

UFCW - Giant Variable Annuity Fund

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ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE For UFCW-Giant Variable Annuity Fund

Introduction

This notice provides key details about your pension plan (the “Plan”) for the plan year beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2024 (the “Plan Year”).

This is an informational notice. You do not need to respond or take any action.

This notice includes:

- Information about your Plan’s funding status.
- Details on your benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), a federal insurance agency.

What if I have questions about this notice or my Plan?

Contact your plan administrator at:

- Associated Administrators, LLC
- **Phone:** (800) 638-2972
- **Address:** 911 Ridgebrook Road, Sparks, MD 21152-9451

To better assist you, provide your plan administrator with the following information when you contact them:

- **Plan Number:** 001
- **Plan Sponsor Name:** Board of Trustees of the UFCW-Giant Variable Annuity Fund
- **Employer Identification Number:** 86-2048100

What if I have questions about PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees?

Visit www.pbgc.gov/generalfaq for more information. For specific information about your pension plan or pension benefits, you should contact your employer or plan administrator as PBGC does not have that information.

Federal law requires all traditional pension plans, also known as defined benefit pension plans, to provide this notice every year regardless of funding status. This notice does not mean your Plan is terminating.

How Well Funded Is Your Plan?

The law requires the plan administrator to explain how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the “funded percentage.” The funded percentage is calculated by dividing Plan assets by Plan liabilities. In general, the higher the funded percentage, the better funded the plan. Plan liabilities are the present value of the benefits promised by the Plan, determined using a market-related interest assumption. The chart below shows the Plan’s funded percentage for the Plan Year and the two preceding plan years. It also lists the value of the Plan’s assets and liabilities for those years. Plan assets and liabilities for the Plan Year in the chart below reflect the plan administrator’s reasonable, good faith estimate.

Funded Percentage			
	2024	2023	2022
1. Last day of relevant plan year	December 31	December 31	December 31
2. Plan assets	\$52,673,347	\$39,702,928	\$28,995,810
3. Plan liabilities	\$48,248,020	\$36,120,268	\$23,570,722
4. Funded percentage (2)/(3)	109%	110%	123%

If the Plan terminates, the Plan’s liabilities calculated by PBGC may be greater than the Plan liabilities shown in the above chart. When PBGC takes over a terminated plan as trustee, it guarantees benefits up to a legal limit. See the section of this notice titled “Benefit Payments Guaranteed by PBGC” for additional information.

Participant and Beneficiary Information

The following chart shows the number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the last day of the Plan Year and the two preceding years. The numbers for the Plan Year reflect the plan administrator’s reasonable, good faith estimate.

Number of participants and beneficiaries on last day of relevant plan year	2024	2023	2022
1. Last day of relevant plan year	December 31	December 31	December 31
2. Participants currently employed	10,113	9,542	9,179
3. Participants and beneficiaries receiving benefits	130	0	0
4. Participants and beneficiaries entitled to future benefits (but not receiving benefits)	1,777	1,693	1,166
5. Total number of covered participants and beneficiaries (Lines 2 + 3 + 4 = 5)	12,020	11,235	10,345

Funding & Investment Policies

Funding Policy

Every pension plan must establish a funding policy to meet its objectives. The funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The Plan's funding policy is to fund the Plan through a combination of contributions received from the contributing employer and investment income generated by the Plan's investments. The funding policy is designed to comply with the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and the Internal Revenue Code, including the applicable minimum funding requirements. The Board of Trustees creates and implements the funding policy and monitors the funding level with the assistance of the Plan's actuary.

Investment Policy

Pension plans also have investment policies that provide guidelines for making investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan has been adopted by the Board of Trustees with the advice of the Plan's investment consultant. The investment policy, generally, is to invest the assets of the Plan in several different asset classes, within designated allocation ranges. The investment policy is intended to (1) generate a long-term rate of return which meets or exceeds the hurdle rate as specified in the Plan document, while sufficiently diversifying assets to the extent possible in order to minimize the likelihood of generating annual returns below the hurdle rate; (2) maintain sufficient income and liquidity to fund benefit payments and administrative expenses; and (3) preserve the principal value of the Plan's assets.

As of the end of the Plan Year, the Plan's assets were allocated among the following investment categories as percentages of total assets:

Asset Allocation	Percentage
Public equity	20.2%
Private equity	4.6%
Investment grade debt instruments	50.3%
High-yield debt instruments	7.8%
Cash and cash equivalents	5.4%
Real estate	6.6%
Other	5.1%

The average return on assets for the Plan Year was 6.20%. Since audited financial statements are not available until later this year, the average return on assets reflects the plan administrator's reasonable, good faith estimate.

Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

Pension plans must file an annual report, called the **Form 5500**, with the U.S. Department of Labor. The Form 5500 includes financial and other information about these pension plans.

You can get a copy of your Plan's Form 5500:

- **Online:** Visit www.efast.dol.gov to search for your plan's Form 5500.
- **By Mail:** Submit a written request to your plan administrator.
- **By Phone:** Call 202-693-8673 to speak with a representative of the U.S. Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room.

The Form 5500 does not include personal information, such as your accrued benefits. For details about your accrued benefits, contact your plan administrator.

Termination Rules for Single-Employer Plans

Federal law outlines specific rules for terminating a pension plan. There are three types of terminations:

Standard Termination

An employer can end a plan through a standard termination. However, the plan administrator must prove to PBGC that the plan has enough money to pay all benefits owed to participants.

Under a standard termination, the plan must provide your benefits through one of the following methods:

- **Periodic benefits:** The plan buys an annuity from an insurance company, ensuring you receive regular, generally monthly, retirement payments for life. Before purchasing the annuity, your plan administrator will notify you about the selected insurance company.
- **Lump-sum payment:** If the plan allows, you may elect a lump-sum payment that covers your entire benefit.

PBGC's guarantee ends once an annuity is purchased, or a lump sum is paid. If the insurance company providing the annuity becomes unable to pay your benefits, the applicable state guaranty association will step in, guaranteeing the annuity to the extent authorized by state law.

Distress Termination

If a plan is not fully funded, the employer may apply for a distress termination. The employer must demonstrate financial distress and prove to either a bankruptcy court or PBGC that the employer's business cannot survive unless the plan is terminated. If approved for a distress termination, PBGC will manage the plan as trustee, allocate the plan's assets based on statutory priority categories, and pay guaranteed benefits up to the legal limits, using the plan's assets and PBGC guarantee funds.

Involuntary Termination

PBGC can terminate a plan on its own in certain situations, such as to protect plan participants or PBGC's insurance program. In these cases, PBGC is appointed trustee and assumes responsibility for the plan.

Learn more about single-employer plan terminations in PBGC's Pension Plan Termination Fact Sheet at <https://www.pbgc.gov/about/factsheets/page/termination>.

Benefit Payments Guaranteed by PBGC

When PBGC takes over a single-employer plan, it pays pension benefits through its insurance program. Only vested benefits—those you've earned and cannot forfeit—are guaranteed. Most participants and beneficiaries receive their full pension benefits, but some people may lose some, or all, non-guaranteed benefits.

What PBGC Guarantees

PBGC guarantees the following “basic benefits” up to limits set by law:

- Pension benefits at normal retirement age.
- Most early retirement benefits.
- Annuity benefits for survivors of plan participants.
- Disability benefits for disabilities that occurred before the earlier of the date the plan terminated or the sponsor’s bankruptcy date.

What PBGC Does Not Guarantee

PBGC does not guarantee certain types of benefits, including:

- Non-vested benefits, which depend on meeting specific age, service, or other eligibility requirements.
- Benefit increases and new benefits in place for less than one year before a plan’s termination date, while those in place for less than five years are only partly covered.
- Non-pension benefits, such as death benefits.
- Lump-sum payments exceeding \$7,000.

Determining Guarantee Amounts

The amount PBGC guarantees is determined as of the plan’s termination date. If the plan terminates during the plan sponsor’s bankruptcy, the guarantee amount is determined as of the date the sponsor entered bankruptcy. The maximum benefit PBGC guarantees is set by law and updated annually. Participants and beneficiaries may receive benefits above the PBGC guaranteed amount, but only if the plan has enough funds to pay them.

For a plan with a termination date or sponsor bankruptcy date, as applicable in 2025, the maximum guarantee is \$7,431.82 per month, or \$89,181.84 per year, for a benefit paid to a 65-year-old retiree with no survivor benefit. If a plan terminates during a plan sponsor’s bankruptcy, the maximum guarantee is fixed as of the calendar year in which the sponsor entered bankruptcy.

If benefits begin:

- Before age 65, the maximum guarantee is lower, reflecting the longer expected payment period for younger retirees.
- After age 65, the maximum guarantee is higher.

The guaranteed amount is reduced if a benefit will be paid to a survivor upon the participant’s death. Maximum guarantee amounts by age can be found on PBGC’s website, <https://www.pbgc.gov/wr/benefits/guaranteed-benefits/maximum-guarantee>.

In determining whether the plan has enough assets to pay benefits above the guaranteed amount, PBGC uses different assumptions than those used to calculate the funded percentage shown in the “How Well Funded Is Your Plan?” section of this notice. As a result, the additional benefits participants receive may not align with the Plan’s reported funded percentage. For example, a plan that reports 80 percent funding based on its own calculations does not mean its participants will receive 80 percent of their vested benefits.