

# BTS COMPTABILITÉ ET GESTION DES ORGANISATIONS

## ÉPREUVE ORALE D'ANGLAIS – Session 2016

Sujet 1

### Low-Income Workers See Biggest Drop in Paychecks

Despite steady gains in hiring, a falling unemployment rate and other signs of an improving economy, take-home pay for many American workers has effectively fallen since the economic recovery began in 2009, according to a new study by an advocacy group that is to be released on Thursday.

“Stagnant wages are a problem for everyone at this point, but the imbalance in the economy has become more pronounced since the recession,” said Irene Tung, a senior policy researcher at the National Employment Law Project and co-author of the study.

Jasmin Almodovar, a home health care aide in Cleveland, knows all about that.

She has worked for the same health care agency since 2003, and for the first four years she received an annual wage increase of 25 cents an hour. But since 2007, her hourly pay has been stuck at \$9.50 an hour.

“I’ve asked for raises several times and each time I get the runaround<sup>1</sup>,” said Ms. Almodovar, who is licensed by Ohio as a nurse’s assistant. Bills for natural gas, electricity, food and other necessities have gone up since her last raise, she noted, leaving little extra money for her and her 12-year-old son.

And the report by NELP, a left-leaning research and advocacy group, underscores why so many Americans are still angry about the state of the economy and with what they see as the inability of Democratic and Republican leaders alike in Washington to do anything to improve living standards for many ordinary workers.

One explanation may lie in the findings of another study released on Wednesday by the Economic Policy Institute, also a liberal research group. Its report showed that even as labor productivity has improved steadily since 2000, the benefits from improved efficiency have nearly all gone to companies, shareholders and top executives, rather than rank-and-file<sup>2</sup> employees.

Wage declines in the lowest-paid occupations were much worse, dropping 8.9 percent for restaurant cooks and 6.2 percent for home health aides.

For Ms. Almodovar, 36, acquiring new credentials<sup>1</sup> and skills is a big obstacle.

When she talked with her employer’s human resources department about how to increase her long-frozen salary, their advice was to go back to school.

“I’m living with roommates, and if I don’t go to work, I don’t get paid,” she said. “Even one day makes a big difference.”

Adapted from *The New York Times*, Nelson D. SCHWARTZ, September 2, 2015

1. *Get the runaround*: get a refusal

2. *Rank-and-file*: ordinary

3. *Credentials*: qualifications