

# BUSINESS NEWS REPORTS

PERSONAL INCOME - March 1958

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 1958

OBE 58-26

James W. McNally: STerling 3-9200  
Ext. 3501

Personal income in March was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$341½ billion, little changed from February, the Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce announced today.

Wage and salary disbursements showed a decline of about \$1 billion last month, to an annual rate of \$233½ billion. This was offset in the personal income total by higher government transfer payments and by an increase in agricultural income reflecting the advance in prices received by farmers.

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.

The decline in wages and salaries from February to March centered in manufacturing, particularly the durable goods industries. Reductions also occurred in retail trade, transportation, and mining.

Government transfer payments in March, at an annual rate of \$24.1 billion, were up by more than \$½ billion from February. In addition to a further rise in unemployment benefits, payments under the old-age and survivors insurance program increased considerably. Certain groups of self-employed farm and professional persons, newly covered by the 1956 amendments to the social security law, began receiving old age benefits for the first time in March.

Personal income in the first quarter of 1958 was at an annual rate of \$342½ billion, \$4 billion higher than in the first quarter of 1957. It was \$4½ billion -- or 1½ percent -- lower than in the third quarter of 1957, when income was at a record rate.

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

(Over)

Comm--DC--7057

OBE BUSINESS NEWS REPORTS REGULARLY AVAILABLE—

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

	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	Mar.	Feb.	Jan.	First	
	1958	1958	1958	1957	1957	1957	three months	1957
Total personal income.....	341.4	341.7	343.6	340.2	338.5	336.3	342.3	338.3
Wage and salary disbursements, total.....	233.3	234.4	237.0	237.2	235.9	234.5	234.9	235.9
Commodity-producing industries <u>1/</u> .....	94.8	95.3	97.6	102.3	102.0	101.4	95.9	101.9
Distributive industries <u>1/</u> .....	63.7	64.3	64.8	63.0	62.4	62.0	64.3	62.5
Service industries <u>1/</u> .....	34.3	34.3	34.2	32.6	32.4	32.2	34.3	32.4
Government.....	40.5	40.5	40.4	39.3	39.1	38.9	40.5	39.1
Other labor income.....	7.7	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.7	7.8	7.8
Proprietors' and rental income.....	51.3	51.0	50.5	51.1	51.0	50.6	50.9	50.9
Personal interest income and dividends....	31.8	31.8	31.7	30.9	30.8	30.7	31.8	30.8
Transfer payments <u>2/</u> .....	24.1	23.5	23.3	20.0	19.7	19.5	23.6	19.7
Less personal contributions for social insurance <u>3/</u> .....	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.7	6.8	6.7
Total nonagricultural income <u>4/</u> .....	324.6	325.2	327.6	324.5	322.7	320.7	325.8	322.6
Total agricultural income.....	16.8	16.5	16.0	15.7	15.8	15.6	16.5	15.8

1/ "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.

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

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

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