

Transmission of material in this release is embargoed until 8:30 a.m. (EST) Thursday, Mmmmm dd, YYYY

USDL-YY-xxxx

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EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX – Mmmmm YYYY

Compensation costs for civilian workers changed x.x percent, seasonally adjusted, for the 3-month period ending Mmmmm YYYY, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. **Wages and salaries** (which make up about 70 percent of compensation costs) changed x.x percent, and **benefits** (which make up the remaining 30 percent of compensation) changed x.x percent. (See chart 1 and tables 1, 2, and 3.)

Chart 1. Three-month percent change, seasonally adjusted in civilian workers compensation

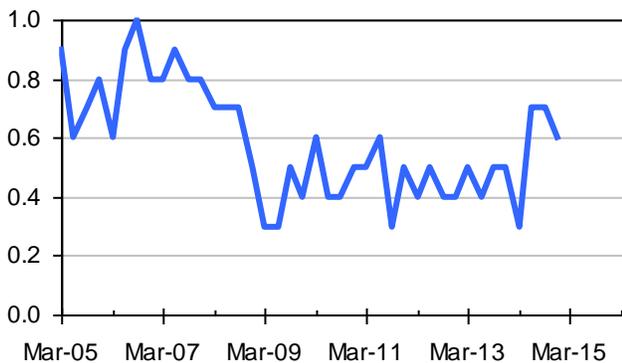
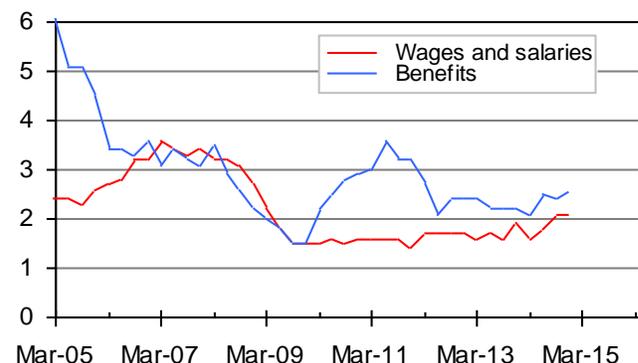


Chart 2. Twelve-month percent change, not seasonally adjusted in civilian workers wages and salaries and benefits



Civilian Workers

Compensation costs for civilian workers changed x.x percent for the 12-month period ending Mmmmm YYYY, essentially unchanged from the Mmmmm YYYY change of x.x percent. **Wages and salaries** changed x.x percent for the current 12-month period. In Mmmmm YYYY the change was x.x percent. **Benefit costs** changed x.x percent for the 12-month period ending Mmmmm YYYY, down from the Mmmmm YYYY change, which was x.x percent. (See chart 2 and tables 4, 8, and 12.)

Private Industry Workers

Compensation costs for private industry workers changed x.x percent over the year. In Mmmmm YYYY the change was x.x percent. **Wages and salaries** changed x.x percent for the current 12-month period, essentially unchanged from the 12-month period ending Mmmmm YYYY, which was x.x percent. The change in the cost of **benefits** was x.x percent for the 12-month period ending

Chart 3. Twelve-month percent change, not seasonally adjusted in private industry benefits and health benefits

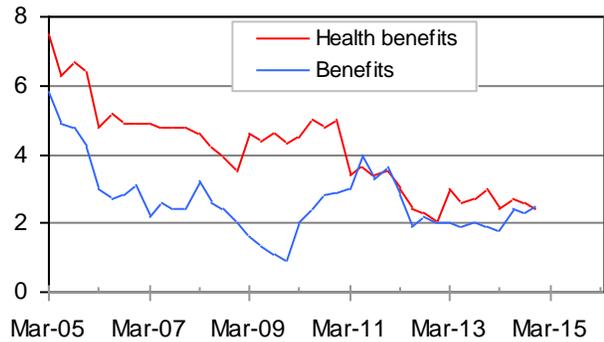
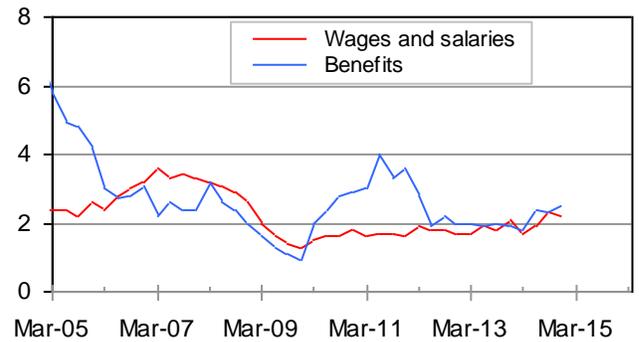


Chart 4. Twelve-month percent change, not seasonally adjusted in private industry wages and salaries and benefits



Mmmmm YYYY, down from the Mmmmm YYYY change of x.x percent. Employer costs for **health benefits** changed x.x percent over the year. (For further information, see www.bls.gov/web/eci/echealth.pdf.) In Mmmmm YYYY the change was x.x percent. (See charts 3 and 4 and tables 5, 9, and 12.)

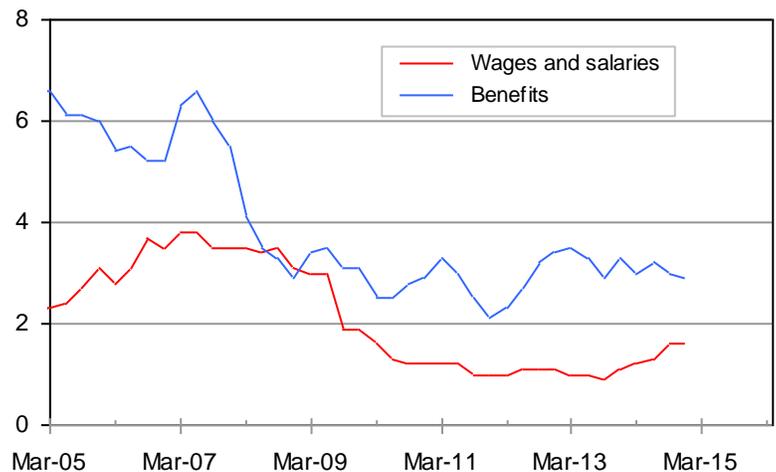
Among **occupational groups**, compensation cost changes for private industry workers for the 12-month period ending Mmmmm YYYY ranged from x.x percent for natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations; production, transportation, and material moving occupations; and service occupations to x.x percent for management, professional, and related occupations; and sales and office occupations. (See table 5.)

Among **industry supersectors**, compensation cost changes for private industry workers for the current 12-month period ranged from x.x percent for leisure and hospitality to x.x percent for information. (See table 5.)

State and Local Government Workers

Compensation costs for state and local government workers changed x.x percent for the 12-month period ending Mmmmm YYYY, higher than the Mmmmm YYYY change of x.x percent. **Wages and salaries** changed x.x percent for the 12-month period ending Mmmmm YYYY, essentially unchanged from a year earlier when the change was x.x percent. **Benefit costs** changed x.x percent in Mmmmm YYYY, up from the Mmmmm YYYY change of x.x percent. (See chart 5 and tables 7, 11, and 12.)

Chart 5. Twelve-month percent change, not seasonally adjusted in state and local government wages and salaries and benefits



The Employment Cost Index for Mmmmm YYYY is scheduled to be released on Dddday, Mmmmm DD, YYYY, at 8:30 a.m. (EDT).

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request—
Voice phone: (202) 691-5200; Federal Relay Service: (800) 877-8339.

New seasonal factors for YYYY, along with revised seasonally adjusted indexes for the past 5 years will be available online Dddday, Mmmmm DD, YYYY.

BLS news releases, including the ECI, are available through an e-mail subscription service at: www.bls.gov/bls/list.htm.

Table A. Major series of the Employment Cost Index

(Percent change)

Category	3-month, seasonally adjusted		12-month, not seasonally adjusted				
	Sept.2014	Dec. 2014	Dec. 2013	Mar. 2014	June 2014	Sept. 2014	Dec. 2014
CIVILIAN WORKERS¹							
Compensation ²	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x
Wages and salaries	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x
Benefits	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x
PRIVATE INDUSTRY							
Compensation ²	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x
Wages and salaries	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x
Benefits	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x
STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT							
Compensation ²	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x
Wages and salaries	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x
Benefits	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x	x.x

¹ Includes private industry and state and local government.

² Includes wages and salaries and benefits.

TECHNICAL NOTE

The Employment Cost Index (ECI) measures the change in the cost of labor, free from the influence of employment shifts among occupations and industries. Detailed information on survey concepts, coverage, methods, nonresponse adjustment, and imputation can be found in *BLS Handbook of Methods*, Chapter 8, "National Compensation Measures," Bureau of Labor Statistics, on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/pdf/homch8.pdf.

Sample size

Data for the Mmmmm YYYYY reference period were collected from a probability sample of approximately xx,xxx occupational observations selected from a sample of about x,xxx private industry establishments and approximately x,xxx occupational observations selected from a sample of about x,xxx state and local government establishments that provided data at the initial interview.

Health insurance data

Data from the ECI that provide 12-month percent changes in employer costs for health insurance in private industry are available at www.bls.gov/web/eci/echealth.pdf.

Historical listings

Historical listings that provide all ECI data are available at www.bls.gov/ect/#tables. Included among these listings is one that provides continuous occupational and industry series. This listing uses the Standard Industrial Classification Manual and Census of Population series through 2005 and the North American Industry Classification System and Standard Occupational Classification from 2006 to the present. It provides the official series from the beginning of the ECI in 1975 through the current quarter. For more information on the criteria used in defining continuous series, see the article published in the *Monthly Labor Review* at www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2006/04/art2full.pdf.

Employer Costs for Employee Compensation data

The costs per hour worked of compensation components, based on data from the ECI, are published in a separate news release titled "Employer Costs for Employee Compensation" (ECEC). These releases are issued 3 months after the reference period. The ECEC release dates are available at: www.bls.gov/schedule/news_release/2015_sched.htm. Historical ECEC data are available in summary documents at www.bls.gov/ect/#tables. Since the ECEC is calculated with current employment weights rather than the fixed weights used in computing the ECI, year-to-year changes in the cost levels usually differ from those in the ECI.