

SALDUTTI, LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Complete Creditors' Rights Service for NJ & PA

CREDIT & COLLECTION MATTERS

May 2011

Let the Big Dogs Handle Your Collections ...



CREDIT CARD DEBT RISES IN MARCH

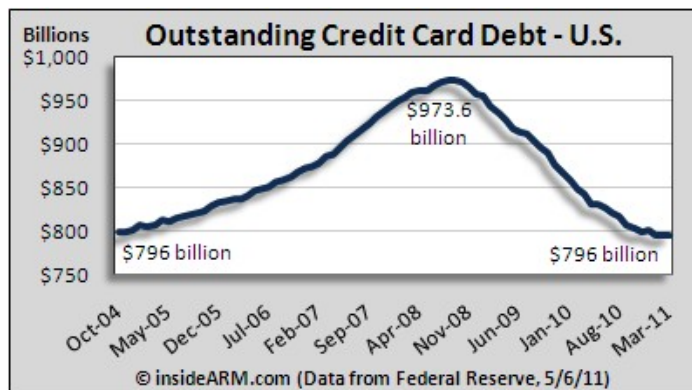
For only the second time in nearly four years, total credit card debt outstanding in the U.S. expanded in March 2011, according to data released by the Federal Reserve last week.

The Fed said in its monthly Consumer Credit data release (G.19) that revolving consumer debt, almost entirely comprised of credit card accounts, grew at an annualized rate of 2.9 percent – or \$1.9 billion – in March

to \$796.1 billion. Credit card debt also expanded in December 2010, but had contracted in every other month since August 2008, when consumer credit card debt outstanding peaked at \$973.6 billion.

Many in the credit granting business have signaled that the long downward trend may be nearing a close. Capital One, in its quarterly earnings statement also released on Friday, noted that delinquencies were down and borrowing was increasing. “The period of shrinking loans through the Great Recession came to an end,” Cap One CEO Richard D. Fairbank said in a press release.

Non-revolving credit – like that found in auto and student loans – also expanded in March at an annual rate of 3 percent. Auto lending led the way in the non-revolving category. The Fed’s report does not include debt backed by real estate. Total consumer credit outstanding was \$2.425 trillion at the end of March.
Source: InsideARM



YOU THINK GAS PRICES ARE HURTING THE ECONOMY NOW?

Issue 38

CONTACT

To learn how we can be of service to your business please visit us on the web

www.saldutticollect.com

1-877-809-4345

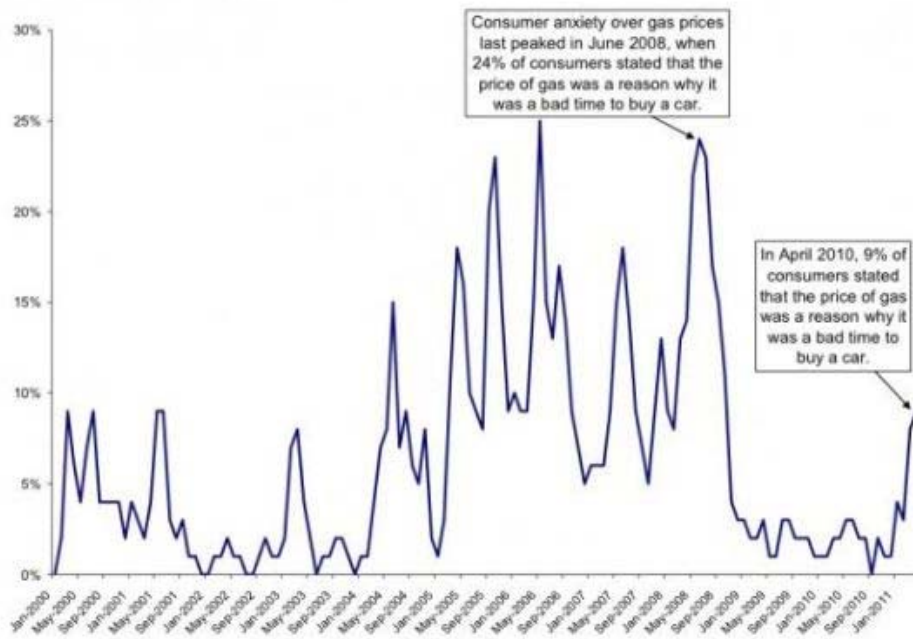
TEL: (856) 779-0300

FAX: (856) 779-0355 - fax

NJ: Cherry Hill/Lawrenceville

PA: Philadelphia/West Chester

Figure 14. Percentage of Consumers Stating that the Price of Gas as a Reason Not to Buy a Vehicle (January 2000 – April 2011)



Source: University of Michigan Survey of Consumers, Citi Investment Research and Analysis

The sudden snapback in oil prices is helping to dash hopes of a sudden plunge in gas prices this summer. And if you think high prices at the pump are a drag now, just wait. Anxiety hasn't even peaked yet.

From Citi:

CIRA's Economist Steven Wieting expects consumer anxiety over gas prices to increase further in the coming months as seasonal demand for gasoline picks up and pushes gas prices higher. We are concerned about the psychological effect that this could have on consumer spending, and we may see retail sales impacted to a greater degree than is suggested by the actual loss in discretionary income.

Source: The Business Insider

APRIL CONSUMER BANKRUPTCY FILINGS DOWN 7 PERCENT

April consumer bankruptcies decreased seven percent nationwide from April 2010, according to the American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI), relying on data from the National Bankruptcy Research Center. The data showed that the overall consumer filing total for April reached 134,720, down from the 144,490 consumer filings recorded in April 2010.



“As consumer debt levels fall and families continue to shore up their finances, bankruptcy filings will continue to drop,” said ABI Executive Director Samuel J. Gerdano. “Consumer bankruptcies for 2011 will likely dip below the 1.5 million filings recorded last year.”

The April 2011 filings also represented a 7 percent decrease from the March 2011 consumer bankruptcy total of 144,657 filings. The percentage of chapter 13 filings for April remained virtually unchanged from March at 26 percent.

Source: ABI/NBKRC

THE HARDEST WORKING COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

Everyone likes to think they work harder than everyone else, but the latest data from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) may surprise some Europeans and Americans who expected to be at the top of the world's hard work list. The latest data from the OECD sheds light on not just paid work, but also unpaid work such as cooking and other housework. All of the countries listed have a work day longer than the OECD average.



10. Slovenia

- Total minutes worked per day: 495
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 231
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 265

9. USA

- Total minutes worked per day: 496
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 207
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 289

8. New Zealand

- Total minutes worked per day: 498
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 227
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 271

7. China

- Total minutes worked per day: 504
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 164
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 340



6. Austria

- Total minutes worked per day: 509
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 203
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 306

5. Estonia

- Total minutes worked per day: 516
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 232
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 284

4. Canada

- Total minutes worked per day: 517
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 197
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 320

3. Portugal

- Total minutes worked per day: 528
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 233
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 295

2. Japan

- Total minutes worked per day: 540
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 164
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 376

1. Mexico

- Total minutes worked per day: 594
- Total unpaid minutes worked per day: 253
- Total paid minutes worked per day: 342

Source: The Business Insider

Information contained in this publication should not be construed as legal advice or opinion, or as a substitute for the advice of counsel. The enclosed materials may have been abridged from other sources. They are provided for educational and informational purposes for clients and others who may be interested in the subject.