

## Economic News Release

### Employment Cost Index news release text

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8:30 A.M. (EST) FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 2011

USDL-11-008

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#### EMPLOYMENT COST INDEX - DECEMBER 2010

Compensation costs for civilian workers increased 0.4 percent, seasonally adjusted, for the 3-month period ending December 2010, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Both wages and salaries (which make up about 70 percent of compensation costs) and benefits (which make up the remaining 30 percent of compensation) increased 0.4 percent.

#### Civilian Workers

Compensation costs for civilian workers increased 2.0 percent for the 12-month period ending December 2010. This was higher than in December 2009, when the increase was 1.4 percent. Wages and salaries increased 1.6 percent for the current 12-month period; in December 2009 the increase was 1.5 percent. Benefit costs accelerated to 2.9 percent, up from a 1.5 percent increase for the 12-month period ending December 2009 due primarily to increases in retirement costs.

#### Private Industry Workers

Compensation costs for private industry workers increased 2.1 percent over the year, higher than the 1.2 percent increase for the previous 12-month period. The wage and salary series increased 1.8 percent for the current 12-month period. The change for the period ending December 2009 was 1.3 percent. The cost of benefits increased 2.9 percent for the 12-month period ending December 2010, higher than the December 2009 increase of 0.9 percent. Employer costs for health benefits rose 5.0 percent for the 12-month period ending December 2010. In December 2009, the 12-month percent change was 4.3 percent.

Among occupational groups, compensation cost increases for private industry workers for the 12-month period ending December 2010 ranged from 1.5 percent for service occupations to 2.4 percent for production, transportation, and material moving occupations.

Among industry supersectors, compensation cost increases for private industry workers for the current 12-month period ranged from 0.9 percent for construction to 2.8 percent for manufacturing.

#### State and Local Government Workers

Compensation cost increases for State and local government workers decelerated to 1.8 percent for the 12-month period ending December 2010, down from 2.3 percent for the 12-month period ending December 2009. Prior to this quarter, values for this series--which began in June 1982--ranged from 1.7 percent in June 2010 to 9.6 percent in June 1982. The slowdown in compensation was due to wages and salaries, which increased 1.2 percent. Prior values for this series, which also began in June 1982, ranged from 1.2 percent in September 2010 to 8.5 percent in June 1982. Benefit cost increased 2.9 percent. Prior values for this series, which began in June 1990, ranged from 1.2 percent in December 1997 to 8.3 percent in June 1990.

Corrections to ECI Data Series

Some Employment Cost Index estimates from June 2009 through September 2010 were corrected on January 18, 2011. (In some of the seasonally adjusted series, corrections were made to estimates back to June 2005.) For further information, see: [www.bls.gov/bls/eci\\_corrections\\_111910.htm](http://www.bls.gov/bls/eci_corrections_111910.htm).

The Employment Cost Index for March 2011 is scheduled to be released on Friday, April 29, 2011, 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.

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Table A. Major series of the Employment Cost Index  
(Percent change)

| Category                      | 3-month,<br>seasonally adjusted |              | 12-month,<br>not seasonally adjusted |              |              |              |              |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                               | Sep.<br>2010                    | Dec.<br>2010 | Dec.<br>2009                         | Mar.<br>2010 | June<br>2010 | Sep.<br>2010 | Dec.<br>2010 |
|                               |                                 |              |                                      |              |              |              |              |
| CIVILIAN WORKERS(1)           |                                 |              |                                      |              |              |              |              |
| Compensation(2)               | 0.4                             | 0.4          | 1.4                                  | 1.7          | 1.9          | 1.9          | 2.0          |
| Wages and salaries            | 0.3                             | 0.4          | 1.5                                  | 1.5          | 1.6          | 1.5          | 1.6          |
| Benefits                      | 0.6                             | 0.4          | 1.5                                  | 2.2          | 2.5          | 2.8          | 2.9          |
| PRIVATE INDUSTRY              |                                 |              |                                      |              |              |              |              |
| Compensation(2)               | 0.4                             | 0.4          | 1.2                                  | 1.6          | 1.9          | 2.0          | 2.1          |
| Wages and salaries            | 0.4                             | 0.4          | 1.3                                  | 1.5          | 1.6          | 1.6          | 1.8          |
| Benefits                      | 0.5                             | 0.4          | 0.9                                  | 2.0          | 2.4          | 2.8          | 2.9          |
| STATE AND LOCAL<br>GOVERNMENT |                                 |              |                                      |              |              |              |              |
| Compensation(2)               | 0.2                             | 0.6          | 2.3                                  | 2.0          | 1.7          | 1.8          | 1.8          |
| Wages and salaries            | -0.2                            | 0.5          | 1.9                                  | 1.6          | 1.3          | 1.2          | 1.2          |
| Benefits                      | 0.8                             | 0.8          | 3.1                                  | 2.5          | 2.5          | 2.8          | 2.9          |

1 Includes private industry and State and local government.

2 Includes wages and salaries and benefits.

- [Employment Cost Index technical note](#)
- [Table 1. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: Employment Cost Index for total compensation, by ownership, occupational group, and industry](#)
- [Table 2. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries, by ownership, occupational group, and industry](#)
- [Table 3. SEASONALLY ADJUSTED: Employment Cost Index for benefits, by ownership, occupational group, and industry](#)
- [Table 4. COMPENSATION \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for total compensation, for civilian workers, by occupational group and industry](#)
- [Table 5. COMPENSATION \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for total compensation, for private industry workers, by occupational group and industry](#)
- [Table 6. COMPENSATION \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for total compensation, for private industry workers, by bargaining status, census region, census divisions, and](#)

[area](#)

- [Table 7. COMPENSATION \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for total compensation, for State and local government workers, by occupational group and industry](#)
- [Table 8. WAGES AND SALARIES \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries, for civilian workers, by occupational group and industry](#)
- [Table 9. WAGES AND SALARIES \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries, for private industry workers, by occupational group and industry](#)
- [Table 10. WAGES AND SALARIES \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries, for private industry workers, by bargaining status, region, and area](#)
- [Table 11. WAGES AND SALARIES \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for wages and salaries, for State and local government workers, by occupational group and industry](#)
- [Table 12. BENEFITS \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for benefits, by ownership, occupational group, industry, and bargaining status](#)
- [Table 13. COMPENSATION AND WAGES AND SALARIES \(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED\): Employment Cost Index for total compensation, and wages and salaries, for private industry workers, by area](#)
- [HTML version of the entire news release](#)

**[The PDF version of the news release](#)**

**[Table of Contents](#)**

**Last Modified Date:** January 28, 2011

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