

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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I	Annual Report Identification Information
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023	
A	This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____ ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report ☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)
C	If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. ▶ ☐
D	Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program ☐ special extension (enter description)
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 KERN, INC. 401(K) PLAN
1b	Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 001
1c	Effective date of plan 01/01/1999
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) KERN, INC. 3940 GANTZ ROAD, SUITE A GROVE CITY, OH 43123
2b	Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3538481
2c	Plan Sponsor's telephone number 614-317-2572
2d	Business code (see instructions) 541990

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.	09/27/2024	ELVA PAEFITT
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	09/27/2024	ELVA PAEFITT
	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 ☒ 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	5 179
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 a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6a(1) 147 6a(2) 142 6b 0 6c 33 6d 175 6e 0 6f 175 6g(1) 171 6g(2) 175 6h 8
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 2S 2T 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) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply) (1) ☒ Insurance (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts (3) ☒ Trust (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor
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10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☒ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached 1
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☒ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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

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

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

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan KERN, INC. 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ►	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 KERN, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3538481	

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.
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1 Coverage Information:

(a) Name of insurance carrier TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY					
(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
36-6071399	70688	602252-000	175	01/01/2023	12/31/2023

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 27147	(b) Total amount of fees paid 0
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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	
MORGAN STANLEY INSURANCE SERVICES	ABRAM MCCARTY 1 NEW YORK PLAZA 12TH FL NEW YORK, NY 10004

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid 13573	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code 3
	(c) Amount 0	(d) Purpose	

(a) Name and address of the agent, broker, or other person to whom commissions or fees were paid	
MORGAN STANLEY INSURANCE SERVICES	ERIK ZWILLING 1 NEW YORK PLAZA 12TH FL NEW YORK, NY 10004

(b) Amount of sales and base commissions paid 13573	Fees and other commissions paid		(e) Organization code 3
	(c) Amount 0	(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	
5 Current value of plan's interest under this contract in separate accounts at year end.....	5	9089865

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 ▶ STABLE VALUE OPTION

b Balance at the end of the previous year	7b	1037780
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c Additions: (1) Contributions deposited during the year	7c(1)	87054	
(2) Dividends and credits	7c(2)	0	
(3) Interest credited during the year	7c(3)	12416	
(4) Transferred from separate account.....	7c(4)	89891	
(5) Other (specify below)	7c(5)	21934	

▶ FORFEITURE CREDITS AND LOAN PAYMENTS

(6) Total additions	7c(6)	211295
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d Total of balance and additions (add lines 7b and 7c(6))	7d	1249075
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e Deductions:

(1) Disbursed from fund to pay benefits or purchase annuities during year	7e(1)	76954	
(2) Administration charge made by carrier	7e(2)	4831	
(3) Transferred to separate account.....	7e(3)	98765	
(4) Other (specify below)	7e(4)	25424	

▶ LOANS ISSUED AND FEES

(5) Total deductions	7e(5)	205974
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f Balance at the end of the current year (subtract line 7e(5) from line 7d)	7f	1043101
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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)	
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)	
(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)	
(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) Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	Service Provider 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
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan KERN, INC. 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 KERN, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3538481	

Part I	Service Provider Information (see instructions)
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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).. ☒ 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
TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURAN
36-6071399

(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)

TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURAN

36-6071399

(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?
15 37 52 62 64 67	RECORDKEEPER	48348	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	0	Yes ☐ No ☒

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

THE PENSION DESIGN GROUP

46-2028188

(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?
15 37 64	RECORDKEEPER	0	Yes ☒ No ☐	Yes ☒ No ☐	1039	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
THE PENSION DESIGN GROUP	15 37 64	1039
(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.	
TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURAN 36-6071399	THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATION	

(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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection.
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For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023

A Name of plan <u>KERN, INC. 401(K) PLAN</u>	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u>	
C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>KERN, INC.</u>	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>22-3538481</u>	

Part I	Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)	

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>STATE STREET RUSSELL SM CAP VAL INE</u>				
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</u>				
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-355</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>506297</u>		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>AMERICAN FUNDS NEW WORLD RET ACCT</u>				
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</u>				
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-625</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>212888</u>		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TRANSAMERICARETONTRK 2020 WITH AMER</u>				
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</u>				
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-686</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>10197</u>		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TRANSAMERICARETONTRK 2025 WITH AMER</u>				
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</u>				
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-687</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>6302</u>		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TRANSAMERICARETONTRK 2030 WITH AMER</u>				
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</u>				
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-688</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>45802</u>		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TRANSAMERICARETONTRK 2035 WITH AMER</u>				
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</u>				
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-689</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>94384</u>		
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>TRANSAMERICARETONTRK 2040 WITH AMER</u>				
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY</u>				
c EIN-PN <u>36-6071399-690</u>	d Entity code <u>P</u>	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>24237</u>		

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TRANSAMERICARETONTRK 2045 WITH AMER		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-691	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 38345
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TRANSAMERICARETONTRK 2050 WITH AMER		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-692	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 44221
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TRANSAMERICARETONTRK 2055 WITH AMER		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-693	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 33316
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TRANSAMERICARETONTRK 2060 WITH AMER		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-817	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 88413
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TA VANGUARD REIT INDEX RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-130	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 259759
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TA VANGUARD TOTAL STCK MRKT INDEX		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-166	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1325761
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: AMERICAN FUNDS NEW PERSPECTIVE RET		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-255	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 372656
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: HARTFORD MID CAP RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-726	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 265605
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: BNY MELLOW GLOBAL FIXED INCOME RET		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-761	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 221233
a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: LORD ABBETT HI YLD RET ACCT		
b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY		
c EIN-PN 36-6071399-660	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 241555

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: WESTERN ASSET CORE PLUS BD RET ACCT

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN 83-1098532-022	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 2197471
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: HARTFORD INTRNTL OPPS RET ACCT

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN 36-6071399-643	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 320157
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: FIDELITY ADVISOR NEW INSIGHTS RET

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN 36-6071399-944	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1435491
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: PUTNAM LARGE CAP VALUE RET ACCT

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN 36-6071399-957	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 1345620
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: TRANSAMERICA RETIREONTRK 2065 WITH

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): TRANSAMERICA FINANCIAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

c EIN-PN 83-1098532-402	d Entity code P	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) 154
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a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

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

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	d Entity code	e Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
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Part II Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)

(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

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
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan KERN, INC. 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 KERN, INC.		
D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3538481		

Part I	Asset and Liability Statement
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1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a	0	0
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)	94400	98800
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	388743	420450
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)	8333155	10132965
(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)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

1d Employer-related investments:		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	8816298	10652215
Liabilities			
g Benefit claims payable	1g		
h Operating payables	1h		
i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
j Other liabilities	1j		
k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j)	1k	0	0
Net Assets			
l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	8816298	10652215

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)	190373	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	639043	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	153540	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines 2a(1)(A) , (B) , (C) , and line 2a(2)	2a(3)		982956
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)	24469	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines 2b(1)(A) through (F)	2b(1)(G)		24469
(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)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: (A) Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines 2b(5)(A) and (B)	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts.....	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts.....	2b(7)		1310656
(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		218
d Total income. Add all income amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		2318299

Expenses

e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	422393	
(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)		422393
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		11641
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees.....	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees.....	2i(3)	48348	
(4) IQPA audit fees.....	2i(4)	0	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)	0	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines 2i(1) through (11)	2i(12)		48348
j Total expenses. Add all expense amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		482382

Net Income and Reconciliation

k Net income (loss). Subtract line 2j from line 2d	2k		1835917
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) ☒ 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) ☒ 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: **RHW CPAS**

(2) EIN: **83-2698317**

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) ☐ This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG 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. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
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.)		☒	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	☒		1000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?		☒	
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?		☒	
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?		☒	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	☒		
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.)		☒	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		☒	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		☒	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		☒	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? ☐ 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
		2023
		This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2023 and ending 12/31/2023		
A Name of plan KERN, INC. 401(K) PLAN	B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	001
C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 KERN, INC.	D Employer Identification Number (EIN) 22-3538481	

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

1	Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	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): 36-6071399		
Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.			
3	Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year	3	

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

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

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (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) 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) 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)	14a 14b 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 b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	15a 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 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	16a 16b	
17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐		

Part VI	Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans
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18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment..... ☐	
19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b): a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as: Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____% High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____% b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: ☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more	
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: _____	

Part VII	IRS Compliance Questions
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21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☐ Yes ☒ No 21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2). ☐ Design-based safe harbor method ☐ "Prior year" ADP test ☒ "Current year" ADP test ☐ N/A	
22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter <u>06 / 30 / 2020</u> (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number <u>Q703729A</u> .	

**Kern Inc. 401(k) Plan
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For the Years Ended December 31, 2023 and 2022**

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Note: Other schedules required by Section 2520.103.10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA have been omitted because they are not applicable.



RHW CPAs

2300 Contra Costa Blvd, Suite 100, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Report of Independent Auditors

To the Plan Administration
Kern Inc. 401(k) Plan

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

We have performed audits of the financial statements of Kern, Inc. 401(k) Plan (the 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, 2023 and 2022, and the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years ended December 31, 2023 and 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 the 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 (DOL) Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). 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 (qualified institution), provided that the investment information is prepared and certified to by the qualified institution in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year ended December 31, 2023 and 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 the procedures performed as described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, 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 (GAAP); and
- the certified investment information in the accompanying financial statements agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by a qualified 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 (GAAS). 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 the 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 GAAP, 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 the Plan's ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are issued or available to be issued.

Management is responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments. Management is also responsible for 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 GAAS 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 GAAS, 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 the 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 the 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 GAAP.

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 GAAP.

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.

Other Matter — Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental schedule of Schedule H, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the DOL'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 schedule, 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 GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule 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 schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the DOL's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion

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

RHW CPAs California
Pleasant Hill CA
10/7/2024

Kern, Inc.
401(k) Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>	2023	2022
Assets		
Investments, at fair value		
Pooled separate accounts	9,089,865	\$7,295,374
Total investments, at fair value	9,089,865	7,295,375
Investments, at contract value		
Stable value fund	1,040,246	1,037,780
Total investments, at contract value	1,040,246	1,037,780
Total Investments	10,130,111	8,333,155
Participant contributions receivable	98,800	94,400
Forfeitures	2,854	-
Notes receivable from participants	420,450	388,743
Total Assets	10,652,215	8,816,298
Liabilities		
Excess contributions payable to participants	-	-
Total Liabilities	-	-
Net Assets Available for Benefits	10,652,215	8,816,298

Kern, Inc.
401(k) Plan
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits

<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>	2023	2022
Additions to Net Assets to:		
Investment income:		
Interests and dividends	217	8,915
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	1,310,656	-
Total investment income, net	1,310,873	8,915
Interest on notes receivable from participants	24,469	16,631
Employee contributions	792,584	704,554
Employer discretionary contributions	98,800	94,400
Employer matching contributions	91,573	85,343
Total Additions	2,318,299	909,843
Deductions from Net Assets Attributed to:		
Benefits paid to participants	434,034	634,190
Administrative expenses	48,348	45,986
Net depreciation in assets	-	1,488,405
Total Deductions	482,381	2,168,581
Net Increase/Decrease	1,835,917	(1,258,738)
Net Assets Available for Benefits:		
Beginning of year	8,816,298	10,075,036
End of year	10,652,215	8,816,298

Kern Inc. 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the Kern, Inc. (the Plan Sponsor and/or the Company) 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering all eligible employees of the Company who have completed three months of service and are age 20 or older. Participants may enter the Plan the first day of the month following meeting eligibility requirements. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Effective January 1, 2022, the Plan was restated for regulatory compliance purposes and adopted a pre-approved plan document of Dataair Employee Benefit Systems, Inc, which received an opinion letter from the Internal Review Service (IRS) dated June 30, 2020 stating that the restated pre- approved plan document was in compliance with applicable requirements of the Internal Review Code (IRC).

Contributions

The Plan provides for employee salary 401(k) contributions up to a maximum of 100% of pretax annual compensation subject to maximum tax-deferred limitations established by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The Plan allows participants to contribute up to 100% of their compensation on an after-tax basis subject to IRS limitations. Participants may also make contributions to the Plan in the form of a rollover of funds from another qualified plan.

The Company may make annual discretionary contributions and matching contributions. The Company made discretionary contributions in the amount of the \$98,800 in 2023 and \$94,400 in 2022. The Company made matching contributions in an amount equal to a participant's contributions, up to 1% of eligible compensation in 2023.

Participant Accounts

Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution and allocations of the Company's contributions and plan earnings and charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account. Participants may direct the investments of their account balances into various investment options offered by the Plan.

Kern Inc. 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their salary reduction account a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum of \$50,000, not to exceed 50% of their vested account balance. Participants may have two outstanding loans at a time, including any refinancing of an existing loan. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at the prime interest rate at loan inception. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. Loan terms shall not

Vesting

Participants are immediately 100% vested in employee salary, employer matching and rollover contributions and any income or loss thereon. Vesting in the Company's discretionary contribution portion of their accounts, plus actual earnings thereon, is based on years of service. Participants vest in discretionary contributions made by the Company 25% after two years of service and another 25% per year thereafter until they become fully vested after five years of service.

Payment of Benefits

On termination of service due to termination, death, disability, or retirement at age 60, a participant, or his or her beneficiary, will receive a lump-sum amount equal to 100% of the participant's account balance, less any applicable tax withholdings. Benefits are recorded when paid.

Hardship Withdrawals

Participants may request that all or a portion of their deferral contributions from their account be distributed in the case of severe financial hardship, as defined in the Plan agreement. The Company must approve any such hardship withdrawals.

Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions set forth in the Plan agreement and ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, participants become 100% vested in their account balances.

NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared on the accrual method of accounting.

Kern Inc. 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

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 disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of additions and deductions during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments are reported at fair value, other than fully benefit-responsive investment contracts (FBRICs), which are reported at contract value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 5 for discussion of fair value measurements. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Net appreciation includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments purchased and sold as well as held during the year.

The Plan invests in FBRICs through the Stable Value Fund. The Stable Value Fund is a FBRIC and stated at contract value, which is the amount Plan participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan.

Plan participants may select how their accounts are invested from investment options offered by the Plan. The value of the accumulated shares for each investment varies daily and reflects investment results, including dividends and market value changes (based on quoted market values), less an amount for expenses of the investment fund.

Participant Notes Receivable

Participant notes receivable are measured at their unpaid principal balances plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2023. Delinquent participant loans are recorded as distributions based on the terms of the Plan agreement.

Benefit Payments

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Administrative Expenses

Certain expenses incurred maintaining the Plan are paid directly by the Company and are excluded from these financial statements. Investment-related expenses are included in net appreciation in the fair value of investments within the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits.

Kern Inc. 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

Subsequent Events

The Plan has evaluated events and transactions that occurred between January 1, 2024 and October 7, 2024 which is the date that the financial statements were available to be issued for possible recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

NOTE 3 – SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL DATA CERTIFICATION

In accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5(c) of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA, Transamerica Life Insurance Company Inc. has certified as complete and accurate the following information at December 31, 2023 and 2022, and for the year then ended, including the comparable information in the accompanying supplemental schedule:

<i>December 31,</i>	2023	2022
Investments, at fair value	\$ 9,089,865	\$ 7,295,374
Investments, at contract value	1,040,246	1,036,825
Total Investments	\$ 10,130,111	\$ 8,332,199
<i>Year Ended December 31,</i>	2023	2022
Interest and dividends	\$ 217	\$ 8,915
Net appreciation/depreciation in fair value of investments	1,310,656	(1,488,405)

As directed by the plan administrator, no auditing procedures have been performed on the above certified information except to compare such information to the information included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule.

NOTE 4 – RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

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

Kern Inc. 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 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). Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) Topic 820, *Fair Value Measurement* are described as follows:

Level 1: Inputs to the valuation methodology are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Plan can access at the measurement date.

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 a 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 measurements.

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

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, 2023.

Pooled separate accounts: Stated at fair value as determined by the issuer of the pooled separate accounts (PSAs) based on the net asset value (NAV) of the underlying investments. The NAV as provided by Transamerica Life Insurance Company Inc., and is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the funds less its liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that the funds 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 PSAs, the investment advisor reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the funds in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly manner. There are no redemption restrictions or unfunded commitments on these investments.

Kern Inc. 401(k) Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

The following table sets forth by level within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2023:

<u>Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023</u>				
	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level2</u>	<u>Level3</u>	<u>Total</u>
Investments measured at NAV:				
Pooled separate accounts*				<u>\$9,089,865</u>
Total investments, at fair value				<u>\$9,089,865</u>

**Certain investments that are measured at fair value using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) practical expedient have not been categorized in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit a reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the amounts presented in the statements of net assets available for benefits.*

NOTE 6 – INVESTMENT IN FULLY BENEFIT-RESPONSIVE INVESTMENT CONTRACT

Transamerica Life Insurance Company Inc. offers a stable value fund. The stable value fund is considered to be a fully benefit-responsive investment contract. Contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets available for benefits. Contract value, as reported by Transamerica Life Insurance Company Inc., is the beginning balance plus any deposit and credited interest, less any withdrawals, charges, or expenses. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value.

There are no reserves against contract value for credit risk of Transamerica Life Insurance Company Inc. or otherwise. The contract value of the investment contract was \$1,040,246 in 2023. This investment seeks to protect against any loss of principal while providing returns in excess of money market funds and one year U.S. Treasury Bills. The investment has a portfolio investment rate design in which all deposits are credited with the same interest rate, on a daily basis, and with no set maturity. The effective credited interest rate is set semi-annually and effective on the first day of the semi-annual period. Contract charges may reduce this return.

Certain events may limit the ability of the Plan to transact at contract value with Transamerica Life Insurance Company Inc. The events include: Plan amendments or changes, company mergers or consolidations, group terminations or layoffs, implementation of an early retirement program, termination or partial termination of the Plan, failure to meet certain tax qualifications, Plan sponsor withdrawals without the appropriate notice to the Stable Value Fund's investment manager and/or wrap contract issuers, any changes in laws or regulations that would result in substantial withdrawals from the Plan, and default by the Plan sponsor in honoring its credit obligations, insolvency, or bankruptcy if such events could result in withdrawals. In general, FBRIC issuers may terminate the contract and settle at other than contract value due to changes in the qualification status of the Company or the Plan, breach of material obligations under the contract and misrepresentation by the contract holder, or failure of the underlying portfolio to conform to the pre-established investment guidelines. Plan management believes that the occurrence of such events that would cause the Plan to transact at less than contract value is not probable.

Kern Inc. 401(k) Plan
Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 7 – TAX STATUS

The Plan obtained its opinion letter on March 31, 2014 in which the Internal Revenue Service stated that the Plan, as then designed, was in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would be sustained upon examination by the tax authorities. The plan administrator and trustee have analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and have concluded that as of December 31, 2023, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements.

NOTE 8 – TAX STATUS

Parties-in-interest are defined under DOL regulations as any fiduciary of the Plan, any party rendering service to the Plan, the Plan Sponsor and/or Company and certain others. Professional fees for the administration and audit of the Plan are paid by the Company on behalf of the Plan.

Certain plan assets are in investment funds managed by Transamerica Life Insurance Company Inc. or its affiliates (Transamerica), the trustee of the plan. Therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in interest transactions as defined under ERISA guidelines.

**SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULE
REQUIRED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**

Kern, Inc. 401(k) Plan
Employer Identification Number 22-3538481 Plan 001 Schedule H,
Line 4i - Schedule of Assets
(Held at End of Year) December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment, including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Western Asset Core Plus Bond Ret Acct	**	\$2,197,471
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Putnam Equity Income Ret Acct	**	1,345,620
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TA Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Ret Acct	**	1,325,761
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Fidelity Advisor New Insights Ret Acct	**	1,435,491
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	State Street Russell Small Cap Value Index Ret Acct	**	506,297
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Hartford International Opportunities Ret Acct	**	320,157
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	American Funds New Perspective Ret Acct	**	372,656
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	BNY Mellon Global Fixed Income Ret Acct	**	221,233
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Hartford Mid Cap Ret Acct	**	259,759
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Lord Abbett High Yield Ret Acct	**	241,555
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Hartford Mid Cap Ret Acct	**	265,605
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	American Funds New World Ret Acct	**	212,888
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2060 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	88,413
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2045 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	38,345
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2050 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	44,222
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2030 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	45,802
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2055 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	33,316
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2035 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	94,384
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2040 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	24,237
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2015 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	6,302
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2020 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	10,197
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2065 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	154
Total Pooled Separate Accounts				9,089,865
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Transamerica Stable Value Core Account	**	1,040,246
Total Stable Value Funds				1,040,246
*	Participants	Notes receivable from participants with interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 6.50%	**	420,450
Forfeitures				2,854
Total Investments				\$10,553,415
* Party-in-interest to the Plan				
** Cost information not required				

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 2023 This Form is Open to Public Inspection
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Part I Annual Report Identification Information		
For calendar plan year 2023 or fiscal plan year beginning <u>01/01/2023</u> and ending <u>12/31/2023</u>		
A This return/report is for:	☐ a multiemployer plan; ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.) ☒ a single-employer plan; ☐ a DFE (specify) _____	
B This return/report is:	☐ the first return/report; ☐ the final return/report; ☐ an amended return/report; ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months).	
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here	▶ ☐	
D Check box if filing under:	☒ Form 5558; ☐ automatic extension; ☐ the DFVC program; ☐ special extension (enter description)	
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 Kern, Inc. 401(k) Plan		1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ <u>001</u>
		1c Effective date of plan <u>01/01/1999</u>
2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan) Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street or P.O. Box) City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (If foreign, see instructions) Kern, Inc. 3940 Gantz Road, Suite A US Grove City OH 43123		2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>22-3538481</u> 2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number <u>(614) 317-2572</u> 2d Business code (see instructions) <u>541990</u>

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

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

SIGN HERE		<u>9-27-24</u> Date	<u>Elva Paez.H</u> Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE		Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE		Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

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

Form 5500 (2023)
v. 230728

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☒ Same as Plan Sponsor	3b Administrator's EIN 3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN and 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	5 179
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) 147
a(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	6a(2) 142
b Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	6b 0
c Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	6c 33
d Subtotal. Add lines 6a(2) , 6b , and 6c	6d 175
e Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits	6e 0
f Total. Add lines 6d and 6e	6f 175
g(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	6g(1) 171
g(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	6g(2) 175
h Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	6h 8
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 2S 2T 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) ☒ Insurance	(1) ☒ Insurance
(2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) ☒ Trust	(3) ☒ Trust
(4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor	(4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See Instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) - Number Attached _____
- (5) ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information - Small Plan)
- (3) ☒ **A** (Insurance Information) - Number Attached 1
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☒ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

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

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

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

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

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2023 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2023 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 _____

Kern, Inc. 401(k) Plan
Employer Identification Number 22-3538481 Plan 001 Schedule H,
Line 4i - Schedule of Assets
(Held at End of Year) December 31, 2023

(a)	(b) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment, including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Western Asset Core Plus Bond Ret Acct	**	\$2,197,471
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Putnam Equity Income Ret Acct	**	1,345,620
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TA Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Ret Acct	**	1,325,761
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Fidelity Advisor New Insights Ret Acct	**	1,435,491
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	State Street Russell Small Cap Value Index Ret Acct	**	506,297
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Hartford International Opportunities Ret Acct	**	320,157
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	American Funds New Perspective Ret Acct	**	372,656
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	BNY Mellon Global Fixed Income Ret Acct	**	221,233
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Hartford Mid Cap Ret Acct	**	259,759
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Lord Abbett High Yield Ret Acct	**	241,555
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	Hartford Mid Cap Ret Acct	**	265,605
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	American Funds New World Ret Acct	**	212,888
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2060 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	88,413
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2045 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	38,345
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2050 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	44,222
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2030 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	45,802
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2055 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	33,316
*	Transamerica Financial Life Ins. Co.	TransamericaRetOnTrk 2035 with Amer Fds RetAct	**	94,384
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