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## How the stimulus bill may help you

The government's actions to aid struggling businesses have garnered much of the media's attention. However, the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, more commonly known as the "stimulus bill," also contains measures designed to help individuals. Here are highlights:

- In 2009 and 2010, workers will receive a tax credit equal to 6.2% of their earned income, up to \$400 for individuals and \$800 for married couples. Individuals receiving Social Security, Social Security Income (SSI) or Veterans' Disability Compensation will get a \$250 credit.
- First-time homebuyers who purchase a primary residence on or after January 1, 2009, and before December 1, 2009, can claim a tax credit equal to 10% of the purchase price of the home, up to \$8,000. Unlike the previous first-time homebuyer tax credit, this one does not need to be repaid as long as you keep the home as your personal residence for at least three years.

- If you purchase a new car in 2009, you can deduct the sales tax on your federal income tax return.
- For workers who are involuntarily terminated between September 1, 2008, and December 31, 2009, and choose to continue health insurance coverage under COBRA, the government will subsidize 65% of the premiums for up to nine months.
- Unemployment benefit amounts are temporarily increased by \$25 a week. Additionally, the first \$2,400 received in unemployment benefits will not be taxed this year.
- The American Opportunity tax credit provides a credit of up to \$2,500 for college tuition and related expenses.

Most of the benefits are phased out at specific income levels. To find out more, visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or consult with a qualified tax advisor.

For more information on the stimulus plan, visit [www.financialstability.gov](http://www.financialstability.gov).

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### DIVIDEND

#### June dividend

#### DECLARED MAY 21, 2009

The June 2009 Savings and IRA dividend, declared 5/21/09, provides a Compounded Annual Percentage Yield of 2.25% APY. Dividends are paid on the last day of the month to accountholders who have maintained an average daily balance of \$100 or more. Savings dividend is subject to change monthly.

The June 2009 High Rate Checking Dividend, declared 5/21/09, provides a Compounded Annual Percentage Yield of 2.00% APY. Checking dividends are paid on the last day of each month to accountholders who meet the requirements of the account. Checking dividend is subject to change monthly.

### CERTIFICATES

Jumbo Share Certificates as high as

**3.25%** APY

48 to 60 months  
(minimum \$25,000 deposit)

Regular Share Certificates as high as

**3.10%** APY

48 to 60 months  
(minimum \$1,000 deposit)

Rates as of 5/28/09. Flexible terms from 12 to 60 months. Early withdrawal penalties apply. Any monthly transfers or withdrawals reduce earnings. Visit [www.alliantcreditunion.org](http://www.alliantcreditunion.org) for complete terms and conditions. Certificate rates subject to change daily.

## It pays to be a member of Alliant – \$646 a year

**Have you heard about the Alliant Advantage? The average Alliant member earns a financial benefit of \$646 per year (and the average household, \$1,227) for doing business with Alliant Credit Union – compared to doing business with a bank, according to a national economic study prepared by the Credit Union National Association (CUNA).**

#### The report points out that Alliant offers lower loan rates:

- on new and used car loans
- personal unsecured loans
- fixed rate and adjustable rate mortgages
- home equity loans
- credit card loans

#### And, Alliant pays its members higher dividends on regular savings, Certificates and IRAs.

CUNA calculated that Alliant provided more than \$143.8 million in direct financial benefits to our 222,817 members during the 12 months ending December 2008. To compare our benefit against banks, CUNA used the average bank rates provided by Datatrac, which monitors more than 15,000 institutions nationally.

## Don't let emotions drive your investment decisions

Emotions play an important role in some of the most important decisions we make in our life. But when it comes to investing, emotions can do more damage than good. Here are four ways that emotions play a detrimental role in our investment decisions and what we can do about it:

**1. Don't follow the herd.** When stock prices fall, some people decide to sell their stock mutual funds. What starts as a few people selling their investments can turn into a panic where everyone decides to sell. It's called "herding" and it is one of the most common mistakes that people make when markets decline.



**2. Avoid extreme thinking.** When markets fall, people often start to think in extremes. Everything in the market begins to look black and white. The facts can have many meanings and we need to think intelligently about how these facts affect us before we make any investment decisions.

**3. Be aware of our short-term bias.** When it comes to investing, most of us have a short-term bias. That means that recent market gains lead to excitement and higher expectations. On the other hand, recent market losses lead to suspicion and caution. The challenge for investors is not to

forget both the long-term history of the markets and their own long-term goals.

**4. Stay true to your goals and your plan**  
When markets are volatile, it tends to bring out our emotional side. Before we react emotionally to short-term market gyrations, we should ask ourselves some important questions. What is our long-term goal? Have our goals changed? Was our plan to reach our goals a sound plan? Are there any good reasons to abandon our plan? Once we have asked and answered these questions, our decisions are more likely to be driven by logic – not emotions.

**If you have any questions, or would like to provide feedback, regarding the information presented in this article, contact the MEMBERS™ Financial Services Representatives who work with Alliant: Giacomo Parente, CFP® at the San Mateo, CA, location (650-295-3865). Or if you are in another location, call the MEMBERS Financial Services Call Center at 800-226-2994.**

Representatives are registered, securities are sold, and investment advisory services offered through CUNA Brokerage Services, Inc. (CBSI), member FINRA/SIPC, a registered broker/dealer and investment advisor, 2000 Heritage Way, Waverly, Iowa 50677, toll-free (866) 512-6109. Alliant Credit Union does not provide financial advice. Non-deposit investment and insurance products are not federally insured, involve investment risk, may lose value and are not obligations of or guaranteed by the financial institution. CBSI is under contract with the financial institution, through the financial services program, to make securities available to members. FR010921-7A88

## Earn a college scholarship!

### JUNE 26 DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

This summer, Alliant will again award a total of \$10,000 (five \$2,000 scholarships) through our annual Members Scholarship Program. To qualify, students must be an Alliant member in good standing and be applying to or enrolled in an accredited undergraduate program at a four-year college, university or vocational/technical institution with a minimum of 12-credit hours during the 2009 fall semester.



#### Applicants should submit the following:

1. Completed Members Scholarship Application
2. Statement of personal goals
3. Essay on "What does belonging to Alliant Credit Union mean to me?"
4. Complete list and description of community involvement and/or extracurricular activities
5. Official high school or college transcripts (whichever is applicable)

**Application and required paperwork are available at [www.alliantcreditunion.org](http://www.alliantcreditunion.org) and must be received or postmarked by Friday, June 26, 2009. Winners will be notified by August 7.**

The Program is made and conducted by Alliant Credit Union headquartered in Chicago, IL. You must be an Alliant member in good standing with a savings account in your name to apply. Alliant employees, board of directors, scholarship committee and family members of the same household are not eligible. All entries must be received/postmarked by 6/26/09. Acceptance of scholarship constitutes authorization to use winner's likeness and name without compensation. Odds of winning dependent upon total number of entries received. Winners are responsible for any tax liability. Program is subject to all federal, state and local laws. Void where prohibited. All terms and conditions of Alliant products apply. Contact Alliant or visit our web site, [www.alliantcreditunion.org](http://www.alliantcreditunion.org), for full details.

## Did you receive IRS tax form 5498?

If you made a rollover deposit in 2008 or contribution for tax year 2008 to your IRA, Coverdell Education Savings Account (ESA) or Health Savings Account (HSA), you should have received an IRS form 5498 by May 31, 2009.

Please review this form to make sure the information is correct for tax year 2008. This form contains information forwarded to the IRS. It is for your records and does not need to be included in your tax return filing. If you detect an error or did not receive such a form for your Alliant accounts (mentioned above), please call us immediately at 800-328-1935, ext. 2291.

### office closings

Alliant will be closed in observance of the following holiday:

#### Labor Day

–Monday, September 7

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dial direct: Alliant is there when you need us

**Self Service Telephone (SST)**  
800-482-5328  
24/7 automated account access

**Member Contact Center**  
800-328-1935  
24/7 personal assistance  
TDD/TTY 773-462-2300

**VISA® Debit Card**  
Lost/Stolen: 800-328-1935  
After Hours: 866-861-5411

**VISA® Credit Cards**  
24/7 Member Services/  
Account Info/Lost or Stolen:  
866-444-8529

**VISA® Gift Card**  
Purchase: 800-328-1935  
Support Center: 866-466-2362

**Mortgage Hotline**  
800-365-7003  
Mon–Thu, 7:30am–7pm CT  
Fri, 7:30am–5pm CT

**Auto/Home Insurance**  
888-380-9287  
Mon–Fri, 6am–10pm CT  
Sat, 6am–8pm CT

**BALANCE™ Financial Fitness**  
888-456-2227  
Mon–Thu, 7am–10pm CT  
Fri, 7am–7pm CT  
Sat, 10am–7pm CT

**Alliant Headquarters**  
11545 W. Touhy Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60666

**MEMBERS™ Financial Services**  
800-226-2994  
(Representative located at Alliant Headquarters and in San Mateo, CA)

**Deposits/Payments**  
P.O. Box 60050  
City of Industry, CA 91716-0050

**Credit Card Payments**  
P.O. Box 60051  
City of Industry, CA 91716

**All Other Correspondence and IRA and HSA Deposits**  
P.O. Box 66945  
Chicago, IL 60666-0945

**For Alliant Service Center locations, Online Banking, and product and service information, visit our web site: [www.alliantcreditunion.org](http://www.alliantcreditunion.org)**

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