

# Major League Baseball Players Pension Plan Stats for 2017

This pension plan covers MLB players, coaches, trainers and managers. For every 43 days of active service in a season, they earn one quarter of a year of service (maximum 4 quarters per season); pension benefits are related to both service and pay.<sup>1</sup> For current players, the plan considers the "normal" retirement age to be 62. Early partial distributions are available to all vested former players, with adjustments to their normal retirement benefit accordingly.

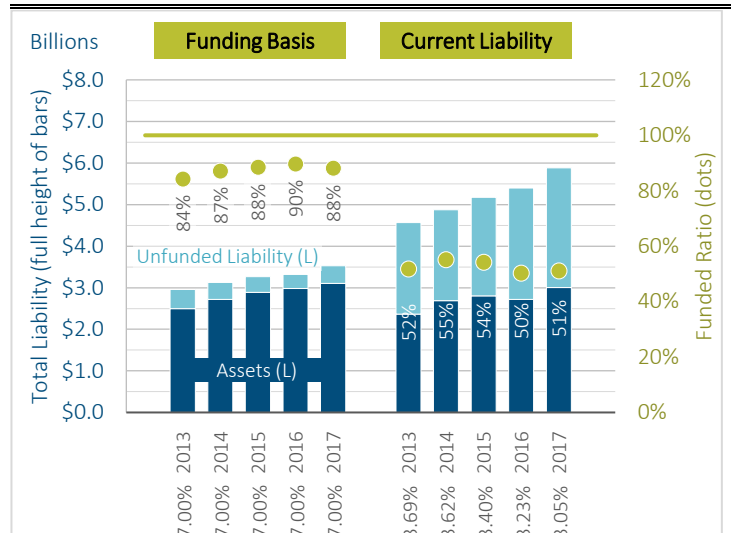
## Pension Plan Stats<sup>2</sup>

As of April 1, 2017

Active participants	1,037
Retirees receiving pension benefits	3,462
Inactive participants <sup>3</sup>	<u>4,316</u>
Total participants	8,815
Average approximate annual pension benefit \$51,000	
Total pension benefits paid for 2017	\$176 million
Contributions for 2017	\$146 million
Assets for minimum required funding <sup>4</sup> \$3.1 billion	
Liability for minimum required funding	\$3.5 billion
Unfunded liability for minimum funding	\$0.4 billion
Funded ratio (based on unrounded values)	88%
Market value of assets \$3.0 billion	
Current Liability <sup>5</sup>	\$5.9 billion
Unfunded Current Liability	\$2.9 billion
Funded ratio (based on unrounded values)	51%

## Plan Funded Status

2013–2017



## About Pension Finances

For funding purposes, the discount rate used to compute liabilities represents the long-term expected return on assets; this plan uses 7.00%. For funding purposes, the plan is 88% funded for 2017.

The discount rate for calculating Current Liability must be based on a 4-year average of 30-year Treasury securities; this plan's rate is 3.05% for 2017. Against the market value of assets, the plan's Current Liability is 51% funded for 2017.



For more Society of Actuaries' pension plan stats:  
<https://www.soa.org/research-reports/2016/2016-multiemployer-pension-plan-stats/>



For more Society of Actuaries' research on pension plans and retirement issues in general:  
<https://www.soa.org/research/topics/pension-res-report-list/>

<sup>1</sup> Internal Revenue Code §401(a)(17) limits compensation that may be used to calculate pension benefits. The limit is \$270,000 for 2017, increasing to \$275,000 for 2018 and \$280,000 for 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Based on publicly available Department of Labor Forms 5500 with accompanying schedules. Some figures may not add because of rounding.

<sup>3</sup> Former active participants who have not yet started to receive pension benefits.

<sup>4</sup> As reported by the plan's actuary on the plan's Form 5500 Schedule MB. Internal Revenue Code §§431–432 and accompanying regulations define minimum funding requirements for multiemployer pension plans. Asset value may reflect an actuarial smoothing method.

<sup>5</sup> Current Liability for multiemployer pension plans is defined by Internal Revenue Code §431(c)(6).

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