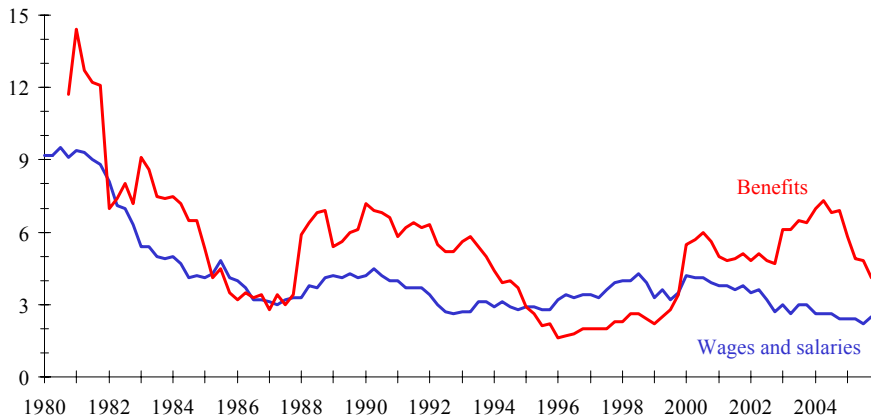


Chart 1-17. Increases in employer costs for benefits have outpaced gains in wages and salaries since 2000

Percent change from previous year



NOTE: The Employment Cost Index components are for private-sector workers.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 1-17. Increases in employer costs for benefits have outpaced gains in wages and salaries since 2000

- In the private sector, benefit costs rose 4.1 percent for the year ending December 2005, compared with an increase of 2.5 percent for wages and salaries.
- The cost of benefits typically has risen at a faster pace than wages; although, for a period in the late-1990s, growth in the cost of benefits fell below that of wages.