

Form 5500 Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6047(e), 6057(b), and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.	OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089 2012 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2012 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2012</u> and ending <u>12/31/2012</u>	
A This return/report is for:	☐ a multiemployer plan; ☐ a multiple-employer plan; or ☒ a single-employer plan; ☐ a DFE (specify) ____
B This return/report is:	☐ the first return/report; ☐ the final return/report; ☐ an amended return/report; ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months).
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.	☐
D Check box if filing under:	☒ Form 5558; ☐ automatic extension; ☐ the DFVC program; ☐ special extension (enter description)

Part II	Basic Plan Information —enter all requested information		
1a Name of plan THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES	1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>005</u>	1c Effective date of plan <u>07/01/1999</u>	
2a Plan sponsor's name and address; include room or suite number (employer, if for a single-employer plan) THE KROGER CO. 1014 VINE ST. CINCINNATI, OH 45202	2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>31-0345740</u>	2c Sponsor's telephone number <u>513-562-5215</u>	2d Business code (see instructions) <u>445110</u>

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/14/2013	THERESA MONTI
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/14/2013	THERESA MONTI
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE
Preparer's name (including firm name, if applicable) and address; include room or suite number. (optional) CHAD REDMOND			Preparer's telephone number (optional)

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor Name ☐ Same as Plan Sponsor Address		3b Administrator's EIN
		3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the name, EIN and the plan number from the last return/report: a Sponsor's name		4b EIN 4c PN
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year		5 51840
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year (welfare plans complete only lines 6a , 6b , 6c , and 6d).		
a Active participants.....	6a	52307
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....	6b	15
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits.....	6c	557
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a , 6b , and 6c	6d	52879
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.....	6e	6
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e	6f	52885
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item).....	6g	7490
h Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	6h	
7 Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)		7
8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions: 2E 2F 2G 2J		
b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:		
9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor		9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☐ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)		
a Pension Schedules (1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information) (2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary (3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary		b General Schedules (1) ☒ H (Financial Information) (2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan) (3) ☐ A (Insurance Information) (4) ☐ C (Service Provider Information) (5) ☒ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information) (6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration	DFE/Participating Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2012 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2012 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2012 and ending 12/31/2012

A Name of plan <u>THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>005</u>	
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>THE KROGER CO.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>31-0345740</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs) (Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>KROGER DEFINED CONTR PLN MASTER TR</u>		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>THE KROGER CO.</u>		
c EIN-PN <u>31-0345740-009</u>	d Entity code <u>M</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>141202641</u>
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
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103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:**b** Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):**c** EIN-PN**d** Entity
code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans)

a Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
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plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN**a** Plan name**b** Name of
plan sponsor**c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Financial Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ► File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2012 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
For calendar plan year 2012 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2012 and ending 12/31/2012		
A Name of plan THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	005
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 THE KROGER CO.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 31-0345740	

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1	Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.			
	Assets			
a	Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	3181	52536
b	Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
	(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
	(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
	(3) Other	1b(3)		
c	General investments:			
	(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
	(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
	(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
	(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
	(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
	(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
	(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
	(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
	(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
	(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
	(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
	(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	5170785	5754555
	(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
	(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
	(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	122351950	141202641
	(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
	(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
	(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
	(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	127525916	147009732

Liabilities

g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k		

Net Assets

l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	127525916	147009732
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Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)		
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	14039164	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)		
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		14039164
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	198869	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		198869
(2) Dividends: (A) Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines 2b(2)(A) , (B) , and (C)	2b(2)(D)		
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: (A) Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line 2b(4)(B) from line 2b(4)(A) and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		15172808
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds).....	2b(10)		
c Other income.....	2c		
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2d		29410841

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	10406495	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines 2e(1) through (3).....	2e(4)		10406495
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions).....	2g		
h Interest expense.....	2h		
i Administrative expenses: (1) Professional fees	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Investment advisory and management fees	2i(3)		
(4) Other	2i(4)	338807	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....	2i(5)		338807
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total.....	2j		10745302

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d.....	2k		18665539
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) ☒ Unqualified (2) ☐ Qualified (3) ☐ Disclaimer (4) ☐ Adverse

b Did the accountant perform a limited scope audit pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and/or 103-12(d)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: CLARK, SCHAEFER, HACKETT & CO.

(2) EIN: 31-0800053

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, or MTIA. (2) ☐ It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l.

During the plan year:

a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.).....

b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.).....

	Yes	No	Amount
4a		X	
4b		X	

	Yes	No	Amount
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.).....		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?.....	X		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.).....	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.).....		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?.....		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.).....		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year?
 If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year..... ☐ Yes ☒ No Amount:

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)

5b(2) EIN(s)	5b(3) PN(s)

Part V Trust Information (optional)

6a Name of trust

6b Trust's EIN

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Retirement Plan Information This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code). ▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.	OMB No. 1210-0110 2012 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2012 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2012 and ending 12/31/2012

A Name of plan <u>THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>005</u>
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>THE KROGER CO.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>31-0345740</u>

Part I	Distributions
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All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1
2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): <u>94-1687665</u>	
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.	
3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year.....	3

Part II	Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part)
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4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)?.....	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.			
5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.			
6 a Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	6a		
b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	6b		
c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount).....	6c		
If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.			
7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline?	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A
8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change?.....	☐ Yes	☐ No	☐ N/A

Part III	Amendments
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9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box.....	☐ Increase	☐ Decrease	☐ Both	☐ No
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Part IV	ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under Section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.
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10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan?.....	☐ Yes	☐ No
11 a Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock?	☐ Yes	☐ No
b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.).....	☐ Yes	☐ No
12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market?	☐ Yes	☐ No

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN

c Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires (If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.) Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information (If more than one rate applies, check this box ☐ and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)

(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____

(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

- 14** Enter the number of participants on whose behalf no contributions were made by an employer as an employer of the participant for:

a The current year	14a	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	14b	
c The second preceding plan year	14c	

- 15** Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	15a	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15b	

- 16** Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	16a	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	16b	

- 17** If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

- 18** If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment. ☐

- 19** If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) through (c)

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
 Stock: _____% Investment-Grade Debt: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Estate: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the combined investment-grade and high-yield debt:
☐ 0-3 years ☐ 3-6 years ☐ 6-9 years ☐ 9-12 years ☐ 12-15 years ☐ 15-18 years ☐ 18-21 years ☐ 21 years or more

c What duration measure was used to calculate line 19(b)?
☐ Effective duration ☐ Macaulay duration ☐ Modified duration ☐ Other (specify): _____

**THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN
FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES**

**Financial Statements
And
Supplemental Schedule**

December 31, 2012 and 2011

**With
Independent Auditors' Report**

THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Participants and Administrative Committee of
The Kroger Co. Savings Plan for Bargaining Unit Associates:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Kroger Co. Savings Plan for Bargaining Unit Associates, which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits – modified cash basis as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits – modified cash basis for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Plan management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Plan's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of The Kroger Co. Savings Plan for Bargaining Unit Associates as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting described in Note 2.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 2 of the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Report on Supplemental Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year), referred to as "supplemental information," is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplemental information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. Such information is the responsibility of the Plan's management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

one east fourth street, ste. 1200
cincinnati, oh 45202

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Cincinnati, OH
July 1, 2013

www.cshco.com
p. 513.241.3111
f. 513.241.1212

THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits - Modified Cash Basis

December 31, 2012 and 2011

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Cash	\$ 52,536	\$ 3,181
Investments, at fair value :		
Interest in Master Trust	141,202,641	122,351,950
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	<u>5,754,555</u>	<u>5,170,785</u>
Total assets	<u>147,009,732</u>	<u>127,525,916</u>
Net assets available for benefits at fair value	147,009,732	127,525,916
Adjustment from fair value to contract value for interest in Master Trust relating to investment contracts	<u>(2,684,560)</u>	<u>(1,866,283)</u>
Net assets available for benefits	\$ <u><u>144,325,172</u></u>	\$ <u><u>125,659,633</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits - Modified Cash Basis

Years Ended December 31, 2012 and 2011

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Additions:		
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	\$ 198,869	\$ 186,308
Investment income (loss) - participation in Master Trust	15,172,808	(218,141)
Participant contributions	14,039,164	14,530,317
Deductions:		
Benefits paid to participants	(10,406,495)	(8,097,464)
Administrative expenses	<u>(338,807)</u>	<u>(200,461)</u>
Net increase	18,665,539	6,200,559
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	<u>125,659,633</u>	<u>119,459,074</u>
End of Year	\$ <u><u>144,325,172</u></u>	\$ <u><u>125,659,633</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES

Notes to Financial Statements
(All dollar amounts are in thousands)

1. Description of Plan:

The following description of The Kroger Co. Savings Plan for Bargaining Unit Associates (Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document for a more complete description of Plan provisions.

General

The Plan is sponsored by The Kroger Co., an Ohio corporation, and its wholly-owned subsidiaries (collectively the Company). The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all employees of the Company who have attained age 21, are covered by a collective bargaining agreement, have been employed 30 days, and have completed 72 hours of service within the 30-day period, excluding those employees who are eligible to participate in another defined contribution plan maintained by or contributed to by the Company. It is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).

Contributions

Subject to certain limits, participants may contribute up to 75% of annual compensation per pay period to the Plan. Participants are also permitted to deposit into the Plan distributions from other qualified plans. It is at the discretion of participants to modify and direct investments. Participants are eligible to make catch-up contributions beginning in the year in which they reach age 50. No Company contributions are made to the plan.

Participant accounts

Each participant account is credited with the participant contribution, and an allocation of Plan earnings or losses. Allocations of earnings or losses are based upon the performance of the investment funds chosen by the participant. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

All accounts of a participant are fully vested at all times.

Benefits

Payment of benefits can be made under various methods, depending upon the reason for the distribution, such as termination of service, death, or retirement, as well as other factors. At termination, those participants with a balance of less than or equal

to one thousand dollars will receive a single lump sum distribution. Absent specific elections by the participant, those with balances greater than one thousand dollars and less than or equal to five thousand dollars shall be distributed, in the form of a direct rollover, to an individual retirement account designated by the Plan Administrator. Those with balances greater than five thousand dollars may elect to leave their funds in the Plan or choose other options. Participants are entitled to benefits beginning at normal retirement age (generally age 65). Benefits are recorded when paid.

Notes receivable from participants

The Plan permits participants to borrow from their vested account. The maximum amount that may be borrowed is the lesser of fifty thousand dollars or 50% of the vested balance of the account. Loan terms range from 1 - 4 years or up to 6 years for the purchase of a primary residence. The loans are collateralized by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest commensurate with local prevailing rates at the time the loan is made. Principal and interest are paid through periodic payroll deductions.

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2012 or 2011. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the plan administrator deems the participant loan to be in default, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

Forfeitures

Forfeitures from unclaimed benefits may be used to reduce Employer contributions, reduce administrative expenses of the Plan or may be reallocated among eligible participants at the end of the plan year. There was no forfeiture balance at December 31, 2012 or 2011, respectively.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the modified cash basis of accounting, which is the equivalent of the accrual basis except that certain income receivable, contributions receivable, and other accruals are not recorded. This is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and is permitted under ERISA.

Master Trust

The investments of the Plan, along with investments of other plans of The Kroger Co. and its subsidiaries, are pooled for investment purposes in a master trust pursuant to an agreement dated July 1, 2004, between Bank of America, N.A., as successor in interest to Merrill Lynch

Bank & Trust Co., FSB, the trustee, and the Company – The Kroger Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust (the Master Trust).

Investment valuation and income recognition

The Plan's investments within the Master Trust are stated at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The Plan's Administrative Committee determines the Plan's valuation policies utilizing information provided by the investment advisors and custodian. See Note 6 for discussion of fair value.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade date basis. Gains or losses on sales of securities are based on average cost. Interest income and dividend income are recorded on the date received by the Plan. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

Investment contracts held by a defined contribution plan are required to be reported at fair value. However, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits of a defined contribution plan attributable to fully benefit-responsive investment contracts because contract value is the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate a permitted transaction under the terms of the Plan. The Plan invests in investment contracts through the Master Trust. The Statement of Net Assets Available for Benefits presents the fair value of the investment in the Master Trust as well as the adjustment of the investment in the master trust from fair value to contract value relating to investment contracts. The Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits is prepared on a contract value basis.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Administrative expenses

The Plan will pay the administrative costs and expenses of the Plan, including the trustee and management fees. Any expenses that are unable to be allocated to participants are paid by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements. Fees related to the administration of notes receivable from participants and distributions to participants are charged directly to the participant's account and are included in administrative expenses.

Subsequent events

The Company evaluates events and transactions occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements for matters requiring recognition or disclosure in the financial statements. The accompanying financial statements consider events through the date on which the financial statements were available to be issued.

Reclassification

Certain amounts in the prior year's financial statements have been reclassified for comparative purposes to conform to the presentation of the current year financial statements.

3. Investments:

The Plan provides for participant directed investments into common stock of The Kroger Co., mutual funds, collective trusts, stable value funds, and certain retirement date funds, through the investment in the Master Trust. Investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's net assets as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 are as follows:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Interest in Master Trust, at fair value	\$ 141,203	\$ 122,352

Included in investment income (loss) from the Plan's investment in the Master Trust is appreciation (depreciation) from investments bought, sold and held during the year of \$13,801 and \$(1,737) at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

4. Investment Contracts:

The Master Trust holds several synthetic investment contracts which are managed by investment fund managers. The Master Trust also purchases wrapper contracts from financial institutions which provide assurance that crediting rates will never be less than zero. All Plans have an undivided interest in each investment contract. The investment contracts are fully benefit-responsive. A fully benefit-responsive investment provides a liquidity guarantee by a financially responsible third party of principal and previously accrued interest for liquidations, transfers, loans, or withdrawals initiated by Plan participants under the terms of the ongoing Plan. Certain employer-initiated events (i.e. layoffs, mergers, bankruptcy, Plan termination) are not eligible for the liquidity guarantee.

In general, issuers may terminate the investment contracts and settle at other than contract value if the qualification status of the employer or plan changes, breach of material obligations under the contract and misrepresentation by the contract holder, or failure of the underlying portfolio to conform to the pre-established investment guidelines.

The Plan Administrator does not believe that the occurrence of any such event, which would limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants, is probable.

The following information relates to the Master Trust interest in investment contracts:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Contract value	\$ 1,095,981	\$ 1,071,756
Fair value	\$ 1,178,316	\$ 1,131,141
Crediting interest rate range	.01% to 5.74%	.02% to 6.39%
Current crediting rate	3.13%	3.26%
Average yield	2.86%	3.02%

The crediting interest rate range for the investment contracts is based upon the contract rate or a predetermined formula that factors in duration, market value, and book value of the investment. Certain of the crediting rates are adjusted quarterly. The minimum crediting interest rate for these investments is zero.

5. Master Trust:

The following is financial information with respect to the Master Trust:

December 31, 2012 and 2011 investment holdings (at fair value):

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Common stock	\$ 1,352,432	\$ 1,287,760
Mutual funds	389,011	329,616
Cash and equivalents	107,699	124,774
Fixed maturity synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	126,433	116,772
Constant duration synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	944,185	889,594
Collective trusts	499,332	428,460
Retirement date funds	<u>1,491,523</u>	<u>1,164,530</u>
	<u>\$ 4,910,615</u>	<u>\$ 4,341,506</u>

The net investment income of the Master Trust for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 is summarized as follows:

	<u>For the year ended December 31, 2012</u>		
	Net		
	<u>Dividends</u>	<u>Appreciation</u>	<u>Total</u>
Common stock	\$ 20,105	\$ 120,153	\$ 140,258
Mutual funds	4,839	55,473	60,312
Cash and equivalents	3,016	-	3,016
Fixed maturity synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	3,540	-	3,540
Constant duration synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	26,431	-	26,431
Collective trusts	-	67,243	67,243
Retirement date funds	<u>-</u>	<u>204,021</u>	<u>204,021</u>
	<u>\$ 57,931</u>	<u>\$ 446,890</u>	<u>\$ 504,821</u>

	<u>For the year ended December 31, 2011</u>		
		Net	
	<u>Dividends</u>	<u>Appreciation (Depreciation)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Common stock	\$ 18,038	\$ 80,608	\$ 98,646
Mutual funds	8,714	(42,696)	(33,982)
Cash and equivalents	4,079	-	4,079
Fixed maturity synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	3,817	-	3,817
Constant duration synthetic guaranteed investment contracts	29,085	-	29,085
Collective trusts	-	(2,503)	(2,503)
Retirement date funds	<u>-</u>	<u>(13,774)</u>	<u>(13,774)</u>
	\$ <u>63,733</u>	\$ <u>21,635</u>	\$ <u>85,368</u>

The underlying investments within the synthetic contracts include corporate, government and mortgage backed debt securities.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Plan's interest in the net assets of the Master Trust was 2.88% and 2.82%, respectively. The Master Trust allocates individual assets to each plan participating in the Master Trust arrangement. Therefore, the investment results of the Plan may not reflect its proportionate interest in the Master Trust.

6. Fair Value Measurements:

For financial statement elements currently required to be measured at fair value, Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and expands disclosures about fair value measurements. The standards define fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (exit price) regardless of whether an observable liquid market price exists.

FASB establishes a fair value hierarchy that categorizes the inputs to valuation techniques that are used to measure fair value into three levels:

- Level 1 includes observable inputs which reflect quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets at the measurement date.
- Level 2 includes observable inputs for assets or liabilities other than quoted prices included in Level 1 and it includes valuation techniques which use prices for similar assets and liabilities.
- Level 3 includes unobservable inputs which reflect the reporting entity's estimates of the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability, including assumptions about risk.

The asset's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

The following is a description of the valuation methods used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in methodologies used at December 31, 2012 and 2011.

- Cash and cash equivalents: The carrying value approximates fair value.
- Common Stocks: The fair values of these securities are based on observable market quotations for identical assets and are valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.
- Mutual Funds: The fair values of these securities are primarily based on observable market quotations for identical assets and are valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.
- Guaranteed Investment Contracts: The investments include cash and cash equivalents, fixed maturity guaranteed investment contracts (GICs) and constant duration GICs. The fair value of the investments is calculated using the present value of the contract's future cash flow values discounted by comparable duration Wall Street Journal GIC Index rates. Fair values for variable synthetic GICs are calculated using the present value of the contract's future cash flow values discounted by comparable swap rates. Fair values for constant duration synthetic GICs are calculated using the market values provided by the external investment managers.
- Collective Trusts: The collective trust funds are public investment vehicles valued using a Net Asset Value (NAV) provided by the manager of each fund. The NAV is based on the underlying net assets owned by the fund, divided by the number of shares outstanding. The NAV's unit price is quoted on a private market that is not active. However, the NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying securities within the fund, which are traded on an active market, and valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which those individual securities are traded. The significant investment strategies of the funds are as described in the financial statements provided by each fund. There are no restrictions on redemptions from these funds.
- Retirement Date Funds: Retirement date funds are made up of investments in mutual funds, custom funds, and collective trusts, and are valued in a manner consistent with that described above.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement.

While all the investments of the participating plans are deemed part of the Master Trust, each plan does maintain a separate accounting of its share of the investments in the Master Trust.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Master Trust's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2012:

<u>Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2012 Using:</u>				
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
	<u>Total</u>			
<u>Investments:</u>				
Interest in Master Trust:	\$ 4,910,615			
Common Stock:				
Kroger Co common shares		\$ 1,010,758		
Large Cap Funds		341,674		
Mutual Funds:				
Small and Mid Cap Funds		49,127		
Balanced Funds		127,623		
Non US/Global Stock		212,261		
Cash and cash equivalents		107,699		
Fixed maturity GICs			\$ 126,433	
Constant duration GICs			944,185	
Collective trusts:				
Large Cap Funds			251,799	
Mid Cap Funds			87,049	
Small Cap Funds			71,518	
International Funds			48,024	
Bond Funds			40,942	
Retirement Date Funds:				
Balanced Funds			1,491,523	
Total investments	<u>\$ 4,910,615</u>	<u>\$ 1,849,142</u>	<u>\$ 3,061,473</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The GICs shown above include wrap contracts, the fair value of which is immaterial.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Master Trust's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2011:

<u>Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2011 Using:</u>				
		Quoted Prices in Active Markets for Identical Assets (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Significant Unobservable Inputs (Level 3)
	<u>Total</u>			
<u>Investments:</u>				
Interest in Master Trust:	\$ 4,341,506			
Common Stock:				
Kroger Co common shares		\$ 981,238		
Large Cap Funds		306,522		
Mutual Funds:				
Small and Mid Cap Funds		42,776		
Balanced Funds		112,376		
Non US/Global Stock		174,464		
Cash and cash equivalents		124,774		
Fixed maturity GICs			\$ 116,772	
Constant duration GICs			889,594	
Collective trusts:				
Large Cap Funds			223,126	
Mid Cap Funds			75,932	
Small Cap Funds			62,419	
International Funds			41,198	
Bond Funds			25,785	
Retirement Date Funds:				
Balanced Funds			1,164,530	
Total investments	<u>\$ 4,341,506</u>	<u>\$ 1,742,150</u>	<u>\$ 2,599,356</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The GICs shown above include wrap contracts, the fair value of which is immaterial.

Fair Value of Investments in Entities that Use NAV

The following table summarizes investments measured at fair value based on NAV per share as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

<u>December 31, 2012</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible)</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Collective trust fund – S&P 500 Index Fund	\$ 251,799	n/a	Daily	1 day
Collective trust fund – S&P 400 Index Fund	\$ 87,049	n/a	Daily	1 day
Collective trust fund – Russell 2000 Index Fund	\$ 71,518	n/a	Daily	1 day
Collective trust fund – Aggregate Bond Index Fund	\$ 40,942	n/a	Daily	1 day
Collective trust fund – EAFE Index Fund	\$ 48,024	n/a	Daily	1 day
Retirement date funds ^(a)	\$1,491,523	n/a	Daily	1 day
<u>December 31, 2011</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible)</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Collective trust fund – S&P 500 Index Fund	\$ 223,126	n/a	Daily	1 day
Collective trust fund – S&P 400 Index Fund	\$ 75,932	n/a	Daily	1 day
Collective trust fund – Russell 2000 Index Fund	\$ 62,419	n/a	Daily	1 day
Collective trust fund – Aggregate Bond Index Fund	\$ 25,785	n/a	Daily	1 day
Collective trust fund – EAFE Index Fund	\$ 41,198	n/a	Daily	1 day
Retirement date funds ^(a)	\$1,164,530	n/a	Daily	1 day

- (a) The primary objective of these funds is to provide an appropriate asset mix for a participant given the participant's age and retirement year. The underlying assets of the funds consist of mutual funds, collective trusts, and separate account vehicles. As time moves closer to a participant's retirement date, the investments in the funds are adjusted automatically to become more conservative, with a higher portion invested in bonds and shorter-term investments and less in stocks. The investments in the funds are reviewed regularly and adjusted as necessary. The focus of the funds changes from growing assets to generating income and protecting investments as the retirement date approaches.

7. Income Tax Status:

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter on December 3, 2004, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the Plan, as then designed, complied with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan has been amended since receiving this letter. In January 2011, the Plan applied for a new determination letter but has not yet received a response. The Plan administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the Internal Revenue Service. The plan administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2012, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for the years prior to 2009.

8. Risks and Uncertainties:

The Plan invests in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

9. Plan Termination:

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to terminate the Plan at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of any total or partial termination or discontinuance, the accounts of all affected participants shall remain fully vested and non-forfeitable.

10. Related-party and Party-in-interest Transactions

The Plan's portion of its interest in the Master Trust included \$8,182 and \$6,985 of The Kroger Co. common shares at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, at fair value.

The Plan purchased 186,373 and 134,350 common shares of The Kroger Co. at a cost of \$4,367 and \$3,123 in 2012 and 2011, respectively, through its interest in the Master Trust.

The Plan sold 157,678 and 103,157 common shares of The Kroger Co. for \$3,712 and \$2,399 with a realized gain of \$72 and \$66 in 2012 and 2011, respectively, through its interest in the Master Trust.

Bank of America, N.A. and Merrill Lynch provide recordkeeping and investment management services to the Plan. Therefore, transactions with Bank of America, N.A. and Merrill Lynch qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

11. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500:

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for plan benefits per the financial statements to the Form 5500:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 144,325	\$ 125,660
Adjustment from contract value to fair value for investments in the Master Trust	<u>2,685</u>	<u>1,866</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	\$ <u>147,010</u>	\$ <u>127,526</u>

Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts on the Form 5500 will also reflect these adjustments.

THE KROGER CO. SAVINGS PLAN FOR BARGAINING UNIT ASSOCIATES

EIN: 31-0345740 Plan Number: 005

Schedule H, Part IV, 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2012

(a)	(b),(c)	(d)	(e)
	Investment description	Cost	Current value
	Interest in Master Trust	**	\$ 141,202,641
*	Participant loans, 4.25% to 10.5%, 1-6 year maturities	\$ -	<u>5,754,555</u>
			\$ <u><u>146,957,196</u></u>

* Indicates party-in-interest to the Plan.

** Cost of assets is not required to be disclosed as investment is participant directed.