

The Client Connection

News and Updates from The Gensler Group

July 30, 2013

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Did you know that you can click on the pictures below for valuable information?



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If it's not stocks, it's bonds!



In a turnaround worthy of Bruce Willis in a 'Die Hard' movie, expectations for second quarter's corporate earnings growth soared from below expectations, on average, in the previous week to beating expectations last week.

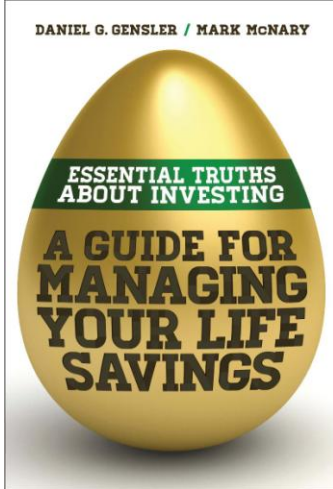
Earnings growth estimates shot up to 4.1 percent which was a significant change from last week's 2.8 percent. Of the companies that have reported so far, more than one-half have performed better than expected - an improvement on the last four quarters' performance.

Whether it is earnings performance or other factors, consumers have become more confident than they've been in years - six years to be specific. The Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index beat expectations for June even though consumers expect growth to slow next year.

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

Is Europe Reaching the End of it's Recession?

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If Aesop was right, Europe may eventually reach the end of recession. You've heard about the tortoise and the hare. It's a fable that has much to say about unequal partners, overconfidence, and perseverance - topics

that leaders of the European Union (EU) may ponder when they're not poking and prodding member states in efforts to provoke structural reform and growth.

Last year, the head of the European Central Bank (ECB) announced that ECB would do whatever it took to save the euro. Nine months later, Europe still is plodding through recession. During the first three months of this year, gross domestic product in the region declined slightly year-to-year. The European Commission projects the decline will be a bit bigger over the full year (down 0.4 percent). That, however, will be an improvement over 2012's 0.6 percent contraction.

The good news, according to The Economist, is current account deficits (the difference between a country's total imports and its total exports) and primary budget balances (budgets without interest payments included) have improved in many EU countries. In fact, this year it appears the biggest primary budget deficit (about 3.9 percent) belongs to the United Kingdom.

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

50 Is the New 65 for Earning 'Senior' Discounts

There Are Lots of Deals on Dining, Travel and More that Kick in at Ages 50 through 62



You don't have to be a senior citizen to get "senior" discounts.



There are plenty of discounts available on a variety of products and services-like hotels, car rentals, dining and retail-for the 50-plus set. AARP, formerly the American Association of Retired Persons, makes available a host of such

discounts to its members, who must be age 50 and above. And the older you get, the more the discounts pile on from individual retailers, other businesses and even the federal government.

Here's a look at the discounts you can get before you turn 65:

50 and Over The bulk of the discounts that become available at age 50 are through AARP (in which membership costs \$16 a year for an individual or a couple). Among the deals:

Car rentals: Get up to 25% off at Avis, Budget and Hertz.

Hotels: Get up to 20% off at Sheraton, Westin and Ramada hotels. It's up to 10% off at Hyatt, Best Western and Comfort Inn hotels, among others.

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

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