

# Estimated retiree buyout cost as a percentage of accounting liability increased by 40 bps from 102.8% to 103.2% in August

Mary Leong, EA, MAAA, MSPA, CPC  
Ryan Cook, ASA, MAAA, EA



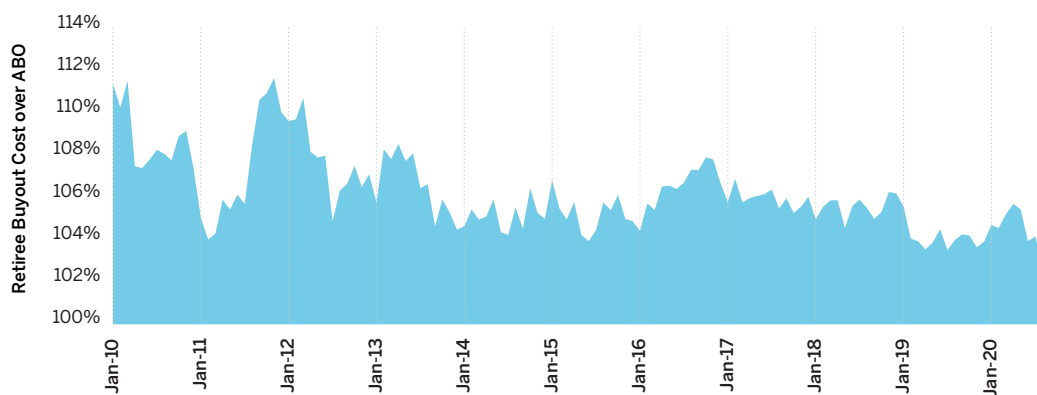
As the Pension Risk Transfer market continues to grow, it has become increasingly important for plan sponsors to monitor the annuity buyout market when considering a plan termination or de-risking strategy. The timing of the annuity buyout can ultimately impact the cost, as well as the plan's funding and accounting measurements. Other factors also impact annuity buyouts such as size, complexity, and competitive landscape, which should be taken into consideration with the estimated cost illustrated in the MPBI.

During August 2020, average accounting discount rates increased by 24 bps, while annuity purchase rates increased by 20 bps. This caused the estimated retiree buyout cost as a percentage of accounting liability (accumulated benefit obligation) to increase from 102.8% to 103.2%.

When considering these results, please keep the following information in mind:

- Annuity pricing composites are provided by the following insurers: Prudential Insurance Company of America, American United Life Insurance Company (OneAmerica), American General Life Insurance Company (subsidiary of AIG), Minnesota Life Insurance Company (Securian), Pacific Life Insurance Company, and Metropolitan Tower Life Insurance Company (MetLife).
- Baseline accounting obligations are estimated using a representative retiree population, the FTSE Above Median AA Curve, and insurance company data.
- Plan sponsors should note that specific characteristics in plan design or participant population could make settling pension obligations with an insurer more or less costly than estimated.

FIGURE 1: MILLIMAN PENSION BUYOUT INDEX



## Contact

Mary Leong  
[mary.leong@milliman.com](mailto:mary.leong@milliman.com)

Ryan Cook  
[ryan.cook@milliman.com](mailto:ryan.cook@milliman.com)

### ABOUT THE MPBI

The Milliman Pension Buyout Index (MPBI) uses the FTSE Above Median AA Curve and annuity purchase composite interest rates from several insurance companies to estimate the cost, as a percentage of accounting liability, of transferring retiree pension obligations to an insurer. To review previous monthly findings, visit [milliman.com/en/periodicals/Milliman-Pension-Buyout-Index](https://milliman.com/en/periodicals/Milliman-Pension-Buyout-Index).