Austin Firemen's Relief Association



Annual Actuarial Valuation December 31, 1996

HD 7116 .F52 A87b 1996

Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company





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March 27, 1997

Board of Trustees Austin Firemen's Relief Association Austin, Minnesota

Submitted in this report are the results of the December 31, 1996 actuarial valuation of the assets, actuarial values and contribution requirements associated with the benefits provided by the Austin Firemen's Relief Association.

The valuation results contained in Section A provide the actuarial information needed to determine the employer's "minimum obligation" effective January 1, 1998. Section A also contains comments regarding the valuation results.

The valuation was based upon information furnished by the Association concerning benefits, financial transactions, active members, terminated members, retirants and beneficiaries. Data was checked for year to year consistency but was not otherwise audited by us. This information is summarized in Section B.

A description of the actuarial funding method and the risk experience assumptions used is contained in Section C. The economic risk experience assumptions, as well as the actuarial funding method to be used, are established by state law.

Information needed to comply with Statement No. 5 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board is contained in Section D.

The actuarial valuation was prepared using generally accepted actuarial principles and practices based upon the methods, assumptions, summary of plan provisions and the member and financial data described in this report.

Respectfully submitted, Mary ann Vitace Mary Ann Vitale Losk -1-

SECTION A

Valuation Results

Comments

Economic Assumptions and Financing Method

The economic assumptions of 6% annual investment return and 4% annual salary increases are established by state law. State law also specifies that the annual minimum obligation of the municipality shall be determined by adding (i) the employer normal cost percent times covered payroll to (ii) the level dollar amount required to amortize the unfunded actuarial accrued liability by December 31, 2010.

It is worth noting that when the same assumptions and methods are applied to plans which differ in nature, the valuation results may not be comparable. Caution should be exercised when attempting to assess the financial condition of one Association relative to another on the basis of valuation results produced using the assumptions and methods mandated by state law.

Change in Definition of Base Pay

The change in the definition of base pay to be the salary of a first-class <u>police patrol officer</u> effective as of 1/1/93 was provided by the relief association for the December 31, 1992 actuarial valuation. However, the City Council has determined that this change in the definition of base pay was not within the scope of the Minnesota State Statutes since there are full-time firefighters in the Minnesota Public Employees Retirement Association. The City Council has taken action to adjust base pay to be the salary of a first-class <u>firefighter</u> based on the pension allowed by Minnesota State Statute.

CONTRIBUTION RATE TO PROVIDE BENEFITS Member portion & Employer portion Effective January 1, 1998

	If Paid Equally Throughout Year				
Contributions for	Normal Cost % of Active Payroll for 1998	+	UAAL Dollars		
Normal cost of annuities:			<u> </u>		
Age & service: to members Age & service: to survivors Disability Death before retirement Refunds of member contributions Total Normal Cost	N/A				
Amortization of unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities (UAAL) (13 year level dollar payment)					
Retired lives Active members Total			\$305,538 305,538		
Total Cost of Benefits	N/A	+	\$305,538		
Member contributions	N/A				
COMPUTED EMPLOYER RATE:					
(a) If Paid Equally Throughout Year(B) IF PAID AT CALENDAR YEAR END	N/A N/A	+ +	\$305,538 \$314,571		

Present Actuarial Condition

The Association's accrued actuarial assets were in excess of \$7.1 million on December 31, 1996 -- a considerable sum of money if unencumbered and allocated among a small group of persons. This is not the case with the Association's assets.

The following schedule puts the \$7.1 million into perspective by showing the relationship between accrued actuarial assets, actuarial accrued liabilities, and the number of persons with actual and potential claims on the Association's assets.

	Accrued Actuarial Assets	Actuarial Accrued Liabilities	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liabilities	Percent Funded
Retirants and Beneficiaries Retired Members (35) Surviving Spouses (10) Surviving Children (0)		\$8,862,492 1,046,340 0		
Total (45)	\$7,123,645	\$9,908,832	\$2,785,187	71.9%
Deferred Members (0)	0	0	0	0.0
Active Members (0)	0	0	0	0.0
Total	\$7,123,645	\$9,908,832	\$2,785,187	71.9%

Actuarial accrued liabilities represent the value of retirement allowances likely to be paid the 45 retirants and beneficiaries, discounted for investment earnings and mortality, was computed to be \$9,908,832 as of December 31, 1996. To put this amount in perspective, the \$9,908,832, together with investment earnings, will just be sufficient to pay the 45 retirants and beneficiaries their allowances for their remaining lifetimes. This assumes the 45 retirants and beneficiaries live and die according to the assumed mortality and the \$9,908,832 is invested to yield an average annual return of 6.0% over the remaining lifetimes of the retirants and beneficiaries.

Valuation Date December 31	Actuarial Accrued Liabilities	Accrued Actuarial Assets	Percent Funded
1987	\$ 8,476	\$4,171	49.2%
1988	8,579	4,642	54.1
1989	8,963	5,243	58.5
1990	9,258	5,640	60.9
1991	9,362	6,142	65.6
1992*#	10,391	6,593	63.5
1993	11,362	6,800	59.8
1994#	11,554	6,640	57.5
1995	11,376	6,936	61.0
1996@	9,909	7,124	71.9

Historical Funding Ratio Schedule (\$ in thousands)

* After change in actuarial assumptions.

After change in benefit provisions.

(a) After City Council action to adjust salary to first-class **firefighter** rather than police patrol officer.

Year Ended		Total Normal Cost	Contribution For
Decen Valuation	iber 31 Fiscal	as a Percent of Valuation Pavroll*	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liabilities
1987	1989	28 37%	\$319.142
1988	1990	28.31	299.651
1989	1991	27.24	291,265
1990	1992	26.96	292,134
1991	1993	26.21	268,819
1992	1994**#	23.47	352,007
1993	1995	21.79	438,420
1994	1996	21.81	484,960
1994	1996#	22.08	491,394
1995	1997	N.A.	463,819
1996	1998@	N.A.	305,538

Computed Contributions - Comparative Schedule

* Includes employee contributions.

** After change in actuarial assumptions.

After change in benefit provisions.

@ After City Council action to adjust salary to first-class firefighter rather than police patrol officer.

Contribution for Calendar Year Effective January 1, 1998

For any period of time the percent-of-payroll contribution rate is converted to dollars. The amount of dollars for any calendar year depends upon the results of the last actuarial valuation, and the timing of contributions within the year. The later the contribution date, the greater the dollar amount will be.

The municipality's dollar contribution for the year may be determined as follows:

(1)	Estimated covered payroll for 1998		\$	
(2)	Total normal cost % from page A-2		N.A.	
(3)	Total normal cost (Line 1 times line 2)			\$
(4)	x 1.04 1996 Administrative expenses paid from the Special Fund			
(5)	Amortization payment on UAAL from page A-2			305,538
(6)	Total contributions required (Line 3 plus line 4 plus line 5)			
(7)	Employee contributions (Line 1 times 8%)		\$	
(8)	 (a) State amortization aid based on 12/31/78 UAAL of \$3,196,546 (b) State amortization aid based on 1984 legislation (c) Total State amortization aid 	\$48,108 <u>8,630</u>	56,738	
(9)	Estimated insurance premium aid			
(10)	Estimated total contributions from other sources (Line 7 plus line 8 plus line 9)			
(11)	Employer's Minimum Obligation if payment is made in equal installments throughout the year (Line 6 minus line 10)			\$
(12)	Employer's Minimum Obligation If Payment Is Made at Year End (Line 11 times 1.0296)			\$

SECTION B

Valuation Data and Summary of Benefit Provisions

Retirants and Beneficiaries December 31, 1996 By Type of Annuity Being Paid

Computed

Type of Annuity Being Paid	No.	Monthly Amounts	Actuarial Accrued Liabilities
Retirants receiving:			
Age & Service	35	\$60,446.74	\$8,862,492
Disability	_0	0.00	0
Totals	35	60,446.74	8,862,492
Beneficiaries receiving:			
Spouse	10	9,979,41	1.046.340
Child	_0	0.00	0
Totals	<u>10</u>	_9,979.41	1,046,340
Totals	45	\$70,426.15	\$9,908,832



Monthly Amount Paid by Benefit

Retirants and Beneficiaries December 31, 1996 By Attained Ages

		Number	
Attained	Age &	Dischiller	Death Before
Ages	Service	Disability	Retirement
50-54	6		
55-59	7		
60.64	7		
00-04	/		
65-69	2		
70-74	9		1
75-79	6		
80-84	2		
85-89	3		1
90-94	_1		_
Total	43		2

Retirants and Beneficiaries Added to and Removed from Rolls Comparative Statement

Valuation			Rolls H	End of Year	
Date December 31	No. Added to Rolls	No. Removed from Rolls	No.	Annual Allowances	Discounted Value of Total Allowances
1987			30	\$372,919	\$ 5,220,276
1988	3	2	31	377,848	5,026,908
1989	4	2	33	429,390	5,869,416
1990	2	1	34	461,981	6,194,664
1991	2	1	35	484,295	6,382,140
1992	1	1	35	573,865*	7,243,176
1993	10		45	773,773*	10,706,568
1994	2	1	46	836,669*	11,290,464
1995	1	1	46	845,114*	11,375,688
1996	1	2	45	752,135@	9,908,832

* Based on the salary of a first-class *police patrol officer* as provided as of 1/1/93.

(a) Based on the salary of a first-class *firefighter* as provided as of 1/1/97 after City Council action.



Average Annual Allowances

Valuation Year

Active Members December 31, 1996 By Attained Age and Years of Service

At the end of 1996, the Association had no active members.

Comparative Schedule Of Active Members

Valuation						
Date		Valuation		Aver	age	
December 31	Active Members	Payroll	Age	Service	Pay	% Incr.
1987	18	\$491,382	50.2 yrs.	21.8 yrs.	\$27,299	3.0%
1988	18	513,144	51.2	22.8	28,508	4.4
1989	15	442,470	51.7	23.9	29,498	3.5
1990	14	429,492	52.4	24.7	30,678	4.0
1991	13	404,664	53.3	26.1	31,128	1.5
1992	12	441,564	53.5	26.3	36,797*	18.2
1993	1	37,421	49.0	24.3	37,421	1.7
1994	1	39,905	50.0	25.3	39,905	6.6
1995	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
1996	0	0	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.@	N.A.
	Valuation Date December 31 1987 1988 1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996	Valuation Date Active Members December 31 Active Members 1987 18 1988 18 1989 15 1990 14 1991 13 1992 12 1993 1 1994 1 1995 0 1996 0	Valuation DateValuation PayrollDecember 31Active MembersPayroll198718\$491,382198818513,144198915442,470199014429,492199113404,664199212441,5641993137,4211994139,905199500199600	Valuation DateValuationDecember 31Active MembersPayrollAge198718\$491,382 50.2 yrs. 198818 $513,144$ 51.2 198915 $442,470$ 51.7 199014 $429,492$ 52.4 199113 $404,664$ 53.3 199212 $441,564$ 53.5 19931 $37,421$ 49.0 19941 $39,905$ 50.0 199500N.A.199600N.A.	Valuation DateValuationAverDecember 31Active MembersPayrollAgeService198718\$491,38250.2 yrs.21.8 yrs.198818513,14451.222.8198915442,47051.723.9199014429,49252.424.7199113404,66453.326.1199212441,56453.526.31993137,42149.024.31994139,90550.025.3199500N.A.N.A.199600N.A.N.A.	Valuation Date Valuation Payroll Age Service Pay 1987 18 \$491,382 50.2 yrs. 21.8 yrs. \$27,299 1988 18 513,144 51.2 22.8 28,508 1989 15 442,470 51.7 23.9 29,498 1990 14 429,492 52.4 24.7 30,678 1991 13 404,664 53.3 26.1 31,128 1992 12 441,564 53.5 26.3 36,797* 1993 1 37,421 49.0 24.3 37,421 1994 1 39,905 50.0 25.3 39,905 1995 0 0 N.A. N.A. N.A.

* Change in the definition of base pay to be the salary of a first-class police patrol officer as provided.

(a) Change in the definition of base pay to be the salary of a first-class *firefighter* as provided as of 1/1/97 after City Council action.



Brief Summary (12/31/96) of Benefit Provisions Evaluated and/or Considered

AGE & SERVICE RETIREMENT

Eligibility. 20 years of service and 50 years of age.

Amount. 50% of base pay at retirement. For each year over 25, an additional 1/2% of base pay is added to the benefit. (The additional benefit is not subject to the post-retirement adjustment provisions.)

PAY USED FOR PLAN PURPOSES. "Base pay" means the salary of a first class firefighter.

DISABILITY RETIREMENT

Eligibility. Disabled to the extent that no longer able to perform duties of a fireman before being eligible for age & service retirement.

Amount. 50% of base pay.

MEMBER'S DEATH WHILE ACTIVE, OR IN DEFERRED STATUS, OR RETIRED

Eligibility.

Spouse. Legally married to member at separation from service and residing with member at time of death. If married after member terminated active employment, must have been legally married for 3 years prior to member's death. If former spouse predeceases the member, current legal married spouse will be eligible for a benefit upon member's death. Benefits are payable for life.

Child. Younger than age 18.

Amount.

Spouse. 30% of base pay.Child. \$300 each per year.Maximum Family Benefit. 50% of base pay.

VESTED DEFERRED. 20 years of service and separated before age 50. Payment beginning is deferred to attainment of age 50.

POST-RETIREMENT ADJUSTMENTS ("ESCALATOR"). Each time base pay is changed, retired member and surviving spouse benefits are simultaneously changed by the same percent that base pay changes. Children's benefits are not escalated.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS. 8% of base pay. Total member contributions are refundable without interest if no monthly benefit is payable upon separation from service.

MEDICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE. \$160 per month for single and \$320 for family coverage for eligible retirants and their eligible spouses payable to the retirant's attainment of age 65 (or becoming eligible for Medicare benefits).

SECTION C

Valuation Methods and

Assumptions

Valuation Methods and Assumptions

The Entry Age Normal Cost method was used to determine the normal cost of all benefits. The rate of investment return (interest) as required by state law used in making the valuation was 6.0 percent per annum, compounded annually.

	Single Life Values:					
	P	resent Value	of \$1 Month	ly		
	Lev	vel	Incr	easing	Futur	re Life
Sample	For I	Life	3.5%	Yearly	Expectan	cy (Years)
Ages	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
<i></i>						
45	\$159.22	\$168.84	\$261.90	\$291.24	29.50	34.00
50	147.95	159.22	231.75	261.90	25.20	29.50
55	135.09	147.95	201.37	231.75	21.16	25.20
60	120.76	135.09	171.29	201.37	17.42	21.16
65	105.49	120.76	142.51	171.29	14.05	17.42
70	89.88	105.49	115.81	142.51	11.09	14.05
75	74.14	89.88	91.34	115.81	8.52	11.09
80	59.37	74.14	70.19	91.34	6.39	8.52

* UP-1984 Table set forward 2 years for males and set back 3 years for females.

SECTION D

The Pension Benefit Obligation and Certain Other Disclosures Required by Statement No. 5 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board

Pension Benefit Obligation

The amount shown below as the "pension benefit obligation" is a standardized disclosure measure of the present value of pension benefits, adjusted for the effects of projected salary increases, estimated to be payable in the future as a result of employee service to date. The measure is the actuarial present value of credited projected benefits and is intended to (i) help users assess the plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, (ii) assess progress being made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due, and (iii) allow for comparisons among public employee retirement plans. The measure is independent of the actuarial funding method used to determine contributions to the plan.

The pension benefit obligation was determined as part of an actuarial valuation of the plan as of December 31, 1996. Significant actuarial assumptions used in determining the pension benefit obligation include (a) a rate of return on the investment of present and future assets of 6.0% per year compounded annually, (b) projected salary increases of 4.0% per year compounded annually, attributable to inflation, and (c) the assumption that benefits will increase 4.0% per year after retirement.

At December 31, 1996, the unfunded pension benefit obligation was \$3,146,771, determined as follows:

Pension Benefit Obligation:

Retirants and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits and terminated employees not yet receiving benefits	\$9,908,832
Current employees	
Accumulated employee contributions including allocated investment income	0
Employer financed	0
Total Pension Benefit Obligation	\$9,908,832
Net assets available for benefits, at cost	
(market value was \$7,846,814)	6,762,061
Unfunded Pension Benefit Obligation	\$ <u>3,146,771</u>

The total pension benefit obligation as of January 1, 1996 was \$9,908,832. During the year, the plan experienced a decrease of \$1,466,856 in the pension benefit obligation.

Contributions Required and Contributions Made

The Association's funding policy provides for periodic employer contributions at actuarially determined rates that, expressed as percentages of annual covered payroll, are designed to accumulate sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. The normal cost and actuarial accrued liability are determined using an entry-age actuarial funding method. Unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities are being amortized as a level dollar amount over a period of 13 years.

During the year ended December 31, 1996, contributions totaling \$490,193 -- \$490,193 employer and \$0 employee -- were made in accordance with contribution requirements determined by an actuarial valuation of the plan as of December 31, 1994. The employer contributions consisted of \$5,619 for normal cost and \$484,574 for amortization of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. Employer contributions represented 1,228.40% of covered payroll.

Significant actuarial assumptions used to compute contribution requirements were the same as those used to compute the standardized measure of the pension benefit obligation.

		Contribution Rates				
Fiscal	Valuation	Normal Cost			Dollar Co	ntribution
Year	Date	% of Valuation	UAAL	Valuation	For Fiscal Year	
December 31	December 31	Payroll	Dollars	Payroll	Computed	Actual
1988	1986	20.45%	\$327,559	\$476,982	\$425,102	\$431,748
1989	1987	20.37	319,142	491,382	419,237	454,490
1990	1988	20.31	299,651	513,144	403,871	426,209
1991	1989	19.24	291,265	442,470	376,396	381,690
1992	1990	18.96	292,134	429,492	373,566	375,018
1002	1001	19.21	2(9,910	101 ((1	242 508	200 720
1993	1991	18.21	268,819	404,664	342,508	399,720
1994#*	1992	15.47	352,007	441,564	420,317	403,827
1995	1993	13.79	438,420	37,421	443,580	508,712
1996#	1994	14.08	491,394	39,905	497,013	490,193
1997	1995	N.A.	463,819	0	463,819	
1998@	1996	N.A.	305,538	0	305,538	

Computed Contribution Comparative Schedule

* After change in actuarial assumptions.

After change in benefit provisions.

@ After City Council action to adjust salary to first-class firefighter.

Valuation Date December 31	(1) Net Assets Available for Benefits	(2) Pension Benefit Obligation (PBO)	(3) Percent Funded (1)/(2)	(4) Unfunded PBO (2)-(1)	(5) Annual Covered Payroll	(6) Unfunded PBO as a Percentage of Covered Payroll (4)/(5)
1987	\$4.215.023	\$ 8.356.322	50.4%	\$4.141.299	\$491.382	842.8%
1988	4,674,711	8,460,444	55.3	3,785,733	513,144	737.8
1989	5,169,042	8,859,339	58.3	3,690,297	442,470	834.0
1990	5,628,551	9,160,054	61.4	3,531,503	429,492	822.3
1991	5,917,378	9,273,683	63.8	3,356,305	404,664	829.4
1992	6,347,911	10,227,158	62.1	3,879,247	441,564	878.5
1993	6,549,047	11,344,519	57.7	4,795,472	37,421	12,814.9
1994	6,582,177	11,533,546	57.1	4,951,369	39,905	12,407.9
1995	6,621,691	11,375,688	58.2	4,753,997	0	N.A.
1996	6,762,061	9,908,832	68.2	3,146,771	0	N.A.

Required Supplementary Information Analysis of Funding Progress

Analysis of the dollar amounts of net assets available for benefits, pension benefit obligation, and unfunded pension benefit obligation in isolation can be misleading. Expressing the net assets available for benefits as a percentage of the pension benefit obligation provides one indication of the plan's funded status on a going-concern basis. Analysis of this percentage over time indicates whether the system is becoming financially stronger or weaker. Generally, the greater this percentage, the stronger the plan. The unfunded pension benefit obligation and annual covered payroll are both affected by inflation. Expressing the unfunded pension benefit obligation as a percentage of annual covered payroll approximately adjusts for the effects of inflation and aids analysis of the progress being made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due. Generally, the smaller this percentage, the stronger the plan.

APPENDICES



Appendix I

Financial Principles and Operational Techniques

Promises Made, and Eventually Paid. As each year is completed, the plan in effect hands an "IOU" to each member then acquiring a year of service credit -- the "IOU" says: "The Pension Plan owes you a portion of your retirement benefits, payments to be made in cash, commencing when you qualify for retirement."

The related key financial questions are: Which generation of taxpayers contributes the money to cover the IOU? The present taxpayers, who receive the benefit of the member's present year of service? Or the future taxpayers, who happen to be in town paying taxes at the later time when the IOU becomes a cash demand?

A sound principle of sound retirement plan financing is to have this year's taxpayers contribute the money to cover the IOUs being handed out this year. By following this principle, THE CONTRIBUTION RATE WILL REMAIN APPROXIMATELY LEVEL FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION -- our children and grandchildren will contribute the same percents of active payroll we contribute now.

A Pension Plan Becomes Closed

The diagram in this appendix shows two important activities which occur after a plan has been closed to employees hired in the future.

Cash benefits paid continue to increase for decades, while active member payroll begins to decrease to zero.

Funding Method. A funding method is the long-term, planned pattern for employer contributions.

For an open plan (a plan covering future employees), the level-percent-of-active-member payroll funding method is the basic funding method.

The level-percent funding method can also be applied to a closed plan. However, the resulting contribution percent usually jumps to a high rate, because the number of covered active members is decreasing.

A preferred funding method for a closed plan consists of: level-percent funding for normal cost (the cost of members' service now being rendered); plus a level dollar contribution for unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities over a limited period of years. The period of years must be limited so that plan assets don't become zero while benefits are still payable.

Computing Contributions To Support Plan Benefits. From a given schedule of benefits and from the employee data and asset data furnished him, the actuary determines the contribution rates to support the benefits by means of an actuarial valuation and a funding method.

In making an actuarial valuation, assumptions must be made regarding anticipated financial experiences for the next year and for decades in the future. Only the subsequent actual experience of the plan can indicate the degree of accuracy of the assumptions.

Reconciling Differences Between Assumed Experience and Actual Experience. Once actual experience has occurred and been observed, it will not coincide exactly with assumed experience, regardless of the wisdom of the assumptions or the skill of the actuary and the millions of calculations he made. The future can be predicted with considerable but not 100% precision, except for inflation which seems to defy reliable prediction.

A well-managed plan copes with these continually changing differences by having periodic actuarial valuations. Each actuarial valuation is a complete recalculation of assumed future experience, taking into account all past differences between assumed and actual experience. The result is continuing adjustment in financial position.

A CLOSED PENSION PLAN



YEARS OF TIME

<u>A plan becomes closed</u> when no new hires are admitted to active membership. The persons covered by the plan at the time of closing continue their normal activities and continue to be covered by the plan, until the last survivor dies.

CASH BENEFITS LINE. After a pension plan becomes closed, the usual pattern is for cash benefits to continue to increase for decades of time. Eventually the cash benefits will peak, and then gradually decrease over more decades of time, ultimately to zero. The last cash benefit is likely to occur a century after the time the plan is closed.

The precise amounts of cash benefits cannot be known now, and must be estimated by assumptions of future experiences in a variety of financial risk areas.

Appendix II

Meaning of Unfunded Accrued Liabilities

Almost every pension plan (public or private) has "unfunded accrued liabilities", so whatever they are, they aren't rare. Since the term is not part of everyday conversation, it needs some definition.

"Accrued liabilities" are the present value \$ of plan promises to pay benefits in the future based upon service already rendered - - - a liability has been established ("accrued") because the service has been rendered, but the resulting monthly cash benefit may not be payable until years in the future. Accrued liabilities \$ are the result of complex mathematical calculations, which are made by the plan's actuary (which is the name given to the specialist who makes such calculations).

If "accrued liabilities" at any time exceed the plan's accrued assets (cash & investments), the difference is "unfunded accrued liabilities". This is the common condition. If the plan's assets equalled the plan's "accrued liabilities", the plan would be termed "fully funded". This is a rare condition.

Each time a plan adds a new benefit which applies to service already rendered, an "accrued liability" is created, which is also an "unfunded accrued liability" because the plan can't print instant cash to cover the accrued liability. Payment for such unfunded accrued liabilities is spread over a period of years, commonly in the 20-40 year range.

Unfunded accrued liabilities can occur in another way: If actual financial experience is less favorable than assumed financial experience, the difference is added to unfunded accrued liabilities. In plans where plan benefits are directly related to an employee's pay near time of retirement (a common plan provision) rather than his average pay throughout his working career, unfunded accrued liabilities have been increasing in recent years because unexpected rates of pay increase have created additional accrued liabilities which could not be matched by reasonable investment results. Some of these unexpected pay increases are the direct result of inflation, which is a very destructive force on financial stability.

The existence of unfunded accrued liabilities is not bad, then (any more than a mortgage on your house is "bad"), but the changes from year to year in amount of unfunded accrued liabilities are important - - - "bad" or "good" or somewhere in between.

Nor are unfunded accrued liabilities a bill payable immediately (your food costs are payable immediately), but it is important that policy-makers prevent the amount from becoming unreasonably high and it is vital that your plan have a sound method for making payments toward them so that they are controlled.

The existence of large amounts of unfunded accrued liabilities indicates that total contributions in past years were less than level - - - an almost certain history if retired life liabilities are not fully funded now.