



Contact: Zorast Wadia
Milliman, Inc.
Tel: 646.473.3315
zorast.wadia@milliman.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

Milliman analysis: Pension funded status improves by \$11 billion

The pension funding ratio increased to 91.8% at the end of February

Seattle – March 6, 2014 – Milliman, Inc., a premier global consulting and actuarial firm, today released the results of its latest Pension Funding Index, which consists of 100 of the nation's largest defined benefit pension plans. In February, these plans experienced a \$32 billion increase in asset value and a \$21 billion increase in pension liabilities, driving an \$11 billion improvement in pension funded status.

"In February these plans were buoyed by strong market performance that offset yet another increase in pension liabilities," said John Ehrhardt, co-author of the Milliman Pension Funding Index. "For the year we've seen liabilities increase by more than \$80 billion in response to rate movement. These rates have defined pension performance for the last several years. We'll need some cooperative rates to get back to full funding."

Looking forward, if the Milliman 100 pension plans were to achieve the expected 7.5% median asset return for their pension portfolios, and if the current discount rate of 4.46% were maintained, funded status would improve, with the funded status deficit shrinking to \$58 billion (96.4% funded ratio) by the end of 2014 and turning into a surplus of \$34 billion (102.1% funded ratio) accumulating by the end of 2015.

Note that the Milliman annual Pension Funding Study, which provides deeper analysis of these 100 pensions, will be released in early April.

To view the complete study, go to <http://us.milliman.com/pfi/>. To receive regular updates of Milliman's pension funding analysis, contact us at pensionfunding@milliman.com.

About Milliman

Milliman is among the world's largest providers of actuarial and related products and services. The firm has consulting practices in healthcare, property & casualty insurance, life insurance and financial services, and employee benefits. Founded in 1947, Milliman is an independent firm with offices in major cities around the globe. For further information, visit www.milliman.com



About the Milliman 100 Pension Funding Index

For the past 13 years, Milliman has conducted an annual study of the 100 largest defined benefit pension plans sponsored by U.S. public companies. The Milliman 100 Pension Funding Index projects the funded status for pension plans included in our study, reflecting the monthly impact of market returns and interest-rate changes on pension funded status, utilizing the actual reported asset values, liabilities, and asset allocations of the companies' pension plans.

The results of the Milliman 100 Pension Funding Index were based on the actual pension plan accounting information disclosed in the footnotes to the companies' annual reports for the preceding fiscal year and for previous fiscal years. In addition to providing the financial information on the funded status of U.S. qualified pension plans, the footnotes may also include figures for the companies' nonqualified and foreign plans, both of which are often unfunded or subject to funding standards different from those for U.S. qualified pension plans. The results do not represent the funded status of the companies' U.S. qualified pension plans under ERISA.

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