



Workers are struggling with the biggest pay squeeze the country has suffered in 150 years, a report claims today.

Average wages have failed to keep pace with inflation for the seventh consecutive year, the longest decline since records began in Victorian times.

Real-terms pay is down 8.2 per cent since 2007 when cost-of-living figures are taken into account, an analysis of Bank of England earnings and inflation figures shows. Even the economic collapse of the 1920s saw a quicker recovery in earnings.

Tens of thousands will march through central London on Saturday calling on all employers who can afford it to reward their workforce.

The Britain Needs a Pay Rise demonstration, organised by the Trades Union Congress (TUC), will also urge the Government to lift its freeze on public sector pay increases.

TUC general secretary Frances O'Grady said: "It's shocking that even the most the infamous periods of pay depression in the last 150 years pale in comparison with the current seven-year slump in earnings."



Pay rise please: Stacey Booth from Leeds



London March

"The Government says the economy is growing again but there's no evidence of any recovery in ordinary workers' pay packets.

"Vast swathes of Britain are long overdue a pay rise."

Public sector workers on the march will include mum-of-two Stacey Booth.

Stacey, 34, from Leeds, earns £16,000 a year as a town hall administrator while lifeguard partner Jonathan, 24, gets £14,000.

They struggle to keep up mortgage repayments on their two-bedroom terrace and rely on hand-outs from Stacey's family to buy birthday presents for her 16-year-old daughter and five-year-old son.

Stacey said: "We got a 1 per cent rise last year but we didn't see the benefit as everything else has gone up."

Special trains and coaches will bring workers and their families to London for the demo, starting at midday from Embankment with a rally in Hyde Park at 1pm.



Tim Roache GMB Regional Secretary says; "Britain needs a pay rise, Join us on October 18th in London and lets all march together for pay fairness"