



Major League Baseball Players Pension Plan Stats

2015

The Major League Baseball Players Pension Plan covers players, coaches, trainers and managers from all of the Major League Baseball teams. Having started on April 1, 1947, it is the oldest pension plan by 15 years in the United States for professional sports.

Pension Plan Stats, 4/1/2015¹

Active players Retirees receiving pension benefits Inactive players ² Total participants	1,087 3,264 4,013 8,364
Average approx. annual pension benefit Total pension benefits paid in 2015	\$50,000 \$163 million
Plan assets ³ Plan benefit liabilities ³ Unfunded liability Funded ratio	\$2.9 billion \$3.3 billion \$0.4 billion 88%
MLB club contributions for 2015 Cost of benefits earned in 2015	\$143 million \$ 34 million

Liability and Funded Status³



About Pension Finances

At the start of April 2015, the plan was 88% funded, with \$2.9 billion in assets against projected benefit liabilities for retired, active and inactive members of \$3.3 billion.³ In the context of the red-yellow-green (stoplight colors) zone system commonly used with this type of pension plan, the MLB plan is in the green zone.⁴

For the 2015 plan year, MLB clubs collectively contributed \$143 million, as they have annually since 2012. Of the \$143 million contributed for 2015, \$34 million covered the cost of benefits that active players earned during the year, leaving \$109 million to be applied toward the funding shortfall of \$400 million.



The MLB Players Pension Plan is a multiemployer pension plan. For more Society of Actuaries' research on sports league multiemployer pension plans:

http://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:

http://www.soa.org/research/research-projects/pension/default.aspx

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 $^{^{1}}$ The source of all data shown is the Department of Labor Form 5500. 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 62.

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 7.00% discount rate and the RP-2000 mortality table with white collar adjustment, projected with scale AA; projection length varies by valuation date.

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

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 more than 27,000 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.

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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.

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