

# Pension Funded Status Tracker

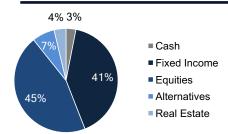
February 2019

ASSET MANAGEMENT | REPORT

Over February 2019, the average corporate defined benefit pension plan's funded status improved by 1% to 86% funded.

- » The asset portfolio increased in value mainly as a consequence of the growth allocation performing well:
  - US Equities led global markets with healthy returns, whereas Emerging Markets were relatively flat.
  - Within fixed income, Treasurys saw the largest declines, while corporates were more muted as spreads came in slightly.
- » Liabilities witnessed a small decrease, mostly driven by the widening in rates:
  - The small decrease in spreads was more than offset by the spike in rates, resulting in an increase in the effective discount rate.
  - The effective discount rate increased by 5 basis points in February.

#### **Asset Allocation**



Prepared by Conning, Inc. Source: ©2019 Bloomberg, L.P. As of February 28, 2019

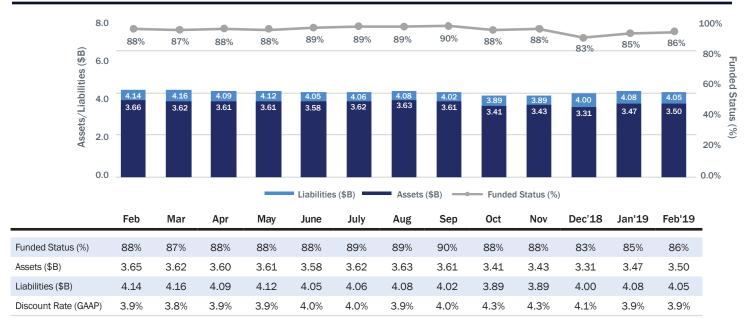
## **Key Metrics**

Pension Plan	Assets	Liabilities†	Funded Status†	
Valuation (\$B)	3.50	4.05	86%	
Duration (Yr)	4.4	12.4	Interest Rate	
Dollar Duration (\$mm)	1.5	5.0	Hedge Ratio	
Yield* / Discount Rate	3.8%	3.9%	31%	

Prepared by Conning, Inc. Source: @2019 Bloomberg L.P. February 28, 2019. \*Yield quoted is duration-weighted yield

† Funded Status is hypothetical and calculated according to the Data and Methodology section outlined on Page 3. Refer to the Hypothetical Model Disclosures (page 3) for more important information.

## Pension Plan Tracker (February 28, 2019)†

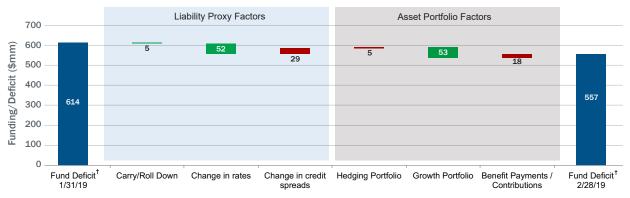


<sup>†</sup> Pension Plan Tracker results presented do not reflect actual performance. The results are hypothetical, and are generated according to the Data and Methodology section outlined on Page 3. Refer to the Hypothetical Model Disclosures (page 3) for more important information. Prepared by Conning, Inc. for illustrative purposes only. Source: ©2018-2019 Bloomberg, L.P.

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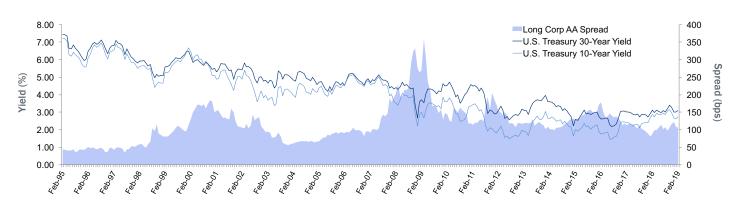


#### Funded Status Attribution (January 31, 2019 – February 28, 2019)



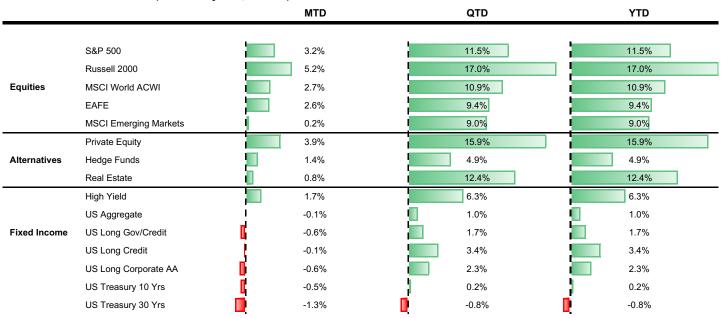
<sup>†</sup> Funded Status Attribution presented does not reflect actual performance. The results are hypothetical, and are generated according to the Data and Methodology section outlined on Page 3. Refer to the Hypothetical Model Disclosures (page 3) for more important information. Chart shows the liability proxy and asset portfolio factors that contributed to the change in funded status over the month.Prepared by Conning, Inc., for illustrative purposes only. Source: ©2019 Bloomberg, L.P.

## **Yields and Corporate Spreads**



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#### Market Performance (February 28, 2019)



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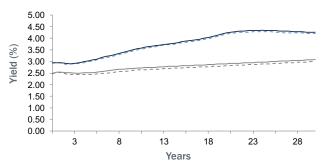
-- Citi Pension Discount Curve 01/31/2019

--- US Treasury Curve 01/31/2019

US Treasury Curve 02/28/2019

Citi Pension Discount Curve 02/28/2019

#### **Liability Discount Curve**



Prepared by Conning, Inc. Source: ©2018-2019 Bloomberg L.P. and ©2018-2019 Analytics provided by "The Yield Book" ® Software and Services/London Stock Exchange Group plc

## Conning's LDI Team

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## Pension Plan Tracker (Annual 2013-2017)



	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Funded Status (%)	87%	81%	80%	80%	85%
Assets (\$B)	3.48	3.65	3.44	3.51	3.74
Liabilities (\$B)	4.00	4.52	4.28	4.40	4.39
Discount Rate (GAAP)	4.6%	3.7%	4.1%	3.9%	3.4%

Prepared by Conning, Inc. Source: ©2013-2017 Bloomberg, L.P.

## Conning Pension Risk Analyzer®

Learn more about Conning's LDI approach and try the interactive Pension Risk Analyzer

Contact us at LDI@conning.com

#### About Conning®

Conning (www.conning.com) is a leading global investment management firm with approximately \$121 billion in global assets under management as of December 31, 2018.\* With a long history of serving the insurance industry, Conning supports institutional investors, including pension plans, with investment solutions and asset management offerings, award-winning risk modeling software, and industry research. Founded in 1912, Conning has offices in Boston, Cologne, Hartford, Hong Kong, London, New York, and Tokyo.

\*As of December 31, 2018, represents the combined global assets under management for the affiliated firms under Conning Holdings Limited, and Cathay Securities Investment Trust Co., Ltd. ("SITE"). SITE reports internally into Conning Asia Pacific Limited, but is a separate legal entity under Cathay Financial Holding Co., Ltd. which is the ultimate controlling parent of all Conning entities.

#### **Data and Methodology**

Conning's Funded Status Tracker is a monthly publication that tracks the performance of the average defined benefit pension plan (the "Plan") of select corporate sponsors comprising a subset of the Russell 3000 Index. The data in this monthly review was reported in the 10-Ks of 496 publicly traded companies from the Russell 3000 index for the 2017 year-end. Further, the Funded Status Tracker was updated retroactively to reflect published 10-K data for the 2017 year-end. All months of 2018 have been restated to account for the, now known, 2017 year-end position. The monitoring of 2019 months will continue until 2018 10-Ks become available, at which point, the same methodology will be applied to include 2018 year-end position with the subsequent 2019 months retroactively updated. Note: these assets may include non-U.S. pension plans. In aggregate, these 496 entities reported \$1.8 trillion in plan assets and \$2.2 trillion in plan liabilities at year end 2017.

The average plan size of the subset of the Russell 3000 index universe outlined above is approximately \$3.74 billion in assets and \$4.39 billion in liabilities, as of December 31, 2017. The Plan's liability is a hypothetical cash flow generated from our proprietary model to reflect a 13-year duration and valuation equivalent to the Plan's PBO on a US GAAP valuation basis as at the end of 2017, but allowed to drift with market conditions during the following year.

It is important to note that asset definitions are not uniform. Conning's analysis of companies' financial statements has found that some firms only report individual stocks as equities, while other firms include stock mutual funds. A similar mixing of types occurs in fixed income. In this analysis, Conning has used the allocations as reported by the companies and not adjusted them. Funded status is the percentage of liabilities that are covered by assets. Interest rate hedge ratio is the dollar duration of assets as a percentage of liability dollar duration.

<sup>+</sup>For the periods 2012-2016, data from 389 publicly traded companies were used. These companies were selected because they had consistently filed pension data every year for the period from 2012 through to 2016. However, for the year 2017: an aggregate of 496 publicly traded companies were used since by this time more companies reported on a consistent basis.

#### **LDI Hypothetical Model Disclosures**

The proprietary model analysis presented herein is for illustrative purposes only. The model relies on a number of assumptions that are generally stated in the Data and Methodology and within the illustrations. The assumptions can be subject to significant uncertainties and contingencies, and such illustrations may change materially in response to small changes in one or more of such assumptions. The data used for this model was obtained from sources deemed reliable, and then organized by Conning, Inc, and was not audited by any third party. Errors could have occurred in the data, in the calculations, or in the preparation of this analysis. Therefore, information contained in this analysis may not be precise. C:8324987

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