# Pension Funded Status Tracker

June 2020

ASSET MANAGEMENT | REPORT

CONNING

The funded status of the average US corporate defined benefit pension plan improved by 1% to 81% funded, between the beginning and end of June 2020.

- » The asset portfolio increased in value as both the hedging and growth portfolios witnessed positive returns:
  - Global equities increased in value with emerging market equities leading the rally with strong returns.
  - Within fixed income, corporate and high yield bonds both outperformed Treasuries.
- » Liabilities also increased in value, mostly driven by a drop in the effective discount rate:
  - Interest rates were relatively flat while high quality corporate spreads tightened.
  - As a result, the effective discount rate dropped by 7 basis points over the month.



Prepared by Conning, Inc. Source:  $\textcircled{\sc source}$  Bloomberg, L.P. As of June 30, 2020

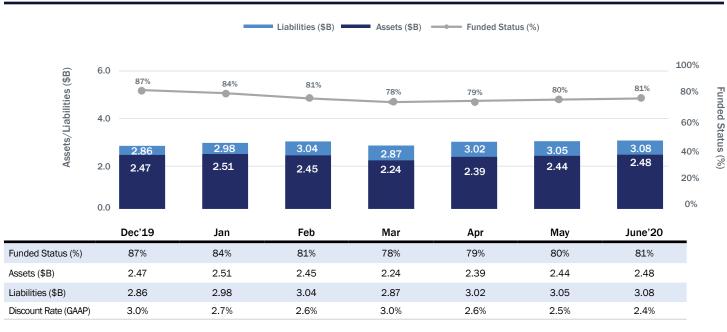
## **Key Metrics**

Pension Plan	Assets	Liabilities <sup>†</sup>	Funded Status <sup>†</sup>	
Valuation (\$B)	2.48	3.08	81%	
Duration (Yr)	7.6	14.2	Interest Rate Hedge Ratio	
Dollar Duration (\$mm)	1.9	4.4		
Yield* / Discount Rate	2.8%	2.4%	43%	

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June 30, 2020. \*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.



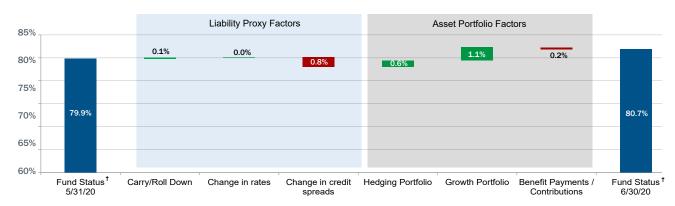
Pension Plan Tracker (June 30, 2020)<sup>†</sup>

<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: ©2019-2020 Bloomberg, L.P.

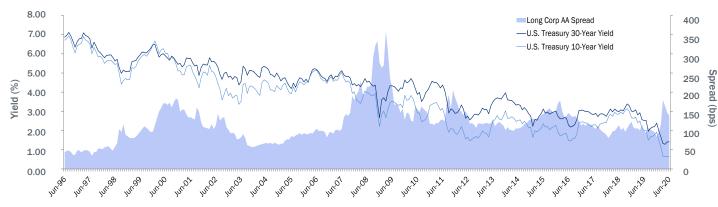
# Pension Funded Status Tracker



# Funded Status Attribution (May 31, 2020 – June 30, 2020)



† 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: ©2020 Bloomberg, L.P.



## **Yields and Corporate Spreads**

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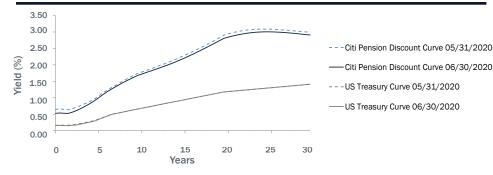
# Market Performance (June 30, 2020)

		MTD	QTD	YTD
	198			-
	S&P 500	2.0%	20.5%	-3.1%
	Russell 2000	3.5%	25.4%	-13.0%
Equities	MSCI World ACWI	3.2%	19.4%	-6.0%
	EAFE	3.5%	15.1%	-11.0%
	MSCI Emerging Markets	7.4%	18.1%	-9.7%
	Private Equity	3.1%	27.5%	-16.2%
Alternatives	Hedge Funds	1.9%	9.1%	-3.4%
	Real Estate	2.5%	13.9%	-13.9%
	High Yield	1.0%	10.2%	-3.8%
	US Aggregate	0.6%	2.9%	6.1%
Fixed Income	US Long Gov/Credit	1.6%	6.2%	12.8%
	US Long Credit	2.5%	11.1%	5.9%
	US Long Corporate AA	1.5%	6.3%	9.5%
	US Treasury 10 Yrs	0.1%	1.2%	13.3%
	US Treasury 30 Yrs	0.2%	-1.1%	25.2%

# **Pension Funded Status Tracker**

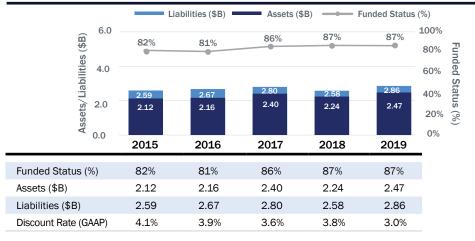


#### Liability Discount Curve



Prepared by Conning, Inc. Source: ©2020 Bloomberg L.P. and ©2020 Analytics provided by "The Yield Book" ® Software and Services/London Stock Exchange Group plo

### Pension Plan Tracker (Annual 2015 – 2019)



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# **Conning Pension Risk Analyzer<sup>®</sup>**

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

Contact us at LDI@conning.com

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#### About Conning<sup>®</sup>

Conning (www.conning.com) is a leading investment management firm with approximately \$180 billion in global assets under management as of June 30, 2020.\* With a long history of serving the insurance industry, Conning supports institutional investors, including pension plans, with investment solutions and asset management offerings, risk modeling software, and industry research. Founded in 1912, Conning has investment centers in Asia. Europe and North America.

\*As of June 30, 2020, represents the combined global assets under management for the affiliated firms under Conning Holdings Limited, Cathay Securities Investment Trust Co., Ltd. ("SITE") and Global Evolution Fondsmæglerselskab A/S and its group of companies (the "Global Evolution Companies"). The Global Evolution Companies are affiliates of Conning. 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 controlled entities

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#### 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 563 publicly traded companies from the Russell 3000 index for the 2019 year-end.+ Further, the Funded Status Tracker was updated retroactively to reflect published 10-K data for the 2019 year-end. All months of 2020 have been restated to account for the, now known, 2019 year-end position. In addition, the annual tracking of the 10-K data for the years 2015-2018 have been restated to reflect the change of the underlying universe of 658 plans to the current universe of 583 plans. The monitoring of 2019 months will continue until 2020 10-Ks become available, at which point, the same methodology will be applied to include 2020 year-end position with the subsequent 2021 months retroactively updated. Note: these assets may include non-U.S. pension plans. In aggregate. these 583 entities reported \$1.44 trillion in plan assets and \$1.67 trillion in plan liabilities at year end 2019.

The average plan size of the subset of the Russell 3000 index universe outlined above is approximately \$2.47 billion in assets and \$2.86 billion in liabilities, as of December 31, 2019. The Plan's liability is a hypothetical cash flow generated from our proprietary model to reflect a 14-year duration and valuation equivalent to the Plan's PBO on a US GAAP valuation basis as at the end of 2019, 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.

+For the periods 2015-2019, data from 583 publicly traded companies were used. These companies were selected because they had consistently filed pension data every year for the period from 2015 through to 2019.

#### 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#: 10681214