

The Client Connection

News and Updates from The Gensler Group

February 11, 2014

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The Markets

American stocks bounced last week like a skier pounding moguls on an Olympic freestyle course. Some found it difficult to understand why stocks had their best week since December of 2013. Barron's said:



"We just can't figure out why the markets were strong. It's not like the news this week was terribly good. The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing survey fell to 51.3, well below forecasts for 56.5. The U.S. added just 117,000 jobs, well below forecasts for 170,000. You would think investors would be worried that the economy was running out of steam."

Experts cited in the article suggested banks have been easing lending standards. Historically, that has been a positive for the economy and may offer insight to gross domestic product growth, industrial production, employment, and profit margins months from now. Others believe the downturn was due to hedge funds derisking their portfolios, and some credit earnings with stocks' positive movement as almost 66 percent of companies in the Standard & Poor's 500 Index that have reported this quarter have exceeded earnings expectations forecast by analysts.

Quarterly Market Review

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"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched - they must be felt with the heart."

--Helen Keller, American author and political activist

Referring friends and family is the best compliment that you can

[Click here to read the entire article.](#)

Where to Find Deals in February It's Not Just on Valentine's Goodies



Love is in the air and so are the savings. February's best buys are a mix of Valentine's essentials, travel, taxes and-most surprisingly-canned food.

Jewelry

There are more than 23,000 jewelry stores in the U.S., which collectively sold an estimated \$2.8 billion of merchandise last February, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Most of that was thanks to Valentine's Day. While you can save on diamonds this month, it's more likely going to be earrings and bracelets, not engagement rings.

Perfume

Another popular Valentine's go-to gift is perfume, a product that offers some of the best gift-with-purchase deals. You can get more bang for your buck with a fragrance gift set-though if your sweetie has a signature scent, you're probably best sticking to it and buying a bigger bottle. When you compare unit price, you'll find you're typically paying just a little more for twice as much product.

Last-Minute Travel

The main reason a February trip to Europe is such a steal is because it's cold out! Fortunately, if you choose your destination wisely, you can enjoy an affordable vacation without the crowds. Look for airfare deals to one of the major cities, like London or Paris, where there are plenty of museums, galleries and cafes to duck into for warmth.

[Click here to view the entire article.](#)

1099s are Coming Soon

pay us!

 Forward to a Friend

Don't Rush To File Your Taxes!

The days of having tax forms gathered by January 31 is a thing of the past. Many investment and brokerage firms don't even mail their 1099s until the mid part of February - and that's the first run.



It is very common to receive a revised 1099 towards the end of February and even into March.

If you can, wait until at least March 1 to meet with your tax preparer. You deserve to get your taxes done right...the first time.

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