start; The typical pension fund still assumes it will earn about 7.5 percent on its portfolio, generally suggesting that it needs to earn considerably more on the equities portion of its portfolio (and less on the fixed income portion). But between the July 1, 2015, start of the typical pension fund year and mid-February 2016, the stock market is down more than 8 percent. With more than $3.5 trillion of assets under investment, the shortfalls for the 2015 and 2016 fiscal years are likely to be substantial.

Although pension funds are slow to reflect these shortfalls in actuarially determined contributions, over the next several years requested contributions are likely to rise substantially. In what may