

Will you get your annual pay raise?

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CHARLOTTE, NC (WBTV) - A national study released today shows that employers are cutting pay raises to the lowest point in thirty years.

And the study says the numbers will likely sink even further.

Click the link to watch WBTV's Melissa Hankins, On Your Side with the details.

Six hundred and forty companies representing 13 point 5 million workers were polled. Fifty percent of them are cutting out annual raises.

This is brand new information we want to warn our viewers about, because as recently as October, employers were claiming salary figures would remain on target.

But since then, the recession was officially declared, and now some experts are calling this is a simple knee-jerk reaction.

Company execs are scared of what 2009 has in store.

Charlotte Business Consultant Mary Bruce, of Kaleidoscope Business Options, says around here, you have to be prepared for any possibility.

"Because you don't know what's coming next year. You might not get as big of an increase. You may not get an increase. You might get work hours cut back."

But she says you can look at this way. At least your company won't be the next business begging for a bail-out in Washington.

"If you're looking for an employer who is looking ahead, saying we're going to be cautious until we know what's happening," Bruce says, "that's not necessarily a bad thing as opposed to just going flat out as if nothing was happening and then saying oops--the bottom fell out."

So there's the silver lining to this cloud.

If your company's erring on the side of caution right now, then maybe you'll be spared in the future.

After all, it's better not to have a raise, then to take a pay cut.

And Bruce says the companies she works with are doing all they can to avoid lay-offs.