



Contact: Zorast Wadia  
Milliman, Inc.  
Tel: +1 646 473 3315  
[zorast.wadia@milliman.com](mailto:zorast.wadia@milliman.com)

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Press Release**

## **Milliman analysis: Corporate pensions near 'full funding,' with funded ratio up to 98.4% in March**

**Milliman PFI funded status improves by \$62 billion thanks to third consecutive monthly increase in discount rates**

SEATTLE – APRIL 15, 2021 – Milliman, Inc., a premier global consulting and actuarial firm, today released the results of its latest Pension Funding Index (PFI), which analyzes the 100 largest U.S. corporate pension plans.

March was a great month for corporate pensions, with the funded status of plans improving by \$62 billion, thanks to a 24-basis-point increase in the monthly discount rate, from February's 2.88% to 3.12% as of March 31. As a result, the funded status deficit for these plans dropped to \$29 billion at month's end, compared to February's \$91 billion.

The Milliman 100 PFI asset value remained at \$1.760 trillion during March due to a relatively low monthly return of 0.37%. But the liability improvements propelled the funded ratio higher, climbing from 95.1% at the end of February to 98.4% as of March 31, 2021. The Milliman PFI plans are now less than two percentage points away from 'full funding' levels.

"Discount rates have increased now for three months in a row, bringing full funding within reach for the 100 largest U.S. corporate pension plans," said Zorast Wadia, author of the Milliman 100 PFI. "The last time these plans had a funded ratio over 100% was in 2008, just before the global financial crisis."

Looking forward, under an optimistic forecast with rising interest rates (reaching 3.57% by the end of 2021 and 4.17% by the end of 2022) and asset gains (10.2% annual returns), the funded ratio would climb to 110% by the end of 2021 and 127% by the end of 2022. Under a pessimistic forecast (2.67% discount rate at the end of 2021 and 2.07% by the end of 2022 and 2.2% annual returns), the funded ratio would decline to 92% by the end of 2021 and 84% by the end of 2022.

To view the complete Pension Funding Index, go to [www.milliman.com/pfi](http://www.milliman.com/pfi). To see the 2021 Milliman Pension Funding Study, go to [www.milliman.com/pfs](http://www.milliman.com/pfs). To receive regular updates of Milliman's pension funding analysis, contact us at [pensionfunding@milliman.com](mailto:pensionfunding@milliman.com).

### **About Milliman**

Milliman is among the world's largest providers of actuarial and related products and services. The firm has consulting practices in healthcare, property & casualty insurance, life insurance and financial services, and employee benefits. Founded in 1947, Milliman is an independent firm with offices in major cities around the globe. For further information, visit [milliman.com](http://milliman.com).



###