



**PLUMBERS & PIPEFITTERS NATIONAL PENSION FUND**

103 Oronoco Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2047  
(703) 739-9020 · (800) 638-7442 · Fax (703) 739-9017

<http://www.ppnpf.org>

ADMINISTRATOR: TONI C. INSCOE

**To: Participating UA Local Unions and Contributing Employers**  
**From: Board of Trustees of the Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund**  
**Date: September 17, 2019**  
**Re: Report of Summary Plan Information for the 2017 Plan Year (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018)**

In accordance with ERISA §104(d), the Trustees of the Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund (the “Plan”) are providing the following Report of Summary Plan Information to unions that represent Plan participants and to employers obligated to contribute to the Plan. Except as otherwise specified, all information in this report pertains to the 2017 Plan Year, which ran from July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018. If you have any questions about this report, please write or call the Fund office.

**1. Contribution Schedule and Benefit Formula Information**

Contributions to the Plan are made to a trust fund under an Agreement and Declaration of Trust, effective June 23, 1968, as restated and amended. There are a variety of hourly contribution rates, which are set by the various collective bargaining agreements and other participation agreements requiring employer contributions to the Plan.

Plan benefits are based on the number of years of pension credit, when that pension credit was earned, age at retirement, the contribution rates in effect while in employment covered by the Plan, and the applicable benefit schedule. The Plan document sets forth a variety of benefit schedules, which set forth monthly normal pension amounts per year of pension credit that vary based on hourly contribution rates. Which schedule applies depends in part on when the credit was earned.

For periods prior to January 1, 2005, the benefit schedules were based upon the final contribution rate that applied for the last year in which the participant accrued a year of service, subject to various limitations. Effective January 1, 2005, the amount of a Participant’s benefit is fixed for each year at the contribution rate for that year. The different Benefit Schedules are also applied based on responses of the bargaining parties to contribution rate increase requests from the Board of Trustees to comply with additional funding needs and implementation of the Funding Improvement Plan.

There were no changes in the benefit schedules during the 2017 Plan Year. More detail about the benefit schedules and the benefit formula rules can be found in the Summary Plan Description.

**2. Number of Employers Obligated to Contribute to the Plan**

For the Annual Report (Form 5500), “employers obligated to contribute to the plan” is defined to include employers that (1) were party to one or more collective bargaining agreements requiring contributions to the Plan, or (2) otherwise may have been subject to withdrawal liability to the Plan. For the 2017 Plan Year, 5,323 employers were obligated to contribute to the Plan under this definition.

**3. Employers Contributing More Than 5%**

During the 2017 Plan Year, the Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund did not have any employers that contributed more than 5% of the total contributions to the Plan.

**4. Participants for Whom no Pension Contributions were made due to their last Employers having withdrawn from the Pension Plan**

The chart below identifies the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by the participants’ last employer during the 2017, 2016 and 2015 Plan Years due to the employers having withdrawn from the Pension Plan as reported on line 15 of Schedule R to the Form 5500:

	7/1/17-6/30/18 Plan Year	7/1/16-6/30/17 Plan Year	7/1/15-6/30/16 Plan Year
<b>Participants</b>	2,122	2,128	2,083

## **5. Plan's Funding Status**

Under the federal law known as the Pension Protection Act of 2006 ("PPA"), a pension plan generally will be considered to be in "endangered" status if, at the beginning of the plan year, the funded percentage is less than 80%. The Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund was certified by the Plan actuary as being in endangered status under the PPA as of July 1, 2017 because its funded percentage was estimated to be 76.32% at the time of certification.

To comply with the PPA and improve the Plan's funding status, the Board of Trustees adopted and communicated a Funding Improvement Plan ("FIP") in April 2010. The FIP is a series of actions formulated to reach PPA benchmarks for increases in the funded percentage within prescribed time periods. The FIP provided bargaining parties with the option of either increasing their contribution rate while maintaining the current level of benefits or having the benefit accrual level reduced. The FIP has been fully implemented, and the Plan's actuary has certified that the Plan is on track to meet the prescribed progress under the FIP.

You may contact the Fund Office in writing to request a copy of the FIP and the actuarial and financial data that demonstrate actions taken by the plan toward fiscal improvement. The FIP is also available on the Plan's website, [www.ppnpf.org](http://www.ppnpf.org). From the Home Page, click on the *Plan Documents and Information* link.

## **6. Number of Employers that Withdrew in Preceding Plan Year**

During the 2016 Plan Year (7/1/16 – 6/30/17), which was the preceding Plan Year to the 2017 Plan Year, 12 employers withdrew from the Plan. As reported on Schedule R of the Form 5500, the actual or estimated amount of employer withdrawal liability assessed against employers that withdrew during that year was \$14,052.00.

## **7. Plan Merger/Transfer Information**

No pension plans were merged into the Plumbers and Pipefitters National Pension Fund during the 2017 Plan Year nor were the assets and liabilities of another plan transferred to the Plan during that year.

## **8. Amortization Extension or Shortfall Funding Method Information**

The minimum funding requirements reflect the automatic five-year amortization extension that the Board of Trustees adopted for the Plan Year beginning July 1, 2009. The Plan did not use the shortfall funding method (as described in ERISA §305) for the 2017 Plan Year.

## **9. Right to Additional Information**

Any contributing employer or participating union under the Plan may request from the Plan Administrator, in writing, a copy of the following documents, but not more than one time during any 12-month period:

- The Plan's most recent Form 5500
- The Plan's Summary Plan Description and any summaries of material modifications
- The full text of the Plan Document, and
- The Funding Improvement Plan.

The Administrator may charge a reasonable amount to cover the cost of providing the document requested. These documents (other than the Form 5500) are also available on the Plan's website, <http://www.ppnpf.org/>. From the Home Page, click on the *Plan Documents and Information* link.