

## Economic trends

# Earn less, spend more?

## Growth slows, but consumers still spending

Consumer spending in the US <sup>1</sup> rose / <sup>raised</sup> last year, mainly because the oil companies <sup>2</sup> pushed up / rose the

price of oil to the highest level for several years. Higher oil prices meant that spending on petrol for cars, as well as home heating, <sup>3</sup> raised / increased. However, salaries did not <sup>4</sup> put up / go up to match the rise in spending. Many companies <sup>5</sup> cut / fell jobs at the start of the year in order to <sup>6</sup> reduce / rocket their costs. These companies are still not <sup>7</sup> increasing / rising their workforce. Economic growth remains slow and current trends seem set to continue. ■

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