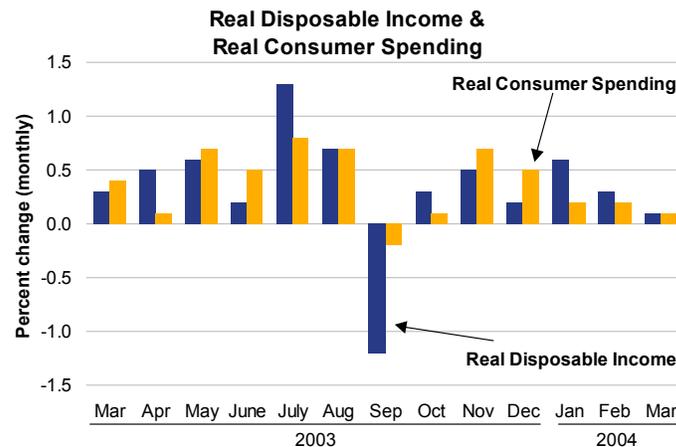




## REAL INCOME ROSE IN MARCH

*Personal Income Estimates*

Real disposable income and real consumer spending both increased 0.1 percent in March 2004, according to estimates released today by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. In February, income had increased 0.3 percent, and consumer spending had increased 0.2 percent.



Real disposable personal income is after-tax income, adjusted for inflation. Over the previous 12 months, the average monthly increase was 0.4 percent.

Real consumer spending increased at an average monthly rate of 0.4 percent over the previous 12 months.

- Spending on services and on big-ticket items decelerated, while spending on other goods was flat for the second month in a row.

Since March of last year, real disposable personal income has increased 4.0 percent, and real consumer spending has increased 4.3 percent.

Personal saving was 1.9 percent of disposable personal income in March, the same as in February.

Personal income—the total income received by individuals, before taxes—increased 0.4 percent in March, slightly less than in February and the same as its average increase over the previous 12 months. (“Personal income” is *not* adjusted to remove the effects of inflation.)

- The March increase mainly reflected increases in employee compensation and in incomes received by proprietors. (Compensation accounts for about two-thirds of all personal income, and proprietors’ income accounts for about one-tenth.)

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BEA’s data—including GDP, personal income, the balance of payments, foreign direct investment, the input-output accounts, and economic data for states, local areas, and industries—are available on its Web site: <[www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov)>.

NOTE: Estimates of personal income and outlays for April, along with revised estimates for January through March, will be released on May 28, 2004.

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Bureau of Economic Analysis  
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