

Form 5500

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

OMB Nos. 1210-0110 1210-0089

2024

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

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.

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 multiemployer plan, a multiple-employer plan, a single-employer plan, a DFE, etc.
B This return/report is: the first return/report, the final return/report, an amended return/report, a short plan year return/report, etc.
C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here.
D Check box if filing under: Form 5558, automatic extension, special extension, the DFVC program, etc.
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: THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN
1b Three-digit plan number (PN): 003
1c Effective date of plan: 10/01/1985
2a Plan sponsor's name, mailing address, city, state, and ZIP: THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC., 411 LAKE ZURICH ROAD, BARRINGTON, IL 60010
2b Employer Identification Number (EIN): 36-3337997
2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number: 847-381-2760
2d Business code (see instructions): 236200

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.

Table with 4 columns: SIGN HERE, Signature of plan administrator, Date, Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator. Includes rows for employer/plan sponsor and DFE.

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

Form 5500 (2024) v. 240311

<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>5</b> Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	<b>5</b>	1113
<b>6</b> Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines <b>6a(1)</b> , <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , <b>6c</b> , and <b>6d</b> ). <b>a(1)</b> Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year ..... <b>a(2)</b> Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year ..... <b>b</b> Retired or separated participants receiving benefits..... <b>c</b> Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits ..... <b>d</b> Subtotal. Add lines <b>6a(2)</b> , <b>6b</b> , and <b>6c</b> ..... <b>e</b> Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits. .... <b>f</b> Total. Add lines <b>6d</b> and <b>6e</b> ..... <b>g(1)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>g(2)</b> Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item) ..... <b>h</b> Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.....	<b>6a(1)</b>	665
	<b>6a(2)</b>	689
	<b>6b</b>	16
	<b>6c</b>	422
	<b>6d</b>	1127
	<b>6e</b>	7
	<b>6f</b>	1134
	<b>6g(1)</b>	1091
	<b>6g(2)</b>	1128
<b>7</b> Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item) .....	<b>7</b>	

**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

**b** If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristics Codes in the instructions:

<b>9a</b> Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)	<b>9b</b> Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Insurance
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust	(3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trust
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> General assets of the sponsor	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> 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)

<b>a Pension Schedules</b>	<b>b General Schedules</b>
(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>R</b> (Retirement Plan Information)	(1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>H</b> (Financial Information)
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MB</b> (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>I</b> (Financial Information – Small Plan)
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SB</b> (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>A</b> (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DCG</b> (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____	(4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>C</b> (Service Provider Information)
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>MEP</b> (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)	(5) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>D</b> (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>G</b> (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 2024 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2024 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 \_\_\_\_\_

---

<b>SCHEDULE C</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>Service Provider Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
--	--	---

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

<b>A</b> Name of plan <b>THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN</b>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶	<b>003</b>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <b>THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC.</b>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <b>36-3337997</b>	

**Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)**

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

**1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation**

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

**THE VANGUARD GROUP, INC.**

**23-1945930**

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

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

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

---

---

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

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

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

---

---

---

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

---

**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)

THE VANGUARD GROUP, INC.

23-1945930

(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 16 25 37 52	NONE	126495	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	0	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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

VANGUARD ADVISERS INC.

23-2811930

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
26	NONE	77615	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

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

IFP ADVISORS

59-3331424

(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?
27	NONE	54314	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

**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)

FGMK LLC

36-2929601

(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?
10	NONE	24614	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

(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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

**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 VANGUARD GROUP, INC.	99	0
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation  DODGE & COX  94-1441976	(e) Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.  10 BPS	
(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.

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

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

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

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

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

<b>(a)</b> Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	<b>(b)</b> Nature of Service Code(s)	<b>(c)</b> 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)

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>a</b> Name:	<b>b</b> EIN:
<b>c</b> Position:	
<b>d</b> Address:	<b>e</b> Telephone:

Explanation:

<b>SCHEDULE D</b> <b>(Form 5500)</b>  <small>Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service</small>  <small>Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration</small>	<b>DFE/Participating Plan Information</b>  This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	OMB No. 1210-0110  <hr/> <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
---	--	--

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

<b>A</b> Name of plan <u>THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN)	<u>003</u>
<b>C</b> Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC.</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>36-3337997</u>	

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

<b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: <u>VANGUARD RET. SAVINGS TRUST III</u>		
<b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): <u>VANGUARD FIDUCIARY TRUST COMPANY</u>		
<b>c</b> EIN-PN <u>38-7041744-024</u>	<b>d</b> Entity code <u>C</u>	<b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions) <u>7860056</u>
<b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
<b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
<b>c</b> EIN-PN	<b>d</b> Entity code	<b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
<b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
<b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
<b>c</b> EIN-PN	<b>d</b> Entity code	<b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
<b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
<b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
<b>c</b> EIN-PN	<b>d</b> Entity code	<b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
<b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
<b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
<b>c</b> EIN-PN	<b>d</b> Entity code	<b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
<b>a</b> Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:		
<b>b</b> Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):		
<b>c</b> EIN-PN	<b>d</b> Entity code	<b>e</b> Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

**a** Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

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

**c** EIN-PN

**d** Entity code

**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)



<b>SCHEDULE H</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>Financial Information</b>  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).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection</b>
--	--	--

For calendar plan year 2024 or fiscal plan year beginning <b>01/01/2024</b> and ending <b>12/31/2024</b>	
<b>A</b> Name of plan <b>THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN</b>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN) <b>▶</b> <b>003</b>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <b>THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC.</b>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <b>36-3337997</b>

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Asset and Liability Statement</b>
---------------	--------------------------------------

**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.

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>a</b> Total noninterest-bearing cash .....	<b>1a</b>		
<b>b</b> Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
<b>(1)</b> Employer contributions .....	<b>1b(1)</b>		
<b>(2)</b> Participant contributions .....	<b>1b(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Other .....	<b>1b(3)</b>		
<b>c</b> General investments:			
<b>(1)</b> Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit) .....	<b>1c(1)</b>		
<b>(2)</b> U.S. Government securities .....	<b>1c(2)</b>		
<b>(3)</b> Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(3)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> All other .....	<b>1c(3)(B)</b>		
<b>(4)</b> Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred .....	<b>1c(4)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Common .....	<b>1c(4)(B)</b>		
<b>(5)</b> Partnership/joint venture interests .....	<b>1c(5)</b>		
<b>(6)</b> Real estate (other than employer real property) .....	<b>1c(6)</b>		
<b>(7)</b> Loans (other than to participants) .....	<b>1c(7)</b>		
<b>(8)</b> Participant loans .....	<b>1c(8)</b>	578024	613330
<b>(9)</b> Value of interest in common/collective trusts .....	<b>1c(9)</b>	10764672	7860056
<b>(10)</b> Value of interest in pooled separate accounts .....	<b>1c(10)</b>		
<b>(11)</b> Value of interest in master trust investment accounts .....	<b>1c(11)</b>		
<b>(12)</b> Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>1c(12)</b>		
<b>(13)</b> Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>1c(13)</b>	135336481	156229654
<b>(14)</b> Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts) .....	<b>1c(14)</b>		
<b>(15)</b> Other .....	<b>1c(15)</b>		

<b>1d</b> Employer-related investments:		<b>(a)</b> Beginning of Year	<b>(b)</b> End of Year
(1) Employer securities.....	<b>1d(1)</b>		
(2) Employer real property.....	<b>1d(2)</b>		
<b>e</b> Buildings and other property used in plan operation.....	<b>1e</b>		
<b>f</b> Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e).....	<b>1f</b>	146679177	164703040
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>g</b> Benefit claims payable.....	<b>1g</b>		
<b>h</b> Operating payables.....	<b>1h</b>		
<b>i</b> Acquisition indebtedness.....	<b>1i</b>		
<b>j</b> Other liabilities.....	<b>1j</b>	57442	60601
<b>k</b> Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through 1j).....	<b>1k</b>	57442	60601
<b>Net Assets</b>			
<b>l</b> Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f).....	<b>1l</b>	146621735	164642439

**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.

<b>Income</b>		<b>(a)</b> Amount	<b>(b)</b> Total
<b>a Contributions:</b>			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: <b>(A)</b> Employers.....	<b>2a(1)(A)</b>	3301385	
<b>(B)</b> Participants.....	<b>2a(1)(B)</b>	7965971	
<b>(C)</b> Others (including rollovers).....	<b>2a(1)(C)</b>	1880494	
(2) Noncash contributions.....	<b>2a(2)</b>		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines <b>2a(1)(A)</b> , <b>(B)</b> , <b>(C)</b> , and line <b>2a(2)</b> .....	<b>2a(3)</b>		13147850
<b>b Earnings on investments:</b>			
<b>(1) Interest:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit).....	<b>2b(1)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> U.S. Government securities.....	<b>2b(1)(B)</b>		
<b>(C)</b> Corporate debt instruments.....	<b>2b(1)(C)</b>		
<b>(D)</b> Loans (other than to participants).....	<b>2b(1)(D)</b>		
<b>(E)</b> Participant loans.....	<b>2b(1)(E)</b>	45441	
<b>(F)</b> Other.....	<b>2b(1)(F)</b>		
<b>(G)</b> Total interest. Add lines <b>2b(1)(A)</b> through <b>(F)</b> .....	<b>2b(1)(G)</b>		45441
<b>(2) Dividends:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Preferred stock.....	<b>2b(2)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Common stock.....	<b>2b(2)(B)</b>		
<b>(C)</b> Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds).....	<b>2b(2)(C)</b>	4921115	
<b>(D)</b> Total dividends. Add lines <b>2b(2)(A)</b> , <b>(B)</b> , and <b>(C)</b> .....	<b>2b(2)(D)</b>		4921115
(3) Rents.....	<b>2b(3)</b>		
<b>(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Aggregate proceeds.....	<b>2b(4)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions).....	<b>2b(4)(B)</b>		
<b>(C)</b> Subtract line <b>2b(4)(B)</b> from line <b>2b(4)(A)</b> and enter result.....	<b>2b(4)(C)</b>		
<b>(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets:</b>			
<b>(A)</b> Real estate.....	<b>2b(5)(A)</b>		
<b>(B)</b> Other.....	<b>2b(5)(B)</b>		
<b>(C)</b> Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines <b>2b(5)(A)</b> and <b>(B)</b> .....	<b>2b(5)(C)</b>		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts .....	<b>2b(6)</b>		238151
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts .....	<b>2b(7)</b>		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts .....	<b>2b(8)</b>		
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities .....	<b>2b(9)</b>		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds) .....	<b>2b(10)</b>		16209326
<b>c</b> Other income .....	<b>2c</b>		875
<b>d</b> Total income. Add all <b>income</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total .....	<b>2d</b>		34562758

**Expenses**

<b>e</b> Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers .....	<b>2e(1)</b>	16259331	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits .....	<b>2e(2)</b>		
(3) Other .....	<b>2e(3)</b>	576	
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines <b>2e(1)</b> through <b>(3)</b> .....	<b>2e(4)</b>		16259907
<b>f</b> Corrective distributions (see instructions) .....	<b>2f</b>		0
<b>g</b> Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions) .....	<b>2g</b>		
<b>h</b> Interest expense .....	<b>2h</b>		
<b>i</b> Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances .....	<b>2i(1)</b>		
(2) Contract administrator fees .....	<b>2i(2)</b>		
(3) Recordkeeping fees .....	<b>2i(3)</b>		
(4) IQPA audit fees .....	<b>2i(4)</b>		
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees .....	<b>2i(5)</b>		
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees .....	<b>2i(6)</b>		
(7) Actuarial fees .....	<b>2i(7)</b>		
(8) Legal fees .....	<b>2i(8)</b>		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees .....	<b>2i(9)</b>		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses .....	<b>2i(10)</b>		
(11) Other expenses .....	<b>2i(11)</b>	282147	
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines <b>2i(1)</b> through <b>(11)</b> .....	<b>2i(12)</b>		282147
<b>j</b> Total expenses. Add all <b>expense</b> amounts in column (b) and enter total .....	<b>2j</b>		16542054

**Net Income and Reconciliation**

<b>k</b> Net income (loss). Subtract line <b>2j</b> from line <b>2d</b> .....	<b>2k</b>		18020704
<b>l</b> Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan .....	<b>2l(1)</b>		
(2) From this plan .....	<b>2l(2)</b>		

**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: **FGMK, LLC**

(2) EIN: **36-2929601**

**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
<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 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.)		X	
<b>c</b> Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>d</b> Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)		X	
<b>e</b> Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	X		1000000
<b>f</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>g</b> Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
<b>h</b> Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?		X	
<b>i</b> Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	X		
<b>j</b> Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)		X	
<b>k</b> Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?		X	
<b>l</b> Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?		X	
<b>m</b> If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)		X	
<b>n</b> 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.)

<b>5b(1)</b> Name of plan(s)	<b>5b(2)</b> EIN(s)	<b>5b(3)</b> 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

<b>SCHEDULE R</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>Retirement Plan Information</b>  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).  <b>▶ File as an attachment to Form 5500.</b>	<small>OMB No. 1210-0110</small>  <b>2024</b>  <b>This Form is Open to Public Inspection.</b>
--	---	---

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

<b>A</b> Name of plan <u>THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN</u>	<b>B</b> Three-digit plan number (PN)	<u>003</u>
<b>C</b> Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500 <u>THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC.</u>	<b>D</b> Employer Identification Number (EIN) <u>36-3337997</u>	

<b>Part I</b>	<b>Distributions</b>
---------------	----------------------

**All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.**

<b>1</b> Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions.....	1	
<b>2</b> Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits): EIN(s): <u>23-2186884</u>		
<b>Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.</b>		
<b>3</b> Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year .....	3	

<b>Part II</b>	<b>Funding Information</b> (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.)
----------------	---

<b>4</b> Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.</b>			
<b>5</b> 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. <b>Date:</b> Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ <b>If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.</b>			
<b>6 a</b> Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived) .....	6a		
<b>b</b> Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year .....	6b		
<b>c</b> 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		
<b>If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.</b>			
<b>7</b> Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
<b>8</b> 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? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

<b>Part III</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
-----------------	-------------------

<b>9</b> 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.....	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> No
--	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------

<b>Part IV</b>	<b>ESOPs</b> (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.
----------------	---

<b>10</b> Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>11 a</b> Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>b</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.) .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>12</b> Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? .....	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> 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:

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

**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:

<b>a</b> The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year .....	<b>15a</b>	
<b>b</b> The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year .....	<b>15b</b>	

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

<b>a</b> Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year .....	<b>16a</b>	
<b>b</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.....	<b>16b</b>	

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

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

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

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

**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 06 / 30 / 2020 (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number Q703218A.

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Pepper Companies, Inc. Retirement Committee of  
The Pepper Companies, Inc. Retirement and Savings Plan

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

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of The Pepper Companies, Inc. Retirement and Savings 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) ["ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit"]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, 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 Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan ("investment information") by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

### **Opinion**

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

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

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of 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 these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

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

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

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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

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

***Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA***

The supplemental schedule, Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year as of December 31, 2024, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under 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 generally accepted auditing standards. 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 Department of Labor'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 Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

*FGMK, LLC*

Bannockburn, Illinois  
July 29, 2025

THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD AT END OF YEAR  
FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i

DECEMBER 31, 2024

EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 36-3337997

PLAN NUMBER: 003

(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	(e) Current value
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Index Fund - Institutional Shares	\$ 23,449,839
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Growth Index Fund Admiral Shares	18,193,186
	Dodge & Cox Funds	Dodge & Cox Stock Fund	10,398,253
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Admiral Shares	9,956,797
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard International Value Fund	9,511,884
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2030 Fund	8,769,397
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund Admiral Shares	8,063,453
*	Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company	Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust III	7,860,056
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares	7,852,062
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2050 Fund	7,814,931
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2040 Fund	7,364,904
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2045 Fund	7,345,606
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Balanced Index Fund Admiral Shares	6,810,231
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Small-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares	5,609,250
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2055 Fund	5,514,858
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2035 Fund	5,393,580
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2060 Fund	5,328,887
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2020 Fund	2,126,016
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2025 Fund	1,826,336
	MFS	MFS Institutional International Equity Fund	1,684,964
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2065 Fund	1,181,143
	Dimensional Fund Advisors	DFA Global Real Estate Securities Portfolio	918,704
	John Hancock	John Hancock Strategic Income Opportunites Fund; Class R6	593,644
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement Income Fund	337,620
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund	179,866
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2070 Fund	4,243
*	Participant Loans	Interest rates ranging from 4.25% - 9.50%, maturing from 2025 to 2034	613,330
			\$ 164,703,040

\* Party-in-interest to the Plan

# **The Pepper Companies, Inc. Retirement and Savings Plan**

Financial Statements and  
Independent Auditor's Report

December 31, 2024 and 2023



THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

	<b>Page</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT</b>	1 - 3
<b>FINANCIAL STATEMENTS</b>	
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits	4
Statement of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits	5
Notes to the Financial Statements	6 - 11
<b>SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION</b>	
Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year – Form 5500, Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i	12

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To The Pepper Companies, Inc. Retirement Committee of  
The Pepper Companies, Inc. Retirement and Savings Plan

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

We have performed audits of the accompanying financial statements of The Pepper Companies, Inc. Retirement and Savings 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) ["ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit"]. The financial statements comprise the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024, 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 Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audits need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the Plan ("investment information") by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained a certification from a qualified institution as of and for the year ended December 31, 2024, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 3 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

### **Opinion**

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

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

### **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of 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 these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

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

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

***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

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

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

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of 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 accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

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

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

***Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA***

The supplemental schedule, Schedule of Assets Held at End of Year as of December 31, 2024, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under 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 generally accepted auditing standards. 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 Department of Labor'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 Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

*FGMK, LLC*

Bannockburn, Illinois  
July 29, 2025

## THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

## STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND 2023

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments, at fair value:		
Collective trust fund	\$ 7,860,056	\$ 10,764,672
Registered investment companies	156,049,788	135,220,102
Money market fund	<u>179,866</u>	<u>116,379</u>
Total Investments	164,089,710	146,101,153
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	<u>613,330</u>	<u>578,024</u>
	164,703,040	146,679,177
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Due to participants	<u>60,601</u>	<u>57,442</u>
<b>NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS</b>	<u>\$ 164,642,439</u>	<u>\$ 146,621,735</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these statements.

**THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**  
**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2024**

**ADDITIONS**

Contributions:		
Employer contributions	\$	3,301,385
Employee contributions		7,965,971
Rollovers		1,880,494
Investment income:		
Interest and dividends		5,159,266
Net appreciation in fair value of investments		16,210,201
Interest on participant loans		45,441
		<u>34,562,758</u>
Total Additions		<u>34,562,758</u>

**DEDUCTIONS**

Benefits paid to participants		16,259,331
Administrative expenses		282,723
		<u>16,542,054</u>
Total Deductions		<u>16,542,054</u>

**CHANGE IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**

18,020,704

**NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS**

Beginning of year		<u>146,621,735</u>
End of year	\$	<u><u>164,642,439</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

## THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of The Pepper Companies, Inc. Retirement and Savings Plan (the “Plan”) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more comprehensive description of its provisions.

**General.** The Plan is a defined contribution plan that provides the eligible employees of The Pepper Companies, Inc. and Subsidiaries (the “Employer”) an opportunity to invest a portion of their compensation and the Employer’s contribution in any of several investment funds. The Plan is subject to provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”), as amended.

Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company (“VFTC”) is the trustee (“Trustee”), custodian, and record keeper of the Plan and is a qualified institution pursuant to ERISA.

**Eligibility.** For the purposes of making employee contributions and receiving matching contributions, an employee becomes eligible to participate in the Plan on the first day of the pay period following the later of (1) the date an employee reaches age 21, and (2) the date on which an employee has been employed for 30 days. An employee is not eligible to participate in the Plan if they are classified as an intern or temporary employee, a leased employee, an independent contractor, or are covered under a collective bargaining agreement.

**Contributions.** The Plan allows each participant to make before and/or after-tax contributions between 1% and 80% of their compensation and any portion of their annual bonus. The Plan provides for a Qualified Automatic Basic Safe Harbor matching contribution (“QACA”) in which 100% of the first 2% of participant compensation that is deferred as an elective deferral is matched, plus 50% of the next 4%. The Board of Directors may, by resolution adopted at least 60 days prior to the end of each fiscal year, change the matching percentage. Individual participant contributions are subject to maximum elective deferral limits as defined by the Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”). Participants who reach age 50 by the end of the Plan year may make additional catch-up contributions.

Unless a participant elects otherwise, within 30 days of becoming eligible to participate in the plan, the participant will be automatically enrolled in the Plan with a default contribution percentage of 6%. Additionally, the default percentage automatically increases by 1% each January 1, up to a maximum deferral rate of 10%. Effective January 1, 2025, the Plan was amended to increase the maximum deferral rate to 15%

**Forfeited Accounts.** Forfeitures of terminated participants’ nonvested account balances can be used to at the employer’s discretion. At December 31, 2024 and 2023, there were \$119,265 and \$58,937, respectively, of forfeited nonvested amounts available to reduce future discretionary employer contributions or to offset Plan expenses. The Employer used forfeitures of \$92,781 to reduce Plan fees for the year ended December 31, 2024.

**Vesting.** Participants are immediately and fully vested in their contributions, the Employer’s discretionary contributions, and actual earnings and losses thereon. Vesting in the Employer QACA contribution is based on years of continuous service. A participant is 100% vested after two years of credited service.

**Participant Accounts.** An individual account is established for each participant. Each participant’s account is credited with the participant’s contributions, the Employer’s QACA contributions, the Employer discretionary contributions, and an allocation of the Plan’s earnings (losses), and charged with withdrawals. Allocations are based on each participant’s proportionate share of the Plan’s net assets.

**Investment Options.** Participants direct the investment of their account balances into any or all of various mutual funds and a collective trust offered by the Plan.

(Continued)

## THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## NOTE 1 – DESCRIPTION OF PLAN (Concluded)

**Notes Receivable from Participants.** A participant may borrow the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account balance with a minimum loan amount of \$1,000. No loans are permitted from the portion of the participant's individual account balances attributable to Employer discretionary contributions. Loans have maximum terms of 60 months unless used to purchase a principal residence, have fixed interest rates of 1% over prime at time of issuance, and are secured by the balance of the participant's account.

**Payment of Benefits.** On termination of service due to death, disability, or retirement, a participant may elect to receive either a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account, or by other methods as defined by the Plan. For termination of service for other reasons, a participant may receive the value of the vested interest in his or her account as a lump-sum distribution. Participants may also receive in-service distributions upon reaching age 59 ½. The Plan does not provide for early retirement.

**Recent Legislation.** In December 2022, SECURE Act 2.0 ("SECURE 2.0") was enacted. SECURE 2.0 contains numerous significant changes for retirement plans, plan sponsors, and retirement plan providers. For example, SECURE 2.0 contains provisions related to, among many other things, increasing the required minimum distribution age, reducing required minimum distribution penalties, and removing required minimum distribution barriers for annuities. Many of the provisions in SECURE 2.0 went effective in 2023, but SECURE 2.0 will not be completely implemented until 2027. The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") has issued additional guidance addressing specific issues arising from the implementation of the provisions of SECURE 2.0.

## NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Basis of Accounting.** The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

**Estimates and Assumptions.** The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("GAAP") requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for benefits and changes therein. Actual results could differ from these estimates. Future events and their effects cannot be predicted with certainty; accordingly, accounting estimates require the exercise of judgment. Accounting estimates used in the preparation of these financial statements change as new events occur, as more experience is acquired, as additional information is obtained, and as the operating environment changes.

**Investment Valuation and Income Recognition.** Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurement. 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 (depreciation) includes the Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

**Notes Receivable from Participants.** Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the Plan administrator deems the participant loan to be in default, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

**Benefit Payments.** Benefits are recorded when paid.

(Continued)

## THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NOTE 2 – SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Concluded)**

**Administrative Expenses.** Certain administrative expenses, including functions performed by officers or employees of the Employer, are provided by the Employer at no charge to the Plan, and the Employer has no plans to obtain reimbursement of these expenses from the Plan. Administrative expenses can also be paid by the Plan using forfeitures. Participants are responsible for all fees associated with initiating a loan.

**Concentration of Credit Risk.** Substantially all of the Plan's assets are held by the Trustee who executes all investment transactions.

**NOTE 3 – INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY THE PLAN'S TRUSTEE**

The plan administrator has elected the method of annual reporting permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosures under ERISA. Accordingly, the Trustee has certified information included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule is complete and accurate as follows:

- Investments and notes receivable from participants as shown in the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.
- Investment income and interest on participant loans, as shown in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2024.
- Note 4: All investment balances.
- The schedule of assets held at end of year as of December 31, 2024, as shown on Form 5500, Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i.

**NOTE 4 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS**

FASB ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, provides the framework for measuring fair value. That framework 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 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

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

**Level 2.** Inputs to the valuation methodology include the following:

- 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 measurement.

(Continued)

## THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## NOTE 4 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS (Continued)

The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques 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 as of December 31, 2024 and 2023.

**Mutual Funds and Money Market Funds.** Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

**Common/Collective Trust Fund.** The stable value fund is composed primarily of fully benefit-responsive investment contracts and is valued at the net asset value of units of the collective trust ("NAV"). The NAV is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. This practical expedient would not be used if it is determined to be probable that the fund will sell the investment for an amount different from the reported NAV.

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

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets at fair value as of December 31, 2024 and 2023. Assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement.

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2024			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds and Money Market Funds	\$156,229,654	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 156,229,654
Investments measured at NAV				7,860,056
Total investment assets at fair value				<u>\$ 164,089,710</u>

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2023			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Mutual Funds and Money Market Funds	\$135,336,481	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 135,336,481
Investments measured at NAV				10,764,672
Total investment assets at fair value				<u>\$ 146,101,153</u>

(Continued)

## THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**NOTE 4 – FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS** (Concluded)

*Investments Measured Using the Net Asset Value per Share Practical Expedient.* The following table summarizes investments for which fair value is measured using the net asset value per share practical expedient as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively.

December 31, 2024	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Common/Collective Trust Fund	\$ 7,860,056	None	Daily	None
December 31, 2023	Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
Common/Collective Trust Fund	\$ 10,764,672	None	Daily	None

**NOTE 5 – PARTY-IN-INTEREST AND RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

Parties-in-interest are defined under Department of Labor regulations as any fiduciary of the Plan, the employer, and certain others. Party-in-interest transactions consisted of loans made to participants and certain plan investments that are shares of registered investment companies and units of a collective trust managed by VFTC or the Vanguard Group, an affiliate of VFTC. Fees paid by the Plan to the Vanguard Group and its affiliates for the administration and advisory services of the Plan amounted to approximately \$204,000 for the year ended December 31, 2024. Audit fees were also paid by the Plan for the year ended December 31, 2024. Certain other professional fees were paid by the Employer.

**NOTE 6 – PLAN TERMINATION**

Although the Employer has not expressed any intent to discontinue its contributions or terminate the Plan, it is free to do so at any time, subject to the provisions of ERISA and the Plan document. In the event of Plan termination, all participants will automatically become fully vested in all their accounts and the Trustee will distribute participant assets.

**NOTE 7 – TAX STATUS**

The IRS has determined and informed the Employer by a letter dated June 30, 2020, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. Although the Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter, Plan management believes that the Plan is designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, they believe that the Plan was qualified and the related trust was tax-exempt as of the financial statement date.

**NOTE 8 – RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES**

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

**THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**NOTE 9 – SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

Management has evaluated all known subsequent events from December 31, 2024 through July 29, 2025, the date the accompanying financial statements were available to be issued, and is not aware of any material subsequent events occurring during this period that have not been disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

THE PEPPER COMPANIES, INC. RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD AT END OF YEAR  
FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4i

DECEMBER 31, 2024

EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER: 36-3337997

PLAN NUMBER: 003

(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	(e) Current value
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Index Fund - Institutional Shares	\$ 23,449,839
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Growth Index Fund Admiral Shares	18,193,186
	Dodge & Cox Funds	Dodge & Cox Stock Fund	10,398,253
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund Admiral Shares	9,956,797
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard International Value Fund	9,511,884
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2030 Fund	8,769,397
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Fund Admiral Shares	8,063,453
*	Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company	Vanguard Retirement Savings Trust III	7,860,056
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Mid-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares	7,852,062
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2050 Fund	7,814,931
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2040 Fund	7,364,904
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2045 Fund	7,345,606
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Balanced Index Fund Admiral Shares	6,810,231
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Small-Cap Index Fund Admiral Shares	5,609,250
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2055 Fund	5,514,858
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2035 Fund	5,393,580
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2060 Fund	5,328,887
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2020 Fund	2,126,016
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2025 Fund	1,826,336
	MFS	MFS Institutional International Equity Fund	1,684,964
	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2065 Fund	1,181,143
	Dimensional Fund Advisors	DFA Global Real Estate Securities Portfolio	918,704
	John Hancock	John Hancock Strategic Income Opportunites Fund; Class R6	593,644
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement Income Fund	337,620
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund	179,866
*	The Vanguard Group	Vanguard Institutional Target Retirement 2070 Fund	4,243
*	Participant Loans	Interest rates ranging from 4.25% - 9.50%, maturing from 2025 to 2034	613,330
			\$ 164,703,040

\* Party-in-interest to the Plan