Employment of production and nonsupervisory employees (a good measure for rank and file workers) showed that private sector added 274,000 jobs compared to 110,000 jobs in December. Average hourly earnings for private sector production and nonsupervisory employees increased by $0.09, $23.05 in December compared to $22.96 in November, while year to year annual wage growth rose by $0.74 or 3.3%.

Overall wage increases for production and nonsupervisory workers in the manufacturing sector increased from $21.76 in November to $21.80 in December, an increase of $0.04 or 0.2%. Year over year wages increased by 2.8% or $0.59.

Wage changes varied within the manufacturing industry where hourly earnings for production average and nonsupervisory workers in select industries indicate disparate wage growth.

Specifically, average hourly earnings for employees in durable goods rose by $0.06 or 0.3%, from November 2018 ($22.72) to December 2018 ($22.78). Year over year wages rose by 2.5% or $0.57.

Primary metals industry production and nonsupervisory workers average hourly earnings saw a decrease of -$0.03 from the prior month, from $23.94 in November to $23.91 in December of 2018. Further the average hourly wage from the previous year increased by 2.5% or $0.59.

Fabricated metals, at an hourly rate of $21.00, saw wages for production and nonsupervisory workers increase by $0.22 or 1.1% from the previous month while...
year over year change of average hourly increase by 2.3% or $0.47 per hour.

Production and nonsupervisory workers in the machinery industry, at an hourly rate of $23.36, saw their wages increased by 2.0% or $0.46 from the previous year. Compared to the previous month average hourly earnings increased by $0.03, from $23.33 in November to $23.36 in December.

Average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory workers in computer and electronic products show that wages for this group increased by $0.24 from the previous month from $25.07 in November to $25.31 in December. Year over year change saw that average hourly increase by $1.00 or 2.8%.

In the transportation equipment industry, at $26.95, average hourly earnings increased by $0.11 or 0.4 percent from the previous month while annual hourly wages for production and nonsupervisory workers in this industry increased by $0.90 or 3.5%.

Wages for electrical equipment and appliance industry’s production and nonsupervisory workers saw an increase by $0.22 from November ($20.62) to December ($20.84). Average annual hourly wages increased by 4.1% or $0.83.