

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [The American Worker](#)

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Tweet: Strong growth since 1994 leaves US real median hourly wages up 36% since 1980. @BenGlasner @LettieriDC @ModeledBehavior

Summary: The typical (median) U.S. worker is substantially better off than ever before. From 1980 to 2023, hourly wages for the median worker grew by 35.9% after accounting for inflation [as measured by PCE.]. Weekly wages tell a similar story. Progress becomes even more impressive when we expand the scope to include wages plus benefits, with weekly compensation growth of roughly 45% for the typical worker. The difference in wage growth between men and women is stark. Thanks to a 59.9% increase in real hourly wage since 1980, women have continued to enjoy the kind of boom that all workers experienced in the decades immediately following the Second World War. Meanwhile, men's wages have increased by only 15.6%. From 1994 to 2023, men's wages shot up 31.3%—almost perfectly reversing the previous rate of decline from -0.87% into positive annualized growth of 0.9%.

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Primary Topic: Wages/Income

Topics: Database, Important!, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Wages/Income, Weekly, Workforce

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