



# National Football League Players' Pension Plan Stats

## 2014

NFL players have been covered by this pension plan since 1962. The plan considers age 55 to be the standard retirement age. If a player waits until later to start his benefit, his benefit is actuarially increased accordingly. Players are fully vested after 3 credited seasons or 5 years of service in other capacities (for example, as a coach), but the amount of retirement benefits is based on the number of credited seasons.

### Pension Plan Stats<sup>1</sup>

As of April 1, 2014, the most recent publicly available data.

Active players	2,182
Retirees receiving pension benefits	4,246
Inactive players <sup>2</sup>	5,917
Total participants	12,345
Average approx. annual pension benefit	\$43,000
Total pension benefits paid in 2014	\$181 million
Plan assets <sup>3</sup>	\$1.6 billion
Plan benefit liabilities <sup>3</sup>	\$2.9 billion
Unfunded liability	\$1.3 billion
Funded ratio	55%
NFL club contributions for 2014	\$306 million
Cost of benefits earned in 2014	\$ 35 million

### Liability and Funded Status<sup>3</sup>



### About Pension Finances

At the start of April 2014, the plan was 55% funded, with \$1.6 billion in assets against projected benefit liabilities for retired, active and inactive members of \$2.9 billion.<sup>3</sup> In the context of the red-yellow-green (stoplight colors) zone system commonly used with this type of pension plan,<sup>4</sup> the NFL plan is in the yellow zone and working toward the green zone.

During 2014, NFL clubs collectively contributed \$306 million, slightly more than \$300 million for 2013. Of the \$306 million contributed for 2014, \$35 million covered the cost of benefits that active players earned during 2013, leaving \$271 million to be applied toward the funding shortfall of \$1.3 billion.



The Bert Bell / Pete Rozelle NFL Player Retirement Plan is a multiemployer pension plan. For more Society of Actuaries' research on pension plans and retirement issues in general:

<https://www.soa.org/research/research-projects/pension/default.aspx>

<sup>1</sup> The source of all data shown is the Department of Labor Form 5500 for the 2013 plan year as filed for the Bert Bell / Pete Rozelle NFL Player Retirement Plan. Some figures may not add because of rounding.

<sup>2</sup> Vested former active members who have not yet started to receive pension benefits; they may begin to receive monthly benefits at age 45.

<sup>3</sup> 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. Liabilities are computed using a 7.25% discount rate and the RP2000 Mortality Table projected to 2020; the projection scale used is not reported.

<sup>4</sup> Internal Revenue Code Section 431 defines the funding status zones.

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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.

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