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Midyear tax planning - Grappling with tax law uncertainties



A substantial number of the tax cuts introduced under the last presidential administration are heading toward expiration at year end. But that doesn't necessarily mean they're going to expire — Congress could extend them. So, though it may seem early in the year to start thinking about tax planning, it's an important time to do so. This article discusses potential changes to marginal income tax rates and capital gains rates, as well as gift, estate and generation-skipping transfer (GST) tax rates. A sidebar discusses how the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act can benefit some businesses.

[Full Article](#)

How's your buy-sell agreement doing?



Many ownership transition issues can be resolved with a buy-sell agreement, which is a contract among business owners that sets parameters for the transfer of interests in the business. The contract determines the value of the business, or defines the valuation method to be used, and outlines when and to whom the interests can be sold. A buy-sell agreement can preserve or transition the management and control of a company in times of change, and can offset potential conflicts among owners and family members. It can also create a market for a withdrawing owner's business interest and establish a succession plan. There are two kinds of buy-sell agreements: cross-purchase and redemption.

[Full Article](#)

Moneylines: News Briefs for Businesses



This issue's "Moneylines" takes a look at how the new health care bill will affect companies' medical benefits; a survey showing that corporate accounting accuracy has improved; and a sharp increase in the number of companies that are getting into social networking.

[Full Article](#)

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Practical Perspectives: Key financial issues for you and your family - Retirement investor revisits his old friend the bond



When Harold, a working professional, started his portfolio, he made sure it was well balanced with a variety of stocks and bonds. But, when the economy swelled some years ago, he moved away from bonds into more aggressive stocks. It was a decision he lived to regret. In talking to his financial advisor, Harold was able to get a better idea of how to integrate bonds back into his portfolio. He learned about the benefits and drawbacks of U.S. government savings bonds, Treasury bills and notes, and state, municipal and corporate bonds.

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