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

2022

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2022 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2022 and ending 12/31/2022

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.)
- [X] 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:
- [X] Form 5558
- [ ] automatic extension
- [ ] the DFVC program
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 07/01/2005

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)
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC

1902 INDUSTRIAL BLVD.
ABILENE, TX 79602

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-0905347

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 325-698-2600

2d Business code (see instructions) 722513

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.	10/11/2023	MICHAEL BURTON
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/11/2023	MICHAEL BURTON
	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

3a	Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor	**3b**	Administrator's EIN
		3c	Administrator's telephone number
4	If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:	**4b**	EIN
a	Sponsor's name	**4d**	PN
c	Plan Name		
5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	126
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)**	110
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	93
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	14
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	107
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	107
g	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	34
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	0
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 2K 3D

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)** [X] 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)** [X] 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)** [X] **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)** [X] **H** (Financial Information)
- **(2)** [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- **(3)** [X] 1 **A** (Insurance Information)
- **(4)** [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)
- **(5)** [X] **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 2022 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2022 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 A (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Insurance 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.**

▶ Insurance companies are required to provide the information pursuant to ERISA section 103(a)(2).

OMB No. 1210-0110

2022

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2022 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2022 and ending 12/31/2022

A Name of plan
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
26-0905347

Part I **Information Concerning Insurance Contract Coverage, Fees, and Commissions** Provide information for each contract on a separate Schedule A. Individual contracts grouped as a unit in Parts II and III can be reported on a single Schedule A.

1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier
LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

(b) EIN	(c) NAIC code	(d) Contract or identification number	(e) Approximate number of persons covered at end of policy or contract year	Policy or contract year	
				(f) From	(g) To
35-0472300	65676	GP 35362	33	01/01/2022	12/31/2022

2 Insurance fee and commission information. Enter the total fees and total commissions paid. List in line 3 the agents, brokers, and other persons in descending order of the amount paid.

(a) Total amount of commissions paid	(b) Total amount of fees paid
2594	0

3 Persons receiving commissions and fees. (Complete as many entries as needed to report all persons).

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

MML INS AGCY LLC
1 FNCL PLZ-ATTN KELLY
1414 MAIN STREET
SPRINGFIELD, MD 01103

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	
2594			4

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code
	(c) Amount	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid	Fees and other commissions paid		**(e)** Organization code
	(c) Amount	**(d)** Purpose	

Part II Investment and Annuity Contract Information

Where individual contracts are provided, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

4	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in the general account at year end	4	60774
5	Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end	5	956426

6 Contracts With Allocated Funds:

a State the basis of premium rates ▶

b	Premiums paid to carrier	6b	
c	Premiums due but unpaid at the end of the year	6c	
d	If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, enter amount. Specify nature of costs ▶	6d	

e Type of contract: (1) ☐ individual policies (2) ☐ group deferred annuity (3) ☐ other (specify) ▶

f If contract purchased, in whole or in part, to distribute benefits from a terminating plan, check here ▶ ☐

7 Contracts With Unallocated Funds (Do not include portions of these contracts maintained in separate accounts)

a Type of contract: (1) ☐ deposit administration (2) ☐ immediate participation guarantee (3) ☐ guaranteed investment (4) ☒ other ▶ GROUP VAR ANNUITY W/GUAR FUND

b	Balance at the end of the previous year			7b	59248
c	Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	4585		
	(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	0		
	(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)	614		
	(4) Transferred from separate account	7c(4)	0		
	(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	875		
	▶ MAY INCLUDE - LOAN REPAY/FORF/TAKEOVER/ADJUSTMENTS				
	(6) Total additions			7c(6)	6074
d	Total of balance and additions (add lines **7b** and **7c(6)**)			7d	65322
e	Deductions:				
	(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	3524		
	(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)	476		
	(3) Transferred to separate account	7e(3)	0		
	(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)	548		
	▶ MAY INCLUDE - LOAN ISSUES/FORF/FEES/CORRECTIVES/ADJUSTMENTS/INS PREM				
	(5) Total deductions			7e(5)	4548
f	Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line **7e(5)** from line **7d**)			7f	60774

Part III Welfare Benefit Contract Information

If more than one contract covers the same group of employees of the same employer(s) or members of the same employee organizations(s), the information may be combined for reporting purposes if such contracts are experience-rated as a unit. Where contracts cover individual employees, the entire group of such individual contracts with each carrier may be treated as a unit for purposes of this report.

8 Benefit and contract type (check all applicable boxes)

- **a** ☐ Health (other than dental or vision)
- **b** ☐ Dental
- **c** ☐ Vision
- **d** ☐ Life insurance
- **e** ☐ Temporary disability (accident and sickness)
- **f** ☐ Long-term disability
- **g** ☐ Supplemental unemployment
- **h** ☐ Prescription drug
- **i** ☐ Stop loss (large deductible)
- **j** ☐ HMO contract
- **k** ☐ PPO contract
- **l** ☐ Indemnity contract
- **m** ☐ Other (specify) ▶

9 Experience-rated contracts:				
a Premiums: (1) Amount received	**9a(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in amount due but unpaid	**9a(2)**			
(3) Increase (decrease) in unearned premium reserve	**9a(3)**			
(4) Earned (**(1)** + **(2)** - **(3)**)			**9a(4)**	0
b Benefit charges (1) Claims paid	**9b(1)**			
(2) Increase (decrease) in claim reserves	**9b(2)**			
(3) Incurred claims (add **(1)** and **(2)**)			**9b(3)**	0
(4) Claims charged			**9b(4)**	
c Remainder of premium: (1) Retention charges (on an accrual basis) --				
(A) Commissions	**9c(1)(A)**			
(B) Administrative service or other fees	**9c(1)(B)**			
(C) Other specific acquisition costs	**9c(1)(C)**			
(D) Other expenses	**9c(1)(D)**			
(E) Taxes	**9c(1)(E)**			
(F) Charges for risks or other contingencies	**9c(1)(F)**			
(G) Other retention charges	**9c(1)(G)**			
(H) Total retention			**9c(1)(H)**	0
(2) Dividends or retroactive rate refunds. (These amounts were ☐ paid in cash, or ☐ credited.)			**9c(2)**	
d Status of policyholder reserves at end of year: (1) Amount held to provide benefits after retirement			**9d(1)**	
(2) Claim reserves			**9d(2)**	
(3) Other reserves			**9d(3)**	
e Dividends or retroactive rate refunds due. (Do not include amount entered in line **9c(2)**.)			**9e**	
10 Nonexperience-rated contracts:				
a Total premiums or subscription charges paid to carrier			**10a**	
b If the carrier, service, or other organization incurred any specific costs in connection with the acquisition or retention of the contract or policy, other than reported in Part I, line 2 above, report amount.			**10b**	

Specify nature of costs.

Part IV Provision of Information

11 Did the insurance company fail to provide any information necessary to complete Schedule A? ☐ Yes ☒ No

12 If the answer to line 11 is "Yes," specify the information not provided. ▶

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	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.**	**2022** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2022 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2022 and ending 12/31/2022

A Name of plan	**B** Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN	001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500	**D** Employer Identification Number (EIN)
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC	26-0905347

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . [X] Yes [ ] No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION

35-1140070

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

LINCOLN NATIONAL CORPORATION

35-1140070

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
13	SERVICE PROVIDER	8030	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [ ] No [X]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

STADION MONEY MANAGEMENT

58-2099805

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26	SERVICE PROVIDER	5281	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes [ ] No [ ]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:	**b** EIN:
c Position:	
d Address:	**e** Telephone:

Explanation:

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

2022

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2022 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2022 and ending 12/31/2022

A Name of plan
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
26-0905347

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)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: GTEE GUARANTEED ACCOUNT

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

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)
35-0472300-100	P	4377

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA14 FED HERMES GOV

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

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)
35-0472300-114	P	5

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA20 FRANKIN HIGH INCOME

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

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)
35-0472300-120	P	3542

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA21 VG LIFE STRATEGY MOD GRW

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

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)
35-0472300-121	P	847

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA24 SMMID CAP INX NONLND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

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)
35-0472300-124	P	4824

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA28 INVESCO GROWTH & INCOME

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

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)
35-0472300-128	P	72688

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA32 VG LIFESTRATEGY GROWTH

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

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)
35-0472300-132	P	14863

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA61 LVIP DELAWARE VALUE FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-161	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 73238

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA46 AMERFUNDS SMALLCAP WORLD

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-146	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2616

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA48 AMERFUNDS GROWTH AMERICA

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-148	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 75508

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA49 AMERFUNDS INVEST CO AMER

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-149	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 7730

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA54 AMERFUNDS EUROPAC GROWTH

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-154	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 7771

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA58 FRANKLIN GROWTH

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-158	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 5830

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA59 LVIP VANGUARD INTL EQUITY

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-159	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3462

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA64 JH VIT ENTPRS PORTFOLIO

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-164	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 10647

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA77 BR ENERGY OPPORTUNITIES

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-177	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3351

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SAMP MANAGED PRIN PROT PTF

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 56396

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA1E AMERFUNDS BOND AMERICA

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 3045

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA27 LVIP SSGA S&P 500 INDEX

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-127	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 5703

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA86 TEMPLETON GLOBAL BOND VIP

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-186	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2709

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA95 LVIP JPMORGAN RETIRINCOME

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-195	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 179330

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SA97 LVIP DELAW WEALTH BUILDERSALL

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-197	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 884

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LVIP TROWEPRICE 2050 FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 6418

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SAP3 LVIP TROWEPRICE 2060 FUND

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 6662

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: SATG STADION MANAGED GROWTH

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

c EIN-PN 35-0472300-000	**d** Entity code P	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 464752

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 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

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

2022

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2022 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2022 and ending 12/31/2022

A Name of plan
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
26-0905347

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

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		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	533	-400
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)	533	0
(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)	17116	14688
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	1063855	956426
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)		
(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)	59248	60774
(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	1141285	1031488
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 through1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	1141285	1031488

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)	45131	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	62896	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	1	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		108028
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)	868	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		868
(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)		-170220
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		
(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		-61324
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	48473	
(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)		48473
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)		
(5) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(4)**	2i(5)		0
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		48473
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		-109797
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) [X] Unmodified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [ ] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) [X] DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 **(2)** [ ] DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) **(3)** [ ] neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

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

(1) Name: BRISCOE, BURKE & GRIGSBY LLP **(2)** EIN: 73-1293012

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:

		Yes	No	Amount
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.)	4a		X	

		Yes	No	Amount
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.)	4b		X	
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		300000
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			

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

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

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

2022

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2022 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2022 and ending 12/31/2022

A Name of plan
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
26-0905347

Part I Distributions

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** 0

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): 35-0472300

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.)

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

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**

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.

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 (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (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 deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**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):

20 **PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation_____

Briscoe, Burke & Grigsby LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Plan Administrator of
Exceptional Brands, LLC 401(k) Plan

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of Exceptional Brands, LLC 401(k) Plan, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C). The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2022, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audits of Exceptional Brands, LLC 401(k) Plan's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and for the year ended December 31, 2022, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audits and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section—

- the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements referred to above, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- the information in the financial statements referred to above related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Exceptional Brands, LLC 401(k) Plan and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for 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. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Exceptional Brands, LLC 401(k) Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date the financial statements are available to be issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments; administering the plan; and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Exceptional Brands, LLC 401(k) Plan's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Exceptional Brands, LLC 401(k) Plan's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audits did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Supplemental Schedules Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule listed in the table of contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statements but are supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedules, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits 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 generally accepted auditing standards. For information included in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedules, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including their form and content, are presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion—

- the form and content of the supplemental schedules, other than the information in the supplemental schedules that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedules related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Brico, Burke & Grigsby LLP

Certified Public Accountants

Tulsa, Oklahoma
October 9, 2023

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

2022

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2022 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2022 and ending 12/31/2022

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.)
- [X] 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:
- [X] Form 5558
- [ ] automatic extension
- [ ] the DFVC program
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. ▶ [ ]

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001

1c Effective date of plan 07/01/2005

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)

EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC

1902 INDUSTRIAL BLVD.

ABILENE TX 79602

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 26-0905347

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 325-698-2600

2d Business code (see instructions) 722513

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		10/11/23	MICHAEL BURTON
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE		10/11/23	MICHAEL BURTON
	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

3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor	**3b** Administrator's EIN	
	3c Administrator's telephone number	
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report: **a** Sponsor's name **c** Plan Name	**4b** EIN **4d** PN	
5 Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	126
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)**	110
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	93
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	0
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	14
d Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**	**6d**	107
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	0
f Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	107
g Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g**	34
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	0
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 2K 3D

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)	[X] Insurance	(1)	[X] 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

(1) [X] **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) [X] **H** (Financial Information)

(2) [ ] **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)

(3) [X] 1 **A** (Insurance Information)

(4) [X] **C** (Service Provider Information)

(5) [X] **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 2022 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2022 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_____

EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILANLE FOR BENEFITS
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

	2022	2021
Assets		
Investments		
Pooled separate accounts, at fair value	$ 956,426	$ 1,063,855
Guaranteed accounts, at contract value	60,774	59,248
Total investments	**1,017,200**	**1,123,103**
Receivables		
Notes receivable from participants	14,688	17,116
Employer match receivable	-	533
Participany contribution receivable	-	533
Total assets	**1,031,888**	**1,141,285**
Payables		
Contributions to be refunded	400	-
Net assets available for benefits	**$ 1,031,488**	**$ 1,141,285**

See Independent Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.

EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILANLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

Additions:		
Interest income from note receivable from participants	$	868
Contributions:		
Participants		62,896
Employer		45,131
Rollover		1
Total contributions		**108,028**
Total additions		**108,896**
Deductions:		
Net depreciation in fair value of investments		170,220
Benefits paid directly to participants		48,473
Total deductions		**218,693**
Net decrease		**(109,797)**
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of year		**1,141,285**
Net assets available for benefits, end of year	**$**	**1,031,488**

See Independent Auditor's Report and Notes to Financial Statements.

EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Plan provides only general information. Participants should refer to the *Summary Plan Description* for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions, which is available from the Plan administrator.

General – The Plan is a defined contribution plan in which eligible employees of Exceptional Brands, LLC (the "Company") may participate. To participate, the employees must be 18 years of age and have worked 1 year. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Contributions – Each year, the Company contributes a discretionary match percentage, 4% in 2022 and 2021, approved by the Plan Sponsor (Exceptional Brands, LLC 401(k) Plan). Participants can elect to contribute up to 100% of their compensation or $20,500 for 2022. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions currently at $6,500 for the 2022 Plan year. Participants direct the investment of their contributions as well as the Company's contributions in various investment options offered by the Plan. The Plan currently offers several mutual funds as investment options for participants.

Participant Accounts – Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution, the Company's contribution, and plan earnings. The benefits to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting – Employees are always 100% vested in their voluntary contributions plus earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's contribution portion of their accounts plus earnings thereon is based on years of continuous service. A participant is fully vesting after six years of continuous service. The non-vested balances are forfeited upon termination of service. Forfeitures are to be used to offset administrative expenses and to reduce employer contributions. Forfeitures used to reduce employer contributions for the years ending December 31, 2022 and 2021 were $0.

Notes Receivable from Participants - All participants are eligible to borrow funds from the Plan, and all applications are subject to the review and approval of the Plan administrator. Participants are limited to two notes outstanding at any time. Notes may be made for a minimum of $1,000 and a maximum of the lesser of $50,000 or 50% of the vested interest in the participant's account. The notes bear interest at the Prime rate plus 1.00% (4.50% and 4.75% at December 31, 2022 and 2021, respectively), mature no later than five years from the origination date (unless for the purchase of participant's principal residence) and are fully secured by the participant's irrevocable pledge of up to 50% of his or her account balance in the Plan. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions.

Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020 – During 2020, the plan implemented various provisions of the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act* available to eligible participants through December 31, 2020 including eliminating required minimum distributions in 2020, increasing the limit on in-service withdrawals to $100,000, eliminated the 10% federal penalty for early withdrawals, allowing indirect rollovers into another IRA or employer plan within three years from the date the distribution was taken, allowing distribution not rolled into an IRA or employer plan within three years from the date of the distribution to be included in gross taxable income, ratably, over three tax years, allowing participants to suspend loan repayments for up to 12 months, and increasing the participant loan limit to the lesser of $100,000 or 100% of the participants invested account balance through September 23, 2020. The plan will be amended prior to the required deadline.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN (continued)

Plan Termination – Although it has not expressed an intention to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan, subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Payment of Benefits – The Plan administrator may elect to make a lump sum distribution to a participant with an account valued at more than $1,000 but less than $5,000, upon termination of service. For accounts exceeding $5,000, the participant may elect to receive the distribution. When determining the value of the account, rollover contributions will not be included. Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution.

Basis of Accounting – The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting. Employee contributions are recognized in the period the contributions are withheld. The employer's matching contributions are recognized in the same period that the related employee contributions are withheld.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition – Pooled separate accounts are valued at estimated fair market value as provided by Lincoln National Life Insurance at December 31, 2022 and 2021. Investments in the guaranteed account with the insurance company is carried at contract value as determined by Lincoln National Life Insurance. Notes receivable are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year.

Use of Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Plan Tax Status – On September 1, 2011, the Plan adopted a prototype plan document which obtained its latest determination letter on March 31, 2014, in which the Internal Revenue Service stated the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC). The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter. However, the Plan administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Plan files information returns in the United States.

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

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Expenses – Certain expenses of maintaining the Plan are paid by the Plan, unless otherwise paid by the Company. Expenses that are paid by the Company are excluded from these financial statements. Investment related expenses are included in net appreciation (depreciation) of fair value of investments.

3. INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY LINCOLN NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE

The Company has elected the method of compliance as permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Ruled and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, as permitted under such election, the Plan Administrator instructed the Plan's independent auditors not to perform any auditing procedures with respect to the following information certified as complete and accurate by Lincoln National Life Insurance, the trustee and a party-in-interest as defined by ERISA, as of and for the years ending December 31, 2022 and 2021 and for the year ended December 31, 2022, except for comparing such information certified by the custodian to information included in the Plan's financial statements and supplemental schedule. This information consists of the following:

	2022	2021
Investments, at fair value:		
Money market	$ 956,426	$ 1,063,855
Registered investment companies	60,774	59,248
Total investments, at fair value	1,017,200	1,123,103
Net appreciation in the fair value of investments	$ 170,220	

The Plan's independent auditors did not perform auditing procedures with respect to this information except for comparing such information to the related information included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule.

4. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

MML Investor Services is a financial advisor to the Plan, Lincoln Financial Group is the recordkeeper for the Plan, Lincoln National Life Insurance Company is the trustee and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party in interest transactions.

Notes receivable from participants and the Company's payment of a portion of the Plan's expenses are considered party-in-interest transactions and are exempt from the prohibited transaction rules.

Certain administrative fees relating to the maintenance of employee eligibility records are paid by the Company.

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

Level 1 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unadjusted quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets that the Plan has the ability to access.

Level 2 Inputs to the valuation methodology include:

- Quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities in active markets;
- Quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in inactive markets;
- Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability;
- Inputs that are derived principally from or corroborated by observable market data by correlation or other means.

If the asset or liability has specified (contractual) term, the level 2 input must be observable for substantially the full term of the asset or liability.

Level 3 Inputs to the valuation methodology are unobservable and significant to the fair value measurement.

The asset or liability'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 maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2022 and 2021.

Pooled separate accounts: Valued at the NAV of units of the separate account. The NAV, as provided by the custodians, is used as a practical expedient to estimating fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the account less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different than the reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of the separate account, the investment advisor reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the account in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner.

The preceding methods may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although 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 at the reporting date.

5. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (continued)

The Plan's investments are reported at fair value in the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefit. The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2022 and 2021.

	Fair Value Measurement as of December 31, 2022			
	Fair Value	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
Investment measured at net asset value *	$ 956,426	$ 956,426	$ -	$ -
			-	-
Investments at fair value	**$ 956,426**	**$ 956,426**	**$ -**	**$ -**

	Fair Value Measurement as of December 31, 2021			
	Fair Value	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
Investment measured at net asset value *	$ 1,063,855	$ 1,063,855	$ -	$ -
			-	-
Investments at fair value	**$ 1,063,855**	**$ 1,063,855**	**$ -**	**$ -**

6. INVESTMENTS MEASURED USING NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE EXPEDIENT

Investment	Fair Value as of December 31, 2022	Fair Value as of December 31, 2021	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency (if currently Eligible)	Redemption Notice Period
Pooled separate accounts	$ 956,426	$ 1,063,855	n/a	Daily	n/a

7. EXCESS CONTRIBUTIONS AND EARNINGS TO BE REFUNDED

Participant contributions on the Plan's statement of changes in net assets available for benefits is shown net of payments of $0 made in 2022 and 2021 to certain active participants to return to them excess deferral contributions, as required to satisfy the relevant nondiscrimination provisions of the Plan.

8. GROUP VARIABLE ANNUITY CONTRACT

The plan entered into a contract which included a benefit-responsive Guaranteed Account/Guaranteed Stable Value Account from Lincoln Financial Group. It offers preservation of capital, guaranteed minimum interest rate protection and high-quality diversified portfolio and guarantees from The Lincoln Financial Group and Lincoln Life and Annuity Company of New York. Lincoln Financial Group maintains the contributions to the guaranteed account in a general account.

Certain events might limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with the issuer. Such events include (1) premature terminations of the contracts by the plan, (2) plant closings, (3) layoffs, (4) plan terminations, (5) bankruptcies, (6) mergers, or (7) early retirement incentives. No events are probable of occurring that might limit the ability of the plan to transact at contract value with the participants.

In addition, certain circumstances allow the issuer to terminate the contract with the Plan and settle at an amount different from contract value. Such circumstances include (1) breach in the contract by the contract owner, (2) failure to meet the requirements of the appropriate Code sections, or (3) lack of growth for a

8. GROUP VARIABLE ANNUITY CONTRACT

reasonable amount of time.

Because the guaranteed account is fully-benefit responsive, contract value is the relative measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits. Contract value represents the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate a transaction under the terms of the ongoing plan. Interest is credited daily at an interest rate not less than the guaranteed minimum interest rate, as shown on the contract specifications. The interest crediting rate is declared on a quarterly basis. The contract amount maintained in the Guaranteed Account is guaranteed against loss of principal, minus all withdrawals, including charges and adjustments. The guarantee is based on Lincoln's ability to meet its financial obligations from general assets.

The average credited rate for the years ending December 31, 2022 and 2021 were 1.96% and 1.94%, respectively.

9. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In accordance with FASB ASC 855, "Subsequent Events," the Company has evaluated events or transactions occurring after December 31, 2022, the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits date, through October 9, 2023, the date the financial statements were available to be issued, and determined there were no events or transactions, that would impact our financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2022.

EXCEPTIONAL BRANDS, LLC 401(K) PLAN

EIN 26-0905347 PN 001
Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year
December, 31 2022

(A)	(B) Identity of Issuer	(C) Description	(D) Cost	(E) Current Value
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Stadion Managed Growth SATG	n/a	$ 464,752
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	LVIP JPMorgan Retirement Inc SA95	n/a	179,330
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	AmerFunds Invest Co Amer SA49	n/a	7,730
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	AmerFunds Growth America SA48	n/a	75,508
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	AmerFunds EuroPac Growth SA54	n/a	7,771
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Delaware VIP Value SA61	n/a	73,238
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Invesco Growth & Income SA28	n/a	72,688
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	AmerFunds SMALLCAP World SA46	n/a	2,616
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	LVIP Delaware Wealth Builder SA97	n/a	884
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Franklin Growth SA58	n/a	5,830
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	JanusHnd Ent Port Srv Cls SA64	n/a	10,647
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Templeton Global Bond VIP SA86	n/a	2,709
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Fed Hermes Gov Ultrashort Dur SA14	n/a	5
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	SSgA Rusl Sml Md Cp Idx SA24	n/a	4,824
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	VG LifeStrategy Mod Grw SA21	n/a	847
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	VG LifeStrategy Cons Grw SA30	n/a	-
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	LVIP SSgA S&P 500 Index SA27	n/a	5,704
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Franklin High Income SA20	n/a	3,542
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	LVIP Vanguard Intl Equity SA59	n/a	3,462
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Fidelity VIP Mid Cap SA84	n/a	-
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	VG LifeStrategy Growth SA32	n/a	14,863
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	BR Energy Opportun ities SA77	n/a	3,351
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	AmerFunds Bond America SA1E	n/a	3,045
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	LVIP T. Rowe Price 2060 SAP3	n/a	6,418
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	LVIP T. Rowe Price 2050 SALL	n/a	6,662
				956,426
Guaranteed investment contract, at contract value				
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Guaranteed Account	n/a	4,378
*	LINCOLN NAT'L LIFE - DIRECTOR	Mgd Prin Protect Portfolio	n/a	56,396
				60,774
Notes receivable from participants				
*	PARTICIPANT LOANS	Various self-amortizing participant loans (4.25 to 6.50%)	n/a	14,688
	Total			**$ 1,031,888**

Note: Cost information is not required to be disclosed for participant-directed transactions.

* Denotes party-in-interest