

# The Client Connection

News and Updates from The Gensler Group

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## In this Issue

The Markets

Is Charitable Giving Really at a Record High?

Is it Worth Taking Out Pet Insurance?

## Updated Reviews



Weekly Market  
Commentary



Q1  
Quarterly Market Review  
First Quarter 2015

## The Markets

You're probably familiar with the seven-year itch. Not the movie with Marilyn Monroe, but the concept that relationships can lose their luster after seven years.



That may be what happened last week in China. Investors got itchy and the Chinese stock market suffered its worst week since 2008. The Shanghai Composite lost more than 13 percent during the week, and the Shenzhen Composite was down 12.7 percent, according to MarketWatch. The previous Friday, the Shenzhen had closed at a record high.

Prior to last week's correction, China's stock markets had been VERY popular. So popular, Chinese firms were seeking to delist from American stock exchanges and relist their shares on Chinese exchanges, reported The Economist. Plus, the Chinese government rolled out the red carpet (and waived profitability requirements) for new firms seeking to list on local stock exchanges.

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

## Is Charitable Giving Really at a Record High?

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

**The foundation stones for a balanced success are honesty, character, integrity, faith, love and loyalty.**

Zig Ziglar

Americans' generosity hit new highs in 2014-kind of.



Charitable giving in 2014 totaled \$358.38 billion, a 7.1 percent increase in current dollars, according to the Giving USA Annual Report, published by the Giving USA Foundation. Even adjusted for inflation, that figure represents a

slight increase from the \$355.17 billion given in 2007, before the recession.

That's great, as far as it goes. But giving has not increased significantly as a percentage of GDP in almost 20 years, hovering right around 2 percent all that time. Charitable giving in 2014 equaled 2.1 percent of GDP, up slightly from the year before, but the same as or just under the rate for 1999 to 2007.

In addition, individual giving in 2014 rose more slowly than giving overall, increasing 5.7 percent to \$258.51 billion. And when that amount is adjusted for inflation, it is still below the \$267.69 billion reached in 2005.

Then there is the matter of donor-advised funds. In these funds, donors contribute and take an immediate tax deduction, and then dole out the money to charities as quickly or as slowly as they like.

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

## Is It Worth Taking Out Pet Insurance?

The North American Pet Health Insurance Association notes that the pet healthcare industry costs pet owners an astronomical \$15.25 billion per year, over a fourth of the total \$58.5 billion spent annually by pet owners.



With over 179 million documented pets in America and Canada alone, pet insurance is on the rise. Although only about one in every 200 pets carries coverage, the industry is growing an average of 13.2

percent a year.

Pet insurance comes in a variety of options, from basic offerings available through most pet insurers, to more difficult to secure options such as lifetime, high-level coverage. Savings Experiment Categorizes these types of coverage available to interested pet owners as accident coverage, illness coverage and wellness coverage.

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

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