Economic trends

Earn less, spend more?

Growth slows, but consumers still spending

Consumer spending in the US [1] *rose / raised* last year, mainly because the oil companies [2] *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, [3] *raised / increased*. However, salaries did not [4] *put up / go up* to match the rise in spending. Many companies [5] *cut / fell* jobs at the start of the year in order to [6] *reduce / rocket* their costs. These companies are still not [7] *increasing / rising* their workforce. Economic growth remains slow and current trends seem set to continue. ■

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