

TEXAS PENSION PLANS

ERS of Texas Lifts Fiscal 2021 Real Estate Investment Target

March 19, 2021, By MarketBeat Staff

“TreeHouse Foods, Inc. (NYSE:THS) - Equities researchers at William Blair increased their Q2 2021 earnings per share (EPS) estimates for TreeHouse Foods in a report released on Tuesday, March 16th.

“Teacher Retirement System of Texas purchased a new position in shares of TreeHouse Foods in the 4th quarter valued at about \$220,000.”

[MarketBeat](#)

Report: Eight of Texas’ Largest Cities Are in Poor Financial Health

March 20, 2021, By Bethany Blankley

“Eight of Texas’ largest cities are in the red, and one – Plano – ranks ninth-best for its financial health, according to a recent study.

“In its fifth annual Financial State of the Cities report, the Chicago-based nonprofit Truth in Accounting analyzed fiscal year 2019 annual financial reports of the 75 largest cities in the U.S. It evaluated balanced and unbalanced budgets, and calculated total debt, most of which comes from unfunded retirement benefits such as pension and retiree health care debt, excluding capital assets.”

[The Center Square](#)

Texas Employees Seeks to Replenish Pool of Core Equity Managers

March 22, 2021 By Rob Kozloski

“Texas Employees Retirement System, Austin, is searching for domestic large-cap equity managers...ERS is seeking multiple managers to create a select pool from which the retirement system will select managers to provide services on an as-needed basis.

“The RFP is available on the state's procurement website. Proposals are due at 5 p.m. CDT on April 17. Approval of the select pool by the asset class investment committee is scheduled for February 2022.”

[Pensions & Investments](#)

TEXAS ECONOMIC INDICATORS

Texas Looking Hard at Strategies for Better Broadband Access

March 19, 2021, By Jed Pressgrove

“Texas is rumbling with signs that its state-level approach to broadband must — and might — change.

“There is a growing feeling among many stakeholders that Texas, especially given how large it is, needs a state office dedicated to broadband strategies. Steven Johnson, a member of Gov. Greg Abbott’s Broadband Development Council, said an office would provide an essential planning piece for the gigantic state.”

[Government Technology](#)

Texas Opens COVID-19 Vaccine to Everyone 16 and Older on March 29th

March 23, 2021 By Karen Brooks Harper

“Everyone age 16 and older, regardless of occupation or health status, will be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine in Texas starting March 29, state health officials said Tuesday.

“The Texas Department of State Health Services is still asking providers to prioritize appointments for people who are 80 and older, and to prioritize walk-ins from anyone in that age group who shows up without an appointment.”

[Texas Tribune](#)

Economic Recovery Depends on the State’s Investment in Urban Areas

March 23, 2021 By LBJ School of Public Affairs Staff

“With 9 in 10 Texans living in urban areas, the new report calls for policies to address the most pressing economic development, housing and infrastructure issues facing the state’s urban metro areas.

“‘Texas’ metro areas must confront both their challenges and their opportunities to speed the state’s economic recovery,’ said Cullum Clark, director of the Bush Institute-SMU Economic Growth Initiative. ‘The pandemic has accelerated changes, including increased remote work, new corporate relocations, movement to suburban areas, and a greater demand for tech-enabled skills. As an urban state, we must be prepared.’”

[UT News](#)

NATIONAL PENSION, INVESTMENTS & LEGAL

Public Sector Employees Need a Push to Supplement Pensions

March 19, 2021 Rebecca Moore

“Researchers for the Center for Retirement Research (CRR) at Boston College say a simple lifecycle model predicts that employees will respond to a one-dollar decrease in their defined benefit (DB) plan expected benefits by increasing their supplemental savings by one dollar. In reality, however, they find that public sector employees do not respond in this way.”

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Emerging Passive Investing Risks a New Concern

March 22, 2021, By Sophie Baker

Investment consultants around the globe are asking their pension fund clients to think carefully about two very real concerns that have emerged in passive investing: ESG-related and concentration risks.

While addressing ESG concerns is a relatively new concept, sources said the issue of company concentration in passive portfolios is not new — it was discussed during the dot-com boom for technology stocks and also ahead of the global financial crisis in terms of financial stocks.

[Pensions & Investments](#)

Exclusive Coverage: CIOs Assess How Pension Fund Investors Can Be Successful After COVID-19

March 23, 2021, By Sarah Min

“Strong governance, flexibility over benefit structures, clever investment strategies, and maintaining savvy relations with investment trustees are among the best practices that can help pension funds do well in the post-pandemic era.

“A panel of four allocators and consultants discussed solutions in *CIO*’s virtual conference ‘Inside the Minds of CIOs.’ Speakers included pension investment chiefs from Maryland and New Mexico, as well as leaders from Backstop Solutions and Insight Investment.”

[Chief Investment Officer](#)

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