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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release

## Milliman study indicates first gain in pension funded status since July

### Funded status increases by \$48 billion during March

Seattle – April 9, 2009 – Milliman, Inc., one of the premier global consulting and actuarial firms, today released the latest update to the Milliman 100 Pension Funding Index, which consists of 100 of the nation's largest defined benefit pension plans. In March, pensions experienced their first gain in funded status since July 2008. It was the first month in which a gain in assets—\$30 billion—improved pension funding status since May 2008. These gains were coupled with liability decreases of roughly \$18 billion due to increases in discount rates, resulting in a \$48 billion improvement in funded status for the month. These gains improved funded status to 77.7%.

"March was the first good month we've had in a long time," said John Ehrhardt, coauthor of the Milliman 100 Pension Funding Index. "We started the year with a 78.2% funded status, saw massive declines in January and February, and now see those losses somewhat neutralized by strong performance in March. While this is encouraging, we're still not out of the woods."

Indeed, in the last 12 months, the cumulative asset return for these pensions stands at -20.81% and the funded status has fallen by \$269 billion. For the rest of the year, the funded status of these 100 pension plans is projected to decrease slightly and result in a pension deficit of \$260 billion on Dec. 31. If asset returns are 0% for the rest of 2009, the projected deficit will grow to \$314 billion.

To view the complete monthly update, go to [www.milliman.com/expertise/employee-benefits/products-tools/pension-funding-study/index.php](http://www.milliman.com/expertise/employee-benefits/products-tools/pension-funding-study/index.php).

### About Milliman

Milliman is among the world's largest independent actuarial and consulting firms. Founded in Seattle in 1947 as Milliman & Robertson, the company currently has 49 offices in key locations worldwide. Milliman employs more than 2,000 people, with a professional staff of more than 1,000 qualified consultants and actuaries, including specialists ranging from clinicians to economists. The firm has consulting practices in healthcare, employee benefits, property and casualty insurance, life insurance, and financial services. Milliman serves the full spectrum of business, financial, government, union, education, and nonprofit organizations. For further information, visit [www.milliman.com](http://www.milliman.com).

### About the Milliman 100 Pension Funding Index

For the past nine years, Milliman has conducted an annual study of the 100 largest defined benefit pension plans sponsored by U.S. public companies. The Milliman 100 Pension Funding Index projects the funded status for pension plans included in our study, reflecting the impact of market returns and interest-rate changes on pension funded status, utilizing the actual reported asset values, liabilities, and asset allocations of the companies' pension plans.



The results of the Milliman 100 Pension Funding Index were based on the actual pension plan accounting information disclosed in the footnotes to the companies' annual reports for the preceding fiscal year and for previous fiscal years. In addition to providing the financial information on the funded status of U.S. qualified pension plans, the footnotes may also include figures for the companies' nonqualified and foreign plans, both of which are often unfunded or subject to funding standards different from those for U.S. qualified pension plans. The results do not represent the funded status of the companies' U.S. qualified pension plans under ERISA.

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