



Hank Progar, MBA

# Smart Money News and Facts You Should Know!

135 SE 32nd Place Ocala, FL 34471

Phone 352-690-9574

Hank@SafeMoneyMBA.info

## Is Flying Safer than Driving?

In 2012, the global airline industry marked its lowest rate of fatal accidents since the early 1960's. There hasn't been a fatal crash in the US since 2009 when a commuter plane crashed near Buffalo, N.Y.

In 2012, there were just 22 fatal crashes worldwide. Of those 22, only 10 were passenger planes. In 2011, there were 28 crashes.

Airline safety increased with the start of incident reporting programs that encourage pilots and mechanics to pass on information about mistakes without fear of retribution.

Other reasons for the improvements include more reliable equipment, improved pilot training, advances in air-traffic-control procedures and tighter regulatory oversight in developing countries.

Furthermore, statistics show that flying is 22 times safer than traveling by car. A recent study by the National Safety Council showed that the number of deaths that occur due to car accidents in a period of six months is equal to the total number of fatalities caused by the crash of commercial jets worldwide in the last 40 years!

Another study by the Regional Development and the Environment shows that a person has a chance of 1 in 800,000 of getting killed while traveling by an airplane and a 1 in 6000 chance while traveling by car. According to Mr. Nicholas Sabatini, the FAA's chief safety official, the risk involved in flying is almost zero. He stated that if you flew once a day, 365 days a year, it would be 43,000 years before you had a chance of being in a crash, that too 50-50.

Flying is a very safe mode of transportation, much safer than driving a car. So next time you are flying, relax and breathe easy knowing you are traveling safely.

## Hank's Thoughts ... End of the 'Lost Decade'?

Many people threw a party recently celebrating the Dow recovering it's loses the second time in the last 12 years.

Jesus had 12 disciples. There are the "12 days of Christmas" ... 12 months in a year. The number 12 signifies perfection and completion in the Bible.

*Now that the Dow has caught up again, does 12 signify the end of the lost decade ... or the end of another bull run?*

Prudence suggests that we have an adequate idea of stock market history, in terms particularly of the major fluctuations in the price level and of the varying relationships between stock prices as a whole and their earnings and dividends. With this background we may be in a position to form some worthwhile judgment of the attractiveness or dangers of the level of the market as it presents itself at different times.

This hard-charging stock index has doubled from about 7,000 to 14,000 in the last three years. It took only 15 months for the Dow to fall from 14,000 to 7,000.

The Dow has bounced off the glass ceiling the last several weeks trying to make up it's mind where to go. Is the Dow just catching it's breath admiring it's handiwork ... resting up for another run... or out of gas heading for another major crash?

*(Continued on page 2)*

# More Interesting Facts *you* Should Know!

## Hank's Thoughts (Continued from page 1)

Harry Dent, who has successfully predicted several major up and down markets, calls for a global economic crash in 2013 with the Dow falling to 6,000 this time. He uses demographics, cycles and fundamentals to make this prediction. Some analysts agree with a crash in 2013 and some don't ... which has always been the case, hasn't it? Only God knows what will really happen.

*The real question over which you have some control is "How much money can you afford to lose if the market does crash again? Can your health, marriage and retirement account handle another recovery cycle?*

Printing money and holding down interest rates by our government have been propping up the markets. *How long can this last?*

**One question that needs an answer:** "What is driving the market? Is it fundamentals, enthusiasm or irrational exuberance?"

If the Dow is at the same level today as it was in 2007 and 2000 how much money have you made over this period to combat inflation and grow your retirement account? If you take out your contributions and your company's matching ... what do you have left in your 401k?

*Is the job situation and corporate earnings better today than in 2007 and 2000?*

*Is the national debt lower today than in 2007 and 2000?*

*Are the global markets better today than in 2007 and 2000?*

*Is there less uncertainty today than in 2007 and 2000?*

The current market bubble was built by the "Baby Boomers" pouring money into the market in the roaring 80's and 90's. What are the Baby Boomers doing now? How about ... pulling money out of the market to live?

***How do you think stocks and mutual funds will respond going forward?***

So this time around it may be wise to fasten your safety belt once we have set a new high.. We may be in for a bumpy ride.

***It doesn't have to be this way for you. There are safe money strategies that have made reasonable returns over the past 12 years with little or no risk to losing your investment.***

When you sat down with your financial advisor what kind of safe money investment strategies did they recommend to protect you from the next market crash?

Most financial advisors and media pundits, those paid by Wall Street won't tell you, since it's not profitable for them.

Would it be worth 20 to 25 minutes of your time on the telephone to see if there is something that would make your life better and have a stress free retirement like my



Scottish assistant relaxing on the couch?

**Call my office and let's carve out some time in our busy calendars for a 20 min conversation.**

# This news is all about you...

## The American Taxpayer Relief Act ?

Taken from an article written by Karen Reed

On January 2, 2013, President Obama signed into law the American Taxpayer Relief Act, averting the tax aspect of the so-called "Fiscal Cliff." The law creates a new, higher tax bracket for upper income taxpayers and increases the tax rates for capital gains and qualified dividends for the top income brackets. In addition, itemized deduction and exemption phase-outs for the wealthy have been reinstated, though the income thresholds have been raised.

The new law contains a number of provisions that benefit middle class taxpayers, including a permanent AMT patch and the revival of several popular tax breaks, such as the deduction for mortgage insurance premiums and the general sales tax deduction. Since the bill allows the payroll tax holiday to lapse, taxes for all wage earners and self-employed taxpayers increase by two percent for this year and beyond.

Here are just some of the highlights of the Act:

- Single taxpayers with adjusted gross income (AGI) of \$400,000 or higher, joint filers with AGI of \$450,000 and Head of Household filers with \$425,000 in AGI will be subject to a higher maximum tax rate of 39.6%.
- Capital gains and qualified dividends rates will increase from 15% to 20% for this same group of "high income" taxpayers.
- Itemized deductions will phase-out for taxpayers with AGI of \$250k, \$275k and \$300k or more for Single, Head of Household and Joint filers respectively.
- There will continue to be a zero percent capital gains rate for taxpayers with incomes below certain amounts. For 2013 these amounts are expected to be \$72,500 for joint filers and \$36,250 for single filers.
- AMT exemption amounts have been increased for 2012 and the law provides for annual inflation adjustments for subsequent tax years. In addition, nonrefundable personal credits will be allowed for the AMT calculation.
- American Opportunity Tax credit has been extended through 2017.
- The deduction for tuition and fees has been extended through 2013.
- The two percent reduction in Social Security tax has expired.
- The ability of taxpayers to exclude cancelled debt from taxable income under the Qualified Principal Residence Indebtedness exclusion has been extended another year, through 2013.
- Taxpayers 70 1/2 and older will still be allowed to make a qualified charitable contribution of up to \$100,000 from an IRA through 2013.
- The expense deduction for primary and secondary school education professionals has been extended through 2013.
- Mortgage insurance premiums will be deductible as mortgage interest through 2013.
- The 60-month rule for the student loan interest deduction is permanently suspended, and the income limit for the phase-out has been increased. The restriction that made voluntary interest payments nondeductible has been repealed.

Hank Progar, MBA  
**AIM \$afe Money Advisors**

(352) 690-9574

Toll Free: (888) 820-SAVE

FAX: (813) 354-3520

Main Web Site:

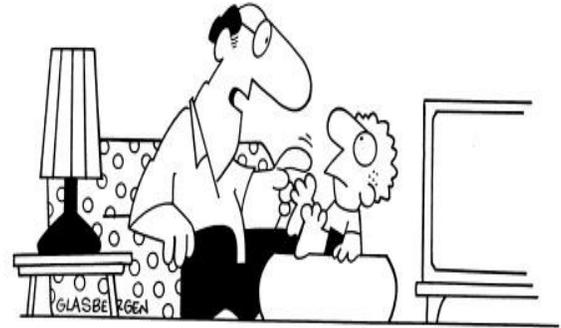
[AIMSafely.com](http://AIMSafely.com)

Financial Concepts and Strategies: [HankProgar.com](http://HankProgar.com)

Finance Your Way To Wealth: [ManageYourFinancialPlan.com](http://ManageYourFinancialPlan.com)

Retirement Savings Videos: [SafeMoneyMBA.info](http://SafeMoneyMBA.info)

Florida's Credible Source of Health & Wealth Information  
Helping You Think About Your Money ... And Make Smart  
Choices To Protect Your Hard Earned Assets.



"This little piggy doesn't go to market anymore because the prices are too high. This little piggy doesn't stay home anymore because the neighborhood has gone bad. This little piggy doesn't eat roast beef anymore because of the cholesterol. This little piggy....."

## Blood pressure measurement technique

American Heart Association guidelines are calling for blood pressure to be measured in both arms. The clinician should always measure in both arms if this is your first visit.

Recent studies published in the Lancet show that if there is a substantial difference in the two readings, you could have an increased risk for heart disease.

Here's how to get the most accurate blood pressure reading:

- \* Your arm should be supported and at heart level, not higher or lower.
- \* You should be comfortably seated on a chair with back support, and your feet should be flat on the floor.
- \* Your legs should not be crossed.
- \* You should sit quietly for five minutes before being tested.
- \* Your upper arm should be bare.
- \* Neither you nor the clinician should speak while the measurement is being taken.
- \* The appropriate cuff size should encircle at least 80 percent of our arm's circumference.

## Thank You for Your Referrals

There's no question I have the BEST customers on the entire planet.

My business is built on word of mouth advertising and I'd like to thank those who were kind enough to recommend my services to their friends.

Although we focus on protecting and optimizing your retirement plan, I want to give a special THANK YOU to those who have recommended me to help your family and friends with their Medicare options.

There are 10,000 Baby Boomers turning 65 every day who are more confused about Medicare than their retirement plan. Because of its importance in your overall retirement picture, we want to help them cut through the smoke and make the right choices to protect the nest egg they have already earned!

**Thank you soooo much!**

**Disclosure** - Information provided in this article does not constitute legal, taxation, or investment advice.

Please check with a qualified tax advisor when making financial decisions.

Copyrighted PMR System 2013