

The Client Connection

News and Updates from The Gensler Group

February 25, 2014

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The Markets

Behind the dark clouds of volatile markets there appears to be a silver lining. That may be hard to believe when so many are focused on whether economic weakness is due to bad weather or, well, economic weakness, but here are a few other signs that things may take a turn for the better:



- **Business climate:** On February 20, The Economist/FT Global Business Barometer, which surveys 1,500 business leaders around the world, found more than one-half of them expect the global business climate to improve during the next six months and more than one-third plan to increase capital investment in the coming year. A slight majority believe America will have a greater influence on their regional growth than China.
- **Consumer confidence:** Consumer confidence climbed for the second month in January 2014. The Director of The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index® said, "Consumers' assessment of the present situation continues to improve, with both business conditions and the job market rated more favorably. Looking ahead six months, consumers expect the economy and their earnings



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1099's are coming soon!



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

to improve, but were somewhat mixed regarding the outlook for jobs. All in all, confidence appears to be back on track and rising expectations suggest the economy may pick up some momentum in the months ahead."

- **Cash-rich companies:** Corporate America is sitting on a lot of cash - about 91 weeks' worth of net income, according to Barron's. It has been using that cash primarily for stock buybacks, but could use it for other things. An economist quoted in Barron's said, "The purpose of the capital markets is to fund growth... it's difficult to call this de-equitization an economic equilibrium: Public companies should not make money just to buy back stock."

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

Finding the Right Health Plan, Online

As Deadline Nears, Several Tools to Help You Choose

Under the Affordable Care Act, just about everyone must apply for health insurance by March 31 or possibly pay a penalty. As the deadline nears, there are new tools consumers can turn to that might make finding the right plan easier and cheaper. One of them is healthplanratings.org. Run by the not-for-profit Consumers' Checkbook, the free website launched in Illinois this month.



Its operators hope it will become a model for innovation in other states.

The idea is to inform consumers about the total cost of their health care in a given year so that they aren't confused tallying up likely premium, deductible and coinsurance expenses from a plan they are considering. The site does this by digging into actuarial data on the medical needs that a given person or family is likely to experience, says Robert Krughoff, president of Consumers' Checkbook. It then shows how much of their deductible they are likely to chew through and what they might spend in copayments

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.

Referring friends and family is the best compliment that you can pay us!

 Forward to a Friend

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

Coronado Film Festival Presents Red Carpet Oscar Party

Sunday, March 2nd 2014
4:00pm

Celebrate the pageantry and the excitement of the 86th Academy Awards! Prizes, Raffles, Photo Ops, Marilyn Monroe! From casual to "the nines," come as you are or as your favorite character/celebrity. With 14 HDTVs and 3 large projection screens, you won't miss a moment of the ceremony.



[For more information click here.](#)

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