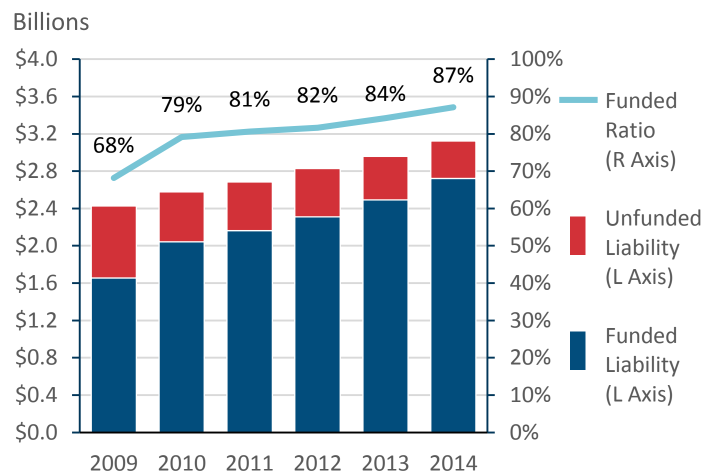
Major League Baseball Players Pension Plan Stats 2014

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, 4/1/2014[1]

Active players	1,070
Retirees receiving pension benefits	3,223
Inactive players[2]	3,911
Total participants	8,204
Average approx. annual pension benefit	$59,000
Total pension benefits paid in 2014	$190 million
Plan assets[3]	$2.7 billion
Plan benefit liabilities[3]	$3.1 billion
Unfunded liability	$0.4 billion
Funded ratio	87%
MLB club contributions for 2014	$143 million
Cost of benefits earned in 2014	$ 34 million

Liability and Funded Status[3]



About Pension Finances

At the start of April 2014, the plan was 87% funded, with $2.7 billion in assets against projected benefit liabilities for retired, active and inactive members of $3.1 billion.[3] In the context of the red-yellow-green (stoplight colors) zone system commonly used with this type of pension plan,[4] the MLB plan is in the green zone.

For the 2014 plan year, MLB clubs collectively contributed $143 million, the same as for 2013. Of the $143 million contributed for 2014, $34 million covered the cost of benefits that active players earned during 2013, leaving $109 million to be applied toward the funding shortfall of $0.4 billion.

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

[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.
[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 24,000 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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