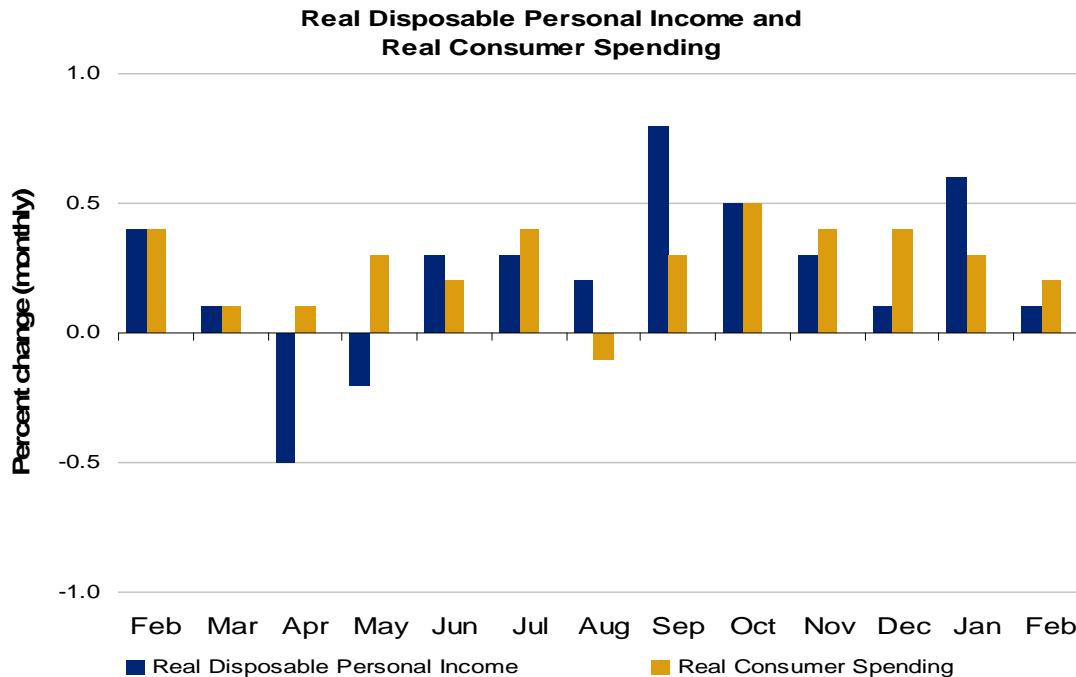


## REAL DISPOSABLE INCOME GROWS 0.1 PERCENT

Real disposable personal income, the income available after taxes for spending or saving, increased 0.1 percent in February after increasing 0.6 percent in January, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Real consumer spending increased 0.2 percent, slightly less than in the previous month.



### Personal Income

Personal income, a broad current-dollar measure that includes all sources of income, rose 0.6 percent in February, after increasing 1.0 percent in January.

Wages and salaries, which account for more than half of personal income, increased 0.4 percent after increasing 1.2 percent in January, when the growth rate was boosted by bonus payments and the exercise of stock options.

### Real Consumer Spending

The slight slowdown in consumer spending in February reflected a slowdown in spending on clothing and shoes as well as furniture and household goods. In contrast, spending on electricity and gas increased.

### Personal Consumption Expenditure (PCE) Prices

The PCE price index rose 0.4 percent in February, after rising 0.2 percent in January. Excluding food and energy, the index increased 0.3 percent, compared with an increase of 0.2 percent.

### Personal Saving Rate

Personal saving as percent of disposable personal income was -1.2 percent in February, the same rate as in January.

BEA 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 the BEA Web site: [www.bea.gov](http://www.bea.gov). [E-mail alerts](#) are also available.

NOTE: On April 30, 2007, the March estimates of Personal Income and Outlays will be released.