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## How taxpayers subsidize CEO wealth

By John MacIntyre

- Calculated annual cost to taxpayers of tax and accounting loopholes that encourage excessive executive pay, according to the 15th annual Executive Excess report from the Institute for Policy Studies and United for a Fair Economy: **\$20 billion**
- Amount accounted for by stock-option accounting double standard: **\$10 billion**
- Amount accounted for by unlimited deductibility of executive compensation: **\$5.2 billion**
- Amount of the \$20 billion accounted for by preferential capital-gains treatment of carried interest: **\$2.6 billion**

## Parents are key

- Percentage of parents who say that parent involvement was a key factor in student achievement, according to the results of an independent, nationwide survey by Pearson: **96**
- Percentage of parents who felt achievement would improve with better communication between school and home: **95**

## Who gets what

- Average percentage pay increase planned by U.S. employers in 2009, according to the "2008/2009 U.S. Compensation Planning Survey" from Mercer: **3.7**
- Expected percentage base-pay increases in 2009 for the highest-performing employees (14 percent of the workforce): **5.6**
- Expected percentage base pay increases in 2009 for the weakest performers (7 percent of the workforce): **0.6**

## More getting religion

- Estimated annual value of books in the religious products market, according to a study by Packaged Facts: **\$6 billion**
- Percentage increase in the overall religious products market between 2004 and 2008: **21**
- Amount this percentage increase represents: **\$1 billion**

## econ trumps eco

- Percentage of Americans who say economic growth and development is more important to their region than protecting the environment, according to a survey by Harris Interactive: **63**

## Leave more at home

- Rank of overpacking on the list of the biggest mistakes travelers make, according to a poll of U.S. Tour Operators Association member companies: **1**

## not just for bathing

- Percentage of Americans who use at least one electronic device in the bathroom, according to American Standard's 2008 Bathroom Habits Survey: **88**
- Percentage who read their mail in the bathroom — both snail mail and e-mail: **33**
- Percentage who talk on the phone: **15**
- Percentage who watch TV: **3**

## Top-ranked schools

- Ranks of Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University on the list of America's Best National Universities, according to the U.S. News Media Group's 2009 edition of America's Best Colleges: **1, 2, 3, 4 (tie)**
- Ranks of Amherst College, Williams College and Swarthmore College on the list of the nation's Best Liberal Arts Colleges: **1 (tie), 3**

## Parents work harder

- Percentage of parents who say that they are working additional hours at their current job so they can pick up the tabs (and mortgages, car payments, grocery bills, etc.) that have increased, according to a [www.Sittercity.com](http://www.Sittercity.com) survey: **42**
- Percentage of stay-at-home parents who are now going back to work: **27**
- Percentage of working parents who have taken on a second job: **8**

## highly charitable

- Percentage of high-net-worth business owners — whose companies have at least \$10 million in annual revenue — who participate with their family in charitable activities, according to a SunTrust Bank Private Wealth Management study: **72**
- Percentage of business owners who cited a spouse or partner as their greatest influence in making

charitable decisions: 81

## Idle Thought

*"The perfection of a clock is not to go fast, but to be accurate."*

— **Luc de Clapiers**, marquis de Vauvenargues

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