



# Teamsters Pension Trust Fund

## *of Philadelphia and Vicinity*

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6981 N. PARK DRIVE, SUITE 400 • PENNSAUKEN, NJ 08109 • (856) 382-2400  
TOLL FREE 1-800-523-2846 • FAX (856) 382-2401 • [www.teamsterfunds.com](http://www.teamsterfunds.com)

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TO: Participants and Employers

FROM: Board of Trustees

DATE: April 30, 2016

RE: **Important Information about Your Pension Plan**

This packet contains important information about the financial status of the Teamsters Pension Plan of Philadelphia & Vicinity, including two legally-required notices:

- Notice of Endangered Status for the 2016 Plan Year
- Annual Funding Notice for the 2015 Plan Year

We know that these technical, required notices about benefits can be difficult to understand. This cover letter is intended to explain what the enclosed notices mean to you in easy-to-understand terms.

### **Background**

Pension plans like the Teamsters Pension Plan of Philadelphia & Vicinity are designed to accumulate contributions and invest them so that sufficient assets are available to pay participant pensions at retirement. It is critical that the plan be funded properly to continue providing benefits for participants. The Trustees of the plan engage consultants, including actuaries, who certify that the plan is properly funded under federal law using a series of commonly-used assumptions such as mortality rates and long-term interest rates that predict future investment performance.

As you know, during 2008 and the beginning of 2009, the US stock market and other global financial markets declined more sharply than for any time period we have experienced since the Great Depression. While the plan had diversified its assets among various types of investments, it could not avoid being affected by the severe economic downturn. Like other pension plans, the plan experienced a significant loss of assets. Since that time there has been some recovery. Initial estimates of investment returns for the 2015 plan year, however, were .5%, which are less than the assumed actuarial investment return of 7.5%. Our actuaries project that our plan's funded percentage at the start of 2016 is 72.7%. While there has been some improvement overall in the past few years, the plan has not completely recovered from the investment losses in 2008 and early 2009, which will continue to have an impact on plan funding for several more years.

As a result of the investment losses, the status of the plan became what is called "endangered" for 2010. Despite the subsequent improvement in the market and the adoption on funding relief in 2011, the plan has been and continues to be "endangered" for 2016. It is important to note that the plan changes that were announced in December, 2010 as a result of the plan first becoming endangered remain in place.

## **What It Means to Be Endangered or Seriously Endangered**

Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA), within the first 90 days of each plan year, the plan's actuary must certify whether the plan is in one of the following categories: endangered, seriously endangered, or critical status. In general, to perform this calculation, the actuary must determine if a plan's funded ratio is at least 80% and whether the plan will be unable to meet the minimum required funding standards in any of the next 7 years. The actuary must also project the plan's assets, benefit costs, contributions, and unfunded liability to determine if the plan will have enough money to pay benefits when due, or if the plan is expected to run out of assets.

There are two tests that indicate whether a plan is in endangered status. If a plan fails either test, it is considered endangered. If it fails both tests it is considered seriously endangered.

- The first test is based on the plan's funded percentage at the beginning of the year. In this test, the plan's assets are divided by the value of all plan participants' benefits earned as of that date. If this ratio is over 80%, the test is passed. **For the 2016 actuarial certification, the plan's PPA funded percentage is 72.7%.**
- The second test looks at the future of the plan. A projection is made to determine whether the level of expected contributions over the next seven years is enough to prevent the plan from having a minimum funding shortfall during that period. **For the 2016 actuarial certifications the actuary has projected that the plan will be able to meet the minimum required funding standards over the next seven years.**

Since the Plan failed the first test for 2016, but passed the second test, it was considered endangered.

## **What It Means for You**

Because the actuaries had certified the plan was endangered for the plan year beginning January 1, 2010, the Board of Trustees needed to take action in late 2010 to help ensure the plan's long-term financial health. Since the Trustees determined that benefit reductions were necessary, you received a separate notice identifying and explaining the effect of those reductions at that time. Please note that only benefits going forward were affected – benefits currently being paid could not be reduced.

Another rule the plan must follow is to provide participants and beneficiaries, bargaining parties, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the Secretary of Labor with the enclosed Notice of Endangered Status. You are receiving this notice within the 30-day requirement set forth by PPA.

## **About the Annual Funding Notice**

The enclosed Annual Funding Notice provides detailed information about the status of the plan for the year beginning January 1, 2015. Federal law requires pension plans to share this financial information with participants every year. The Notice mandated by federal law and regulation also requires that we include language about plans in reorganization and insolvent plans, even though this Plan is not in reorganization, is not insolvent and is not expected to be insolvent in the foreseeable future.

## **Our Continuing Commitment**

The Teamsters Pension Plan of Philadelphia & Vicinity has been providing benefits for plan participants without interruption for well over 50 years. In 2015, benefit payments totaling over \$182 million were paid to over 13,000 retired participants and beneficiaries. The Trustees understand this is a time of uncertainty and concern due to the economic environment, and continue to work with the plan's professional advisers to carefully monitor the plan's investments and benefit structure in an effort to provide benefits for years to come. The Trustees are committed to operating the plan on a financially sound basis and meeting applicable federal funding requirements.

## **Where to Get More Information**

Please submit any questions in writing addressed to the Teamsters Pension Plan of Philadelphia & Vicinity at 6981 North Park Drive, Suite 400, Pennsauken, NJ 08109. The Administrative Office may refer technical questions to the plan's actuary, but will reply to all questions received in writing.

## ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE

### For Teamsters Pension Plan of Philadelphia & Vicinity

#### Introduction

This notice includes important information about the funding status of your multiemployer pension plan (the “Plan”). It also includes general information about the benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (“PBGC”), a federal insurance agency. All traditional pension plans (called “defined benefit pension plans”) must provide this notice every year regardless of their funding status. This notice does not mean that the Plan is terminating. It is provided for informational purposes and you are not required to respond in any way. This notice is required by federal law. This notice is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015 (“Plan Year”).

#### How Well Funded Is Your Plan

The law requires the administrator of the Plan to tell you how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the “funded percentage.” The Plan divides its assets by its liabilities on the Valuation Date for the plan year to get this percentage. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. The Plan’s funded percentage for the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years is shown in the chart below. The chart also states the value of the Plan’s assets and liabilities for the same period.

<b>Funded Percentage</b>			
	2015 Plan Year	2014 Plan Year	2013 Plan Year
Valuation Date	January 1, 2015	January 1, 2014	January 1, 2013
Funded Percentage	71.7%	71.4%	71.2%
Value of Assets	\$1,660,724,608	\$1,639,532,264	\$1,613,462,019
Value of Liabilities	\$2,316,059,299	\$2,296,717,634	\$2,267,062,545

#### Year-End Fair Market Value of Assets

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Valuation Date. They also are “actuarial values.” Actuarial values differ from market values in that they do not fluctuate daily based on changes in the stock or other markets. Actuarial values smooth out those fluctuations and can allow for more predictable levels of future contributions. Despite the fluctuations, market values tend to show a clearer picture of a plan’s funded status at a given point in time. The asset values in the chart below are market values and are measured on the last day of the Plan Year. The chart also includes the year-end market value of the Plan’s assets for each of the two preceding plan years.

	December 31, 2015	December 31, 2014	December 31, 2013
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$1,551,746,000	\$1,584,382,658	\$1,554,834,427

#### Endangered, Critical, or Critical and Declining Status

Under federal pension law, a plan generally is in “endangered” status if its funded percentage is less than 80 percent. A plan is in “critical” status if the funded percentage is less than 65 percent (other factors may also apply). A plan is in “critical and declining” status if it is in critical status and is projected to become insolvent (run out of money to pay benefits) within 15 years (or within 20 years if a special rule applies). If a pension plan enters endangered status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a funding improvement plan. Similarly, if a pension plan enters critical status or critical and declining status, the trustees of the plan are required to adopt a rehabilitation plan. Funding improvement and rehabilitation plans establish steps and benchmarks for pension plans to improve their funding status over a specified period of time. The plan sponsor of a plan in critical and declining status may apply for approval to amend the plan to reduce current and future payment obligations to participants and beneficiaries.

The Plan was in “endangered” status in the Plan Year ending December 31, 2015 because the January 1, 2015 funded percentage (plan assets as a percentage of liabilities) is less than 80%. In an effort to improve the Plan’s funding situation, the trustees adopted a funding improvement plan at their August 12, 2010 meeting. The plan that was

adopted is expected to help the Plan emerge from endangered status by the end of its funding improvement period through various benefit reductions and supplemental contribution increases. You may get a copy of the Plan's "funding improvement plan", any update to such plan and the actuarial and financial data that demonstrate any action taken by the Plan toward fiscal improvement. You may get this information by contacting the plan administrator.

Since the Plan is in endangered status for the plan year ending December 31, 2016, separate notification of that status has been provided in this packet of information.

### **Participant Information**

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the valuation date was 26,143. Of this number, 7,744 were current employees, 13,416 were retired and receiving benefits, and 4,983 were retired or no longer working for the employer and have a right to future benefits.

### **Funding & Investment Policies**

Every pension plan must have a procedure to establish a funding policy for plan objectives. A funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The funding policy of the Plan is to maintain a balance such that plan resources will fund plan obligations. Plan resources include accumulated plan assets plus expected future contributions and investment income. Plan obligations are benefit payments to current and future retirees and beneficiaries, including benefits earned to date as well as benefits expected to be earned in the future. Plan obligations also include expected expense paid from plan assets. In implementing this funding policy, the plan Trustees will work with professional advisors to adopt a prudent investment policy and to determine the actuarial value of plan obligations. Over time, the Trustees may adjust plan benefits in response to investment returns and other plan experience, or seek additional contributions from the bargaining units.

Pension plans also have investment policies. These generally are written guidelines or general instructions for making investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan has a target allocation among asset categories of 45% domestic equity, 10% international equity, 15% fixed income, 10% real estate and 20% in alternative investments.

Under the Plan's investment policy, the Plan's assets were allocated among the following categories of investments, as of the end of the Plan Year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

<b><u>Asset Allocations</u></b>	<b><u>Percentage</u></b>
Stocks	59.0%
Investment grade debt instruments	21.2%
High-yield debt instruments	1.1%
Real estate	3.9%
Other	14.8%

### **Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report**

Pension plans must file annual reports with the US Department of Labor. The report is called the "Form 5500." These reports contain financial and other information. You may obtain an electronic copy of your Plan's annual report by going to [www.efast.dol.gov](http://www.efast.dol.gov) and using the search tool. Annual reports also are available from the US Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling (202) 693-8673. Or you may obtain a copy of the Plan's annual report by making a written request to the plan administrator, Adam H. Garner, 6981 North Park Drive, Suite 400, Pennsauken, NJ 08109. Annual reports do not contain personal information, such as the amount of your accrued benefit. You may contact your plan administrator if you want information about your accrued benefits. Your plan administrator is identified below under "Where to Get More Information."

## **Summary of Rules Governing Insolvent Plans**

Federal law has a number of special rules that apply to financially troubled multiemployer plans that become insolvent, either as ongoing plans or plans terminated by mass withdrawal.

The plan administrator is required by law to include a summary of these rules in the annual funding notice. A plan is insolvent for a plan year if its available financial resources are not sufficient to pay benefits when due for that plan year. An insolvent plan must reduce benefit payments to the highest level that can be paid from the plan's available resources. If such resources are not enough to pay benefits at the level specified by law (see "Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC" below), the plan must apply to the PBGC for financial assistance. The PBGC will loan the plan the amount necessary to pay benefits at the guaranteed level. Reduced benefits may be restored if the plan's financial condition improves.

A plan that becomes insolvent must provide prompt notice of its status to participants and beneficiaries, contributing employers, labor unions representing participants, and PBGC. In addition, participants and beneficiaries also must receive information regarding whether, and how, their benefits will be reduced or affected, including loss of a lump sum option.

### **Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC**

The maximum benefit that the PBGC guarantees is set by law. Only benefits that you have earned a right to receive and that cannot be forfeited (called vested benefits) are guaranteed. There are separate insurance programs with different benefit guarantees and other provisions for single-employer plans and multiemployer plans. Your Plan is covered by PBGC's multiemployer program. Specifically, the PBGC guarantees a monthly benefit payment equal to 100 percent of the first \$11 of the Plan's monthly benefit accrual rate, plus 75 percent of the next \$33 of the accrual rate, times each year of credited service. The PBGC's maximum guarantee, therefore, is \$35.75 per month times a participant's years of credited service.

*Example 1:* If a participant with 10 years of credited service has an accrued monthly benefit of \$600, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the PBGC guarantee would be determined by dividing the monthly benefit by the participant's years of service ( $\$600/10$ ), which equals \$60. The guaranteed amount for a \$60 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus \$24.75 ( $.75 \times \$33$ ), or \$35.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit is \$357.50 ( $\$35.75 \times 10$ ).

*Example 2:* If the participant in Example 1 has an accrued monthly benefit of \$200, the accrual rate for purposes of determining the guarantee would be \$20 (or  $\$200/10$ ). The guaranteed amount for a \$20 monthly accrual rate is equal to the sum of \$11 plus \$6.75 ( $.75 \times \$9$ ), or \$17.75. Thus, the participant's guaranteed monthly benefit would be \$177.50 ( $\$17.75 \times 10$ ).

The PBGC guarantees pension benefits payable at normal retirement age and some early retirement benefits. In addition, the PBGC guarantees qualified preretirement survivor benefits (which are preretirement death benefits payable to the surviving spouse of a participant who dies before starting to receive benefit payments). In calculating a person's monthly payment, the PBGC will disregard any benefit increases that were made under a plan within 60 months before the earlier of the plan's termination or insolvency (or benefits that were in effect for less than 60 months at the time of termination or insolvency). Similarly, the PBGC does not guarantee benefits above the normal retirement benefit, disability benefits not in pay status, or non-pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay.

For additional information about the PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees, go to the Multiemployer Page on PBGC's website at [www.pbgc.gov/multiemployer](http://www.pbgc.gov/multiemployer). Please contact your employer or plan administrator for specific information about your pension plan or pension benefit. PBGC does not have that information. See "Where to Get More Information" below.

### **Where to Get More Information**

For more information about this notice, you may contact Teamsters Pension Plan of Philadelphia & Vicinity at either (800) 523-2846 or (856) 382-2400, 6981 North Park Drive, Suite 400, Pennsauken, NJ 08109. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001 and the plan sponsor's name and employer identification number or "EIN" is Board of Trustees of Teamsters Pension Trust Fund of Philadelphia & Vicinity and 23-1511735.

**Notice of Endangered Status for the 2016 Plan Year  
for  
Teamsters Pension Plan of Philadelphia & Vicinity**

This is to inform you that on March 30, 2016 the Plan actuary certified to the U.S. Department of the Treasury and to the Plan sponsor that the Plan is deemed to be in endangered status for the Plan year beginning January 1, 2016. Federal law requires that you receive this notice.

**Endangered Status**

The Plan is considered to be in endangered status because the January 1, 2016 funded percentage (plan assets as a percentage of liabilities) is less than 80%. More specifically, the Plan's actuary has determined that the January 1, 2016 funded percentage is 72.7%. An accumulated funding deficiency is not projected to occur at the end of the 2016 Plan year or at the end of any of the next following six Plan years.

**Funding Improvement Plan and Reduction in Future Benefits**

Federal law requires that pension plans in endangered status adopt a funding improvement plan aimed at improving the financial health of the plan. The law also requires the Plan to furnish the bargaining parties with proposed schedules that modify future contributions and/or benefit accrual rates in order to meet certain benchmarks for improving the Plan's financial condition over a period of years. The Trustees adopted a funding improvement plan at their August 12, 2010 meeting. The plan that was adopted is expected to help the Plan emerge from endangered status by the end of the funding improvement period through various benefit reductions and supplemental contribution increases.

**Where to Get More Information**

For more information about this Notice, contact Teamsters Pension Plan of Philadelphia & Vicinity at (800) 523-2846 or (856) 382-2400, 6981 North Park Drive, Suite 400, Pennsauken, NJ 08109. You have a right to receive a copy of the funding improvement plan from the Plan.

**ATTENTION  
TEAMSTERS PENSION PLAN PARTICIPANTS:**

**IMPORTANT TEAMSTERS PENSION PLAN  
NOTICES ENCLOSED WITH THIS MAILING**

**PLEASE REVIEW UPON RECEIPT**

Teamsters Pension Trust Fund of  
Philadelphia and Vicinity  
6981 N. Park Drive, Suite 400  
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