14.52	15.15	15.13	4.2	471.90	490.86	490.21	3.9
Constant (1982) dollars .....	8.07	8.35	8.34	3.3	262.17	270.60	270.24	3.1

<sup>1</sup> The deflator for the constant-dollar series presented in this release is the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

<sup>2</sup> Data relate to production and related workers in mining and manufacturing; construction workers in construction; and nonsupervisory workers in transportation

and public utilities, trade, finance, insurance, and real estate, and services. Included in this group are approximately four-fifths of all jobs on private industry payrolls.

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 2. Earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls<sup>1</sup>, seasonally adjusted**

Year and month	Average hourly earnings		Average weekly earnings	
	Current dollars	Constant (1982) dollars <sup>2</sup>	Current dollars	Constant (1982) dollars <sup>2</sup>
2001:				
May	\$14.24	\$7.93	\$487.01	\$271.16
June	14.29	7.94	488.72	271.66
July	14.33	7.99	490.09	273.34
Aug.	14.38	8.02	490.36	273.49
Sept.	14.43	8.01	492.06	273.06
Oct.	14.46	8.06	491.64	273.89
Nov.	14.52	8.10	495.13	276.15
Dec.	14.56	8.14	496.50	277.68
2002:				
Jan.	14.59	8.14	497.52	277.63
Feb.	14.62	8.14	500.00	278.40
Mar.	14.65	8.13	501.03	278.04
Apr. <sup>P</sup>	14.67	8.10	501.71	276.88
May <sup>P</sup>	14.70	8.12	502.74	277.60

<sup>1</sup> See footnote 2, table 1.

<sup>2</sup> The deflator for the constant-dollar series presented in this release is the Consumer Price

Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.

**Table 3. Revised seasonally adjusted average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls<sup>1</sup> in constant (1982) dollars**

Year	Average hourly earnings					
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
1997 .....	\$7.46	\$7.47	\$7.50	\$7.51	\$7.53	\$7.54
1998 .....	7.65	7.69	7.72	7.74	7.74	7.76
1999 .....	7.83	7.84	7.86	7.84	7.87	7.89
2000 .....	7.89	7.87	7.85	7.88	7.89	7.87
2001 .....	7.91	7.93	7.96	7.94	7.93	7.94
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1997 .....	7.55	7.57	7.58	7.60	7.62	7.64
1998 .....	7.76	7.78	7.80	7.80	7.81	7.82
1999 .....	7.89	7.87	7.86	7.86	7.86	7.86
2000 .....	7.88	7.91	7.88	7.91	7.92	7.94
2001 .....	7.99	8.02	8.01	8.06	8.10	8.14

See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 3. Revised seasonally adjusted average hourly and weekly earnings of production or nonsupervisory workers on private nonfarm payrolls<sup>1</sup> in constant (1982) dollars--Continued**

	Average weekly earnings					
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June
1997 .....	\$256.72	\$258.38	\$259.44	\$259.72	\$260.57	\$260.18
1998 .....	266.25	266.92	267.00	267.73	268.69	267.66
1999 .....	270.82	270.61	270.49	270.53	271.35	272.22
2000 .....	272.10	271.63	270.70	271.70	271.35	270.82
2001 .....	271.99	271.14	272.10	271.65	271.16	271.66
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1997 .....	261.21	262.81	262.09	263.80	263.78	265.18
1998 .....	268.53	269.30	268.98	269.95	270.25	270.43
1999 .....	272.07	271.67	270.46	271.22	271.30	271.32
2000 .....	270.94	272.08	271.21	272.27	272.43	271.55
2001 .....	273.34	273.49	273.06	273.89	276.15	277.68

<sup>1</sup> Data relate to production and related workers in mining and manufacturing; construction workers in construction; and nonsupervisory workers in transportation and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade; finance,

insurance, and real estate; and services.

NOTE: These data have been revised to reflect the March 2001 benchmark and updated seasonal adjustment factors.

<sup>P</sup> = preliminary.