

*Cybert*

# BUSINESS NEWS REPORTS

PERSONAL INCOME - September 1955

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Personal income in September was at an annual rate of \$307½ billion, \$2 billion higher than in August, the Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce announced today.

All major types of income registered gains. Wage and salary disbursements rose by over \$3/4 billion at an annual rate, with durable-goods manufacturing industries recording the largest increase. Dividend disbursements were up from August, and nonfarm proprietors' income was higher largely because of an increased volume of retail sales. Farm proprietors' income, which exhibits considerable irregularity on a monthly basis, also rose.

Personal income estimates include wages and salaries, the net income of proprietorships and partnerships -- farm and nonfarm -- as well as dividends and interest, net rents received by landlords, and other types of individual income. The annual rates, which are used to facilitate comparison with previous annual totals, represent the seasonally adjusted dollar totals for each month multiplied by 12.

Reflecting successive increases in monthly income throughout the preceding year, the annual rate of personal income in September 1955 was almost \$20 billion higher than in September 1954.

All types of personal income except farm income shared in the September to September rise. Wage and salary disbursements were higher by \$16 billion, at an annual rate, with the largest relative increase occurring in manufacturing payrolls. The income of nonfarm proprietors increased by \$2 billion, and dividends and interest each rose by more than \$1 billion. Transfer payments were higher, principally because the continuing rise in old age benefits more than offset a substantial decline in unemployment benefits.

Farm proprietors' income was about \$1 billion lower, reflecting mainly a decline in the prices of agricultural commodities.

Details of personal income in September and other recent periods are shown in the following table.

(OVER)

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MONTHLY PERSONAL INCOME IN THE UNITED STATES  
(Seasonally adjusted annual rates in billions of dollars)

	Sept	Aug	July	Sept	Aug	July	First nine		Full
	1955	1955	1955	1954	1954	1954	months		Year
							1955	1954	1954
Total personal income.....	307.5	305.3	305.3	287.9	286.7	287.1	300.1	286.6	287.6
Wage and salary disbursements, total.....	212.0	211.2	212.4	195.8	195.8	196.6	206.5	195.6	196.2
Commodity-producing industries <sup>1/</sup> .....	92.1	91.5	91.7	82.8	83.1	83.8	89.5	84.1	84.2
Distributive industries <sup>1/</sup> .....	56.0	56.1	55.7	52.5	52.5	52.8	54.5	52.1	52.3
Service industries <sup>1/</sup> .....	28.1	27.9	27.8	26.3	26.3	26.2	27.4	25.7	25.9
Government.....	35.8	35.7	37.2	34.2	33.9	33.8	35.1	33.7	33.8
Other labor income.....	7.0	7.0	7.0	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.9	6.5	6.6
Proprietors' and rental income.....	49.7	48.8	47.9	49.0	48.1	47.6	48.8	48.5	48.4
Personal interest income and dividends.....	27.1	26.7	26.4	24.7	24.7	24.6	26.0	24.5	24.7
Transfer payments <sup>2/</sup> .....	17.0	16.9	16.9	16.3	16.1	16.1	17.1	16.0	16.2
Less personal contributions for social insurance <sup>3/</sup>	5.3	5.3	5.3	4.5	4.6	4.4	5.2	4.5	4.5
Total nonagricultural income <sup>4/</sup> .....	292.6	290.8	291.7	272.1	271.5	272.1	285.3	270.5	271.9
Total agricultural income.....	14.9	14.5	13.6	15.8	15.2	15.0	14.8	16.1	15.7

<sup>1/</sup>"Commodity-producing industries" consists of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, mining, contract construction, and manufacturing. "Distributive industries" consists of wholesale and retail trade, transportation, and communications and public utilities. "Service industries" comprises finance, insurance, and real estate and services.

<sup>2/</sup>Consists mainly of veterans' payments and social insurance benefits.

<sup>3/</sup>Data since January of 1952 represent contributions of both employees and self-employed persons.

<sup>4/</sup>Equals personal income exclusive of net income of unincorporated farm enterprises, farm wages, agricultural net interest, and net dividends paid by agricultural corporations.