Monthly Perspectives

BURNS ADVISORY GROUP
private wealth management

June 2011

In this edition, we share insight on how high corporate tax rates impact the U.S. economic recovery. We also address the mistakes we are making that will set up a disaster for our children. Lastly, we explain how stocks and bonds perform over the long term, and the periods when they do best.

We're (Almost) No. 1: Corporate Tax Rates

John Burns, CFP®

Prior to the earthquake in Japan, its government planned to lower corporate tax rates to alleviate the burden they place on an economy's ability to grow. Had it followed through, the United States would have claimed the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. But now it appears they will scrap the lower rates in order to maintain tax revenues through their recovery effort. While the United States remains only the second highest corporate taxer, do our rates represent an impediment to growth?

» Read John's complete commentary on our website

An American Family

Tom McGuigan, CFP®

There's a family that I know and love, but sometimes I just don't understand their judgments. Consider their finances. This clan came from a long line of hard workers who saved and scrimped in order to make a better future for their children. The current generation, though, seems to have forgotten their predecessors' thrift. They earn about $50,000 annually yet they spend about $80,000. When I ask how they plan to keep that up, they don't seem too worried. Just like the character in the movie "The Graduate," they whisper "plastics," meaning, of course, credit cards.

» Read Tom's entire column on our website

Stocks vs. Bonds: The Best and Worst of Times

Tim Courtney, CIMA®

We are about halfway toward a full recovery from the downturn that ended in early 2009. And while almost no one emerged from this period unharmed, there are some poignant lessons to be taken away. Going back to the Great Depression, investors typically in times of crisis have flocked to the safest investments, which have traditionally been considered to be bonds. But surprisingly – or not so surprisingly, depending on which way you look at it – the worst time to get into bonds is as a crisis unfolds.

» See Tim's complete perspective on our website

Media Highlights

John Burns appeared on CNBC's Financial Advisor Network on March 10. During the appearance, he discussed how to maximize investment returns by minimizing fees and expenses.

» Watch John on CNBC

Reuters' Prism Money

On April 12, Chief Investment Officer Tim Courtney offered his insight on the relationship between inflation and investments to Reuters' Prism Money blog. Tim offers warnings on the fallacies of assumed correlations that may not hold true in the future.

» Read Tim's thoughts at Reuters

» See more media on our website

Offices

Oklahoma City
John F. Burns, Jr.
9401 Cedar Lake Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73114
(405) 478-1971
(888) 478-1971
E-mail: jburns@burnsag.com

Connecticut
Thomas P. McGuigan
187-B Boston Post Road
P.O. Box 623
Old Lyme, CT 06371
(860) 434-5999
(888) 434-5999
E-mail: tmcguigan@burnsag.com