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Introduction

Who We Are

PBGC was created by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) to encourage the continuation of defined benefit pension plans, provide timely and uninterrupted payment of pension benefits, and keep pension insurance premiums at a minimum. Defined benefit pension plans promise to pay a specified monthly benefit at retirement, commonly based on salary and years on the job.

PBGC is not funded by general tax revenues. PBGC collects insurance premiums from employers that sponsor insured pension plans, earns money from investments, and receives funds from pension plans it takes over.

Who We Serve

PBGC pays monthly retirement benefits, up to a guaranteed maximum, to nearly 744,000 retirees in 4,000 terminated pension plans that PBGC "trustees." Including those who have not yet retired, as well as participants in multiemployer plans receiving financial assistance, PBGC is responsible for the pensions of about 1.5 million people.

The single-employer program protects about 33.6 million workers and retirees in about 26,600 pension plans. The multiemployer program protects about 10.4 million workers and retirees in about 1,500 pension plans. Multiemployer plans are set up by collectively bargained agreements involving more than one unrelated employer, generally in one industry.

Benefit payments total around \$5 billion per fiscal year, while administrative expenses are approximately \$460 million.

Two terms are used frequently in this plan to sum up the definitions of the many people PBGC serves:

- 1. <u>Customer</u> includes private-sector employers who sponsor insured defined benefit pension plans, workers (our insured plan participants who have not yet retired), and retirees of pension plans PBGC trustees, or, has assumed responsibility for and to whom we pay benefits.
- 2. <u>Stakeholder</u> includes people who have a vested interest in PBGC's policies, practices, and actions: practitioners (pension plan professionals involved in the administration of pension plans); financial system regulators, including Congress; those involved in bankruptcy and plan termination proceedings; academia, and, of course, the press and informed citizens.



Introduction

How Open PBGC is Today

PBGC prides itself on being an open and responsive agency. Most of PBGC's high-value data sets are out in the public domain already, and PBGC frequently asks its customers and stakeholders for feedback on performance and input to how PBGC can do better.

"I think they're probably one of the most responsive agencies."

So commented a participant in a focus group of pension plan professionals run in April 2010. PBGC asked actuaries to respond to and comment upon our PBGC.gov website and how practitioners use the gateway to the many pension research and analysis tools, as well as, the critical premium filing guides PBGC provides.

Another illustration of how PBGC listens to and acts upon customer input is the work underway in the refurbishment of the look and feel of our website. Focus groups and ongoing customer surveys indicated good marks for service but a need for updating functions, and modernizing and brightening the look. A sample picture of the effort is on the right.

In the many exercises PBGC undertakes to gain customer and stakeholder feedback, comments are generally complimentary as well as highly useful to our ongoing efforts to make PBGC more transparent, participative, and collaborative. These attributes are the hallmarks of open government, as well as aspects of customer service, professional outreach, and effective stakeholder partnerships that PBGC has long practiced.



PBGC recognizes that transparency, participation, and collaboration are essential goals of this administration. We appreciate that the thoughtful and timely implementation of programs with these goals will help improve PBGC's performance and speed problem resolution.



Open Government Governance Structure

In addition to the agency director, the senior management team of PBGC includes the Deputy Director for Operations, Chief Insurance Program Officer (CIPO), Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Chief Information Officer (CIO), General Counsel (GC), Chief Management Officer (CMO), and Chief Operating Officer (COO), collectively the Executive Management Committee (EMC), as illustrated below.



PBGC has a long history of establishing cross-functional teams of expert officials to address important matters, both immediate and longer term. PBGC brings the best talent in the organization to bear on policy and operational issues.

Among the functions executed by the EMC is organizational performance oversight when assembled biweekly for its operations integration meeting (OIM), which is chaired by the CMO. Already planned to be added periodically to the agenda of the OIM meetings is the oversight of data quality, assessing the effectiveness of internal controls and monitoring deficiencies identified in those controls as a part of the overall Open Government initiative. Included in this review will be the status of PBGC's Open Government Plan.

The CMO was appointed to the role of senior accountable official (SAO) for the overall Open Government initiative, as well as the quality of spending data as it relates to the initiative. In the absence of the CMO, the director of the Budget and Organizational Performance Department will act as the SAO.

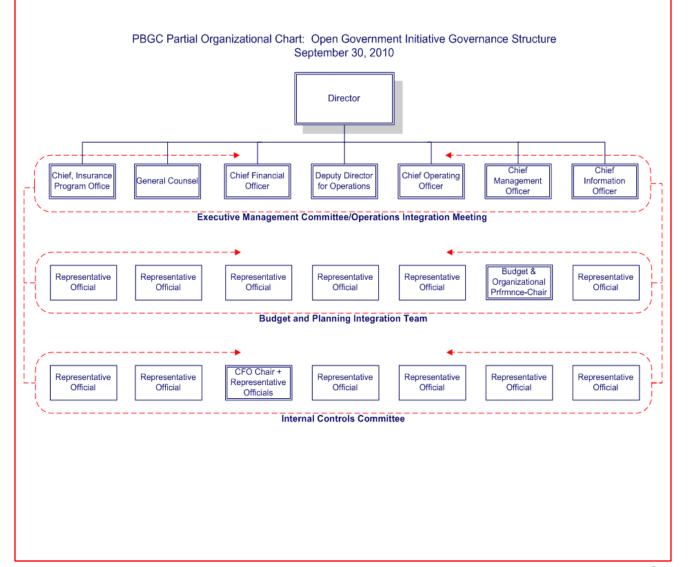
Specifically supporting the SAO is the Budget and Planning Integration Team (BPIT), a crossfunctional team of senior leaders representing each of the major components of the PBGC, which oversees budget, project, and operational performance.



Open Government Governance Structure

Notably for the spending data quality aspects of Open Government, additional resources the SAO will rely upon include the Contract and Controls Review Department (CCRD), and the Internal Controls Committee (ICC), also a cross-functional team of auditing and operational officials who review all aspects of internal controls. Both report to the CFO. The CCRD is responsible for the audit of systems, processes, and procedures governing PBGC's operations and accounting, as well as, risk assessment and auditing of the quality of spending data.

The current governance and organizational support for the initiative is illustrated below.





Open Government Works in Progress – Open Government Webpage



PBGC's Open Government Web page, highlighting three high-value data sets, has been up and active since January 2010. The three sets of data placed there are:

1. <u>Financial Assistance Payments to Multiemployer Plans</u>

This spreadsheet contains a list of multiemployer plans receiving financial assistance payments from the PBGC from the period 2005 - 2010. This data set will be updated quarterly.

2. Single-employer Plans Trusteed by PBGC

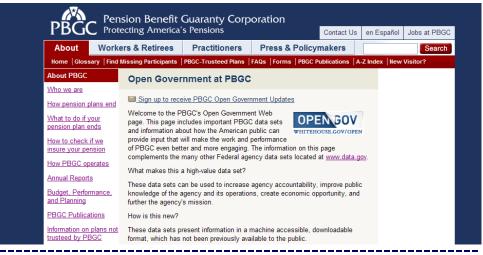
This spreadsheet contains a list of all single-employer defined benefit pension plans trusteed by the PBGC , i.e., terminated pension plans for which PBGC has assumed benefit payment responsibilities, since its creation in 1974. This data set will be updated annually.

3. PBGC Financial Summary Data

Audited financial statements from 1992 forward, detailing the history of PBGC's financial condition. These statements have been in the public domain but not collected in one place nor easily downloadable for year-to-year comparisons. The data will be updated annually.

The top line of PBGC's Open Government page is illustrated here. Note the invitation to subscribe to updates. To date, PBGC has over 500 subscribers to its Open Government page.

Noteworthy as well is the content bar on the left of the page. Referenced here are just some of the materials and publications PBGC already pushes out to the public domain.





Open Government Works in Progress – Open Government Webpage



PBGC plans to add to the effectiveness and efficiency of all of its web pages through its continuous improvement processes, potentially including these enhancements:

- Complete the look and feel refresh of the sites, including making Open Government pages more visible.
- Improve navigation to include more links to commonly searched data.
- Research further initial visits to sites, what visitors are looking for, what they visit once there, and task completion.
- Develop special questions to add to customer surveys.





PBGC has developed, and maintains and continually improves, significant web resources in its efforts to ease service for retirees, participants, practitioners, and premium filers. They are:

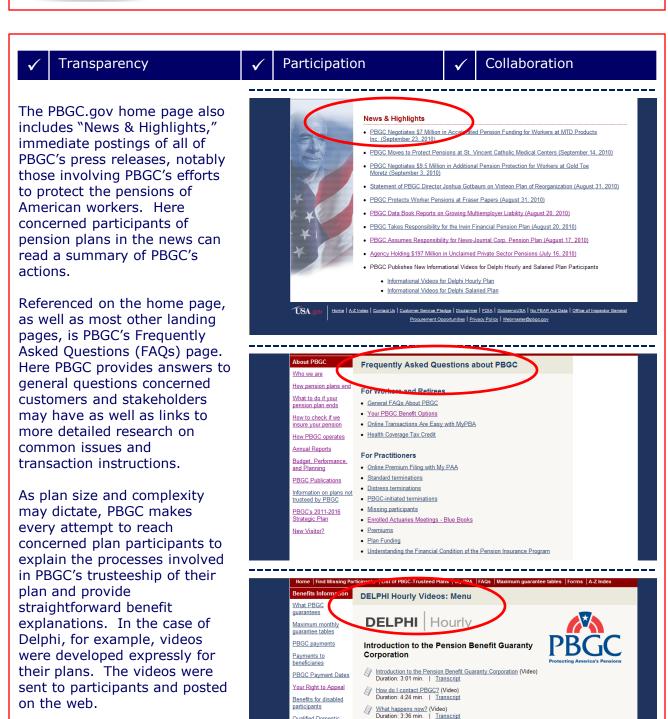
- 1. <u>PBGC.gov</u>, (http://www.pbgc.gov/), the electronic "storefront" of the Corporation, is the first touch-point for both newcomers and experienced users. With half of the visitors accessing the site for the first time, PBGC always looks to improve the first-time visitor experience. Enhancements, such as "Welcome to www.PBGC.gov, A New User's Guide to Our Web Site," makes it easier for users to find general information about PBGC.
- 2. MyPBA, (https://egov3.pbgc.gov/mypba/) or My Pension Benefit Account, is the information and on-line transaction site for PBGC retirees receiving benefits.
- 3. My PAA, (https://egov1.pbgc.gov/mypaa/) or My Plan Administration Account, is a site for pension plan professionals who file premiums with PBGC. PBGC strives to make all etransactions simpler and easier by providing ongoing training and reminders. As an example, PBGC conducted two webcasts for plan professionals providing tips to help premium filers improve their e-filing experience.
- 4. <u>e-4010</u>, a Web application for electronically notifying PBGC of reportable events under section 4010 of ERISA. This web-based application offers a secure site for plan sponsors to submit confidential information while it checks the submission for inconsistencies and completion and allows for using previous submitted data for new filings.

Visitors to PBGC sites are surveyed and all applications display our telephone number and "Contact Us" tab. Questions and comments are routed to the areas who can respond quickly and most effectively.

The top line of PBGC.gov illustrates PBGC's outreach to stakeholders with helpful references such as Glossary, FAQs, Forms, and New Visitor Guide, as well as providing the gateway to MyPBA and My PAA.







Qualified Domestic



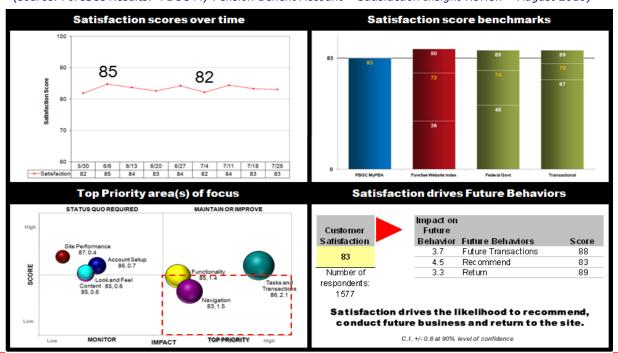


PBGC's customer satisfaction working groups, cross-functional teams of service and operations professionals, oversee the continuous surveying of PBGC websites, as well as the annual customer service survey of premium filers, retirees and callers to our participant contact center.

Since 2001, PBGC has partnered with the Federal Consulting Group to measure customer satisfaction using the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) methodology. ACSI methods measure customer satisfaction with websites and products and services across a broad array of industries, including government and financial services. ACSI's methodology quantifies the performance of specific components of PBGC.gov, MyPBA and My PAA, and their impact on satisfaction. In addition, through PBGC-focused questions, the research establishes profiles of site visitors and their on-line interactions and preferences.

Below is an excerpt of MyPBA data that includes scores over time, benchmarks against other agencies and private sector firms, areas to focus improvement efforts upon, and the impacts of customer satisfaction. This highly regarded application consistently scores in the 80s. For context, only the highest-caliber private sector sites score 80 and above in the official ACSI releases on e-commerce and e-business customer satisfaction.

(source: ForeSee Results: PBGC My Pension Benefit Account - Satisfaction Insight Review - August 2010)



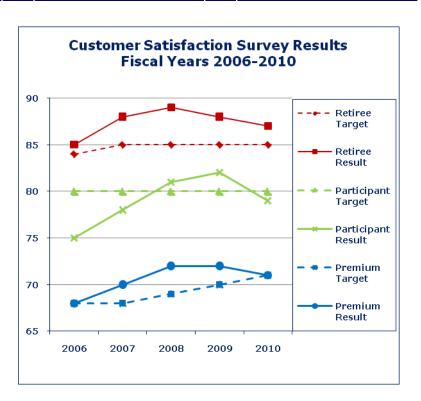


✓ Transparency ✓ Participation ✓ Collaboration

ACSI scores for websites, as well as annual customer satisfaction surveys of retirees, participant callers to our contact center and premium filers, are reported in PBGC's Annual Performance Report, as illustrated here, and made available on-line.

In addition to service attribute ratings, all of the surveys specifically request free form commentary and suggestions for how PBGC can improve the site and service.

As a result of these surveys, PBGC makes continuous improvements to our service.



The Customer Satisfaction Working Group and the departments they represent will continuously improve PBGC's customer service through its call centers and other personal contact as well as PBGC's Web resources, all aiming to further PBGC's outreach and PBGC customer input.





All PBGC Web resources remind plan participants and practitioners of PBGC's special customer outreach program *Find Missing Participants*.

PBGC is managing almost \$200 million in assets for more than 36,000 people who are owed benefits but whom PBGC has been unable to locate. These unclaimed pension benefits are from terminated defined benefit pension plans formerly sponsored by private-sector employers.

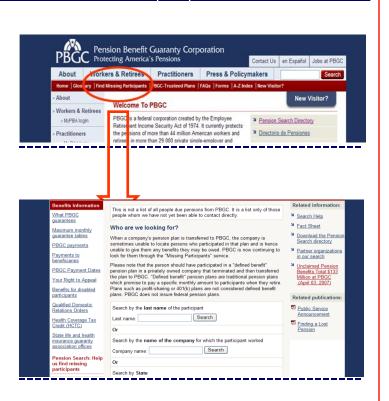
For almost 15 years, PBGC has offered the online Pension Search directory,

http://search.pbgc.gov/mp,

an interactive tool for people who may have lost track of a pension earned during their careers. People can search by their last name, company name, or state where the company was headquartered.

In addition to prominently posting the search function on its website, PBGC periodically issues press releases so that all news agencies can pitch in and help reach people like the 37,000 people who have claimed more than \$250 million since 1996.

Find Missing Participants is an application that PBGC plans to make more effective through improved navigation and search results.









PBGC's rules give plan participants the right to appeal agency benefit determinations, and give employers the right to appeal agency determinations of their statutory liability to PBGC. PBGC's Appeals Board, which is within the Office of the General Counsel, provides final agency decisions on all such appeals.

The comprehensive brochure describing the appeal process, "Your Right to Appeal," is posted on our website. In addition, we recognize the value of publicizing appeal decisions on issues that are significant or affect a large number of beneficiaries. All such cases,



which are decided by a three-member panel of Appeals Board Members as opposed to single Member, are posted on our website. All personally identifiable information (PII) is first redacted from the decisions.

The Appeals Board decides between 500 to 600 cases each year. PBGC is working on publishing the annual number of appeals opened and decided annually, as well as the average length of time to complete an appeal.



Open Government Works in Progress – Pension Professional Outreach



PBGC's Office of the Chief Counsel (OCC) helps drive PBGC's mission of protecting America's pensions through skillful representation in complex civil, appellate, and bankruptcy cases in federal and state courts nationwide. PBGC was a participant in eight of the ten largest bankruptcies in American commercial history, measured by corporate assets involved.

As OCC handles cutting-edge litigation, of special value to the PBGC, the courts, and the pension professional community are the judicial precedents established through OCC's arguments. As a service to practitioners, the OCC annually compiles *PBGC Litigation*, a summary of reported cases since the inception of the PBGC insurance program in 1974.

Within OCC is the post "Lawyer of the Day", where legal staff take turns answering questions from practitioners and service personnel on any legal issues, another demonstration of PBGC's commitment to transparency and service.

PBGC will continue its efforts to make its legal proceedings as transparent and public as the law and rules of confidentiality permit.



Open Government Works in Progress – Pension Professional Outreach



PBGC's mission involves a great deal of actuarial work. The enrolled actuaries who rely upon PBGC for insurance program guidance have a special and formal opportunity to give and receive input at the annual meeting of enrolled actuaries normally held each spring. PBGC officials reach out to the practitioner community and present the latest updates on regulations and rules affecting pension plan administration. The Society of Actuaries publishes the "blue book", Enrolled Actuaries Meeting, Questions to PBGC and Summary of Their Responses, available here:

http://www.pbgc.gov/practitioners/law-regulations-informal-quidance/content/page13190.html.

Questions range from general inquiries on PBGC's recent experiences to highly technical questions on various benefit determinations. PBGC's *Technical Updates* are often referenced. These updates are available at

http://www.pbgc.gov/practitioners/law-regulations-informal-guidance/content/index.html.

Also of great interest to the pension practitioner community is PBGC's stochastic modeling system, the Pension Insurance Modeling System (PIMS). PBGC uses PIMS to help evaluate its exposure and expected claims, as well as to assess the impacts of potential rule and legislative changes. This sophisticated model of the defined benefit pension universe involves the input of numerous rule and economic parameters and produces results based on as many as 5,000 simulations.

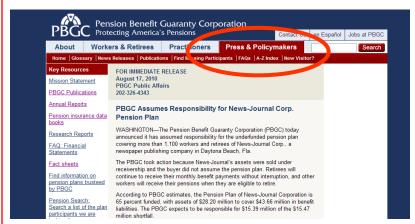
Already as part of its continuing professional outreach PBGC is making PIMS available to the Society of Actuaries as this plan is submitted. Additional responsible user groups willing to abide by a memorandum of agreement will also be able to make use of this valuable pension insurance assessment tool.



Open Government Works in Progress – Other Stakeholder and Interested Parties Outreach



PBGC's Communications and Public Affairs, Legislative and Regulatory, and Policy Research and Analysis departments stand ready to respond to any calls from Congressional committees, individual lawmakers and their staffs, the press, pension reform advocates, and other parties interested in PBGC's policies, practices, and financial condition.



With a significant portion of its website devoted to Press and Policymakers, PBGC recognizes the responsibility it has to the representatives of 44 million American workers.

Press releases covering the details of PBGC assuming responsibility for a newly trusteed plan are just the beginning of the PBGC story.

Note that news about some specific plans is also updated on PBGC.gov as the events in plan trusteeship process unfold.

Fact sheets simply explain, in any level of detail desired, how PBGC works and what our results are. It is important for the press and policymakers to have an understanding of PBGC, and what is and isn't under its control, and what options PBGC may have in given situations.



Congress frequently calls upon PBGC expert staff to comment upon proposed and pending legislation. PBGC also invites comments from policymakers and the public on proposed rule changes where reaction and input may be considerable and are always valued.



Open Government Works in Progress – Freedom of Information Act

✓	Transparency	Participation	Collaboration
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Open Government guidelines suggest an extensive review of most agencies' Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Privacy Act (PA) processes and aging inventory is required to increase transparency.

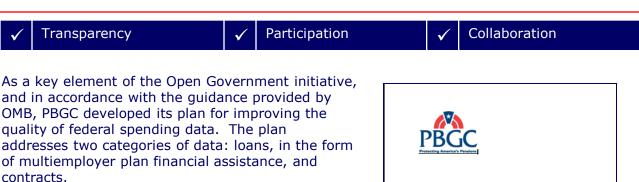
PBGC is in a unique position as one of the first agencies to fully automate its FOIA and PA processing system. We process, track, and complete all requests electronically. Through efficient use of our FOIA software and an extremely dedicated staff (10 individuals processing requests) we were able to process a record number 7,444 requests during FY 2008. PBGC is also one of a very few agencies to report no backlog of requests. Finally, we average less than three appeals per year challenging a determination to withhold a portion of requested records.

Even though we have a highly efficient FOIA processing system, we are continuously looking for ways to improve that process and to share even more information with the public, including making our FOIA process more visible on our web page.

Recent OMB requirements have focused agencies' attention on the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended. PBGC has taken positive steps to assure the protection of all Personally Identifiable Information (PII) under our control. We have recently revised various directives and procedures to assure that our safeguards are up-to-date and through training, our employees and contractors are totally informed as to their responsibility to protect PII in their possession. In addition, we are placing a higher level focus on not only meeting but, exceeding the protection requirements mandated by OMB.



Open Government Works in Progress – Spending Data Quality



Loans: PBGC's multiemployer program accepts requests for financial assistance from multiemployer pension plans meeting stringent requirements of insolvency and demonstrating an inability to pay benefits when due. Full financial assistance agreements are completed and promissory notes are issued to the trustees of pension plans who, in turn, supply detailed banking records of all disbursements made to plan participants. Details of multiemployer plan financial assistance are available on PBGC's Open Government page at



http://www.pbgc.gov/open/.

<u>Contracts</u>: Procurement actions requiring contracts and contract amendments are included in this reporting, which is accomplished today through PBGC's Comprison procurement system and the Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) and USASpending.gov.

The quality of PBGC's USASpending.gov data delivery is currently adequate for stakeholders interested in our spending. PBGC has noted minor data issues and small risks and will continue to improve the quality of input to Comprizon by both users and procurement staff. Performance metrics and results and deficiencies found will be reported and summarized on PBGC's Open Government page.

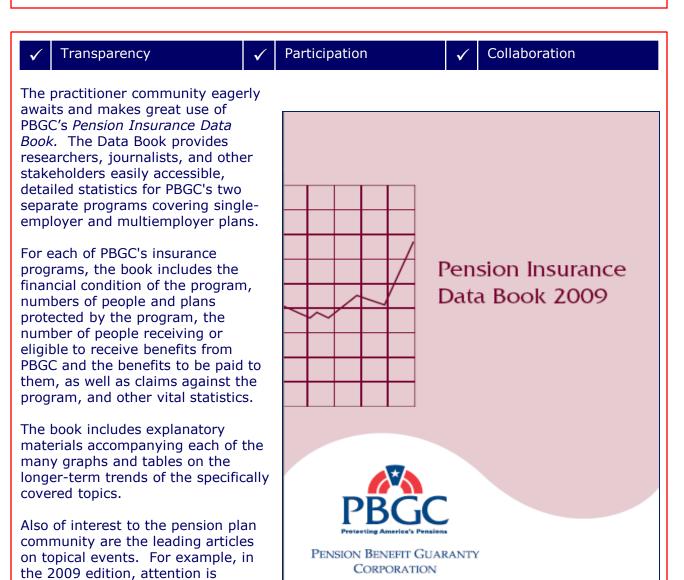
The Federal Spending Data Quality Plan was submitted to OMB on July 23, 2010, and will soon be made available on PBGC's Open Government page.



focused on the emerging issues and concerns in the multiemployer

program.

Open Government Works in Progress – Flagship Initiative





Open Government Works in Progress -Flagship Initiative



The snapshot page at right illustrates the highvalue data sets contained within the Pension Insurance Data Book 2009, notably key financial data for the latest year available.

PBGC DATA BOOK AT A GLANCE							
	Single-Employer Program (Selec in riflate)	Multiemployer Program (Soferit e Nou)	Combined Programs (Gotta kratica)				
Fiscal Year 2009:							
Net Financial Position	-\$21,077	-\$869	-821,946				
Total Assets	\$68,736	\$1,459	\$70,195				
Total Liabilities	\$90,813	\$2,328	\$92,141				
Fremium Revenue*	\$1,822	\$05	\$1,917				
Number of Insured Plans	27,647	1,495	29,142				
Number of Insured Participants	33.6 million	10.4 million	44.0 million				
New Plans Trusteed or Pending Trusteeship	144	n/z	144				
Change in Gross Claims	\$8,066	n/z	\$8,066				
Number of Payees**	753,861	134	753,995				
Total Benefits Paid	\$4,478	***	\$4,478				
Number of Plans Receiving Financial Assistance	n/a	43	43				
Amount of Rnancial Assistance Granted	n/a	\$96	\$86				
Fiscal Years 1975-2009:							
Plans Trusteed or Pending Trusteeship	3,993	10	4,003				
Amount of Claims	\$42,918	\$31	\$42,949				
Number of Plans Receiving Financial Assistance	n/a	62	62				
Total Amount of Rnancial Assistance Granted	n/a	\$503	\$503				

Due to reunding of individual terms, numbers may not add up exactly acress columns.

2 PBGC Data Book At A GIANCE

PERSON INSURANCE DES BOOK 2009

Source: PBGC Tension Instance: Data Book. Tables 5-1, 5-2, 5-30, 5-30, 5-31, 36-1, 36-2, 36-3, 16-4, 16-5, and 36-6.

* Engineing to FY 2009, IBGC current or refers promises income new of had drive expense for promises, condeposation.

** The number of pages training drive receiving a periodic promise benefit pageness and draw who received a horny-rann benefit pageness from PBGC deving FY 2009.

** Two class \$500,000.

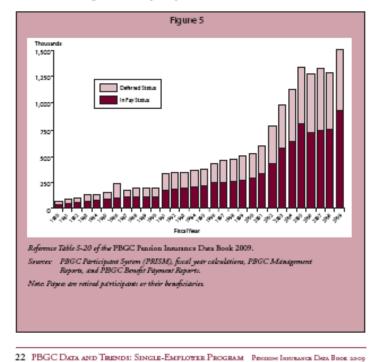


Open Government Works in Progress – Flagship Initiative

✓ Transparency
✓ Participation
✓ Collaboration

Participants and Beneficiaries Receiving PBGC Payments (1980-2009) Single-Employer Program

- PBGC's responsibility for paying pension benefits has increased substantially since 1980.
- In 2009, PBGC made periodic payments to nearly 750,000 payees and lump-sum payments to 12,000 participants.
- An additional 565,000 individuals are eligible for future PBGC benefit payments.
- The large increase since 2001 reflects PBGC's trusteeship of several large plans with large numbers of participants.

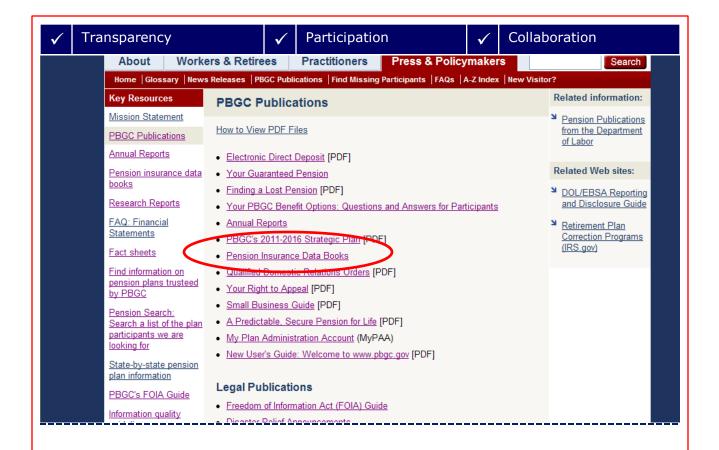


Illustrated here is the type of in-depth, current and trend data available in the *Pension Insurance Data Book*.

This chart, for example, is reflecting the growth of the number of participants and beneficiaries receiving benefit payments up to the nearly 750,000 people relying on PBGC to make timely and accurate payments.



Open Government Works in Progress – Flagship Initiative



The Data Book is available, along with other topical and helpful publications, on PBGC's website at

http://www.pbgc.gov/docs/2009databook.pdf

As its Open Government flagship initiative, the *Pension Insurance Data Book* provides customers, stakeholders and other interested parties open and full insight into PBGC's finances and operations, as well as penetrating analyses of the many factors within and outside of PBGC's control, that impact these meaningful statistics. With transparent, accurate, and complete information at hand, customers, pension professionals, and policymakers have the opportunity to understand and thoughtfully participate in voicing opinions and collaborating in the formulation of policies and practices.

PBGC endeavors to make the *Pension Insurance Data Book* as current as possible and ensure its timely posting to the Open Government Web pages.



Open Government Works in Progress – Contacts for Further Information

✓ Transparency Participation Collaboration

PBGC embraces the challenge of open government and submits this plan for its continuous improvement. This plan will be reviewed, at a minimum, annually as a key component of PBGC's strategic planning cycle.

For questions about the plan, please e-mail, call, or write to

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bennett.edgar@pbqc.gov

(202) 326-4000, extension 3127

or,

Dennis Casey

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