



P.O. Box 4002 • Eau Claire, WI 54702-4002  
 715-835-3174 • 800-424-3405 • Fax 715-834-8061 • Claims Fax 715-835-3114

ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE

For  
 North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters' Pension Fund  
*Plan Year Beginning January 1, 2023*

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.

<b>Funded Percentage</b>			
	2023	2022	2021
Valuation Date	January 1, 2023	January 1, 2022	January 1, 2021
Funded Percentage	89.3%	86.7%	80.9%
Value of Assets	\$1,719,600,829	\$1,638,976,428	\$1,491,800,723
Value of Liabilities	\$1,924,901,608	\$1,890,146,318	\$1,842,994,196

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	\$1,779,928,550	\$1,570,862,293*	\$1,830,828,926*

\* Revision to figure listed on previous Annual Funding Notice which was estimated.

### 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 the Plan Year. This status is usually referred to as "safe" status or the "green zone." If the Plan is in endangered, critical, or critical and declining status for the plan year ending December 31, 2024, separate notification of that status has been or will be provided.

### Participant Information

	As of 12/31/23	As of 12/31/22	As of 12/31/21
Total number of participants	17,877	18,425	18,802
Number of active participants	5,105	5,662	5,543
Number of participants who were retired and receiving benefits	6,450	6,318	6,173
Number of participants who were retired or no longer working for the employer & have a right to future benefits	5,523	5,670	6,328
Number of beneficiaries who were receiving or entitled to receive benefits	799	775	758

### 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 designed to achieve investment results that will culminate in promised plan benefits being ultimately paid to plan participants and their beneficiaries. The Plan is funded by contributions made by employers pursuant to collective bargaining agreements with the Unions representing the Plan's Participants. The Trustees of the Plan monitor contributions with the assistance of the Plan's actuary to determine whether the contributions remain adequate to fund benefits in accordance with the law.

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 is to maximize the total rate of return subject to the preservation of capital. Preservation of capital encompasses two goals- minimizing the risk of loss of principal for the Plan as a whole and minimizing the erosion of principal value through inflation. The primary means by which capital preservation is to be achieved is through diversification of the Plan's investments across various asset classes. The appropriate level of risk for the Plan is determined by examining the risk and reward of numerous asset allocation alternatives as suggested by the Plan's Investment Consultant. Within each asset group, further diversification is to be achieved through investment in securities across numerous industries and sectors as determined by the investment managers in accordance with the investment policy and with manager specific guidelines. The average rate of return on assets during the Plan Year was 10.5%.

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. Cash (Interest bearing and non-interest bearing)	_____
2. U.S. Government securities	_____ 6.5%
3. Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	_____
All other	_____ 3.5%
4. Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	
Preferred	_____
Common	_____ 58.3%
5. Partnership/joint venture interests	_____ 5.9%
6. Real estate (other than employer real property)	_____ 11.9%
7. Loans (other than to participants)	_____
8. Participant loans	_____
9. Value of interest in common/collective trusts	_____ 13.9%
10. Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	_____
11. Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	_____
12. Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	_____
13. Value of funds held in insurance co. general account (unallocated contracts)	_____
14. Employer-related investments:	
Employer Securities	_____
Employer real property	_____
15. Buildings and other property used in plan operation	_____
16. Other	_____

For information about the Plan's investment in any of the following types of investments—common/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts or 103-12 investment entities – contact the Fund Office at P.O. Box 4002, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54702, (715) 835-3174.

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 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 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 About Your Plan," below.

#### Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact Fund Office at P.O. Box 4002, Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54702 or by calling (715) 835-3174. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 001 and the plan sponsor's name and employer identification number or "EIN" is the Board of Trustees of the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters' Pension Fund and 39-6079856.