

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 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 2016 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information		
For calendar plan year 2016 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2016</u> and ending <u>12/31/2016</u>			
A	This return/report is for:	☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ 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 <u>THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN</u>	1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ► <u>010</u>
		1c	Effective date of plan <u>01/01/2007</u>
2a	Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions) <u>THE KROGER CO.</u> <u>1014 VINE ST</u> <u>CINCINNATI, OH 45202</u>	2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>31-0345740</u>
		2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>877-373-3397</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.	10/13/2017	THERESA MONTI
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/13/2017	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) <u>DEREK COURTS</u>			Preparer's telephone number <u>877-373-3397</u>

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor		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	106525
6 Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines 6a(1) , 6a(2) , 6b , 6c , and 6d).			
a(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year.....		6a(1)	97351
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year		6a(2)	117596
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits.....		6b	601
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits		6c	9451
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c		6d	127648
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.		6e	518
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e		6f	128166
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)		6g	79408
h Number of participants that terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested		6h	1884
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)		9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)	
(1) ☐ Insurance		(1) ☐ Insurance	
(2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts		(2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	
(3) ☒ Trust		(3) ☒ Trust	
(4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor		(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		b General Schedules	
(1) ☒ R (Retirement Plan Information)		(1) ☒ H (Financial Information)	
(2) ☐ MB (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary		(2) ☐ I (Financial Information – Small Plan)	
(3) ☐ SB (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary		(3) ☐ A (Insurance Information)	
		(4) ☐ C (Service Provider Information)	
		(5) ☒ D (DFE/Participating Plan Information)	
		(6) ☐ G (Financial Transaction Schedules)	

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2016 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2016 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____

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 2016 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2016 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2016 and ending 12/31/2016

A Name of plan <u>THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN</u>	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:80%;">B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►</td> <td style="width:20%; text-align: center;"><u>010</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>010</u>		
B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	<u>010</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: KROGER DEFINED CONTR PLN MASTER TR

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): THE KROGER CO.

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>3850649000</u>
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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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)
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For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

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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code**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or
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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
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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

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500) 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 2016 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2016 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2016 and ending 12/31/2016		
A Name of plan THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	010
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
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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) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	1438000	1749000
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions.....	1b(1)	61778000	65376000
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other.....	1b(3)		321483000
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)	62619000	66312000
(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)	3517804000	3850649000
(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)		

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d	Employer-related investments:		
(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	3643639000 4305569000
Liabilities			
g	Benefit claims payable	1g	
h	Operating payables	1h	72000 40000
i	Acquisition indebtedness	1i	
j	Other liabilities	1j	
k	Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	72000 40000
Net Assets			
l	Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	3643567000 4305529000

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.

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a	Contributions:		
(1)	Received or receivable in cash from: (A) Employers	2a(1)(A)	178156000
	(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	246189000
	(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)	424345000
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)	2626000
	(F) Other	2b(1)(F)	
	(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)	2626000
(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)	0
(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)	0
(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)	0

		(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)		145763000
(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		572734000

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	230531000	
(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)		230531000
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)	1733000	
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (4).....	2i(5)		1733000
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		232264000

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		340470000
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan.....	2l(1)		321492000
(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.)	4c		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.)	4d		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	4e	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?	4f		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?	4g		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?	4h		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.)	4i	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.)	4j		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?	4k		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	4l		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	4m		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.	4n			
o Defined Benefit Plan or Money Purchase Pension Plan Only: Were any distributions made during the plan year to an employee who attained age 62 and had not separated from service?	4o			

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)

5c If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (See ERISA section 4021.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not determined
If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year (See instructions.)

Part V Trust Information

6a Name of trust	6b Trust's EIN
6c Name of trustee or custodian	6d Trustee's or custodian's telephone number

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 sections 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 2016 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2016 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2016 and ending 12/31/2016

A Name of plan <u>THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>010</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>31-0345740</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	<u>9894</u>

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

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500.

Schedule R (Form 5500) 2016
v. 160205

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
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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): _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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20a Is the plan a 401(k) plan? If "No," skip b	☐ Yes ☐ No
20b How did the plan satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals under section 401(k)(3) for the plan year? Check all that apply:	☐ Design-based safe harbor ☐ "Prior year" ADP test ☐ "Current year" ADP test ☐ N/A
21a What testing method was used to satisfy the coverage requirements under section 410(b) for the plan year? Check all that apply:	☐ Ratio percentage test ☐ Average benefit test ☐ N/A
21b Did the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination requirements of sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) for the plan year by combining this plan with any other plan under the permissive aggregation rules?	☐ Yes ☐ No
22a If the plan is a master and prototype plan (M&P) or volume submitter plan that received a favorable IRS opinion letter or advisory letter, enter the date of the letter / / and the serial number .	
22b If the plan is an individually-designed plan that received a favorable determination letter from the IRS, enter the date of the most recent determination letter / / .	

**THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT
SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN**

**Financial Statements
And
Supplemental Schedule**

December 31, 2016 and 2015

**With
Independent Auditors' Report**

THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Participants and Retirement Management Committee of
The Kroger Co. 401(k) Retirement Savings Account Plan:

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of The Kroger Co. 401(k) Retirement Savings Account Plan (Plan), which comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; 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. 401(k) Retirement Savings Account Plan as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, and the changes in its net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Supplemental Information

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2016 is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary 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.

Clark, Schaefer, Hackett & Co.

Cincinnati, OH
June 28, 2017

THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

December 31, 2016 and 2015

(In Thousands)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Assets:		
Cash	\$ 1,749	\$ 1,438
Investments, at fair value:		
Interest in Master Trust	3,500,444	3,174,486
Investments, at contract value:		
Interest in Master Trust	350,205	335,308
Receivables:		
Employer contributions	65,376	61,778
Notes receivable from participants	<u>66,312</u>	<u>62,619</u>
	131,688	124,397
Transfers in transit	<u>321,483</u>	<u>-</u>
Total assets	<u>4,305,569</u>	<u>3,635,629</u>
Liabilities:		
Administrative fees payable	<u>40</u>	<u>72</u>
Net assets available for benefits	\$ <u><u>4,305,529</u></u>	\$ <u><u>3,635,557</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits

Years Ended December 31, 2016 and 2015

(In Thousands)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Additions:		
Participant contributions	\$ 246,189	\$ 223,492
Employer contributions	178,156	167,316
Investment income - participation in Master Trust	153,773	66,253
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	2,626	2,450
Deductions:		
Benefits paid to participants	(230,531)	(213,114)
Administrative expenses	<u>(1,733)</u>	<u>(2,177)</u>
Net increase	348,480	244,220
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	3,635,557	3,391,337
Transfers from other plans	<u>321,492</u>	<u>-</u>
End of year	\$ <u><u>4,305,529</u></u>	\$ <u><u>3,635,557</u></u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN

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

1. Description of Plan:

The following description of The Kroger Co. 401(k) Retirement Savings Account Plan (Plan) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more complete description of Plan provisions.

General

The Plan, which began January 1, 2007, 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, have been employed 30 days, and have completed 72 hours of service within the 30-day period, excluding those employees eligible to participate under another qualified defined contribution plan or defined benefit pension plan sponsored by the Company. It is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA).

Contributions

Participant

Subject to certain limits, participants may contribute up to 75% of compensation per pay period to the Plan. 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. Participants are also permitted to deposit into the Plan distributions from other qualified plans.

Employer

The Company will credit the participant's account with a match and/or an automatic contribution if the participant meets the eligibility requirements. The matching contribution is 100% of the first 3% of the participant's Plan compensation contributed as a salary deferral contribution, plus 50% of the next 2% of the participant's Plan compensation contributed as a salary deferral contribution. At the end of each plan year, the Company will, if necessary, make a "true-up" matching contribution in the first quarter of the following year. Subject to certain limits, the Company also pays an automatic contribution of 1% or 2% based on the participant's years of vesting service.

Participant Accounts

Each participant account is credited with the participant contribution, matching contribution (if any), automatic contribution (if any), 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

Participants are vested immediately in their voluntary contributions and rollover contributions plus actual earnings thereon. The participant's vested interest in Company matching or automatic contributions, if any, will be determined based on the participant's years of service with the employer as defined in the Plan document.

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 less all vested automatic contributions and matching contributions. 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 at a rate of Prime plus 1.0%. The rate is changed quarterly and the Prime rate used for a quarter is the Prime rate on the last business day of the previous quarter. 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, 2016 or 2015. 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

Forfeited balances shall be applied in the following order: to restore the accounts of any participants who return to service of the Company and again become eligible employees prior to incurring a five year period of severance, to reduce administrative expenses of the Plan, and to reduce any Company Automatic Contributions for the

Plan year. The balance of forfeitures was \$16 and \$3 at December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively. These amounts will be used to reduce administrative expenses of the Plan.

During 2016 and 2015, forfeitures of \$285 and \$648, respectively, were used to reduce administrative expenses of the Plan.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

Basis of accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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, except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts which are reported at contract 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 5 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade date basis. Gains or losses on sales of securities are based on average cost. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Income from other investments is recorded as earned. 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, except for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts. 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.

Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America 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 custodian 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.

Accounting changes

Recently issued accounting pronouncements—The Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2015-12, “Plan Accounting: Defined Contribution Pension Plans (Topic 962): (Part 1) Fully Benefit-Responsive Investment Contracts, (Part II) Plan Investment Disclosures, and (Part III) Measurement Date – Practical Expedient.” ASU 2015-12 simplifies disclosures and reporting by employee benefit plans. ASU 2015-12 is effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2015, with earlier adoption permitted. The Plan elected to early adopt Part II of ASU 2015-12 in 2015; in 2016, the Plan adopted Part I of the ASU and applied retrospectively to all periods presented. This change has no impact on net assets available for benefits.

Additionally, the FASB issued ASU 2015-07, “Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities that Calculate Net Asset Value Per Share (or Its Equivalent).” ASU 2015-07 simplifies disclosures and reporting on investments valued at net asset value as a practical expedient. ASU 2015-07 is effective for fiscal years beginning December 15, 2016, with earlier adoption permitted. The Plan has elected to early adopt ASU 2015-07, applied retrospectively to all periods presented. This change has no impact on net assets available for benefits.

Reclassification

Certain amounts in the 2015 financial statements have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation.

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.

3. Investment Contracts:

The Master Trust holds several synthetic investment contracts which are managed by investment fund managers. The key difference between a synthetic investment contract and a

traditional investment contract is that the Master Trust holds the underlying assets in a synthetic investment contract. 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.

4. Master Trust:

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

December 31, 2016 and 2015 investment holdings:

Master Trust Investment Account (MTIA)

Footnote 4 Master Trust:

	2016		2015	
	Master Trust <u>Balance</u>	Plan's Interest in Master Trust <u>Balances</u>	Master Trust <u>Balance</u>	Plan's Interest in Master Trust <u>Balances</u>
Investments at Fair Value:				
Common Stock	\$ 2,722,431	\$ 839,101	\$ 3,239,227	\$ 885,300
Mutual Funds	210,729	132,087	188,528	112,714
Collective Trusts	689,357	350,276	653,936	319,151
Retirement Date Funds	<u>2,564,300</u>	<u>2,178,980</u>	<u>2,221,364</u>	<u>1,857,321</u>
Total Investments at Fair Value	\$ <u>6,186,817</u>	\$ <u>3,500,444</u>	\$ <u>6,303,055</u>	\$ <u>3,174,486</u>
Investments at Contract Value:				
Cash and Equivalents	\$ 51,571	\$ 15,921	\$ 97,727	\$ 28,353
Fixed Maturity Synthetic GICS	151,200	46,678	170,812	49,557
Constant Duration Synthetic GICS	<u>931,615</u>	<u>287,606</u>	<u>887,202</u>	<u>257,398</u>
Total Investments at Contract Value:	\$ <u>1,134,386</u>	\$ <u>350,205</u>	\$ <u>1,155,741</u>	\$ <u>335,308</u>
Total Investments:	\$ <u><u>7,321,203</u></u>	\$ <u><u>3,850,649</u></u>	\$ <u><u>7,458,796</u></u>	\$ <u><u>3,509,794</u></u>

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

5. 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, 2016 and 2015.

- Cash and Cash Equivalents: The carrying value approximates fair value.
- Common Stock: 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), as provided by the manager of each fund, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of 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 tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Master Trust's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2016 and 2015:

Fair Value Measurements:

Assets at Fair Value at December 31, 2016:					
Investments in Master Trust:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	Assets at <u>NAV</u>
Common Stock	\$ 2,722,431	\$ 2,722,431	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mutual Funds	210,729	210,729	-	-	-
Collective Trusts	689,357	-	-	-	689,357
Retirement Date Funds	<u>2,564,300</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,564,300</u>
Total investments in Master Trust measured in fair value	\$ <u>6,186,817</u>	\$ <u>2,933,160</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>3,253,657</u>

Assets at Fair Value at December 31, 2015:					
Investments in Master Trust:	<u>Total</u>	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>	<u>Level 3</u>	Assets at <u>NAV</u>
Common Stock	\$ 3,239,227	\$ 3,239,227	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Mutual Funds	188,528	188,528	-	-	-
Collective Trusts	653,936	-	-	-	653,936
Retirement Date Funds	<u>2,221,364</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,221,364</u>
Total investments in Master Trust measured in fair value	\$ <u>6,303,055</u>	\$ <u>3,427,755</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>-</u>	\$ <u>2,875,300</u>

Fair Value of Investments in Entities that Use NAV per Share Practical Expedient

The following table summarizes investments for which fair value is measured using the NAV per share practical expedient as of December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively:

<u>December 31, 2016</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible)</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Collective trust fund – BlackRock MSCI ACWI IMI Fund	\$ 493,197	n/a	Daily	T+3
Collective trust fund – BlackRock Global Allocation Fund	\$ 138,290	n/a	Daily	T+3
Collective trust fund – Aggregate Bond Index Fund	\$ 57,870	n/a	Daily	1 day
Retirement date funds ^(a)	\$2,564,300	n/a	Daily	1 day

<u>December 31, 2015</u>	<u>Fair Value</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Redemption Frequency (if currently eligible)</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Collective trust fund – BlackRock MSCI ACWI IMI Fund	\$ 472,407	n/a	Daily	T+3
Collective trust fund – BlackRock Global Allocation Fund	\$ 137,764	n/a	Daily	T+3
Collective trust fund – Aggregate Bond Index Fund	\$ 43,765	n/a	Daily	1 day
Retirement date funds ^(a)	\$2,221,364	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.

6. Income Tax Status:

The Plan obtained its latest determination letter dated June 3, 2016, in which the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) stated that the Plan, as then designed, complied with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, 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 of income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

7. 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 statements of net assets available for benefits.

8. 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 become fully vested and non-forfeitable.

9. Related-party and Party-in-interest Transactions:

The Plan's portion of its interest in the Master Trust included \$482,261 and \$553,778 of The Kroger Co. common shares at December 31, 2016 and 2015, respectively, at fair value.

The Plan purchased 5,968,435 and 5,620,223 common shares of The Kroger Co. at a cost of \$214,875 and \$288,961 in 2016 and 2015, respectively, through its interest in the Master Trust.

The Plan sold 5,032,034 and 5,017,240 common shares of The Kroger Co. for \$178,013 and \$251,125 with a realized gain of \$15,450 and \$31,075 in 2016 and 2015, 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.

10. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500:

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

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$ 4,305,529	\$ 3,635,557
Adjustment from contract value to fair value for investments in Master Trust	<u>-</u>	<u>8,010</u>
Net assets available for benefits per the Form 5500	\$ <u>4,305,529</u>	\$ <u>3,643,567</u>

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

11. Plan Amendment:

Effective December 31, 2016, the Plan was amended to accommodate the mergers of 84.51° LLC 401(k) Plan, Roundy's Savings and Retirement Plus Plan and YOU Technology, LLC 401(k) Plan & Trust into the Plan. As a result, as of December 31, 2016, \$81,272, \$236,724 and \$3,487 was in-transit to the Plan from 84.51° LLC 401(k) Plan, Roundy's Savings and Retirement Plus Plan and YOU Technology, LLC 401(k) Plan & Trust, respectively.

THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN

EIN: 31-0345740 Plan Number: 010

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

December 31, 2016

(In Thousands)

(a)	(b),(c)	(d)	(e)
	Investment description	Cost	Current value
	Interest in Master Trust	**	\$ 3,850,649
*	Participant loans, 4.25% to 10.5%, 1-6 year maturities	\$ -	<u>66,312</u>
			\$ <u><u>3,916,961</u></u>

* Indicates party-in-interest to the Plan.

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

THE KROGER CO. 401(K) RETIREMENT SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN

EIN: 31-0345740 Plan Number: 010

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

December 31, 2016

(In Thousands)

(a)	(b),(c)	(d)	(e)
	Investment description	Cost	Current value
	Interest in Master Trust	**	\$ 3,850,649
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			\$ <u><u>3,916,961</u></u>

* Indicates party-in-interest to the Plan.

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