



Weekly Clips, March 9, 2018
Texas Pension Review Board
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PRB PLANS

Delgado's pension safe despite suspension of salary

March 5, 2018, By Molly Smith

If found guilty of any of the charges, Delgado, 64, is looking at the loss of his job and its six-figure annual salary in addition to possible prison time. The one thing not at risk is his state pension, which at the very least, amounts to \$70,000 a year.

District court judges are required to be a member of and contribute to the state's Judicial Retirement System, and per the Texas Government Code, are ineligible to receive retirement benefits if they are removed from office by impeachment or "otherwise for official misconduct."

[The Monitor](#)

TEXAS ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Is finance the new oil in Texas?

March 5, 2018, By Jill Cowan

A new report by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas looked at how financial services and professional and business services jobs may be taking on a bigger role in the state's economy — but that raises new questions.

To figure out what kinds of economic forces can affect Texas' economy, it helps to understand which industries are boats swaying in the current and which industries are the ripples in the water. For example, because so many other industries interact with the financial sector, if the financial sector takes a major hit, it's more likely to affect the number of jobs in other industries, such as transportation or retail. This chart shows that while white collar service sectors have the largest ripple effects on Texas' overall economy, oil and gas is still important.

[Dallas News](#)

Dallas Fed: Slower retail sales dent region's economic growth

March 7, 2018, By Dan Zehr

A modest decline in retail sales cooled the ongoing growth of the regional economy in recent weeks, but widespread demand and the continued resurgence of the energy and manufacturing sectors helped drive activity, according to a report Wednesday from the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

[Austin-American Statesman](#)

Texas unemployment for January up slightly at 4 percent

March 9, 2018, By Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas unemployment rate rose slightly in January to start the year at 4 percent, the Texas Workforce Commission on Friday reported.

The December statewide jobless rate was 3.9 percent.

[San Antonio Express-News](#)

D-FW outsells the rest of the country when it comes to houses

March 9, 2018, By Steve Brown

Dallas-Fort Worth sold more houses last year than anyplace in the country, with more than 134,000 houses changing hands.

North Texas accounted for almost a third of the state's total preowned home purchases — more than 102,000 properties. And builders sold almost 32,000 new homes.

[Dallas Morning News](#)

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, LAWS & REGULATIONS

PERS: Lawmakers pass bill to boost public pension contributions

March 4, 2018, By Ted Sickinger

Oregon lawmakers passed a bill Saturday establishing two funds to help schools and other public employers defray their rising public pension costs, in part by incentivizing them to make extra, one-time contributions to pay down unfunded liabilities faster.

The largely uncontroversial bill is the product of a task force that Gov. Kate Brown created last year to look for ways to reduce the state's \$25 billion in unfunded pension liabilities by \$5 billion. It's also a political stake in the ground for Brown in advance of her reelection bid later this year.

[Oregon Live](#)

Worried about other pensions' growth, Georgia lawmakers could up theirs

March 6, 2018, By James Salzer

Georgia lawmakers are concerned enough about the financial future of the retirement system for teachers that this year they discussed slowing cost-of-living raises for pensioners.

They don't necessarily have the same concern about their own pension system.

Just after midnight, on the last legislative day bills are required to be approved by at least one chamber, the House passed a measure that could nearly double the pension of some lawmakers.

[The Atlanta Journal Constitution](#)

Pension bill wins its first approval as teachers shout their disgust, plan protests

March 7, 2018, By Daniel Desrochers

Teachers in at least eight counties plan to protest at schools Thursday after their shouts of disgust were not enough to stop a Senate committee Wednesday from approving a controversial plan to overhaul Kentucky's ailing public pension systems.

The pension bill would cut billions of dollars in benefits for teachers and other public workers over the next 20 years in an effort to eliminate an unfunded liability of more than \$40 billion.

[Lexington Herald Leader](#)

Oklahoma police pension offices searched as agents take next step in embezzlement investigation

March 7, 2018, By Nolan Clay

Steven K. Snyder is suspected of misusing thousands of dollars from operational funds on personal travel and other things, The Oklahoman has learned.

The state-run system has for decades provided pension benefits for Oklahoma police officers in retirement and disability benefits if injured. It has more than 9,000 members.

[News OK](#)

NATIONAL ECONOMIC, PENSION, INVESTMENT & BANKING INFORMATION

City socks away cash against 'pension cliff'

March 4, 2018, By Chad Livengood

In March of 2013, Detroit was hurtling toward a historic trip through bankruptcy court with over \$100 million in unpaid pension bills and a negative fund balance of \$72 million.

Five years and \$7 billion in debt reduction later, Detroit is poised to regain full control of its finances by next month after six years of state oversight following three consecutive years of balanced budgets and a fund balance exceeding \$500 million at the end of the 2017 fiscal year.

[Crain's Detroit Business](#)

Managers targeting alternatives firms

March 5, 2018, By Christine Williamson

Traditional money managers' buying spree among alternative investment firms has reached a pace not seen since before the global financial crisis.

Driven by a shrinking base of institutional investors, those investors' big swings to passive management and fee pressure on traditional strategies, money managers' keen appetite for the higher fees private market strategies can add to the bottom line has only intensified, sources said.

[Pensions & Investments](#)

Upping Rate of Return on Pension Investments Buys Murphy Breathing Room

March 5, 2018, By John Reitmeyer

Gov. Phil Murphy will present his first state budget to lawmakers in a little over a week, but he's already eliminated some of the suspense on the issue of public-employee pension funding.

Murphy's administration announced late last week that it is changing how the state will estimate future returns earned by the pension system's investments, a deep in-the-weeds policy shift that will result in a slightly more aggressive assumed rate of return being used during the 2019 fiscal year.

[NJ Spotlight](#)

IPERS: Pension thefts may be linked to Iowa state employees' salary database

March 5, 2018, By William Petroski

An investigation into thefts from Iowa's largest public employees' pension fund last fall suggests an online database with state employees' salaries may have been involved in compromising retirees' accounts, according to state officials.

The Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System, which serves employees of state and local governments and school districts, had hundreds of thousands of dollars stolen from 103 retirees' accounts in October. The system provides pension checks to 115,000 retirees who receive about \$1.8 billion in payments annually.

[Des Moines Register](#)

The Real Reason the Investor Class Hates Pensions

March 5, 2018, By David Webber

No issue in America today better illustrates the divergent interests of working Americans and the 1 percent than pension reform. Substantial empirical evidence shows that America's favored retirement vehicle — the 401(k), recently renounced by its own inventors — is grossly inadequate and will leave tens of millions of Americans with insufficient retirement assets. And yet states and cities are busy converting traditional pensions into these failing 401(k)s or equivalents, to the great benefit of money managers and the finance class.

[The New York Times](#)

Gary Cohn Resigns as White House Economic Adviser After Losing Tariffs Fight

March 6, 2018, By Nick Timiraos, Peter Nicholas and Liz Hoffman

Gary Cohn will resign from the White House after 14 months serving as President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, he said Tuesday, days after Mr. Trump surprised his senior staff by announcing steel and aluminum tariffs that Mr. Cohn had opposed.

During his time at the White House, Mr. Cohn oversaw a major revamp of the U.S. tax code and pushed a significant rewrite of financial rules. But the former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. executive stumbled in an uphill and months long fight to sway Mr. Trump against the tariffs.

[The Wall Street Journal](#)

US economy gains 313,000 jobs in February; wage growth slows

March 8, 2018, By Lucia Mutikani

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. job growth surged in February, recording its biggest increase in more than 1-1/2 years, but a slowdown in wage gains pointed to only a gradual increase in inflation this year.

Nonfarm payrolls jumped by 313,000 jobs last month, boosted by the largest rise in construction jobs since 2007, the Labor Department said on Friday. The payrolls gain was the biggest since July 2016 and triple the roughly 100,000 jobs the economy needs to create each month to keep up with growth in the working-age population.

[Reuters](#)

CALPERs Adopts CFA Transparency Guidelines

March 9, 2018, By Michael Katz

The \$351 billion California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) said it has adopted the Global Investment Performance Standards (GIPS) from the CFA Institute, an association of investment professionals.

The GIPS standards, which are voluntary and administered by the CFA, are based on the "full disclosure and fair representation of investment performance," according to the association. The standards have been adopted by more than 1,600 companies in over 40 international markets.

[Chief Investment Officer](#)

WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC, PENSION, INVESTMENT & BANKING INFORMATION

Canada Pension Is Backing Fledgling Hedge Funds

March 5, 2018, By Bei Hu

Canada's biggest pension plan aims to back as many as four fledgling hedge funds a year at a time when investors are balking at high fees and disappointing returns from the industry's biggest managers.

Canada Pension Plan Investment Board has made initial investments of as much as \$250 million each in five startups and young hedge funds under its Emerging Managers Program in the past two years, according to Poul Winslow, Toronto-based head of thematic investing and external portfolio management.

[Bloomberg](#)

European pension funds better at promoting gender equality, research finds

March 7, 2018, By Sophie Baker

European pension funds are doing better than sovereign wealth funds and central banks at promoting gender equality, new research finds.

However, the work by the Official Monetary and Financial Institutions Forum, which is a central banking, economic policy and public investment think tank, still found inequality among these funds.

[Pensions & Investments](#)

Best growth in decades, but much deja vu in Frankfurt and Tokyo

March 9, 2018, By Ross Finley

LONDON (Reuters) - While the synchronized global economic expansion is helping get people back into work and forcing interest rates to rise, there is a sense of deja vu brewing about two notable parts of the world.

The European and Japanese central banks are singing similar - and repetitive - policy tunes while facing the same challenges: the best economic growth in years but no sign of rising inflation, and doggedly strong currencies keeping a lid on prices.

[Reuters](#)

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