



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

**Congressman Jim Saxton
Ranking Republican Member**

PRESS RELEASE

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LABOR COMPENSATION RISES

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Contact: Christopher Frenze
Republican Staff Director
(202) 225-3923

-- Inflation-Adjusted Compensation Up 3 Percent Since the Fourth Quarter of 2005 --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The real value of nonfarm hourly compensation has increased 3.0 percent over the last four quarters and 10 percent since 2000, according to new data for the fourth quarter of 2006 released today by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This measure of labor compensation includes not only wages and salaries, but also employer-provided benefits. As the BLS has stated in its international comparisons of compensation, earnings measures “do not include all items of labor compensation; and the omitted items of compensation frequently represent a large proportion of total compensation.”

“Real hourly compensation continues to climb,” Congressman Jim Saxton said today. “When employee benefits are included along with wage and salary income, the result is a 3 percent gain over the last four quarters, and 10 percent since 2000. A comprehensive measure of labor compensation provides the most accurate gauge of the value of compensation received by workers,” Saxton concluded.

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