

HARPER'S INDEX

- Percentage by which the \$750 billion bailout exceeds the total U.S. GDP of a century ago, adjusted for inflation : 50
 - Percentage by which it exceeds the cost of the entire New Deal : 33
 - Factor by which it exceeds the cost of the 1990 savings-and-loan bailout : 3
- Minimum number of properties the U.S. government was forced to buy as part of the S&L bailout : 43,640
 - Number of churches and athletic clubs, respectively, that this purchase included : 3, 27
- Ratio of the funds U.S. banks paid into the FDIC last year to those they received in ATM fees : 1:1
 - Percentage of Americans who say they live "paycheck to paycheck" : 47
 - Percentage of those making over \$100,000 per year who say this : 21
- Percentage of Fortune 500 companies that own a Web address in which their name is followed by "sucks.com" : 26
 - Chance in 2003 that a Fortune 500 company was based in an emerging-market country : 1 in 14
 - Chance today : 1 in 8
 - Amount a Chinese investor paid in June to have lunch with Warren Buffett : \$2,110,000
 - Number of appearances that a Thai prime minister made this year as a TV chef : 4
 - Amount he was paid, leading to his ouster in September for receiving outside income : \$2,300
 - Tons of international food aid provided to Sudan last year : 548,400
 - Estimated tons of food Sudan produces and exports to other countries each year : 534,000
 - Chance that a person worldwide lacks adequate drinking water due to socioeconomic conditions : 1 in 6
 - Estimated portion of all freshwater drawn from U.S. sources each year that is used to cool power plants : 1/2
- Percentage of Fortune 1000 companies that say a water shortage would be "severe" or "catastrophic" to their business : 40
 - Percentage that say they have made preparations for such a shortage : 17
- Number of complaints filed by corporate whistleblowers with U.S. workplace-safety officials since 2002 : 1,288
 - Number in which the government ruled in favor of the whistleblower : 17
- Estimated number of professional "union-avoidance consultants" currently working in the United States : 2,000
 - Percentage change since 1977 in the size of the U.S. labor force : +61
 - Percentage change since then in the number of federal wage and hour inspectors : -21
- Average value of defense contracts that each Pentagon auditor was responsible for vetting in 2007 : \$2,030,000,000
 - Average value each auditor vetted ten years ago : \$642,000,000
- Date on which Sears began selling an "All American Army" clothing line, with royalties paid to the U.S. military : 9/15/08
 - Percentage of U.S. Christmas trees purchased in 2001 and 2007, respectively, that were artificial : 21, 36
 - Number of credit-card solicitations sent to Americans last year : 5,200,000,000
 - Percentage that were responded to : 0.5
 - Year in which Cuba's ban on toasters will be lifted : 2010
- Year by which computer server farms worldwide are projected to produce more greenhouse gases than air travel : 2020
 - Year by which New Orleans is expected to be rebuilt, at the current pace : 2028
 - Number of years that Google's CEO says it will take the company to achieve its goals : 300
 - Number of members in the Facebook group "I Just HATE Pakistan" : 2,973
 - Number in the group "Belgium Doesn't Exist" : 1,156
 - Percentage of total Internet site visits in 2004 and today, respectively, that accessed porn : 17, 10
- Number of U.S. postage stamps printed in June whose packaging mistakenly listed a phone-sex number : 4,000,000
- Telephone number that was printed in place of 1-800-STAMP-24, the number for reordering : 1-800-TRAMP-24

Figures cited are the latest available as of October 2008. Sources are listed on page 88.

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