



National Football League Players' Pension Plan Stats

2015

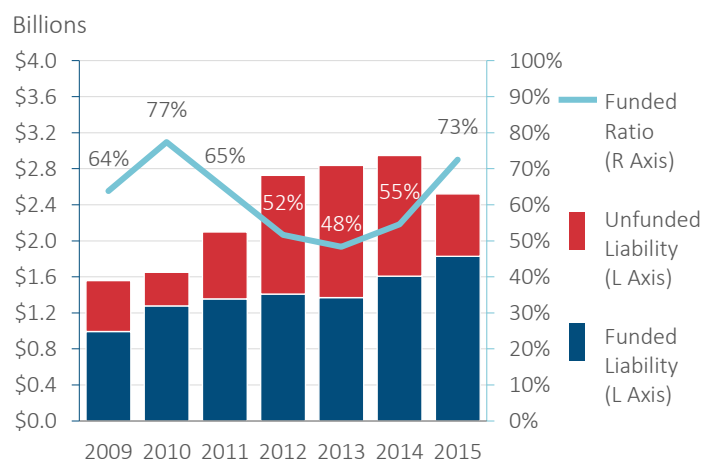
NFL players have been covered by this pension plan since 1962. The plan considers age 55 to be the standard retirement age. If a player waits until later to start his benefit, his benefit is actuarially increased accordingly. Players are fully vested after 3 credited seasons or 5 years of service in other capacities (for example, as a coach), but the amount of retirement benefits is based on the number of credited seasons.

Pension Plan Stats¹

As of April 1, 2015, the most recent publicly available data.

Active players	2,169
Retirees receiving pension benefits	4,403
Inactive players ²	<u>6,017</u>
Total participants	12,589
Average approx. annual pension benefit	\$34,000
Total pension benefits paid in 2015	\$146 million
Plan assets ³	\$1.8 billion
Plan benefit liabilities ³	\$2.5 billion
Unfunded liability	\$0.7 billion
Funded ratio	73%
NFL club contributions for 2015	\$266 million
Cost of benefits earned in 2015	\$ 36 million

Liability and Funded Status³




About Pension Finances

At the start of April 2015, the plan was 74% funded—up from 55% at April 2014 largely because benefit changes reduced liabilities by \$0.5 billion, leaving \$1.8 billion in assets against liabilities of \$2.5 billion.³ In the context of the red-yellow-green zone system commonly used with this type of pension plan,⁴ the plan is in the yellow zone and working toward the green zone.

During 2015, NFL clubs collectively contributed \$266 million, compared to \$306 million for 2014. Of the \$266 million contributed for 2015, \$36 million covered the cost of benefits that active players earned during 2015, leaving \$230 million to be applied toward the funding shortfall of \$700 million.

 The Bert Bell / Pete Rozelle NFL Player Retirement Plan is a multiemployer pension plan. For more information on Society of Actuaries' research on sports league multiemployer pension plans: <https://www.soa.org/Research/Research-Projects/Pension/2016-multiemployer-pension-plan-stats.aspx>

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

¹ The source of all data shown is the Department of Labor Form 5500 as filed for the Bert Bell / Pete Rozelle NFL Player Retirement Plan. Some figures may not add because of rounding.

² Vested former active members who have not yet started to receive pension benefits; they may begin to receive monthly benefits at age 45.

³ As calculated as of the start of the plan year by the plan's actuary for funding purposes and reported on the plan's Form 5500. Liabilities are computed using a 7.25% discount rate and the RP-2000 Mortality Table projected to 2006; the projection scale used is not reported.

⁴ Internal Revenue Code §431 defines the funding status zones.

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