



## TEN THOUSAND COMMANDMENTS: A FACT SHEET

1. This is the **20<sup>th</sup>** anniversary of *Ten Thousand Commandments*. In that time, 81,883 final rules have been issued. That's more than 3,500 per year or about **nine per day**.
2. The Anti-Democracy Index – the ratio of regulations issued to laws passed by Congress and signed by the president – stood at 29 for 2012. That's 127 new laws and 3,708 new rules – or a new rule every 2 ½ hours.
3. Total costs for Americans to comply with federal regulations reached **\$1.806 trillion** in 2012. For the first time, this amounts to **more than half** of total federal spending. It is more than the GDPs of Canada or Mexico.
4. Regulatory costs amount to **\$14,678 per family** – 23 percent of the average household income of \$63,685 and 30 percent of the expenditure budget of \$49,705 and more than receipts from corporate and personal income taxes combined.
5. Combined with \$3.53 trillion in federal spending, Washington's share of the economy now reaches **34.4 percent**.
6. Some **63 departments**, agencies and commissions have regulations awaiting approval.
7. The 2012 Federal Register had **78,961 pages**. That's fourth highest all time. The top two all-time are the 81,405 pages in 2010 and the 81,247 pages in 2011.
8. The EPA added 223 rules in 2012 – sixth among federal agencies behind Treasury, Commerce, Interior, Agriculture and Transportation. But its 1,953 rules account for 48 percent of all federal rules, and their total compliance cost – **\$353 billion** – far exceeds that of all other agencies.
9. Tax compliance accounts for **one-sixth** the total cost of regulation – more than \$300 billion.
10. Per-employee regulatory costs climb from \$7,755 for 500-or-more-employee firms to **\$10,585** for those with fewer than 20.