

# The FTSE 350 and their pension disclosures



AN ANNUAL SUMMARY AND TRENDS REPORT FROM  
JLT EMPLOYEE BENEFITS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2012

# Executive Summary

- ▶ The total deficit in FTSE 350 pension schemes at 31 December 2012 is estimated to be £56 billion.
- ▶ Over the last 4 years, FTSE 350 pension schemes have gone from a total surplus of £13 billion to an overall deficit of £56 billion, despite FTSE 350 companies paying £40 billion of deficit funding into their pension schemes. Nine FTSE 350 companies (Royal Dutch Shell, BT, Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group, GlaxoSmithKline, BAE Systems, Unilever and Royal Bank of Scotland) have each paid more than £1 billion of deficit funding into their pension schemes over the last three years.
- ▶ The average pension scheme asset allocation to bonds has increased from 33% to 56% in the last six years, and the pace at which companies and trustees are switching pension assets out of equities into bonds would appear to be increasing again after three years of little change. Over the past three years, 16 FTSE 350 companies have switched more than a quarter of their assets from equities into bonds. Kentz has seen the greatest switch, moving from 23% of assets in bonds in 2009 to 78% of assets in bonds in 2012.
- ▶ The total disclosed pension liabilities of the FTSE 350 companies have increased to £542 billion in 2012 from £433 billion in 2009. 14 companies have disclosed pension liabilities of more than £10 billion, whilst 124 FTSE 350 companies have no defined benefit pension scheme at all.
- ▶ If pension liabilities were to be measured on a risk-free basis rather than using a AA bond discount rate, we estimate that it would increase the total disclosed pension liabilities of the FTSE 350 from £542 billion to around £710 billion and the total deficit at 31 December 2012 would be over £200 billion.
- ▶ There are 18 FTSE 350 companies that have disclosed pension liabilities greater than the total equity value of the company, and seven FTSE 350 companies now have disclosed pension liabilities valued at over double the company equity value.
- ▶ Companies are reacting to the combination of difficult economic conditions, rising pension costs and increasingly aggressive pension regulations by closing pension schemes to future and even current employees. Already, more than a third of all FTSE 350 companies do not have a DB pension scheme. The decline in DB pension provision is reflected in the total service cost in the latest FTSE 350 accounts of £7.1 billion, which compares to £7.5 billion last year and £9.4 billion in 2007. JLT Employee Benefits believes that the majority of FTSE 350 companies will cease DB pension provision to all employees within the next two years.

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# Funding Position

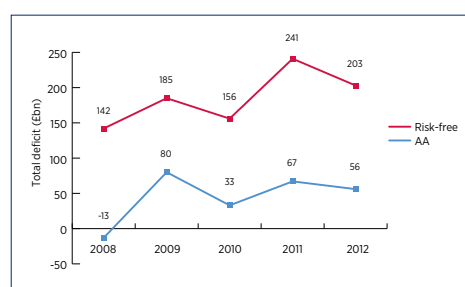
The overall funding position of pension schemes of FTSE 350 companies has seen some major swings over the past three years.

Including all pension arrangements, both UK and overseas, whether funded or unfunded, the FTSE 350 companies with the largest pension scheme surpluses over the past three years were as follows:

2010			2011			2012		
Name	Surplus £m	Funding level	Name	Surplus £m	Funding level	Name	Surplus £m	Funding level
Prudential	338	107%	Prudential	312	105%	Prudential	1,543	127%
Old Mutual	138	117%	Standard Life	216	111%	Aviva	1,264	112%
Henderson	90	129%	Marks & Spencer	182	103%	Rolls-Royce	1,251	114%
Resolution	59	106%	Old Mutual	142	115%	Lloyds Banking Group	592	102%
Gartmore Group	51	159%	Rolls-Royce	115	101%	Standard Life	441	119%
WH Smith	25	103%	Henderson	106	131%	Phoenix Group	408	113%
Provident Financial	20	104%	WH Smith	69	110%	Centrica	330	108%
Ladbrokes	15	107%	Resolution	66	106%	Henderson	235	150%
Dignity	9	113%	Phoenix Group	56	102%	Rentokil Initial	125	111%
Hunting	8	104%	Next	56	112%	WH Smith	113	115%
Man Group	5	102%	3i	44	107%	Marks & Spencer	91	101%
London Stock Exchange	5	102%	Experian	42	108%	Inchcape	58	107%
British Land	3	103%	Provident Financial	41	109%	3i	56	108%
Investec	1	101%	Morrison Supermarkets	38	102%	Schroders	56	108%
Derwent London	1	108%	London Stock Exchange	38	115%	Experian	56	110%

The FTSE 350 companies with the largest pension scheme deficits over the past three years were as follows:

2010			2011			2012		
Name	Surplus £m	Funding level	Name	Surplus £m	Funding level	Name	Surplus £m	Funding level
Aviva	(1,707)	86%	GKN	(600)	82%	TUI Travel	(648)	67%
Unilever	(1,723)	88%	Imperial Tobacco	(754)	79%	British American Tobacco	(665)	89%
GlaxoSmithKline	(1,744)	86%	International Airlines Group	(826)	95%	GKN	(868)	76%
Tesco	(1,840)	72%	Unilever	(1,219)	92%	Imperial Tobacco	(1,046)	75%
AstraZeneca	(2,027)	68%	GlaxoSmithKline	(1,223)	91%	National Grid	(1,429)	93%
Royal Dutch Shell	(2,068)	95%	Tesco	(1,356)	81%	GlaxoSmithKline	(1,476)	90%
International Airlines Group	(2,070)	88%	AstraZeneca	(1,582)	75%	AstraZeneca	(1,710)	76%
Rio Tinto	(2,348)	77%	Royal Dutch Shell	(1,672)	96%	Tesco	(1,872)	77%
Royal Bank of Scotland	(2,905)	91%	BT	(1,830)	95%	Royal Bank of Scotland	(2,051)	92%
BP	(3,539)	85%	HSBC	(1,834)	91%	Unilever	(2,139)	86%
Lloyds Banking Group	(3,555)	87%	Rio Tinto	(2,095)	80%	BT	(2,448)	94%
HSBC	(3,763)	80%	Royal Bank of Scotland	(2,183)	91%	Rio Tinto	(3,023)	74%
Barclays	(3,786)	82%	Barclays	(2,738)	87%	Royal Dutch Shell	(4,093)	91%
BAE Systems	(5,346)	74%	BP	(2,930)	88%	BAE Systems	(5,166)	78%
BT	(7,864)	82%	BAE Systems	(3,821)	82%	BP	(5,788)	79%



## Commentary

Adjusting all these figures to 31 December in each year, we estimate that the total pension deficit in the FTSE 350 as at 31 December 2012 was £56 billion. This compares to an estimated deficit of £67 billion at 31 December 2011, a deficit of £33 billion at 31 December 2010 and a deficit of £80 billion at 31 December 2009.

# Investment Mismatching

Legislation over a number of years has clarified that pension liabilities are a form of corporate debt. Inevitably, analysis of mismatching is limited to the information disclosed in the annual report and accounts. Given the bond-like nature of pension liabilities, the allocation of pension assets to bonds gives an indication of the level of investment mismatching that exists.

The FTSE 350 companies with the highest allocation to bonds over the past three years were:

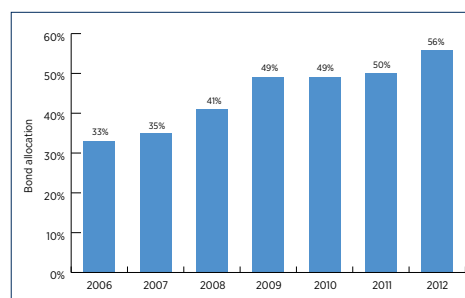
2010		2011		2012	
Name	% assets in bonds	Name	% assets in bonds	Name	% assets in bonds
Gartmore Group	100%	Catlin	100%	Aegis	100%
Hansen Transmissions	100%	Hunting	100%	Catlin	100%
Hunting	98%	WH Smith	96%	Dechra Pharmaceuticals	100%
WH Smith	96%	Aegis	95%	Hunting	100%
Misys	89%	Cape	90%	Synergy Health	99%
Fresnillo	88%	Regus	87%	WH Smith	90%
Capital Shopping Centres	87%	Phoenix Group	85%	Prudential	89%
Resolution	83%	BTG	83%	Rolls-Royce	89%
Phoenix Group	83%	Resolution	83%	G4S	88%
Rentokil Initial	83%	Rolls-Royce	82%	Aviva	87%

The FTSE 350 companies with the lowest allocation to bonds over the past three years were:

2010		2011		2012	
Name	% assets in bonds	Name	% assets in bonds	Name	% assets in bonds
Wood Group (John)	14%	Inmarsat	17%	Stagecoach	17%
Derwent London	13%	Wood Group (John)	16%	BG	17%
International Power	13%	BG	14%	Wood Group (John)	17%
Tullett Prebon	10%	Evraz	14%	Evraz	16%
Inmarsat	10%	International Power	13%	RIT Capital Partners	15%
RIT Capital Partners	7%	Tullett Prebon	10%	Homeserve	13%
St. Modwen Properties	6%	Homeserve	8%	Tullett Prebon	7%
Homeserve	5%	RIT Capital Partners	8%	Greene King	3%
Renishaw	2%	Renishaw	2%	Renishaw	1%
Hammerson	0%	Hammerson	0%	Hammerson	0%

The FTSE 350 companies with the greatest three-year change in investment strategy were:

Name	% Assets in bonds				Switch to bonds
	2009 bonds	2010 bonds	2011 bonds	2012 bonds	
Kentz	23%	20%	42%	78%	+55%
Aegis	46%	47%	95%	100%	+54%
Synergy Health	52%	43%	65%	99%	+47%
G4S	43%	42%	81%	88%	+45%
Centrica	27%	36%	53%	59%	+32%
F&C Asset Management	41%	39%	62%	73%	+32%
Dairy Crest	43%	73%	71%	75%	+32%
United Utilities	44%	51%	66%	75%	+31%
Petra Diamonds	55%	25%	100%	86%	+31%
Aviva	56%	69%	70%	87%	+31%
<i>All companies</i>	49%	49%	50%	56%	+7%



## Commentary

The average pension scheme asset allocation to bonds has increased from 33% to 56% in just six years, and following three years of little change the pace at which companies and trustees are switching pension assets out of equities into bonds would appear to be increasing again. Over the past three years, 16 FTSE 350 companies have switched more than a quarter of their assets from equities into bonds. Kentz has seen the greatest switch, moving from 23% of assets in bonds in 2009 to 78% of assets and bonds in 2012.

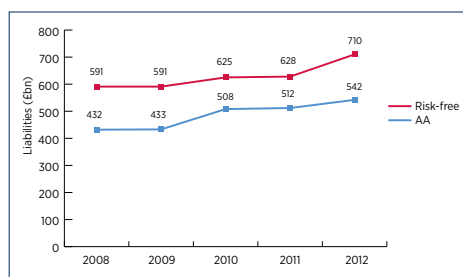
122 FTSE 350 companies now have more than 50% of assets in bonds. Moreover, company disclosures reveal little of the extensive activity there has been by a number of companies to reduce mismatching risk by LDI (liability-driven investment) strategies, which frequently make use of derivatives and other financial instruments.

# Size of Pension Scheme

In recent years, pension schemes have grown significantly. Attempts by many companies to stem the growth of their pension liabilities by closing defined benefit pension schemes to new entrants have had little impact. Changes in economic conditions and increasing life expectancy have contributed to the spiralling growth in pension liabilities.

Not surprisingly, the table of the largest pension schemes in the FTSE 350 has remained fairly stable. The FTSE 350 companies with the largest pension scheme liabilities over the past three years are as follows:

2010		2011		2012	
Name	Total pension liabilities £m	Name	Total pension liabilities £m	Name	Total pension liabilities £m
BT	43,293	Royal Dutch Shell	42,570	Royal Dutch Shell	45,274
Royal Dutch Shell	39,381	BT	39,052	BT	40,989
Royal Bank of Scotland	30,830	Lloyds Banking Group	26,862	Lloyds Banking Group	28,236
Lloyds Banking Group	27,073	BP	25,055	BP	27,840
BP	23,281	Royal Bank of Scotland	24,999	Royal Bank of Scotland	27,137
BAE Systems	20,488	Barclays	21,643	BAE Systems	23,146
Barclays	20,486	BAE Systems	21,158	Barclays	22,823
National Grid	19,598	HSBC	21,022	HSBC	22,640
HSBC	18,869	National Grid	19,480	National Grid	21,386
International Airlines Group	16,826	International Airlines Group	16,142	International Airlines Group	16,623
Unilever	14,515	Unilever	14,983	Unilever	15,579
GlaxoSmithKline	12,438	GlaxoSmithKline	13,379	GlaxoSmithKline	14,334
Aviva	11,812	Aviva	11,419	Rio Tinto	11,513
Rio Tinto	10,006	Rio Tinto	10,575	Aviva	10,527
Rolls-Royce	7,537	Rolls-Royce	8,102	Rolls-Royce	8,765
Tesco	6,536	Tesco	6,964	Tesco	8,041
AstraZeneca	6,364	AstraZeneca	6,442	AstraZeneca	7,038
Diageo	6,359	Diageo	6,117	Diageo	6,284
Invensys	5,441	Prudential	5,692	Marks & Spencer	6,096
British American Tobacco	5,370	British American Tobacco	5,512	RSA	5,948



## Commentary

The total disclosed pension liabilities of the FTSE 350 companies has increased from £433 billion in 2009 to £542 billion in 2012. Fourteen companies have disclosed pension liabilities of more than £10 billion, whilst 124 companies have no defined benefit pension scheme at all.

The possibility of measuring pension liabilities on a risk-free basis (i.e. using gilt-based discount rates rather than AA bond discount rates) has been debated at length, including in a recent detailed discussion paper from the Accounting Standards Board. In the UK, a company can no longer default on its promises to pension scheme members unless it goes into liquidation (in which case it is likely there is no value left for shareholders). It is therefore difficult to see that shareholders get any value out of their limited ability to default on pension promises, and so applying a discount rate which allows for a probability of default is possibly illogical.

If pension liabilities were to be measured on a risk-free basis rather than using a AA bond discount rate, we estimate that it would increase the total disclosed pension liabilities of the FTSE 350 from £542 billion to around £710 billion and the total deficit at 31 December 2012 would be over £200 billion.

# Significance of the Pension Scheme in the Boardroom

The impact of the pension liabilities on corporate decision-making and its importance in the boardroom depends on the relative size of the pension scheme. In the analysis below, the pension scheme liabilities are expressed as a percentage of the equity market value (as at 31 December) of the company.

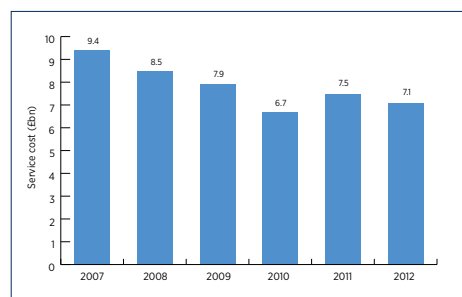
The FTSE 350 companies with the most significant pension scheme liabilities over the past three years are as follows:

2010			2011			2012		
Name	Liabilities £m	Liabilities as a % of EMV*	Name	Liabilities £m	Liabilities as a % of EMV*	Name	Liabilities £m	Liabilities as a % of EMV*
Premier Foods	2,959	640%	International Airlines Group	16,142	590%	International Airlines Group	16,623	485%
International Airlines Group	16,826	537%	Cable & Wireless Worldwide	1,470	338%	FirstGroup	3,636	361%
BT	43,293	310%	Phoenix Group	2,995	333%	Phoenix Group	3,043	320%
Phoenix Group	2,935	291%	Invensys	5,452	320%	The Go-Ahead Group	1,606	295%
The Go-Ahead Group	1,375	244%	Dixons Retail	950	267%	BT	40,989	230%
Invensys	5,441	190%	The Go-Ahead Group	1,568	266%	Invensys	5,801	220%
Atkins (WS)	1,323	188%	BT	39,052	265%	BAE Systems	23,146	212%
BAE Systems	20,488	182%	BAE Systems	21,158	220%	Kier	941	179%
Taylor Wimpey	1,819	181%	FirstGroup	3,450	212%	Atkins (WS)	1,330	174%
FirstGroup	3,458	180%	Royal Bank of Scotland	24,999	209%	Dairy Crest	846	165%

\* equity market value as at 31 December 2012

A further sign of the significance of pensions in the boardroom is the extent of continuing DB provision to employees. This can be measured by looking at the ongoing spend on DB pensions (the service cost) before any allowance for deficit spending. The FTSE 350 companies with the highest ongoing spending over the past three years are as follows:

2010		2011		2012	
Name	Service cost £m	Name	Service cost £m	Name	Service cost £m
Royal Dutch Shell	619	Royal Dutch Shell	738	Royal Dutch Shell	787
Royal Bank of Scotland	583	Royal Bank of Scotland	499	BP	496
BP	430	Tesco	499	Tesco	495
Lloyds Banking Group	395	BP	488	Royal Bank of Scotland	440
Tesco	391	Lloyds Banking Group	384	Lloyds Banking Group	380
HSBC	381	HSBC	358	Barclays	348
Barclays	281	Barclays	343	HSBC	343
GlaxoSmithKline	251	BT	297	BT	267
BT	206	GlaxoSmithKline	268	Unilever	219
Unilever	203	Unilever	224	GlaxoSmithKline	214



## Commentary

There are 18 FTSE 350 companies that have disclosed pension liabilities greater than the total equity value of the company, and seven FTSE 350 companies now have disclosed pension liabilities valued at over double the company equity value.

Companies are reacting to the combination of difficult economic conditions, rising pension costs and increasingly aggressive pension regulations by closing pension schemes to future and even current employees. Already, more than a third of all FTSE 350 companies do not have a DB pension scheme. The decline in DB pension provision is reflected in the total service cost in the latest FTSE 350 accounts of £7.1 billion, which compares to £9.4 billion in 2007. JLT Employee Benefits believes that the majority of FTSE 350 companies will cease DB pension provision to all employees within the next two years.

Total current DB service cost of £554m compares with the total previous DB service cost of £600m. 144 FTSE 350 companies showed zero (or negative) cost of current DB service costs, compared with 138 in the previous year.

# Contributions Paid Into Pension Schemes

This analysis compares the pension scheme contributions actually paid by companies with the cost of pension benefits accrued during the year. Pension contributions paid in excess of the cost of benefits will reduce pension scheme deficits. But where the contributions paid are less than the cost of benefits, this will increase pension scheme deficits (or reduce pension scheme surpluses).

The large increases in the contributions seen in the last couple of years have slowed, with the amount contributed in the most recent accounting year being £0.5 billion higher than the amount contributed the previous year.

Only contributions actually paid in the relevant accounting year are included in the analysis below.

The FTSE 350 companies who have made the largest surplus contributions to their pension schemes over the past three years were as follows:

Name	Pension contributions			Cost of benefits			Surplus contributions £m
	2010 £m	2011 £m	2012 £m	2010 £m	2011 £m	2012 £m	
BT	916	1,313	2,179	206	297	267	3,638
Barclays	601	721	2,220	282	105	371	2,784
HSBC	617	2,146	727	394	378	1	2,718
Lloyds Banking Group	1,859	648	833	462	430	400	2,048
GlaxoSmithKline	894	814	784	245	268	214	1,765
BAE Systems	864	800	727	183	251	257	1,700
Unilever	1,071	574	402	159	172	50	1,667
Royal Bank of Scotland	1,153	832	1,059	598	566	483	1,397
Rio Tinto	370	670	390	130	156	153	991
National Grid	572	408	415	112	165	159	959
Aviva	294	579	452	156	170	58	941
BP	646	836	891	431	490	615	837
AstraZeneca	365	304	458	181	82	135	730
Rolls-Royce	288	282	304	129	153	(135)	727
International Airlines Group	364	268	503	123	137	150	725
Centrica	403	441	130	70	115	118	671
Prudential	85	90	93	34	38	(247)	443
British American Tobacco	214	218	242	82	76	80	436
Diageo	195	214	190	86	105	(5)	413

## Commentary

In total, the amount contributed to FTSE 350 company pension schemes was £20.1 billion in the latest accounting year (cf. £5.8 billion cost of benefits), up from £19.6 billion in the previous accounting year (cf. £7.1 billion cost of benefits). Over the last three years a total of £40 billion has been paid into the pension schemes of FTSE 350 companies (on top of the cost of benefit accrual). Nine FTSE 350 companies have each paid more than £1 billion of deficit funding into their pension schemes. Despite this additional funding FTSE 350 pension schemes have gone from an estimated total surplus of £13 billion at 31 December 2008 to an estimated deficit of £56 billion at 31 December 2012.

Widening deficits, and perhaps weaker perceived sponsor covenants, will inevitably lead to trustees requesting larger deficit-correcting contributions from sponsoring employers. This year we expect to see a trend towards companies looking at alternative sources to fund their pension schemes. We are starting to see more companies make use of property partnership deals to help tackle their pension deficits. For example, Marks & Spencer, Sainsbury and Whitbread have used a total of £2.5 billion worth of property assets in such deals. Recently Dairy Crest used £60 million of cheese assets in an innovative way of tackling a large pension deficit.

# Notes

- › All of the analysis contained in this report is based on the IAS19 numbers disclosed in companies' annual report and accounts.
- › No adjustment is made for the fact that companies have applied different interpretations of IAS19 and have used different actuarial assumptions (for example, different mortality assumptions can make a significant difference to a company's pension liabilities).
- › No adjustment is made in the individual analysis for the fact that companies have different year-ends. Inevitably, different market conditions applying at different year-ends will affect the comparisons.
- › The assets and liabilities shown are the total global pension assets and liabilities, not just the UK figures.
- › The figures shown in this report are before adjustment for IFRIC14 (and before adjustment for any other unrecognised pension surpluses).
- › For full details of all the FTSE 350 companies and their relevant pension disclosures please see the corresponding JLT Employee Benefits reports "The FTSE 100 and their pension disclosures" and "The FTSE 250 and their pension disclosures".

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