

ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE  
For  
Airconditioning and Refrigeration Industry Retirement Trust Fund

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, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023 (“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.

Funded Percentage			
	2023 Plan Year	2022 Plan Year	2021 Plan Year
Valuation Date	January 1, 2023	January 1, 2022	January 1, 2021
Funded Percentage	93.1%	92.5%	89.4%
Value of Assets	\$339,600,548	\$331,550,890	\$308,695,861
Value of Liabilities	\$364,431,647	\$358,312,200	\$345,271,086

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, 2023	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021
Fair Market Value of Assets	\$322,935,376	\$306,010,941	\$354,822,963

Please note that the market value as of December 31, 2023 is based on unaudited financials and is subject to change.

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

Under federal pension law, a plan generally is in “endangered” status if its funded percentage of the plan 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 not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status in the Plan Year.

### Participant Information

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the valuation date was 3,398. Of this number, 1,338 were current employees, 1,093 were retired and receiving benefits, and 967 were retired or separated from service and entitled 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 as follows:

The applicable collective bargaining agreements stipulate the contribution rates for determining contributions to fund the Plan’s benefits. Actual contributions are thus a function of these negotiated contribution rates multiplied by the covered hours worked by participants. It is intended that the actual contributions will be sufficient to fund each year’s benefit accrual and also amortize any unfunded liabilities over 15 years measured from each January 1 valuation date.

Benefit improvements are permitted to the extent that a 15-year actuarial valuation forecast shows (a) an equal or higher funded percentage at the end of the 15-year forecast period than at the beginning of the forecast period and (b) a projected funded percentage of at least 110% at the end of the forecast period, after consideration of the benefit improvement and after consideration of any contribution rate increases necessary to help fund the proposed benefit improvement. Permitted benefit improvements apply retrospectively to service already credited, however, the Trustees may decide to improve benefits for prospective service for up to no more than three years from the effective date of the benefit improvement.

Despite the policy described in the preceding paragraph, certain de minimis benefit improvements are permitted if the 15-year actuarial cost of the improvement is less than \$0.25 per hour and certain other conditions are satisfied.

Benefit reductions and/or contribution increases (subject to collective bargaining) are required if the Plan is projected to enter endangered or critical status within five years.

Pension Plans also have investment policies. These generally are written guidelines or general instructions for making investment management decisions. As of December 31, 2023 target allocations of the investment policy of the Plan are:

	<b>Target</b>	<b>Range</b>
Public Global Equity	41%	35% - 65%
Private Global Equity	9%	4% - 14%
High Yield Bonds/Bank Loans	6%	2% - 10%
Emerging Markets Debt	2%	0% - 4%
Real Estate	8%	3% - 13%
Gold	2%	0% - 4%
Natural Resources	3%	0% - 6%
Infrastructure	2%	0% - 4%
TIPS	6%	2% - 10%
Investment Grade Bonds	11%	6% - 21%
Long-term Government Bonds	5%	0% - 10%
Hedge Funds	5%	0% - 10%
Cash	0%	0% - 5%

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>Asset Allocations</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1. Stocks	<u>44.1</u>
2. Investment grade debt	<u>23.9</u>
3. High yield debt	<u>8.1</u>
4. Real estate	<u>5.3</u>
5. Other	<u>18.6</u>

For information about the plan’s investment in any of the following types of investments as described in the chart above – common/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, master trust investment accounts, or 103-12 investment entities – contact Kristi Wagner, Administrator, at (714) 917-6116 or [kwagner@acrtrust.org](mailto:kwagner@acrtrust.org).

### Events Having a Material Effect on Assets or Liabilities

By law this notice must contain a written explanation of new events that have a material effect on plan liabilities or assets. This is because such events can significantly impact the funding condition of a plan. For the plan year beginning on January 1, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2024, there are no expected events with a material effect on assets or liabilities.

### 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 research tool. Annual reports are also available from the US Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration’s Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, 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. 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 a 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 can not 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 the 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 more 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 About Your Plan," below.

### Where to Get More Information

For additional information about this notice, you may contact Kristi Wagner, Administrator, at (714) 917-6116 or [kwagner@acrtrust.org](mailto:kwagner@acrtrust.org). 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, Airconditioning and Refrigeration Industry Retirement Trust Fund, 95-6035386.