



LGT-FA

FINANCIAL FOCUS



LGT Financial Advisors LLC  
A Registered Investment Advisor

*Trust, Confidence, Experience*

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## By the Numbers

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## July 2011

**Will I Have Enough?** - More than half of the Americans surveyed in mid-April 2011 (58%) are worried about their ability to maintain their current standard of living into and throughout their retirement years. In the first quarter 2002, only 35% of Americans worried about this issue. (source: Gallup)

**It's Free, Isn't It?** - 71% of 803 participants in 401(k) plans that were surveyed in December 2010 incorrectly believed that their pre-tax retirement plan was run without incurring any fees, i.e., at a zero cost to the plan participants. (source: AARP)

**Almost Half For Our Cars** - Americans consume 18.8 million barrels of oil a day. 48% of our daily oil consumption is in the form of gasoline that we purchased at the pumps to drive our cars and light trucks. (source: Energy Information Administration)

**Helping Borrowers** - 608,615 homeowners have received a permanent modification to their home mortgage as of 4/30/11 through the government's "Making Home Affordable Program" (MHAP). Another 843,479 homeowners started the process to obtain a mortgage modification but have dropped out of the program since it began in February 2009. MHAP was designed to assist 3-4 million US mortgage holders. (source: MHAP)

**Long Time, No Change** - With the Federal Open Market Committee voting 10-0 Wednesday, June 22, 2011 to keep short-term interest rates unchanged for a 20th consecutive meeting, it has now been 2 1/2 years since the Fed voted to cut interest rates on 12/16/08. (source: Federal Reserve)

**Join the Group** - Greece was not part of the original 11 countries that began using the euro on 1/01/99, but was the first country to be added when it became member #12 on 1/01/01. Since Greece joined, 5 additional countries have signed on to use the euro. Estonia was the #17 country added when they joined on 1/01/11. (source: European Central Bank)

**Lowest in a Long Time** - Outstanding credit card debt in the United States as of 4/30/11 was \$790 billion, the lowest month end total in our country since the sum was \$787 billion as of 8/31/04 or more than 6 1/2 years ago. (source: Federal Reserve)

**Source of Revenue** - 43 US states do not collect sales tax for online retail sales. The state of California has estimated that it would collect \$200 million a year if it was to collect sales tax for its online sales. (source: The Charlotte Observer)

**Still Long** - Although the average processing time for a hearing decision regarding a request to receive disability benefits from Social Security was 354 days (approximately 1 year) as of May 2011, the average wait time was an even longer 532 days (approximately 1 1/2 years) in August 2008. (source: Social Security)

**Once a Quarter** - The average American makes 4 visits a year to utilize the services of medical doctors, medical specialists and emergency rooms. (source: National Health Care Surveys)

**Tee It Up** - Only 1 US President (Jimmy Carter) in the last 59 years did not play golf. (source: USA Today)

**Up From a Year Ago** - The actual profits of the companies in the S&P 500 during the 2nd quarter of 2011 (i.e., the 3 months of April-May-June) are projected to be +27% higher than they were during the 2nd quarter 2010. (source: S&P)

**Big Business** - 46 publicly-held US companies produced at least \$1 billion of sales per week in 2010, up from 38 companies that accomplished the feat in 2009. (source: Fortune)

**Selling More** - The exporting of US goods and services to China is on pace to reach \$102 billion in calendar year 2011, \$10 billion more than the \$92 billion we exported to China in 2010. (source: Department of Commerce)

**Up, Not Down** - China increased its holdings of US Treasury debt in April 2011 to \$1.15 trillion, stopping a streak of 5 consecutive months of Treasury cutbacks. (source: Federal Reserve)

**Getting Better** - At the end of 2009 10% of mortgages had at least 1-payment past due and another 5% of mortgages were in the foreclosure process. At the end of 2010, 9% of mortgages had at least 1-payment past due and another 5% of mortgages were in the foreclosure process. As of the end of the first quarter of 2011 (i.e., 3/31/11), 8% of mortgages had at least 1-payment past due and another 4% of mortgages were in the foreclosure process. (source: Mortgage Bankers Association)

**What is Your Percentage?** - As of 3/31/11 the average American has total household debt equal to 114% of the size of his/her annual after tax income, down from 120% as of 3/31/10. (source: Federal Reserve)

**Home Values** - Americans had \$10.3 trillion of equity in their homes at the end of 2006. The amount has dropped to \$6.3 trillion as of the end of 2010, a 39% reduction. Over the same 4-year period, total mortgage debt has remained level at \$10.1 trillion. (source: Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University)

**Vegas!** - The movie sequel "The Hangover Part II" was produced for \$80 million, but grossed \$436 million worldwide in just three weeks after its release. (source: Nash Information Services)