## **Economics Group**



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# **Consumer Spending Rose Less than Expected in May**

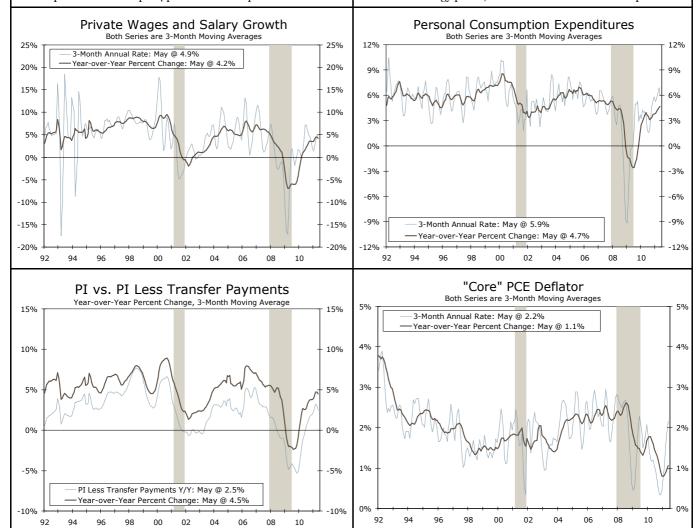
Personal income rose 0.3 percent in May, while consumer spending was flat. Real outlays fell 0.1 percent. The core PCE deflator rose 1.2 percent and is still well within the Fed's implicit comfort zone.

#### **Transfer Payments Continue to Boost Income**

#### Personal income rose 0.3 percent in May from a downward revision in the previous month. Much of the increase was due to personal income receipts on assets and transfer payments, which rose 0.5 percent and 0.4 percent, respectively. Personal income excluding transfer payments rose a modest 0.1 percent on the month. Private sector wages and salaries rose 0.2 percent and are up 0.4 percent over the past three months.

#### **Consumers Remain Cautious**

• Consumer spending rose only 0.2 percent in May. The weakness in spending is likely due to the drop in auto sales affected by supply chain disruptions and a weak labor market. The saving rate increased to 5.0 percent. The personal consumption deflator rose 2.5 percent in May, with energy prices increasing 22.1 percent and food prices climbing 3.5 percent. Excluding food and energy prices, the core PCE deflator rose 1.2 percent.



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce and Wells Fargo Securities, LLC

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