

# Personal Income Grew 3.9%, So What?

Delving into the Bureau of Economic Analysis' *Personal Income and Outlays* report seems to be a tale of two stories. For starters wages and salaries, proprietors' income, rental income, dividends and interests are up modestly on a monthly basis. Annually, wages and salaries grew by 4.7% and income generated from assets increased 2.6%. Increase income begets increase spending, which grew 0.5% its best since April. The bulk of consumer spending last month was for goods, primarily durable goods, which were lifted by a 6.9% rise in new automobile sales. Also, motion picture receipts, hotel lodging, and casino gambling, were notable winners in consumer spending up 10.1%, 7.4%, and 4.1% respectively, for the month. So, what's not to like about the numbers, you ask? As a hard working American, I am the first to welcome and embrace rising incomes and increasing salaries; but, I guess in some ways I'm a tad greedy and sure would like to see incomes return to their historical average of 6.6%.

PERSONAL INCOME GROWTH PER YEAR

