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VIEWING ESSENTIAL:

## headline money's week in numbers

What interesting facts and figures came out of the world of financial services over the last seven days? Our at-a-glance guide provides a handy reminder of some statistics you may have missed.

[Click on the figure in white to see the press release in full.](#)

**22 years** The average working person is now expected to live for almost 22 years past retirement. A uSwitch report finds that by 2050 average life expectancy will have shot up to 95 years. Whilst life expectancy continues to increase year-on-year, the amount that people are saving is at its lowest level for almost 20 years, indicating a very uncertain future for the next generation of pensioners. In 2006, the average working person saved £1,269 per annum, but in 2007 this plummeted by almost 40% to £776.

**£17,443** is the average total value of people's savings. NBS research shows 64% of the British population say their outgoings prevent them from saving more, but 32% of people said they spend more than they would ideally like every month. Nearly three-quarters (73%) of savers said they did not have a savings goal and 16% said they were unsure how much they should ideally be spending on a monthly basis.

**2.5 million** couples are paying too much tax on their savings. Research by Abbey has discovered over one in ten couples are unnecessarily paying too much tax on their joint cash savings (not ISAs), by leaving the majority in an account solely in the name of the partner paying the most income tax. The study also finds almost half of Brits (47%) consider not paying tax an interest an important factor when choosing a savings account.

**£2 billion** Total suspension of stamp duty would cost less than £2 billion p.a. John Charcol says revenue from stamp duty has collapsed in light of the approximate 80% drop in property transactions and 25% drop in prices. The current run rate of revenue from stamp duty land tax is now well below £2bn p.a. and it is suggested forgoing this would only cost about one sixth of the cost of the one year VAT cut, which is generally recognised as having been ineffective in stimulating sales.

**One in three** people in the UK are still struggling to find an NHS dentist. According to Simplyhealth's Annual Dental Survey this figure peaks in certain areas of the UK, with over half of the people in Plymouth finding it difficult to get an NHS dentist, closely followed by those in Southampton and Manchester, where 45% and 43% have struggled. The economic downturn has meant that as almost half of people across the UK have put off visiting the dentist because they are too worried about how much it will cost, compared with just 19% last year.

**G20** Leaders of the world's major economies and of global economic financial institutions attend the London Summit today. The leaders of the G20 countries represent two-thirds of the world's population, 50% of global GNP (gross domestic product) and 80% of world trade.

**48%** of property investors believe that London prices will be at current levels or higher by this time next year. Data from the Young Group reveals 24% expect the same to be true of UK property outside London, with investors appearing increasingly positive. 40% of investors are even considering purchasing additional residential property assets within London during the next 12 months, compared to 23% who are looking at opportunities in the UK outside of the capital.

**£700** worth of plants, bushes, trees and shrubs are planted in the average garden. An M&S survey reveals 67% of people have not checked whether their plants are covered by home insurance, despite 17% of people with a garden knowing someone who has had plants, bushes, trees or shrubs stolen from their garden.

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