



The
FUND OFFICE
UFCW CONSOLIDATED PENSION FUND



UFCW CONSOLIDATED PENSION PLAN ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE

APRIL 2024

INTRODUCTION

HOW WELL FUNDED IS YOUR PLAN

YEAR-END MARKET VALUE
OF ASSETS

ENDANGERED, CRITICAL, OR
CRITICAL DECLINING STATUS

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

FUNDING AND INVESTMENT
POLICIES

EVENTS HAVING A MATERIAL EFFECT
ON ASSETS OR LIABILITIES

PRE-MERGER PLAN INFORMATION

TRANSFERS OF PLAN ASSETS
AND LIABILITIES

RIGHT TO REQUEST A COPY OF THE
ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY OF RULES GOVERNING
INSOLVENT PLANS

BENEFIT PAYMENTS GUARANTEED
BY THE PBGC

YOUR RIGHT TO A BENEFIT
STATEMENT

CLICK, CONNECT, CONTROL
YOUR ONLINE PENSION ACCOUNT



P: 1.800.241.7701
770.997.9910



F: 770.997.9897



1740 PHOENIX PARKWAY
ATLANTA, GA 30349



WWW.UFCWEMPRFUND.ORG

INTRODUCTION

This notice includes important information about the funding status of your pension plan (“the Plan” or “the Consolidated 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 (referred to hereafter as “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 PERCENTAGES (BEGINNING OF YEAR)			
Plan Year	2023	2022	2021
Valuation Date	January 1, 2023	January 1, 2022	January 1, 2021
Funded Percentage	91.1%	91.4%	93.1%
Value of Assets	\$5,391,010,734	\$5,311,106,406	\$4,693,478,086
Value of Liabilities	\$5,912,136,990	\$5,810,836,604	\$5,036,990,937

YEAR-END FAIR MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the Valuation Date. They are also “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.

FAIR MARKET VALUES OF ASSETS (END OF YEAR)			
Plan Year	2023	2022	2021
Year End Date	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2021
Value of Assets	\$5,123,590,549 (approx.)	\$5,043,713,903	\$5,868,625,052

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 not in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status (in other words, the Plan was in the “green zone”) in the Plan Year beginning January 1, 2023. The Plan continues to be in the green zone for the Plan Year beginning January 1, 2024. If the Plan had been in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status for the plan year beginning January 1, 2024, separate notification of that status would have been provided.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the valuation date, January 1, 2023, was 257,130. Of this number, 83,721 were current employees, 61,300 were retired and receiving benefits, and 112,109 were retired or no longer working for an employer and have a right to future benefits.

FUNDING AND 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 described in a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between The Kroger Co. (“Kroger”) and the fourteen Local Unions of the United Food and Commercial Workers that established the Plan. Under the terms of the MOU, Kroger will, at a minimum, make contributions to the Plan that are sufficient (1) to pay down the unfunded liabilities as of December 31, 2011 over a period of six years (which has already been done), (2) to pay for the cost of benefits to be earned each year in the future, (3) to pay for any future actuarial losses over a period of ten years, and (4) to meet the minimum funding requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Other special rules also apply under the MOU, which may increase or decrease the amount of the contribution required from Kroger in any given year, depending on the funding levels of the Plan.

Pension plans also have investment policies. These generally are written guidelines or general instructions for making investment management decisions. The Plan’s investment policy is to invest in a diversified portfolio of assets that will maximize investment return over the long term within reasonable and prudent levels of risk and maintaining sufficient liquidity to pay Plan benefits and administrative expenses.

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:

Asset Allocations (End of Year)	Percentage
Stocks	18%
Investment grade debt instruments	7%
High-yield debt instruments	3%
Real estate	4%
Other	68%

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. An event is generally viewed as material if, for example, it is expected to increase or decrease total Plan assets or total Plan liabilities by five percent or more.

For the plan year ending December 31, 2024, there are no events expected to occur that will have a material effect on plan liabilities or assets.

PRE-MERGER PLAN INFORMATION

Effective December 31, 2011, there was a merger of four UFCW pension plans that resulted in the creation of the UFCW Consolidated Pension Plan. The Consolidated Plan is currently better funded than any of the four plans prior to the merger. As described earlier, the funding policy of the Plan is described in a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between The Kroger Co. (“Kroger”) and fourteen UFCW Local Unions whose members are covered under the Plan as a result of the merger. Under the terms of the MOU, Kroger, which is the employer to over 90% of the active participants in the Consolidated Plan, was required to make contributions sufficient to return the Consolidated Plan to the “green zone” for the plan year beginning January 1, 2012 and was also required to pay down the unfunded liabilities of the Consolidated Plan more rapidly than is required by law. Kroger was also allowed to accelerate its required contributions to the Consolidated Plan.

Consistent with this commitment, Kroger accelerated its contribution obligation and made special contributions totaling \$857,886,089 to the Consolidated Plan during 2012. These special contributions covered the cost of benefits to be earned in 2012 and eliminated the unfunded liabilities of the Consolidated Plan. Prior to the special contributions, as of January 1, 2012, the Consolidated Plan was 74.0% funded on a market value of assets basis. After the special contributions, as of December 31, 2012, it was 101.8% funded on a market value of assets basis. Under the MOU, Kroger is required to make contributions to maintain the Consolidated Plan in the “green zone.”

Since 2012, you have received Annual Funding Notices from the Plan under its current name, the UFCW Consolidated Pension Plan. Notices you received with respect to the plan years prior to 2012 were under the prior plan names, as described below.

Former Plan Name, as of December 31, 2011	Short Plan Name	EIN/PN
United Food and Commercial Workers Unions and Employers Pension Plan	Atlanta Plan	58-6101602 / 001
UFCW Unions and Food Employers Pension Plan of Central Ohio	Central Ohio Plan	31-6089168 / 001
Indiana Area UFCW Unions and Retail Food Employers Joint Pension Plan	Indiana Plan	35-6244695 / 001
Northwest Ohio UFCW Union and Employers Joint Pension Fund	NW Ohio Plan	34-0947187 / 001

New Plan Name, effective January 1, 2012	Short Plan Name	EIN/PN
UFCW Consolidated Pension Plan	Consolidated Plan	58-6101602 / 001

TRANSFERS OF PLAN ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

As reported in prior year Notices, there were five transfers of assets and liabilities prior to the 2023 Plan Year. In general, the transferred assets and liabilities were related to benefits attributable to Kroger under the other plans. The transfers did not have a material impact on the funding condition of the Plan.

Each of the five transfers occurred under the terms of the applicable transfer agreements between the Consolidated Plan and the other plans. The resulting unfunded liabilities transferred into the Consolidated Plan are required to be funded by Kroger under the terms of the applicable contribution agreements between the Consolidated Plan and Kroger, which have similar funding requirements as the MOU described earlier in this notice. Under each of the contribution agreements, Kroger is permitted to accelerate its required contributions to the Consolidated Plan.

For reference, the table below shows the plans from which assets and liabilities have been transferred to the Consolidated Plan since 2012.

Former Plan Name	EIN/PN
Washington Meat Industry Pension Trust	91-6069306/001
Central Ohio UFCW Unions and Retail Employers Pension Plan	31-6089169/001
UFCW Unions and Participating Employers Pension Plan	52-6117495/002
United Food and Commercial Workers Unions and Employers Midwest Pension Fund	36-6508328/001
Sound Retirement Trust	91-6069306/001

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 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 N-1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling 202.693.8673. You may also 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 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 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 ($\35.75×10).

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 ($\17.75×10).

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 additional information about the PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees, go to the Multiemployer Page on PBGC’s website at <https://www.pbgc.gov/about/factsheets/page/multi-facts>. 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.

YOUR RIGHT TO A BENEFIT STATEMENT

Under ERISA, as a participant in the Consolidated Plan, you have the right to obtain a statement telling you whether you have a right to receive a benefit at your Normal Retirement Date (generally age 65) and, if so, what your benefits would be at your Normal Retirement Date if you stop participating in the Plan now. If you do not have a right to a benefit under the Plan, the statement will tell you how many more years you have to work to have a right to a benefit under the Plan. This statement must be requested in writing and is not required to be given more than once a year. The statement must be provided free of charge. Contact information for the UFCW Consolidated Pension Fund Office can be found below.

WHERE TO GET MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this notice, you may contact:

Board of Trustees
UFCW Consolidated Pension Fund
1740 Phoenix Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30349
(770) 997-9910 or (800) 241-7701

For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001, the Plan sponsor’s name is the Board of Trustees of the UFCW Consolidated Pension Fund, and the Plan sponsor’s employer identification number or “EIN” is 58-6101602.

Your Online Pension Account: Click, Connect, Control













We're excited to kick off this issue by putting the power of your pension right at your fingertips. Did you know that you can now access your account and fund information online? With just a few clicks, you can explore a treasure trove of resources, from checking the current year's check dates to downloading essential forms, like W4P and application forms, for your convenience.

Need to update your information or find your Local? It's all there at your disposal. Plus, you can easily view past newsletters and seamlessly log in to your personalized pension fund portal. Your pension journey has never been more accessible, so dive right in and take control of your financial future!

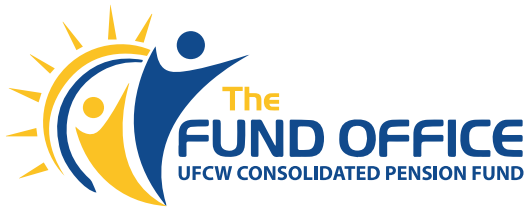


- ★ Access Fund Documents
- ★ Current Years Check Dates
- ★ Download Forms
- ★ Find Your Local
- ★ View Past Newsletters
- ★ Login To Your Pension Fund Portal

YOUR ONLINE PORTAL UNLOCKED

Create An Account		View Work History		Bank Account Information	
Reset Your Password		Request An Estimate		View Beneficiaries (if applicable)	
Update Contact Information		View Payment History		Download Verification of Income Letters	
Upload Documents		View Payment Details		Download 1099-R Forms (2022 forward)	

UFCW Consolidated Pension Fund
1740 Phoenix Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30349



Employer Trustees

Peggy Prescott, Secretary
Kroger

Derek Courts
Kroger

Jon McPherson
Kroger

Steve Yancey
Kroger

Union Trustees

Lonnie Sheppard, Chairman
UFCW Local Union 1529

Kevin Garvey
UFCW Local Union 75

Eric Taylor
UFCW Local Union 1996

Randy Quickel
UFCW Local Union 1059

The Board of Trustees
of the
UFCW Consolidated Pension Fund
is committed to providing
retirement security for
participants.

Do you need assistance with your pension or have questions?

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Fund Office. We are here to help.



1740 Phoenix Parkway
Atlanta, Georgia 30349



Email: pensiondepartment@ufcwemprfund.org



(770) 997-9910
(800) 241-7701



Fax: (770) 997-9897



www.ufcwemprfund.org