

Form 5500-SF

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Short Form Annual Return/Report of Small Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed 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-SF.

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

- A This return/report is for: [X] a single-employer plan [ ] a multiple-employer plan (not multiemployer) (Pension Plan filers checking this box must attach Schedule MEP. Other plans must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
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 Check box if filing under: [X] Form 5558 [ ] automatic extension [ ] DFVC program [ ] special extension (enter description)
D If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here [ ]
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 INDEPENDENT TREE LLC CASH BALANCE PENSION PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN) 002
1c Effective date of plan 01/01/2023
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) INDEPENDENT TREE LLC P O BOX 244 11640 MUSIC STREET NEWBURY, OH 44065
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 20-2495440
2c Sponsor's telephone number 440-564-1374
2d Business code (see instructions) 561730
3a Plan administrator's name and address [X] Same as Plan Sponsor.
3b Administrator's EIN
3c Administrator's telephone number
4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report.
a Sponsor's name
c Plan Name
4b EIN
4d PN
5a Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year 14
b Total number of participants at the end of the plan year 15
c(1) Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)
c(2) Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)
d(1) Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year 14
d(2) Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year 15
e Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested 3

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, if applicable, a Schedule SB or Schedule MB completed and signed by an enrolled actuary, 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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Row 1: Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature, 09/03/2025, ELISABETTA CARRELLI-KRAUS. Row 2: Signature of employer/plan sponsor, Date, Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor.

- 6a** Were all of the plan's assets during the plan year invested in eligible assets? (See instructions.) .....  Yes  No
- b** Are you claiming a waiver of the annual examination and report of an independent qualified public accountant (IQPA) under 29 CFR 2520.104-46? (See instructions on waiver eligibility and conditions.) .....  Yes  No
- If you answered "No" to either line 6a or line 6b, the plan cannot use Form 5500-SF and must instead use Form 5500.**
- c** If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (see ERISA section 4021)? .....  Yes  No  Not determined
- If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year: 557426. (See instructions.)

<b>Part III Financial Information</b>			
<b>7</b> Plan Assets and Liabilities		<b>(a) Beginning of Year</b>	<b>(b) End of Year</b>
<b>a</b> Total plan assets .....	<b>7a</b>	214202	415547
<b>b</b> Total plan liabilities .....	<b>7b</b>		
<b>c</b> Net plan assets (subtract line 7b from line 7a) .....	<b>7c</b>	214202	415547
<b>8</b> Income, Expenses, and Transfers for this Plan Year		<b>(a) Amount</b>	<b>(b) Total</b>
<b>a</b> Contributions received or receivable from:			
<b>(1)</b> Employers .....	<b>8a(1)</b>	199536	
<b>(2)</b> Participants .....	<b>8a(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Others (including rollovers) .....	<b>8a(3)</b>		
<b>b</b> Other income (loss) .....	<b>8b</b>	2696	
<b>c</b> Total income (add lines 8a(1), 8a(2), 8a(3), and 8b) .....	<b>8c</b>		202232
<b>d</b> Benefits paid (including direct rollovers and insurance premiums to provide benefits) .....	<b>8d</b>		
<b>e</b> Certain deemed and/or corrective distributions (see instructions) .	<b>8e</b>		
<b>f</b> Administrative service providers (salaries, fees, commissions) .....	<b>8f</b>	887	
<b>g</b> Other expenses .....	<b>8g</b>		
<b>h</b> Total expenses (add lines 8d, 8e, 8f, and 8g) .....	<b>8h</b>		887
<b>i</b> Net income (loss) (subtract line 8h from line 8c) .....	<b>8i</b>		201345
<b>j</b> Transfers to (from) the plan (see instructions) .....	<b>8j</b>		

<b>Part IV Plan Characteristics</b>	
<b>9a</b>	If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions: <u>1A 1C 3D</u>
<b>b</b>	If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

<b>Part V Compliance Questions</b>				
<b>10</b> During the plan year:		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>a</b> 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>10a</b>		X	
<b>b</b> Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 10a.) .....	<b>10b</b>		X	
<b>c</b> Was the plan covered by a fidelity bond? .....	<b>10c</b>	X		21421
<b>d</b> Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty? .....	<b>10d</b>		X	
<b>e</b> Were any fees or commissions paid to any brokers, agents, or other persons by an insurance carrier, insurance service, or other organization that provides some or all of the benefits under the plan? (See instructions.) .....	<b>10e</b>		X	
<b>f</b> Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan? .....	<b>10f</b>		X	
<b>g</b> Did the plan have any participant loans? (If "Yes," enter amount as of year-end.) .....	<b>10g</b>		X	
<b>h</b> If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.) .....	<b>10h</b>			
<b>i</b> If 10h was answered "Yes," check the box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3 .....	<b>10i</b>			

**Part VI Pension Funding Compliance**

**11** Is this a defined benefit plan subject to minimum funding requirements? (If "Yes," see instructions and complete Schedule SB (Form 5500) and lines 11a and b below.) If this is a defined contribution pension plan, leave line 11 blank and complete line 12 below.  Yes  No

**a** Enter the unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 **11a** 0

**b PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If the plan is covered by PBGC and the amount reported on line 11a is greater than \$0, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**12** Is this a defined contribution plan subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Code or section 302 of ERISA? (If "Yes," complete line 12a or lines 12b, 12c, 12d, and 12e below, as applicable.) If this is a defined benefit pension plan, leave line 12 blank and complete line 11 above.  Yes  No

**a** 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 letter ruling granting the waiver. Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**If you completed line 12a, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB (Form 5500), and skip to line 13.**

**b** Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year **12b**

**c** Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year **12c**

**d** Subtract the amount in line 12c from the amount in line 12b. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) **12d**

**e** Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 12d be met by the funding deadline?  Yes  No  N/A

**Part VII Plan Terminations and Transfers of Assets**

**13a** Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted in any plan year?  Yes  No

**a** If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year. **13a**

**b** Were all the plan assets distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?  Yes  No

**c** 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.)

13c(1) Name of plan(s):	13c(2) EIN(s)	13c(3) PN(s)

**Part VIII IRS Compliance Questions**

**14a** 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

**14b** 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

**15** 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 02 / 28 / 2023 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q705211A.

<b>SCHEDULE SB</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan</b> <b>Actuarial Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6059 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500 or 5500-SF.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

▶ **Round off amounts to nearest dollar.**  
 ▶ **Caution:** A penalty of \$1,000 will be assessed for late filing of this report unless reasonable cause is established.

<b>A</b> Name of plan <u>INDEPENDENT TREE LLC CASH BALANCE PENSION PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 or 5500-SF <u>INDEPENDENT TREE LLC</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>20-2495440</u>	
<b>E</b> Type of plan: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple-A <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple-B	<b>F</b> Prior year plan size: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100 or fewer <input type="checkbox"/> 101-500 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 500	

**Part I Basic Information**

<b>1</b>	Enter the valuation date: Month <u>12</u> Day <u>31</u> Year <u>2024</u>		
<b>2</b>	Assets:		
	<b>a</b> Market value .....	<b>2a</b>	<u>216011</u>
	<b>b</b> Actuarial value .....	<b>2b</b>	<u>216011</u>
<b>3</b>	Funding target/participant count breakdown	(1) Number of participants	(2) Vested Funding Target
	<b>a</b> For retired participants and beneficiaries receiving payment .....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<b>b</b> For terminated vested participants .....	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<b>c</b> For active participants .....	<u>18</u>	<u>0</u>
	<b>d</b> Total .....	<u>18</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>4</b>	If the plan is in at-risk status, check the box and complete lines (a) and (b)..... <input type="checkbox"/>		
	<b>a</b> Funding target disregarding prescribed at-risk assumptions .....	<b>4a</b>	
	<b>b</b> Funding target reflecting at-risk assumptions, but disregarding transition rule for plans that have been in at-risk status for fewer than five consecutive years and disregarding loading factor .....	<b>4b</b>	
<b>5</b>	Effective interest rate .....	<b>5</b>	<u>5.34 %</u>
<b>6</b>	Target normal cost		
	<b>a</b> Present value of current plan year accruals .....	<b>6a</b>	<u>148632</u>
	<b>b</b> Expected plan-related expenses .....	<b>6b</b>	<u>0</u>
	<b>c</b> Target normal cost .....	<b>6c</b>	<u>148632</u>

**Statement by Enrolled Actuary**  
 To the best of my knowledge, the information supplied in this schedule and accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, if any, is complete and accurate. Each prescribed assumption was applied in accordance with applicable law and regulations. In my opinion, each other assumption is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations) and such other assumptions, in combination, offer my best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

<b>SIGN HERE</b>  <u>MICHAEL L. LIBMAN, FCA</u> Signature of actuary  <u>THE LIBMAN ACTUARIAL GROUP, INC.</u> Firm name  <u>2307 E. AURORA ROAD, UNIT B-13</u> <u>TWINSBURG, OH 44087</u> Address of the firm	<u>09/02/2025</u> Date  <u>23-02940</u> Most recent enrollment number  <u>216-398-3888</u> Telephone number (including area code)
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If the actuary has not fully reflected any regulation or ruling promulgated under the statute in completing this schedule, check the box and see instructions



<b>Part V Assumptions Used to Determine Funding Target and Target Normal Cost</b>			
<b>21</b> Discount rate:			
<b>a</b> Segment rates:	1st segment: 5.05 %	2nd segment: 5.31 %	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A, full yield curve used
<b>b</b> Applicable month (enter code) .....			<b>21b</b> 2
<b>22</b> Weighted average retirement age .....			<b>22</b> 62
<b>23</b> Mortality table(s) (see instructions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prescribed - combined	<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed - separate	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute

<b>Part VI Miscellaneous Items</b>			
<b>24</b> Has a change been made in the non-prescribed actuarial assumptions for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment..... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>25</b> Has a method change been made for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment..... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>26</b> Demographic and benefit information			
<b>a</b> Is the plan required to provide a Schedule of Active Participants? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment. .... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>b</b> Is the plan required to provide a projection of expected benefit payments? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment ... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			
<b>27</b> If the plan is subject to alternative funding rules, enter applicable code and see instructions regarding attachment.....			<b>27</b>

<b>Part VII Reconciliation of Unpaid Minimum Required Contributions For Prior Years</b>			
<b>28</b> Unpaid minimum required contributions for all prior years .....			<b>28</b> 0
<b>29</b> Discounted employer contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years (line 19a).....			<b>29</b> 0
<b>30</b> Remaining amount of unpaid minimum required contributions (line 28 minus line 29).....			<b>30</b> 0

<b>Part VIII Minimum Required Contribution For Current Year</b>			
<b>31</b> Target normal cost and excess assets (see instructions):			
<b>a</b> Target normal cost (line 6c) .....			<b>31a</b> 148632
<b>b</b> Excess assets, if applicable, but not greater than line 31a .....			<b>31b</b> 57133
<b>32</b> Amortization installments:	Outstanding Balance	Installment	
<b>a</b> Net shortfall amortization installment .....	0	0	
<b>b</b> Waiver amortization installment .....	0	0	
<b>33</b> If a waiver has been approved for this plan year, enter the date of the ruling letter granting the approval (Month _____ Day _____ Year _____) and the waived amount .....			<b>33</b>
<b>34</b> Total funding requirement before reflecting carryover/prefunding balances (lines 31a - 31b + 32a + 32b - 33).....			<b>34</b> 91499
	Carryover balance	Prefunding balance	Total balance
<b>35</b> Balances elected for use to offset funding requirement .....			0
<b>36</b> Additional cash requirement (line 34 minus line 35) .....			<b>36</b> 91499
<b>37</b> Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date (line 19c) .....			<b>37</b> 192790
<b>38</b> Present value of excess contributions for current year (see instructions)			
<b>a</b> Total (excess, if any, of line 37 over line 36)			<b>38a</b> 101291
<b>b</b> Portion included in line 38a attributable to use of prefunding and funding standard carryover balances .....			<b>38b</b> 0
<b>39</b> Unpaid minimum required contribution for current year (excess, if any, of line 36 over line 37) .....			<b>39</b> 0
<b>40</b> Unpaid minimum required contributions for all years .....			<b>40</b> 0

<b>Part IX Pension Funding Relief Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (See Instructions)</b>			
<b>41</b> If an election was made to use the extended amortization rule for a plan year beginning on or before December 31, 2021, check the box to indicate the first plan year for which the rule applies. <input type="checkbox"/> 2019 <input type="checkbox"/> 2020 <input type="checkbox"/> 2021			

Independent Tree LLC Cash Balance Pension Plan EIN / PN: 20-2495440 / 002

**AGE, SALARY AND SERVICE DISTRIBUTION OF ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS**

Attained Age at 12/31/2024	Independent Tree LLC							Total
	Years of Participation							
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	
Under 25	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
25-29	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
30-34	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
35-39	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
40-44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-49	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
50-54	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
55-59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
60-64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Over 64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	18

Since there are fewer than 1,000 active participants, salary averages and cash balance account information are not required.

**ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS****Actuarial assumptions**Mortality

Active Employees

\*\* Post-Retirement - For purpose of lump sum determination:  
Pursuant to IRC 417(e): 2024 Applicable Table (Blended)  
published in IRS Notice 2016-50

\* Pre-Retirement - None

Retired Employees

Same as active employees

Rate of Retirement

100% at age 62

Weighted Average Retirement Age

Age 62

Rate of Disability

\* None

Salary Scale

\* None

Rate of Employee Turnover

\* None

Cash Balance Interest Credit Rate

2.00% per year

Provision for Expenses

None, as expenses are assumed to be paid directly by the Plan Sponsor

Form of Benefit Payments

Lump Sum Distribution

Discount Rates

	<u>PPA</u>	<u>ARPA</u>
** Segment 1	5.05%	5.05%
** Segment 2	5.31%	5.31%
** Segment 3	5.37%	5.59%
Applicable Month	10/1/2024	10/1/2024
FAS 35	5.32%	n/a
Effective Rate	5.32%	5.34%

\* Given Plan provisions and the Actuarial Cost Method, these assumptions would have no material impact on either the Minimum Funding Requirement or on the present value of future benefits payable from the Plan.

\*\* The discount segment rates and mortality assumptions are prescribed by the IRC and IRS Regulations.

**ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS (Continued)**

**Actuarial Methods**

Actuarial Cost Method

The actuarial cost method used to determine the actuarial Target Liability and Target Normal Cost is the Unit Credit Actuarial Cost Method, as required under IRC Section 430. The actuarial valuation date is the last day of the plan year.

Asset Valuation Method

Market value of all Trust Investments, plus any accrued but unpaid contributions to the Trust discounted to the Valuation Date.

**Other Facts Relevant to the Valuation of This Plan**

Employee Data

An employee census as of the Valuation Date was supplied by the Company and included all employees in the Eligible Class. We did not audit the census.

Asset Data

Asset data as of the Valuation Date and contribution amounts and dates were supplied by the Company. We did not audit the asset data.

Changes in Actuarial Assumption or Methods

The valuation interest rates are the rates required per IRC Section 430, and the cash balance interest credit rate is 2% for all Plan Years.

The mortality assumptions used are those mandated by the Internal Revenue Service for this valuation, per IRC Section 430. Because this plan has fewer than 500 participants, we use the unisex assumptions.

Events and Trends Which Have Not Been Taken into Consideration

To the best of our knowledge, there has been no event or trend which has not been taken into consideration and which may require a material change in plan costs or required contribution rates. In addition, no Plan amendments adopted and effective after the valuation date of December 31, 2024 were considered for this Valuation, nor do any exist of which we are aware except statutory CPI increases in maximum benefits and considered compensation.

**Form 5500-SF**

Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor  
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

**Short Form Annual Return/Report of Small Employee Benefit Plan**

This form is required to be filed 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-SF.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110  
1210-0089

**2024**

**This Form is Open to Public Inspection**

**Part I Annual Report Identification Information**

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024

**A** This return/report is for:  a single-employer plan  a multiple-employer plan (not multiemployer) (Pension Plan filers checking this box must attach Schedule MEP. Other plans must attach a list of participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)

**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** Check box if filing under:  Form 5558  automatic extension  DFVC program  
 special extension (enter description)

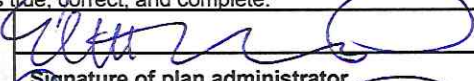

**D** If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here ..... ▶

**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**

<b>1a</b> Name of plan Independent Tree LLC Cash Balance Pension Plan	<b>1b</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 002
<b>2a</b> 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) Independent Tree LLC  P O Box 244 11640 Music Street Newbury OH 44065	<b>1c</b> Effective date of plan 01/01/2023
	<b>2b</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) 20-2495440
	<b>2c</b> Sponsor's telephone number 440-564-1374
	<b>2d</b> Business code (see instructions)  561730
<b>3a</b> Plan administrator's name and address <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Same as Plan Sponsor.	<b>3b</b> Administrator's EIN
	<b>3c</b> Administrator's telephone number
<b>4</b> 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. <b>a</b> Sponsor's name <b>c</b> Plan Name	<b>4b</b> EIN
	<b>4d</b> PN
<b>5a</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year .....	<b>5a</b> 14
<b>b</b> Total number of participants at the end of the plan year.....	<b>5b</b> 15
<b>c(1)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) .....	<b>5c(1)</b>
<b>c(2)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) .....	<b>5c(2)</b>
<b>d(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year.....	<b>5d(1)</b> 14
<b>d(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year .....	<b>5d(2)</b> 15
<b>e</b> Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	<b>5e</b> 3

**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, if applicable, a Schedule SB or Schedule MB completed and signed by an enrolled actuary, 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.

<b>SIGN HERE</b>		<u>9-3-2025</u>	Elisabetta Carrelli-Kraus
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
<b>SIGN HERE</b>		<u>9-3-2025</u>	Elisabetta Carrelli-Kraus
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor

- 6a** Were all of the plan's assets during the plan year invested in eligible assets? (See instructions.).....  Yes  No
- b** Are you claiming a waiver of the annual examination and report of an independent qualified public accountant (IQPA) under 29 CFR 2520.104-46? (See instructions on waiver eligibility and conditions.).....  Yes  No
- If you answered "No" to either line 6a or line 6b, the plan cannot use Form 5500-SF and must instead use Form 5500.**
- c** If the plan is a defined benefit plan, is it covered under the PBGC insurance program (see ERISA section 4021)? .....  Yes  No  Not determined
- If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year 557426. (See instructions.)

<b>Part III Financial Information</b>			
<b>7</b> Plan Assets and Liabilities		<b>(a) Beginning of Year</b>	<b>(b) End of Year</b>
<b>a</b> Total plan assets .....	<b>7a</b>	214,202	415,547
<b>b</b> Total plan liabilities .....	<b>7b</b>		
<b>c</b> Net plan assets (subtract line 7b from line 7a) .....	<b>7c</b>	214,202	415,547
<b>8</b> Income, Expenses, and Transfers for this Plan Year		<b>(a) Amount</b>	<b>(b) Total</b>
<b>a</b> Contributions received or receivable from:			
<b>(1)</b> Employers .....	<b>8a(1)</b>	199,536	
<b>(2)</b> Participants .....	<b>8a(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Others (including rollovers) .....	<b>8a(3)</b>		
<b>b</b> Other income (loss) .....	<b>8b</b>	2,696	
<b>c</b> Total income (add lines 8a(1), 8a(2), 8a(3), and 8b) .....	<b>8c</b>		202,232
<b>d</b> Benefits paid (including direct rollovers and insurance premiums to provide benefits) .....	<b>8d</b>		
<b>e</b> Certain deemed and/or corrective distributions (see instructions) .	<b>8e</b>		
<b>f</b> Administrative service providers (salaries, fees, commissions) .....	<b>8f</b>	887	
<b>g</b> Other expenses .....	<b>8g</b>		
<b>h</b> Total expenses (add lines 8d, 8e, 8f, and 8g) .....	<b>8h</b>		887
<b>i</b> Net income (loss) (subtract line 8h from line 8c) .....	<b>8i</b>		201,345
<b>j</b> Transfers to (from) the plan (see instructions) .....	<b>8j</b>		

<b>Part IV Plan Characteristics</b>	
<b>9a</b>	If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions: 1A 1C 3D
<b>b</b>	If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

<b>Part V Compliance Questions</b>		<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>10</b>	During the plan year:			
<b>a</b>	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) .....		X	
<b>b</b>	Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 10a.) .....		X	
<b>c</b>	Was the plan covered by a fidelity bond? .....	X		21,421
<b>d</b>	Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty? .....		X	
<b>e</b>	Were any fees or commissions paid to any brokers, agents, or other persons by an insurance carrier, insurance service, or other organization that provides some or all of the benefits under the plan? (See instructions.) .....		X	
<b>f</b>	Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan? .....		X	
<b>g</b>	Did the plan have any participant loans? (If "Yes," enter amount as of year-end.) .....		X	
<b>h</b>	If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.) .....			
<b>i</b>	If 10h was answered "Yes," check the box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3 .....			

**Part VI Pension Funding Compliance**

**11** Is this a defined benefit plan subject to minimum funding requirements? (If "Yes," see instructions and complete Schedule SB (Form 5500) and lines 11a and b below.) If this is a defined contribution pension plan, leave line 11 blank and complete line 12 below.  Yes  No

**a** Enter the unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 **11a** 0

**b PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If the plan is covered by PBGC and the amount reported on line 11a is greater than \$0, 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**12** Is this a defined contribution plan subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Code or section 302 of ERISA? (If "Yes," complete line 12a or lines 12b, 12c, 12d, and 12e below, as applicable.) If this is a defined benefit pension plan, leave line 12 blank and complete line 11 above.  Yes  No

**a** 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 letter ruling granting the waiver. Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

**If you completed line 12a, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB (Form 5500), and skip to line 13.**

**b** Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year **12b**

**c** Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year **12c**

**d** Subtract the amount in line 12c from the amount in line 12b. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount) **12d**

**e** Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 12d be met by the funding deadline?  Yes  No  N/A

**Part VII Plan Terminations and Transfers of Assets**

**13a** Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted in any plan year?  Yes  No

**a** If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year. **13a**

**b** Were all the plan assets distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?  Yes  No

**c** 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.)

<b>13c(1)</b> Name of plan(s):	<b>13c(2)</b> EIN(s)	<b>13c(3)</b> PN(s)

**Part VIII IRS Compliance Questions**

**14a** 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

**14b** 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

**15** 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 02/28/2023 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q705211a.

<b>SCHEDULE SB</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>  <small>Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation</small>	<b>Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan</b> <b>Actuarial Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6059 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500 or 5500-SF.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b>
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For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2024 and ending 12/31/2024


▶ **Round off amounts to nearest dollar.**  
 ▶ **Caution:** A penalty of \$1,000 will be assessed for late filing of this report unless reasonable cause is established.

<b>A</b> Name of plan <u>Independent Tree LLC Cash Balance Pension Plan</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<u>002</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 or 5500-SF <u>Independent Tree LLC</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>20-2495440</u>	
<b>E</b> Type of plan: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Single <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple-A <input type="checkbox"/> Multiple-B	<b>F</b> Prior year plan size: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100 or fewer <input type="checkbox"/> 101-500 <input type="checkbox"/> More than 500	

**Part I Basic Information**

<b>1</b>	Enter the valuation date: Month <u>12</u> Day <u>31</u> Year <u>2024</u>		
<b>2</b>	Assets:		
	<b>a</b> Market value .....	<b>2a</b>	216,011
	<b>b</b> Actuarial value .....	<b>2b</b>	216,011
<b>3</b>	Funding target/participant count breakdown	(1) Number of participants	(2) Vested Funding Target
	<b>a</b> For retired participants and beneficiaries receiving payment .....	0	0
	<b>b</b> For terminated vested participants .....	0	0
	<b>c</b> For active participants .....	18	158,878
	<b>d</b> Total .....	18	158,878
<b>4</b>	If the plan is in at-risk status, check the box and complete lines (a) and (b) .....		
	<b>a</b> Funding target disregarding prescribed at-risk assumptions .....	<b>4a</b>	
	<b>b</b> Funding target reflecting at-risk assumptions, but disregarding transition rule for plans that have been in at-risk status for fewer than five consecutive years and disregarding loading factor .....	<b>4b</b>	
<b>5</b>	Effective interest rate .....	<b>5</b>	5.34%
<b>6</b>	Target normal cost		
	<b>a</b> Present value of current plan year accruals .....	<b>6a</b>	148,632
	<b>b</b> Expected plan-related expenses .....	<b>6b</b>	0
	<b>c</b> Target normal cost .....	<b>6c</b>	148,632

**Statement by Enrolled Actuary**  
 To the best of my knowledge, the information supplied in this schedule and accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, if any, is complete and accurate. Each prescribed assumption was applied in accordance with applicable law and regulations. In my opinion, each other assumption is reasonable (taking into account the experience of the plan and reasonable expectations) and such other assumptions, in combination, offer my best estimate of anticipated experience under the plan.

<b>SIGN HERE</b>	 Signature of actuary	<u>09/02/2025</u> Date
	<u>MICHAEL I. LIBMAN, FCA</u> Type or print name of actuary	<u>2302940</u> Most recent enrollment number
	<u>THE LIBMAN ACTUARIAL GROUP, INC.</u> Firm name	<u>216-398-3888</u> Telephone number (including area code)
	<u>2307 E. AURORA ROAD, UNIT B-13</u> <u>TWINSBURG OH 44087</u> Address of the firm	

If the actuary has not fully reflected any regulation or ruling promulgated under the statute in completing this schedule, check the box and see instructions



<b>Part V Assumptions Used to Determine Funding Target and Target Normal Cost</b>				
<b>21</b> Discount rate:				
<b>a</b> Segment rates:	1st segment: 5.05 %	2nd segment: 5.31 %	3rd segment: 5.59%	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A, full yield curve used
<b>b</b> Applicable month (enter code).....				<b>21b</b> 2
<b>22</b> Weighted average retirement age .....				<b>22</b> 62
<b>23</b> Mortality table(s) (see instructions)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prescribed - combined <input type="checkbox"/> Prescribed - separate <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute			

<b>Part VI Miscellaneous Items</b>				
<b>24</b> Has a change been made in the non-prescribed actuarial assumptions for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment..... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
<b>25</b> Has a method change been made for the current plan year? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment. .... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
<b>26</b> Demographic and benefit information				
<b>a</b> Is the plan required to provide a Schedule of Active Participants? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment. .... <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				
<b>b</b> Is the plan required to provide a projection of expected benefit payments? If "Yes," see instructions regarding required attachment ... <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
<b>27</b> If the plan is subject to alternative funding rules, enter applicable code and see instructions regarding attachment.....				<b>27</b>

<b>Part VII Reconciliation of Unpaid Minimum Required Contributions For Prior Years</b>				
<b>28</b> Unpaid minimum required contributions for all prior years .....				<b>28</b> 0
<b>29</b> Discounted employer contributions allocated toward unpaid minimum required contributions from prior years (line 19a).....				<b>29</b> 0
<b>30</b> Remaining amount of unpaid minimum required contributions (line 28 minus line 29) .....				<b>30</b> 0

<b>Part VIII Minimum Required Contribution For Current Year</b>				
<b>31</b> Target normal cost and excess assets (see instructions):				
<b>a</b> Target normal cost (line 6c).....				<b>31a</b> 148,632
<b>b</b> Excess assets, if applicable, but not greater than line 31a .....				<b>31b</b> 57,133
<b>32</b> Amortization installments:	Outstanding Balance		Installment	
<b>a</b> Net shortfall amortization installment .....	0		0	
<b>b</b> Waiver amortization installment .....	0		0	
<b>33</b> If a waiver has been approved for this plan year, enter the date of the ruling letter granting the approval (Month _____ Day _____ Year _____) and the waived amount .....				<b>33</b>
<b>34</b> Total funding requirement before reflecting carryover/prefunding balances (lines 31a - 31b + 32a + 32b - 33)....				<b>34</b> 91,499
	Carryover balance	Prefunding balance	Total balance	
<b>35</b> Balances elected for use to offset funding requirement .....			0	
<b>36</b> Additional cash requirement (line 34 minus line 35).....				<b>36</b> 91,499
<b>37</b> Contributions allocated toward minimum required contribution for current year adjusted to valuation date (line 19c).....				<b>37</b> 192,790
<b>38</b> Present value of excess contributions for current year (see instructions)				
<b>a</b> Total (excess, if any, of line 37 over line 36)				<b>38a</b> 101,291
<b>b</b> Portion included in line 38a attributable to use of prefunding and funding standard carryover balances .....				<b>38b</b> 0
<b>39</b> Unpaid minimum required contribution for current year (excess, if any, of line 36 over line 37) .....				<b>39</b> 0
<b>40</b> Unpaid minimum required contributions for all years .....				<b>40</b> 0

<b>Part IX Pension Funding Relief Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (See Instructions)</b>				
<b>41</b> If an election was made to use the extended amortization rule for a plan year beginning on or before December 31, 2021, check the box to indicate the first plan year for which the rule applies. <input type="checkbox"/> 2019 <input type="checkbox"/> 2020 <input type="checkbox"/> 2021				

Attachment to Sch SB

Line 19 – Discounted Employer Contributions

Independent Tree LLC Cash Balance Pension Plan

EIN / PN: 20-2495440 / 002

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount of Contribution</u>	<u>Plan Year Applied</u>	<u>Effective Interest Rate</u>	<u>Interest Adjusted Amount as of 12/31/24</u>
08/28/25	\$199,536.13	2024	5.34%	\$192,790.16
Totals	\$199,536.13			\$192,790.16

Independent Tree LLCash Balance Pension Plan  
EIN / PN: 20-2495440 / 002

Each participant is assumed to retire at his/her Normal Retirement Age as shown on the Schedule SB, Line 22. Any participant who has already reached Normal Retirement Age is assumed to retire on the valuation date.

## Independent Tree LLC Cash Balance Pension Plan

EIN / PN: 20-2495440 / 002

**SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL PLAN PROVISIONS**

<u>Effective Date</u>	January 1, 2023						
<u>Employees Covered</u>	All employees shall become participants upon the attainment of age 21 and one Year of Service  Category I: Owner Category II: Spouse of Owner Category III: Non-Highly Compensated Participants						
<u>Normal Retirement Eligibility</u>	Age 62						
<u>Accrued Benefit</u>	Account Balance for Category I, II, and III but not less than a 0.5% of compensation minimum annuity benefit for each Year of Participation for Category III.						
<u>Annual Allocation</u>	<b>Category I:</b> 1% of 414(s) compensation up to \$100,000 plus 1,000% of 414(s) compensation greater than \$100,000 <b>Category II:</b> 1% of 414(s) compensation up to \$50,000 plus 1,000% of 414(s) compensation greater than \$50,000 <b>Category III:</b> \$500  Notwithstanding the above, in years that the plan is Top Heavy and the Top Heavy minimum is not satisfied by any other plan maintained by the Employer, no non-key participant shall receive a benefit accrual under this plan that is less than the amount needed to provide the minimum Top Heavy accrued benefit.						
<u>Pre-Retirement Death Benefit</u>	The Participant's Vested Account Balance						
<u>Termination of Employment Benefit</u>	The Participant's Vested Account Balance  A Participant's Vesting Percentage is determined according to the following schedule:						
	<table> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Service</u></th> <th><u>Vesting Percentage</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-2 Years</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Years</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Vesting Percentage</u>	0-2 Years	0%	3 Years	100%
<u>Service</u>	<u>Vesting Percentage</u>						
0-2 Years	0%						
3 Years	100%						

Independent Tree LLC Cash Balance Pension Plan

EIN / PN: 20-2495440 / 002

**SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL PLAN PROVISIONS (Continued)**

Contributions

The Company pays the actuarially determined cost of the Plan.

Plan Amendments

Most Recent Signed

Effective Date

N/A

N/A

There was no IRC 412(d)(2) election for this year.

Note

This plan is a statutory hybrid plan per the IRC Section 411(a)(13) and the IRS Regulations thereunder.