

The Client Connection

News and Updates from The Gensler Group

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The Markets

Is it possible to have an economic optical illusion?



On Friday, the Commerce Department reported the U.S. economy contracted at an annualized rate of 0.7 percent during the first quarter of

2015. The Federal Reserve sees things slightly differently.

Previously, the Commerce Department had reported our gross domestic product (GDP), which is the value of all goods and services produced in the United States, had increased at an annualized rate of 0.2 percent during the first quarter. The estimate was weaker than economists had expected and caused some analysts to wonder whether the economic recovery was stalling.

Weak first quarter GDP has caused other analysts, including those at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco who penned an article entitled, The Puzzle of Weak First-Quarter GDP Growth, to wonder whether a statistical anomaly is causing first quarter GDP growth to appear weaker than it really is.

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

How to Make the Most of Longer Lives

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Gratitude is the healthiest of all human emotions. The more you express gratitude for what you have, the more likely you will have even more to express gratitude for.

Zig Ziglar

Scientists are pushing to extend our lifespans.
But are we ready to fill all those added days?



The first person to live to 150 is alive today.

For many months I drove home past a financial-services billboard advertising this dramatic claim, followed by the punch line: "Let's get ready for a longer retirement."

The focus of that message, of course, is money—the size of our nest eggs. But the words highlight a far bigger challenge. In the early decades of the 21st century, we are pushing, rapidly, to extend our lives. But we're paying scant attention to how we should make the most of that additional time.

Where are the innovations designed to make these bonus decades actually worth living? Aside from the mind-boggling prospect of saving for 50- or 75-year retirements, how do we make these new chapters both fulfilling for individuals and sustainable for society?

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

13 Tricks You Didn't Know You Could do with Your iPhone

Whether you're new to the smartphone world or consider yourself an Apple wiz, there's always a few easy tricks to save some time and make your life a tad easier. Here's a list of simple shortcuts to streamline your day and help you get the most out of your iPhone.

1. You can speed up the amount of time it takes to charge your device by putting your iPhone in Airplane Mode while it's plugged in. "The



difference isn't exactly earth-shattering," says Engadget.com, but it will certainly get your battery to 100 percent faster.

2. If a four-digit passcode isn't up to your security standards, there's a little-known alternative. Your iPhone grants you the ability to make a passcode with letters, rather than numbers. Simply go to Settings > Passcode Lock. Then turn off the setting that reads "Simple Passcode." A screen will appear allowing you to change your password, with a full keyboard.

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

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