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What the Move from Pensions to 401(k)s Means for Workers

The amount that employers contribute to employees' retirement funds as a percentage of pay dropped between 2001 and 2015 as businesses shifted away from pension plans and toward defined-contribution plans, according to Willis Towers Watson. However, some employers have increased the amount they kick into 401(k)s to attract top talent.

Retirement benefits—including employer contributions to pensions, 401(k)s and retiree health-care benefits—fell from 9.1 percent of worker pay in 2001 to 6.8 percent in 2015. Spending on traditional pensions plunged 76 percent, to less than 1 percent of worker pay. Medical benefits for retired workers became increasingly scant, falling from 1.2 percent of worker pay to just 0.2 percent.

Click here to see more from Bloomberg.

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6 Traits of Leading Finance Functions

Over the past two years, regulatory changes, compliance changes, and the rising volume of data available have made the role of the finance function increasingly complex. Few organizations are able to harness the insights that could be generated from the data they hold, and getting the data into a usable, consistent format is a common challenge.

CFOs are eager to make the finance function more efficient and useful. Here's what leading finance functions have in common.

Read the full article from CGMA Magazine Online.

What Proposed Regulations on the Fractions Rule Mean for Tax-Exempt Organizations

Understanding the fractions rule can enable tax-exempt organizations to invest in partnerships that hold interests in debt-financed real property without being subject to the tax on unrelated business income under Section 512.

Tax-exempt organizations with available resources increasingly are investing in the financial markets using partnership structures.

Read more from The Tax Advisor.

Microsoft Could Provide Early Test of New Lease Accounting Rules

Microsoft had said it would adopt new lease accounting rules July 1 instead of waiting for 2019, when the rules take effect. Microsoft's status as a large, high-profile company means other businesses will study its example.

Microsoft's investors and analysts will be among the first to view the significance and effects of new lease accounting rules that require companies to disclose on their balance sheets the full extent of the leases they carry.

Visit Bloomberg BNA for more.

Lawmakers Consider TIFIA Loan Program Expansion

Federal lawmakers last week heard testimony on the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program as part of their exploration of ways to finance President Donald Trump's $1 trillion infrastructure program, according to Engineering News-Record. TIFIA funding is $275 million for 2017, $285 million for 2018 and 2019 and $300 million for 2019 and 2020. Each dollar represents $10 more in loans.

TIFIA loan recipients testified that the program offers better terms and lower interest rates than municipal bonds, making it possible for their infrastructure projects to avoid delays and increased loan costs.

Click here for more from Construction Dive.