

## Macro Roundup Article

**Headline:** [Why Americans Dislike the Economy](#)

**Article Link:** <https://www.city-journal.org/article/why-americans-dislike-the-economy>

Author(s)	Stephen Miran
Publication	City Journal
Publication Date	November 29, 2023

**Tweet:** .@SteveMiran when examining the change in real wages, argues that taking into account the changing composition of the labor force is absolutely essential; when he does so, he finds that inflation-adjusted wages and salaries are down 3.7% since 2020.

**Summary:** To get a clearer picture of the economy, therefore, we need to adjust for the changing composition of the workforce and consider changes to wages in each type of job and industry. A BLS statistic, the National Compensation Survey's Employment Cost Index, does just this. According to ECI, inflation-adjusted wages have shrunk by 3.7% since the end of 2020. While real wages rose in response to falling energy prices late last year, they have been roughly flat since. Worse, the drop in real wages erased all gains made in the late 2010s. Real wages today stand at 2015 levels, meaning Americans' paychecks don't go any further now than they did eight years ago.

**Related Articles:** Have Workers Gotten A Raise? and Are Real Wages Rising? and The Unexpected Compression: Competition at Work in the Low Wage Labor Market

**Primary Topic:** Business Cycle

**Topics:** Business Cycle, GDP, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Wages/Income, Weekly, Workforce

**Permalink:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/macro-roundup/stevemiran-when-examining-the-change-in-real-wages-argues-that-taking-into-account-the-changing-composition-of-the-labor-force-is-absolutely-essential-when-he-does-so-he-finds-that-inflation-adjusted-wages-and-salaries-are-down-3-7-percent-since-2020?view=detail>

**Featured Image Link:** <https://www.edwardconard.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/ECI.png>