Wage Rigidity Meter

The statistics on this page offer a closer examination of the annual wage changes of U.S. workers that have not changed jobs over the year. They include graphs of the fraction of workers receiving a wage change of zero in several demographic subgroups of the U.S. labor force, as well as a histogram showing all of the reported wage changes among these workers in the last four quarters. The data for these statistics are drawn from a matched Current Population Survey dataset (see Daly, Hobijn, Wiles 2011 for details on the matching procedure). The Current Population Survey is a monthly nationally representative survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The summary statistics on this page will be updated on a quarterly frequency.

- Type of pay
- Educational attainment
- Selected industries
- Distribution of wage changes

The above chart displays the percentage of workers who saw no change in their wage over the past year. This statistic is calculated for all workers, for workers paid at an hourly rate, and for non-hourly workers.

Estimates of the percent of workers with a rigid wage in time series charts are averages of monthly rates taken over a 12-month period. In the histogram and the table below, all observations over a 12-month period are pooled and then used to calculate the percent of rigid wages. Estimates from these two methods may differ very slightly.

Distribution of Nominal Wage Changes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-Quarter Average 2013Q4 2014Q1 2014Q2 2014Q3 2014Q4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difference of log wage from one year prior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25th Percentile -0.028 -0.030 -0.025 -0.023 -0.020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median 0.017 0.017 0.019 0.020 0.022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75th Percentile 0.102 0.101 0.105 0.105 0.105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percentage of workers reporting a wage change of zero

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013Q4</th>
<th>2014Q1</th>
<th>2014Q2</th>
<th>2014Q3</th>
<th>2014Q4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15.64</td>
<td>15.63</td>
<td>15.40</td>
<td>15.54</td>
<td>15.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


Nominal Wage Rigidity Data Release (Excel document, 66 kb)

Find out when data are updated through our Twitter page:

Twitter for SF Fed

Contact Bart.Hobijn (at) sf.frb.org
Job-stayers reporting the same wage as one year prior

By pay type

- All workers (hourly and non-hourly)
- Hourly workers
- Non-hourly workers
Job-stayers reporting the same wage as one year prior
By educational attainment

- Less than high school
- High school
- Some college
- College