



Inside This Issue:



About 37% of Americans dipped into emergency savings last year

..... 1

The Easter Lily

..... 2

Key Decisions for Taking RMD's

..... 2

Fun Money Facts

..... 3

Some Questions and Answers About Recessions

.....3

It Happened In April

.....4

Commonly Missed Tax Credits

.....4



About 37% of Americans dipped into emergency savings last year.

A survey of more than 1,000 Americans released in March 2025 by Bankrate showed 80% of this group used their savings for monthly bills or day-to-day expenses.



This issue has persisted for years, with many struggling to meet their financial needs—a trend that has remained steady for decades. The fact that 37% are tapping into emergency savings aligns with previous studies.

Americans have also consistently failed to save. In good times and in bad, you need a solid emergency

savings fund, with pros recommending you sock away anywhere from 3 to 12 months of essential expenses for you and your family.

Building an adequate emergency savings cushion takes time, and the target is always moving. Successful saving is all about the habit. The way to do this is to automate savings.

Make your money work for you. Focus on accruing the most amount of interest possible. This route is great for accumulating money in the background, while you continue to work and save as much as possible.

<https://www.marketwatch.com/picks/an-alarming-percentage-of-americans-had-to-dip-into-savings-just-to-pay-bills-or-day-to-day-expenses-heres-whats-happening-561c722a>

The Easter Lily



With prolific spring blooms, the white Bermuda lily is a popular symbol of Easter. One legend of the Garden of Gethsemane says that lilies grew from the drops of blood Jesus sweated in His agony.

This native of Japan was introduced to the United States in the 1880s, where it thrived in the climate of Bermuda. Nearly wiped out by a virus, it was reintroduced to the United States after World War I by a returning soldier.

In 1941 during WWII, the primary production source was cut off, increasing the value of the lily bulb. By 1945, there were about 1,200 growers from Vancouver, Canada to Long Beach, California. Currently, only about 10 growers in a small region of the Oregon-California border produce over 95 percent of potted Easter lily bulbs.

<http://todayscatholic.org/easter-lilies-bloom-in-catholic-history-tradition/>

Key Decisions for Taking RMD's

If you turned 73 last year and haven't yet taken your 2024 RMD, you have no option to wait: April 1 is the last day to draw your first RMD and have it count for 2024—if you don't, penalties will begin accruing. Annual minimum distributions are required from tax-deferred accounts such as individual retirement accounts (IRA)s, 401(k)s and 403(b)s once you turn 73.

For the year you turn 73, your RMD can be postponed until April 1 of the following year, but

every year after it must be taken within the calendar year. If you postponed last year's RMD to April 1, you will have to take both your 2024 and 2025 RMDs by the end of this year. There's an exception for workplace retirement plans: If you are still working and own no more than 5% of the business sponsoring your plan, you can hold off taking RMDs from that plan until you retire—no matter what age you are.

Taking your RMD in a down market means you have to sell more shares of stocks to fulfill the requirement.

Taking a lump sum either early or late in the year also has potential downsides. Early withdrawals miss out on tax-deferred growth if the market rises. If you wait until December and the market slides, you can't delay your distribution.



Waiting to take your entire RMD until year-end is also risky. If the market slides in December, you can't delay your distribution. The safest bet for most investors is to spread RMDs throughout the year either quarterly or monthly for the best potential average results.

<https://www.barrons.com/articles/taking-rmds-can-be-tricky-heres-the-right-way-2bb225a6>



All the bills and coins circulating in the United States today are worth \$1.2 trillion.

The word “cent” is from the Latin centum, meaning “hundred” and later “hundredth part” under the influence of percent. The official name for the penny is a “cent.” Originally cents were made from copper, but today the cent is less than 3% copper—the rest is made of zinc.

The only number on a coin is the year it was minted. All other numbers are spelled out. However, the \$1 bill contains the number 1 eight times. Each bill also contains an individual serial number.

The seal on the dollar bill has several symbols. The scale represents justice. The 13 stars stand for the 13 colonies. The key symbolizes the treasury’s power and authority.

<https://www.factretriever.com/money-facts>

Some Questions and Answers About Recessions

Over the last two months, companies and consumers have signaled so much concern about the outlook for their businesses and pocketbooks that economists are slashing their forecasts for growth and beginning to raise their odds of a recession.

What’s a recession and why is rising anxiety about it roiling markets?

Are there signs a recession is imminent? Larry Summers, former U.S. treasury secretary, has recently set the odds of a recession at 50-50. Most economists still expect the U.S. economy to expand in the first quarter, though at a slower pace. JPMorgan sees growth slowing to just 1% at an annual rate in the first quarter, down from 2.3% in last year’s fourth quarter.

What signals would suggest that a recession has begun? A

steady rise in job losses and surging unemployment. The unemployment rate did tick up last month, to 4.1% from 4%, though that is still quite low. But employers added 151,000 jobs, a sign that businesses are still seeking to add workers.

Many economists monitor the number of people who seek unemployment benefits each week, a gauge that indicates whether layoffs are worsening. Weekly applications for jobless aid remain quite low by historical standards.

Who decides when a recession has started? Recessions are officially declared by the obscure-sounding National Bureau of Economic Research, a group of economists whose Business Cycle Dating Committee defines a recession as “a significant decline in economic activity that is spread across the economy and lasts more than a few months.”



Yet the organization typically doesn’t declare a recession until well after one has begun, sometimes as long as a year afterward.

<https://apnews.com/article/economy-trump-recession>

It Happened In ...



April 2nd 1513 – Spanish explorer Ponce De Leon sighted Florida and claimed it for the Spanish Crown after landing at the site of present day St. Augustine, now the oldest city in the continental U.S.

April 12th 1981 – The first space shuttle flight occurred with the launching of Columbia with astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen aboard. Columbia spent 54 hours in space, making 36 orbits, then landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

April 17th 1837 – John Pierpont (J.P.) Morgan was born in Hartford, CT. He rebuilt failing companies to make them profitable. In 1895, he arranged a private bond sale among financiers to restore the US Treasury.

April 30th 1789 – George Washington, the first U.S. President, was given the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City.

<http://www.historyplace.com/specials/calendar/April.htm>

Commonly Missed Tax Credits

Individual tax returns are due by April 15. Here are some tax credits you'll want to check for.

For those who have made **Home Energy Improvements**, there are two types of credits available: Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit or the Residential Clean Energy Credit could work well if some aspect of renewable energy was added in their home, including solar.

Smaller itemized deductions can, with good record keeping, add up to much more than the standard deduction (\$15,000 single, \$30,000 joint): Those who add up all their qualifying medical expenses, like prescriptions, dental and vision care, medicare premiums, or insurance premiums if for the self-employed, could quickly get over the 7.5% of AGI hurdle.

Additional credits that can often be missed:

=> The potential for a dependent credit up to \$500 if you support significant other, friend, or relative.

=> The Child Tax Credit of up to \$2,000 for parents with a child under 17 and the child and dependent care credit of up to \$1,050 for one child and up to \$2,100 for two or more kids. Summer day camp even counts.

=> American Opportunity Tax Credit of up to \$2,500 per college student for the first for years of college or the Lifetime Learning Credit, which reduces eligible tuition, fees and other expenses at a qualified institution, up to \$2,000 per return.

=> Qualified Business Income Deduction: Small business owners and self-employed individuals can deduct up to 20% of their qualified business income.



<https://www.marketwatch.com/picks/10-accountants-reveal-the-tax-credits-and-deductions-americans-too-often-miss-2586d87e>