



# National Football League Players' Pension Plan Stats for 2017

NFL players have been covered by this pension plan since 1962. 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. The plan considers age 55 to be the standard retirement age. If a player waits until later to start his benefit, it is increased to reflect that he will likely receive it for a shorter time.

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

As of April 1, 2017

Active participants	2,235
Retirees receiving pension benefits	4,766
Inactive participants <sup>2</sup>	6,190
Total participants	13,191
Average approximate annual pension benefit	\$32,000
Total pension benefits paid for 2017	\$151 million
Contributions for 2017	\$241 million
Assets for minimum required funding <sup>3</sup>	\$2.2 billion
Liability for minimum required funding	\$2.7 billion
Unfunded liability for minimum funding	\$0.5 billion
Funded ratio (based on unrounded values)	83%
Market value of assets	\$2.2 billion
Current Liability <sup>4</sup>	\$5.9 billion
Unfunded Current Liability	\$3.7 billion
Funded ratio (based on unrounded values)	37%

## Plan Funded Status

2012–2017



## About Pension Finances

For funding purposes, the discount rate used to compute liabilities represents the long-term expected return on assets; this plan uses 7.25%. For funding purposes, the plan is 83% 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 37% 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> Based on publicly available Department of Labor Forms 5500 with accompanying schedules. Some figures may not add because of rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Former active participants who have not yet started to receive pension benefits.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> Current Liability for multiemployer pension plans is defined by Internal Revenue Code §431(c)(6).

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