

# QuickFACTS

From the MetLife Mature Market Institute®  
www.MatureMarketInstitute.com



The invariable mark of wisdom is to see the miraculous in the common.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

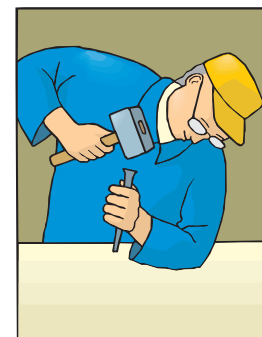
## INFORMATION ABOUT RETIREMENT, LONG-TERM CARE AND THE MATURE MARKET

Welcome to **QuickFACTS**, a monthly fact sheet produced by MetLife's Mature Market Institute. Our focus is the emerging market of people 50+. We compile recent news and developments on retirement, aging and long-term care issues that impact our business and our customers. Ideas and comments for the editor are welcome. kobrien@metlife.com or phone, 203-454-5386.

### Employer Response to an Aging Workforce

Findings from MetLife's fifth annual *Study of Employee Benefits Trends* show approximately 89% of U.S. employers agree that the aging population will have a moderate or significant impact on their workforce. At the same time, only 18% overall report that they have added resources and programs geared to the needs of the aging workforce to their benefit plans. Larger companies are most likely to offer these resources and programs with 37% of those with 25,000 or more employees doing so. ■

*Study of Employee Benefit Trends - Fifth Annual  
Findings from a National Survey of Employees and Employers*  
MetLife  
2007



### Web Watch

The American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA) is an educational organization devoted to legal issues in the healthcare field. AHLA provides a *A Guide to Legal Issues in Life-Limiting Conditions* which identifies important questions to consider regarding issues such as advance directives, organizing important documents and assessing the quality of healthcare services received both at home and in a facility. The guide can be accessed at: [http://www.healthlawyers.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Public Interest and Affairs/Public Information Series/lc\\_guide.pdf](http://www.healthlawyers.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Public%20Interest%20and%20Affairs/Public%20Information%20Series/lc_guide.pdf). ■



## Concerns in the Sandwich Generation

Participants in a survey of “sandwich generation” women ages 35-54, who had at least one living parent, indicated the highest level of concern related to family and home life. In this survey from the National Association of Social Workers and The New York Academy of Medicine, more than half reported being concerned either a “great deal” or “somewhat” about rising health care costs (64.5%), an aging parent’s care or well-being (64.5%), and having enough time to help or support a family member (58.9%). ■

*Surveying Sandwich Generation Women 2006*

National Association of Social Workers (NASW) and The New York Academy of Medicine (NYAM)

2006

<http://www.helpstartshere.org/Assets/Documents/NASWNYAMReport.pdf>



## Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit: Too Complex

A poll from the Kaiser Family Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health shows consensus among professionals and consumers in relation to the Medicare Prescription Drug Program, with 92% of doctors, 91% of pharmacists, and 73% of individuals age 65+ indicating that it is too complex. The majority of those age 65+ agree with the statement that “Medicare should select a handful of plans that meet certain standards, so seniors have an easier time choosing.” ■

*Seniors and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit*

The Kaiser Family Foundation and the Harvard School of Public Health  
December 2006

<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/7604.pdf>



## Majority of Employers Offering Retirement Plans

According to the Society for Human Resource Management’s (SHRM) 2006 Benefits Survey Report, companies offered a variety of different types of retirement plans, with defined contribution plans offered by 81%, followed by defined benefit retirement plans (48%) and cash pension plans (10%). Among those offering defined contribution plans, 74% provided an employer match on some or all of the employee’s contribution. ■

Shawn Fegley

*2006 Benefits - Survey Report*

Society for Human Resource Management

June 2006



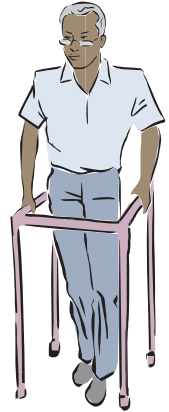
**74% Provided an Employer Match**

## Falls: A Risk for Older Americans

Injury prevention with a focus on falls is a key strategy to promote independence for older Americans. Falls are the most common cause of injury to older adults, with more than one-third of individuals age 65 or older falling each year. Among those who fall, 20-30% experience moderate to severe injuries that decrease mobility and impact independence. ■

*Health Aging: Preventing Disease and Improving Quality of Life Among Older Americans*

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Coordinating Center for Health Promotion  
2006



## Technology to Access Health Information

The FDA has approved the first implantable radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, a microchip patient identification system from VeriMed. The microchip, the size of a grain of rice, is implanted under the skin on the patient's right arm. A facility that has the appropriate scanner can identify the patient and access the VeriMed database with his or her records. Patients have control over what is in their records and are able to include things such as advance directives, allergies and contact information. It is felt that technology such as this will hold benefits especially for those who may be unable to provide information in an emergency situation. ■

Joanne Kaldy

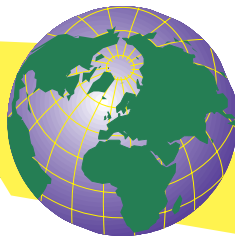
*Microchip Gives Access to Patient Records: System Could be Helpful in Emergency Situations, Provided the Practitioner Has a Scanner*

*Caring for the Ages* Vol. 8. No. 1

[www.caringfortheAges.com](http://www.caringfortheAges.com)



## International Ageing



By 2025, one-tenth of the world's population will be age 65 and over, with 20% of the population in more developed regions age 65 and older. In Asia the percentage of the population age 65+ will almost double going from 6% in 2000 to 10% in 2025, with the actual number of people in this age category going from about 216 million to about 480 million. ■

*Trends in Aging by World Region*

Accessed from Population Reference Bureau

[http://www.prb.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PRB/PRB\\_Library/Graphics\\_Bank/Aging/Aging.htm](http://www.prb.org/Content/NavigationMenu/PRB/PRB_Library/Graphics_Bank/Aging/Aging.htm)

## Retiree Health Insurance: Premiums Rising

Between 1994 and 2004, the median monthly participant's contribution for health insurance offered by employers to retirees between the ages of 55 and 63 more than quadrupled, after adjusting for inflation, going from \$25 to \$111. Despite these increases those with retiree health benefits still typically pay much less than individuals ages 55-63 with private non-group insurance where the median monthly premium in 2004 was \$278. ■

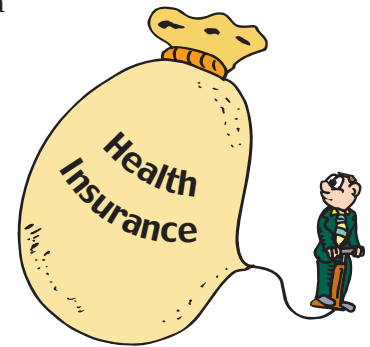
Richard W. Johnson

*What Happens to Health Benefits after Retirement*

An Issue in Brief Center for Retirement Research at Boston College

Work Opportunities for Older Americans – Series 7, February 2007

[http://www.bc.edu/centers/crr/issues/wob\\_7.pdf](http://www.bc.edu/centers/crr/issues/wob_7.pdf)



## 100 Years of Transporting New Yorkers

This year marks the 100th anniversary of New York City metered cabs. With almost 13,000 cabs it represents the largest fleet in any city in the world. In 2005 alone an estimated 241 million passengers took taxi rides, with 470,000 separate taxi trips in the city every day. The "Taxi 07" centennial celebration will be marked by 880,000 square feet of vinyl with oversized flowers, which will be painted by children and adults at locations including schools and hospitals. These flowers will supply enough painted decals to decorate every cab in the city. ■

Jennifer Peltz – Associated Press

*For Centennial, NYC Taxis Become Canvas for 30,000 Painters*

[The Norwalk Hour](#)

February 22, 2007



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