



A PEEK AT THE WEEK THAT WAS - April 20, 2013

*"Patient Capital.... Positioned for Profit"*

### A TAXING TIME INDEED!

Looking back this week, we see that April 15 has come and gone and if you are feeling poorer for the experience, you are not alone.

(CNSNews.com) - April 18 will be Tax Freedom Day, the day when Americans have worked enough to pay all of their federal and state taxes for 2013 – a round total of \$4.22 trillion, according to an analysis done by the Tax Foundation. Americans will pay more than \$2.76 trillion in federal taxes and \$1.45 trillion in state taxes for 2013 – for a total of \$4.22 trillion in taxes, or 29.4 percent of income.

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/tax-freedom-day-2013-april-18-five-days-later-last-year>

Last year it took the average tax payer till April 13 to be free of taxes. This year it took 5 days more. Progress or distress? We don't know...but we do know that in some countries, Tax Freedom Day arrives with a new year's eve hangover. If you live in one of these lucky countries then you pay no tax at all. But then, take a look at the chart below at what our tax paying friends in Euroland have to put up with and you can't help feeling sorry for most of them.

But let's not forget that taxes and charges in the Great Republic come in many different shapes and sizes and are definitely **a gift that keeps on giving**. Before and after April 18, a host of **ADDITIONAL** hidden taxes constantly grind away at our bottom line. You may have never found the time or the courage to do so, but the next time you get your cell phone bill take a look. You will see myriad fees and charges for absolutely who knows what...a cornucopia of mysterious costs. These charges total almost 10% of the average cell phone bill if you live somewhere like New York City. And these **hidden taxes** are replicated across the full bounty of goods and services that we consume on a regular basis. Just click here or here: <http://www.dailyfinance.com/2008/03/11/hidden-taxes-eight-you-are-paying-every-day/>

Is it any wonder that most people are feeling just a tad poorer this week. Sorry, but don't expect relief any time soon. This "market trend" has a long way to run. But end it will...at some point...when the tax payers scream "no mas"...en masse! Until then our tax and spend "leaders" will continue to do what they do best...tax and spend.

Meanwhile, our former unsworn enemy, Russia, taxes most of its comrades at a flat rate of 13%...and enjoys a debt to GDP ratio of around 10%. Compare that to the US at approximately 100% debt to GDP and it makes you wonder who really won the Cold War.

Oh well, we wil always have The Miracle on Ice!

Country	Day of year	% burden	Date of year
Cyprus	72	19.4%	13 March
Malta	99	26.8%	9 April
Ireland	117	31.9%	27 April
United Kingdom	134	36.3%	13 May
Luxembourg	135	36.8%	15 May
Spain	136	37.0%	16 May
Bulgaria	145	39.5%	25 May
Estonia	150	40.7%	30 May
Portugal	150	40.9%	30 May
Poland	160	43.6%	9 June
Latvia	161	43.7%	10 June
Greece	164	44.6%	13 June
St. Lucia	164	44.7%	13 June

Cyprus	104	44.7%	13 June
Czech Rep.	165	44.9%	14 June
Finland	166	45.2%	15 June
Lithuania	167	45.4%	16 June
Slovakia	167	45.5%	16 June
Denmark	168	45.7%	17 June
Italy	169	46.0%	18 June
Romania	178	48.6%	27 June
Sweden	181	49.4%	30 June
Netherlands	184	50.2%	03 Jul
Austria	191	52.2%	10 July
Germany	200	54.6%	19 July
France	207	56.4%	26 July
Belgium	215	58.5%	3 August
Hungary	218	59.4%	6 August

Source: International Man

### THE GREAT GOLD HEIST?

Of course, the other BIG economic story of the week was Monday's continued collapse in precious metals. At Craven Capital, we are on the hunt for the culprit(s) and we think we've made a breakthrough. Once again, Inventive Ben Bernanke is one of our chief suspects. How could we allege such a thing of such a nice man, you may ask?

Well...this was a heist of such massive proportions that there are only a few heisters capable of pulling it off. Let's look at some facts. As the chart below (courtesy of Grant Williams, yet again) illustrates...early on Friday, April 12, someone (singular or plural) decided to sell (dump) 500 tons of gold (approximately \$28 billions' worth) onto the market as a "naked short". This essentially means that someone was prepared to risk a ton of money on a bet that gold would drop in price, thereby enabling them to cover their short without loss.

It's important to understand that this was a paper trade...the short seller felt pretty confident that they would not be called up to actually deliver physical gold...but nevertheless, they had to be prepared for that remote possibility. There are not too many players big enough to make that bet. Ben's gang is one of them. We will continue our sleuthing but at least we know that Cyprus is no longer a "person of interest".

Till next week..



*"Ignorance is the curse of God. Knowledge is the wing wherewith we fly to Heaven."*  
William Shakespeare



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