

Buck Exchange™

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Breaking the headlines down into manageable pieces

Everyone is inundated with news and information. This newsletter highlights key items that touch on what's important right now. And if you want more, it's the gateway to more in-depth information.

Insightful thinking

The fiscal cliff was averted...for now. Read Buck's [Legislate®](#) for the impact that the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 has on income and payroll taxes, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), retirement savings plans, and other fringe benefit plans.

We've all heard that this year's flu season is one of the worst on record. [This article](#) by Patty Curran of Buck covers the flu's economic impact on organizations, and explains how a workplace immunization program can help minimize its effects.

In the news

Health care costs continue to outpace general inflation. But Buck's latest National Health Care Trends Survey found an improved diagnosis: for the first time since 2001, projected cost increases are less than 10% for all plan types. Read our [press release](#) on the survey's findings. The [full survey report](#) is available for \$100.

What's going on

What if you could save up to 20% of your HR resources' time and redeploy them to critical projects? Would you be interested? Then [register now](#) for Buck's webinar: "HR Spend: What's the right direction?"

Are your employees and shareholders dissatisfied with your equity compensation programs, even though your investment is substantial? In our [latest podcast](#), Jim Sillery discusses how Buck's "equity effectiveness" measurement helps clients maximize the value delivered and perceived.

Join WebMD Health Services and Buck Consultants for a January 23 [webinar](#) on what the changes in Washington, DC could mean for workplace wellness programs. Buck's Tami Simon is presenting along with Missy Jaeger of WebMD Health Services.