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News & Views



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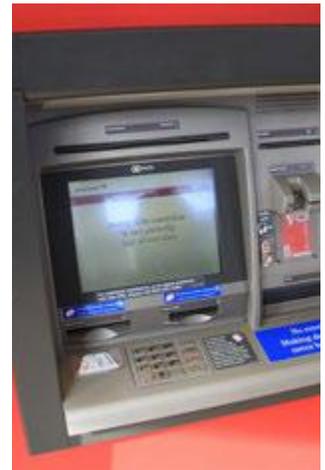
PERSONAL LINES

Personal insurance rates continue to go up. [MarketScout](#) reports rates of plus 6.5 percent in homeowners coverage for homes over \$1,000,000, largely due to CAT claims. According to the [Insurance Journal](#), A.M. Best predicts stability for U.S. personal lines in 2020.

A new study finds that consumers still aren't sure about self-driving and electric vehicles. A report from J.D. Power finds that confidence has not increased since the previous quarter, according to [Property Casualty 360](#).

Insurtech envisions a world in which cars are rolling ATMs with virtual currency. According to [Digital Insurance](#), drivers would earn money by sharing data in the proposed model.

Roughly 50 percent of drivers are interested in data-driven insurance discounts. [Digital Insurance](#) reports that customers who already have an app that collects driving data are the most interested in an insurance discount.



COMMERCIAL LINES

Insurers cautious about the liability risk presented by e-cigarettes. Cigarettes were once advertised as beneficial, reminds [Risk & Insurance](#). New concerns over the safety of vaping are causing some to wonder whether history will repeat itself.

AI equips hackers with new set of deepfake voice and image tools. [Property Casualty 360](#) reports that deepfake technology has already been used to trick at least one CEO into transferring more than \$243,000.

Management liability claims heat up in the post-#MeToo era. According to [Risk & Insurance](#), underwriters are starting to look at company culture in the face of new laws and higher claims.

Uber's \$640M fine accentuates need for proper worker classification in gig economy. [Risk & Insurance](#) reports that other companies in the gig economy could be hit with big lawsuits over worker classification.

LIFE INSURANCE

The IRS issues new long-term care insurance premium tax deductions. [Think Advisor](#) reports that premiums for qualified LTCI policies count as a medical expense, and the IRS has set new tax deductibility limits.

Life insurance may ease post-divorce estate planning. According to [Insurance News Net](#), recent divorcees can turn to life insurance for help with five important issues.

Disability insurance touted as the most valuable (and overlooked) workplace benefit. The SSA says that one in four adults will become disabled before reaching retirement age, but according to [CNBC](#), few people are prepared to be unable to earn a paycheck.



BENEFITS

IRS issues guidance for new W-4 forms. The new FAQ from the [IRS](#) provides information for employees and employers, including information on the new design and changes in withholding allowances.

Bipartisan bill may finally end surprise bills. According to [Health Leaders](#), the bill comes after intense industry pushback and a legislative standstill. However, hospitals worry that it could jeopardize access to care.

Forbes predicts top 8 healthcare disruptors for 2020. The [Forbes](#) list includes expected trends in AI, telehealth, annuity-based reimbursement models and “retailization.”

More employers take action on mental health in the workplace. [Property Casualty 360](#) reports that mental health conditions are contributing to other ailments, and employers must act to provide support and remove stigma. According to [Human Resource Executive](#), almost 90 percent of companies offered mental health benefits in 2019, a 26 percent increase.

HEFFERNAN INVESTMENT SERVICES

Instead of giving cash to grandchildren, consider the kiddie-Roth. [Think Advisor](#) suggests that grandparents consider opening an account that will give their grandchildren a head start on savings.

Study outlines common perceptions related to intergenerational wealth transfer. According to [Think Advisor](#), the wealth transfer from baby boomers has already started, but a report finds that many affluent families think the younger generations are unprepared.

Kiplinger provides tips to lower portfolio risk. [Kiplinger's](#) advice includes three tips that can increase the odds that your investment portfolio will be successful.



HEFFERNAN RETIREMENT SERVICES

Falling interest rates prompt changes to retirees' bond investment strategies. According to [Forbes](#), the annual return on bonds has dropped too low for most retirees, so a different approach to bonds is needed.

Video outlines ways to build retirement saving after 401(k) max-out. [Entrepreneur](#) shows alternative strategies that savers can use once they reach the contribution limits.

Retirees should pay attention to IRS red flags to avoid audit. Although only 0.59 percent of individual tax returns are audited, [Kiplinger](#) warns that 10 issues could increase the risk for retirees.

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