



# National Hockey League Players' Retirement Benefit Plan Stats

NHL players' defined benefit pension plan began in September 2012. With assets clearly exceeding liabilities, the plan is off to a good financial start.

## Pension Plan Stats<sup>1</sup>

As of April 30, 2014, the most recent publicly available data.

Active players	1,015
Retirees receiving pension benefits	0
Inactive players <sup>2</sup>	105
Total participants	1,120
Plan assets	\$78 million
Plan benefit liabilities <sup>3</sup>	\$54 million
Unfunded liability	none
Funded ratio	144%
NHL club contributions	\$38 million
Cost of benefits earned in 2013	\$25 million

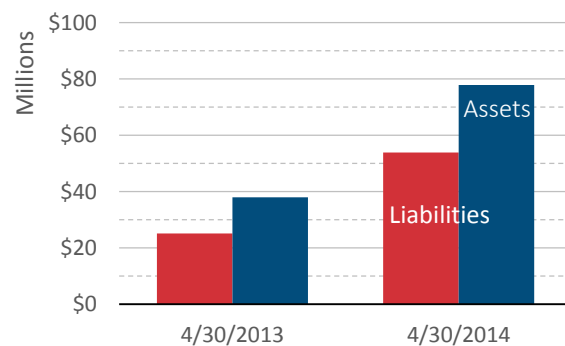
## About The Plan

Players earn one quarter of a year's benefits for every 20 credited games, and they are vested in their benefits as soon as they earn them.

A player who has earned 10 full years of benefits will have earned the maximum benefit payable by law.<sup>4</sup> The maximum benefit is \$210,000 for 2014. Benefits are prorated for players who earned less than 10 full years' worth of benefits.

The plan considers age 62 to be standard retirement age, but players may begin receiving retirement benefits as early as age 45 with reductions to reflect that they will receive them for a longer time.

## Plan Funded Status, 4/30/2014<sup>3</sup>



The NHL Players' Retirement Benefit Plan is a multiemployer pension plan. For more Society of Actuaries' research on multiemployer pension plans: <http://www.soa.org/Research/Research-Projects/Pension/research-2015-08-multiemployer-plan-stress-metrics.aspx>



For more Society of Actuaries' research on pension plans and retirement issues in general: <http://www.soa.org/research/research-projects/pension/default.aspx>

<sup>1</sup> The source of all data shown is the Department of Labor Form 5500 for the 2012 and 2013 plan years as filed. Some figures may not add because of rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Former active members who have not yet started to receive pension benefits; they may begin to receive monthly benefits as early as age 45.

<sup>3</sup> Liabilities for funding purposes are valued by the plan actuary with a discount rate of 6.5%.

<sup>4</sup> As defined by Internal Revenue Code section 415.

## Caveat and Disclaimer

This study is for informational purposes only and should not be construed as professional or financial advice. The SOA does not recommend or endorse any particular use of the information provided in this study. The SOA makes no warranty, express or implied, or representation whatsoever and assumes no liability in connection with the use or misuse of this study.

## About the Society of Actuaries

The Society of Actuaries (SOA), formed in 1949, is one of the largest actuarial professional organizations in the world, dedicated to serving 24,000 actuarial members and the public in the United States, Canada and worldwide. In line with the SOA Vision Statement, actuaries act as business leaders who develop and use mathematical models to measure and manage risk in support of financial security for individuals, organizations and the public.

The SOA supports actuaries and advances knowledge through research and education. As part of its work, the SOA seeks to inform public policy development and public understanding through research. The SOA aspires to be a trusted source of objective, data-driven research and analysis with an actuarial perspective for its members, industry, policymakers and the public. This distinct perspective comes from the SOA as an association of actuaries, who have a rigorous formal education and direct experience as practitioners as they perform applied research. The SOA also welcomes the opportunity to partner with other organizations in our work where appropriate.

The SOA has a history of working with public policymakers and regulators in developing historical experience studies and projection techniques as well as individual reports on health care, retirement and other topics. The SOA's research is intended to aid the work of policymakers and regulators and follows certain core principles:

**Objectivity:** The SOA's research informs and provides analysis that can be relied upon by other individuals or organizations involved in public policy discussions. The SOA does not take advocacy positions or lobby specific policy proposals.

**Quality:** The SOA aspires to the highest ethical and quality standards in all of its research and analysis. Our research process is overseen by experienced actuaries and non-actuaries from a range of industry sectors and organizations. A rigorous peer-review process ensures the quality and integrity of our work.

**Relevance:** The SOA provides timely research on public policy issues. Our research advances actuarial knowledge while providing critical insights on key policy issues, and thereby provides value to stakeholders and decision makers.

**Quantification:** The SOA leverages the diverse skill sets of actuaries to provide research and findings that are driven by the best available data and methods. Actuaries use detailed modeling to analyze financial risk and provide distinct insight and quantification. Further, actuarial standards require transparency and the disclosure of the assumptions and analytic approach underlying the work.

SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES  
475 N. Martingale Road, Suite 600  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60173  
[www.SOA.org](http://www.SOA.org)