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NEWS

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A.G. EDWARDS NEST EGG SCORE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

*Quarterly Gauge of Personal Savings
Moves into "Good" range at 651*

ST. LOUIS, MO (December 19, 2007) – For the first time in its two-year history, the Nest Egg Score from A.G. Edwards — a quarterly measure of the nation’s savings and investing habits — has crossed into new territory. At 651, the December 2007 Nest Egg Score increased just 2 points since September but gained enough ground to push into the “Good” range for the first time since the Score’s inception in March of 2006.

“While such a small increase is not exactly cause for celebration, the results of our quarterly Nest Egg Score survey show that there has been some progress with regard to Americans’ personal savings habits,” said A.G. Edwards Chief Economist Gary Thayer. “In calculating this score, economic conditions do play a part, but we were pleased to see that several of the factors that contributed to the improvement in this quarter’s score were related to increased savings, not just a better economic environment.”

The December Score got a lift from several categories, including the scoring of participation in retirement plans and ownership of investment vehicles. Additionally, Thayer says that given the current slowdown in the economy, it appears people are living more within their means and consumers are not overspending as much as they may have been previously.

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“I would be a lot more worried if the economy was slowing down and we also saw a drop in the Nest Egg Score on top of that,” Thayer said. “But the results from this quarter’s survey show that it’s not just the economy that’s responsible for the increase in the Nest Egg Score; people are taking action with respect to their personal savings and investing.”

The A.G. Edwards Nest Egg Score is a proprietary analysis of 12 factors that influence the willingness and ability of adults to build wealth. It includes such government measures as the personal savings rate, wealth-to-income ratio, the cost of living and the home equity rate, along with proprietary research that evaluates Americans’ saving and investing behaviors. Quarterly data for each factor is evaluated and scored on the following scale: 450 to 549—poor; 550 to 649—fair; 650 to 749—good; and 750 to 850—excellent.

“The fact that we’re seeing more people take responsibility for their personal finances is very encouraging,” said A.G. Edwards Personal Finance Strategist Sophie Beckmann. “In the two years we have been compiling the Nest Egg Score, this is the highest score we’ve seen for retirement plan participation. Since retirement is one of the biggest goals for investors when planning their financial futures, we are pleased that the survey is reflecting more effort in this category.”

What’s Your Score? Visit Nesteggscore.com

To help people determine their personal Nest Egg Scores, A.G. Edwards offers the Nest Egg Score Estimator. The Nest Egg Score Estimator asks a variety of questions, including length of employment at current job, annual household income, investment preferences, risk tolerance, home equity and discretionary spending habits. It also takes into consideration age, marital status and location of residence. To find out how your savings and investing habits rate in relation to the rest of the country, please visit nesteggscore.com.

About the Nest Egg Score

The A.G. Edwards Nest Egg Score is a single, quarterly, three-digit numerical rating that represents a measure of the relative strength or weakness of Americans’ wealth-building performance, similar to the scoring systems used to evaluate creditworthiness. A high Nest Egg Score indicates that households are having more success in building their nest eggs or that economic conditions are favorable for saving and investing. Conversely, a low score

means that households are not taking advantage of opportunities to build their nest eggs or that economic conditions are not conducive to wealth accumulation.

To create the Nest Egg Score, A.G. Edwards takes into account 12 statistical factors gathered from federal government data and proprietary research conducted for A.G. Edwards by Harris Interactive[®] that pertain to building wealth. Quarterly data for each factor is evaluated and scored on the following scale: 450 to 549—poor; 550 to 649—fair; 650 to 749—good; and 750 to 850—excellent. The 12 individual factors are then combined and weighted to determine the A.G. Edwards Nest Egg Score.

For further information on the A.G. Edwards Nest Egg Score, go to nesteggscore.com.

Nest Egg Score Survey Methodology

The eight quarterly Nest Egg Score surveys were conducted online by Harris Interactive[®] on behalf of A.G. Edwards among adults aged 18 and over within the United States between December 5 and December 7, 2007 among 2,013 adults; between August 3 and August 7, 2007 among 2,102 adults; between May 17 and May 21, 2007 among 2,637 adults; between Feb. 13 and Feb. 15, 2007 among 2,405 adults; between Nov. 17 and Nov. 21, 2006 among 2,323 adults; between Aug. 23 and Aug. 25, 2006 among 2,295 adults; between May 23 and May 25, 2006 among 2,197 adults; and between March 14 and March 16, 2006 among 2,182 adults. Figures for region, age within gender, education, household income and race/ethnicity were weighted where necessary to bring them into line with their actual proportions in the population. Propensity score weighting was also used to adjust for respondents' propensity to be online.

All sample surveys and polls, whether or not they use probability sampling, are subject to multiple sources of error which are most often not possible to quantify or estimate, including sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options, and post-survey weighting and adjustments. Therefore, Harris Interactive avoids the words "margin of error" as they are misleading. All that can be calculated are different possible sampling errors with different probabilities for pure, unweighted, random samples with 100% response rates. These are only theoretical because no published polls come close to this ideal.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have agreed to participate in Harris Interactive surveys. The data have been weighted to reflect the composition of the U.S. adult population. Because the sample is based on those who agreed to be invited to participate in the Harris Interactive online research panel, no estimates of theoretical sampling error can be calculated.

Harris Interactive[®] is responsible for fielding the online surveys on behalf of A.G. Edwards. A.G. Edwards is responsible for the compilation of data from other sources and for computing the Nest Egg Score and the results reported.

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About A.G. Edwards

Drawn to the firm's client-first philosophy, individuals and businesses have turned to A.G. Edwards & Sons, Inc. for sound advice and access to a wide array of investment products and services that can help them meet their financial goals and objectives. A.G. Edwards is a nonbank affiliate of Wachovia Corporation and is a member NYSE & SIPC. On or about 1/1/2008 A.G. Edwards will be a division of Wachovia Securities, LLC.

How A.G. Edwards Does Business

A.G. Edwards generally acts as a broker-dealer but may act as an investment advisor on designated accounts, and the firm's obligations will vary with the role it plays. When working with clients, the firm generally acts as a broker-dealer unless specifically indicated in writing. To better understand the differences between brokerage and advisory services, please consult "Important Information About Your Relationship With A.G. Edwards" on agedwards.com/disclosures.

About Harris Interactive®

Harris Interactive is the 13th largest and one of the fastest-growing market research firms in the world. The company provides innovative research, insights and strategic advice to help its clients make more confident decisions which lead to measurable and enduring improvements in performance. Harris Interactive is widely known for *The Harris Poll*®, one of the longest running, independent opinion polls and for pioneering online market research methods. The company has built what it believes to be the world's largest panel of survey respondents, the Harris Poll Online. Harris Interactive serves clients worldwide through its North American, European and Asian offices, and through a global network of independent market research firms. More information about Harris Interactive may be obtained at www.harrisinteractive.com. To become a member of the Harris Poll Online and be invited to participate in online surveys, register at www.harrispollonline.com.

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