

QuickFACTS®

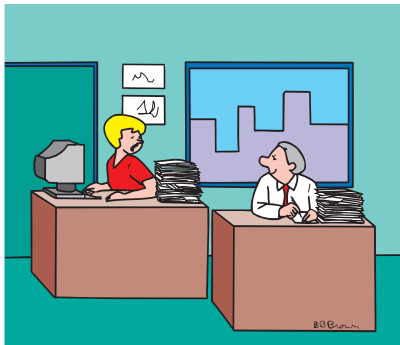
“Liberty: One of
Imagination’s most
precious possessions.”
Ambrose Bierce



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 at fradding@metlife.com or phone, 203-454-5302.

Intergenerational Workforce and the Communication Gap

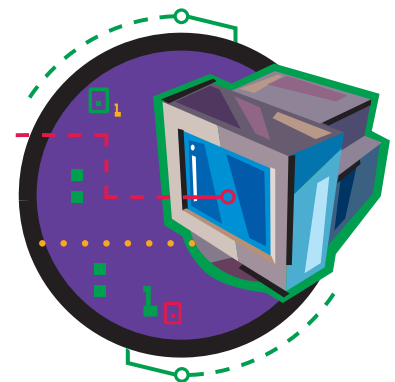


In a survey of 3,494 workers conducted by Harris Interactive, for the employment services group Randstad USA, it was found that 51% of baby boomers and 66% of older workers rarely interact with younger employees. The report finds that younger workers see older workers as not thinking outside the box, and older workers question the work ethic and competence of younger workers. These perceptions are likely to interfere with intergenerational knowledge transfer.

<http://us.randstad.com/2008WorldofWork.pdf>

Caregiving or Big Brother?

New technologies are providing families the opportunities to check in on Mom or Dad without being there. Motion sensors and remote monitoring systems allow families to keep track of movements and register when their older relative gets out of bed, whether they stop at the medication dispenser, and can monitor changes in routines. But will older adults be receptive? An AARP study found that adults over the age of 65 are willing to try new technologies, but more than eight in ten family caregivers believed that they would have some or a great deal of difficulty convincing their loved ones to use it.



Older People Want to Use Technology to Help Them Remain at Home
AARP Policy and Research News Release
March 28, 2008

For History Buffs:



Even though many people are unfamiliar with annuities, they have been around a long time. Annuities date back to the third century AD when wealthy Romans would grant *annua* or an annual stipend to their heirs. Then as now, the value of a life annuity declined with the initial age of the annuitant, and was determined in part by his or her life expectancy. Not until fourteen hundred years later did the pricing of annuities become more rigorous, when advances in applied probability theory and demographic analysis were made, and financial markets became more developed.

George A. (Sandy) Mackenzie
Annuity Markets and Pension Reform
 Cambridge University Press
 July 2006.

The Economy and Americans over the Age of 45

This past April, AARP surveyed 1002 adults, aged 45+ who were working or looking for work, to determine how the slowing economy has impacted them. Predictably, the majority of middle aged and older Americans are spending less on entertainment and eating out, and about half are postponing travel plans or making a major purchase. One third have stopped putting money into their retirement accounts and over one quarter are having trouble paying their mortgage or rent.

http://assets.aarp.org/rgcenter/econ/economy_survey.pdf



Navigating a Course into Old Age



From actuarial tables, and due to improvements in public health and modern medicine, we know that we are going to live longer than previous generations. However, the question remains; for how long will we live without needing assistance to manage everyday activities? A new tool, based on a complex 106 page algorithm, developed by Dr. Robert Kane, Minnesota Chair in Long-Term Care and Aging at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, allows you to determine both your life expectancy and your future healthy life expectancy, based on current behaviors. Knowing that you could live for years in poor health, this “Vitality Compass,” found at www.bluezones.com may challenge you to change your current lifestyle.

Michelle Skatalla
How to Live Longer Without Really Trying
 New York Times
 April 24, 2008

Web Watch

Saving as Much as the Jones: A New Trend

The US Dept of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration and the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. have created a booklet designed to promote mental muscle in the field of financial literacy. This 32 page downloadable booklet, "Savings Fitness: A Guide to Your Money and Your Financial Future," in an easy to read, step by step format, provides information on the basics of financial literacy and includes additional resources and tools for money management, retirement savings and investing. Financial literacy is the latest daily exercise program of the new millennium.

<http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/pdf/savingsfitness.pdf>



Older Workers May Apply

**HELP
WANTED**

Within 5 years, approximately 33 percent of the federal government workforce will be eligible to retire. In anticipation of that, 3 agencies are joining with AARP's National Employer Team, made up of more than 35 employers interested in older workers. The IRS, the Peace Corps and the Small Business Administration Office of Disaster Assistance have full- and part-time jobs to fill.

Uncle Sam Wants You
AARP Bulletin
March, 2008

False Sense of Security

You might assume that people who claim to be knowledgeable about investments and investment strategies would be able to make their money last a lifetime. However, the Employee Benefits Research Institute (EBRI) found that this is not necessarily true. The research shows that while 65% of workers and 53% of retirees feel that they or their spouse are knowledgeable about investments and investment strategies, 49% of workers and 39% of retirees fear that they may outlive their savings. Perhaps they had not considered the possibility of living a long life.

Ruth Helman, Matthew Greenwald & Associates; Jack Van Derhei, Craig Copeland
Americans Much More Worried About Retirement, Health Costs a Big Concern.
Employee Benefits Research Institute (EBRI)
EBRI Issue Brief No. 316
April 2008

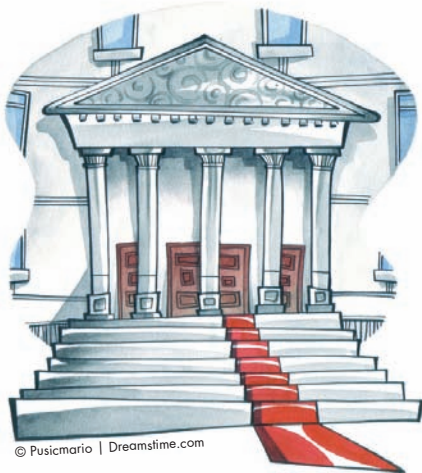
http://www.ebri.org/pdf/briefspdf/EBRI_IB_042008.pdf



Social Security Debit Card

Now the world of electronic payments has come to all Social Security recipients in an effort to eliminate the costly paper checks and check cashing services used by those without bank accounts. Recipients will be able to choose a debit card, rather than paper check, that will be reloaded each month and secured with a personal identification number (PIN). While 80% of the 57.3 million Social Security and Supplemental Security Income recipients already have direct deposit, the challenge remains to get the remaining 20% to switch to an electronic option.

Kathy Chu
4M Social Security Recipients Have Debit Card Option
 USA Today
 June 10, 2008



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One Hundred Years of Experience

One aspect of the new retirement is growing enthusiasm in lifelong learning. In New York City, one centenarian, Ruth Proskauer Smith rides the bus and then transfers to a downtown train where she teaches a class to other retirees about the United States Supreme Court. As the daughter of an attorney for the 1928 presidential candidate, Al Smith, she shares with the students her lifetime of colorful memories: from participating in the public sphere, to campaigning for various issues that helped to shape our nation.

Jim Dwyer
All Rise! A Centenarian Holds Court
 New York Times
 April 16, 2008

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