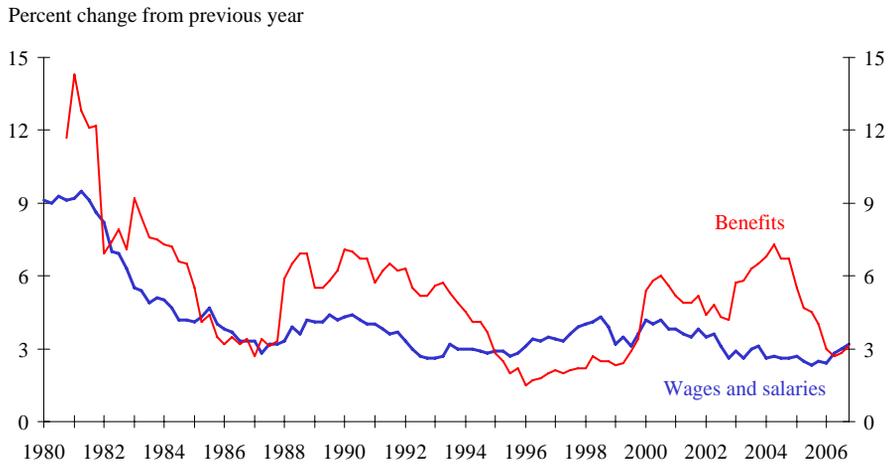


Chart 1-16. Increases in employer costs for wages and salaries matched gains in benefit costs in 2006



NOTE: The Employment Cost Index components are for private-sector workers. Beginning in 2001, data reflect NAICS-based classification of industries.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Chart 1-16. Increases in employer costs for wages and salaries matched gains in benefit costs in 2006

- In the private sector, benefit costs rose 3.1 percent for the year ending December 2006, comparable to an increase of 3.2 percent for wages and salaries. Increases in employer costs for benefits had outpaced gains in wages from 2000-2005.
- 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.