

SONOCO PRODUCTS CO  
Form 11-K  
June 28, 2018

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20549

FORM 11-K

ý ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) of THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2017

¨ TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) of THE SECURITIES  
EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934  
For the Transition period from                      to  
Commission file number 001-11261

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:  
SONOCO RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:  
SONOCO PRODUCTS COMPANY  
1 N. Second St.  
Hartsville, South Carolina 29550

---

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule  
December 31, 2017 and 2016

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Index

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	1
Financial Statements	
Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits December 31, 2017 and 2016	3
Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016	4
Notes to Financial Statements	5
Supplemental Schedule	
Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i – Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) December 31, 2017	18

All other schedules required by Section 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for  
NOTE: Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended, have  
been omitted because they are not required or are not applicable.

---

Grant Thornton LLP  
1320 Main Street, Suite 500  
Columbia, SC 29201  
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM  
T 803.231.3100  
F 803.231.3057  
www.GrantThornton.com

Plan Administrator and Plan Participants  
Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan:

Opinion on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the related statements of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 , and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Grant Thornton LLP  
U.S. member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd

---

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Supplemental information

The supplemental information in the accompanying schedule of assets (held at the end of year) as of December 31, 2017, has been subjected to audit procedures in conjunction with the audit of Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan's financial statements. The supplemental information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but includes supplemental information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employment Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the basic financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information in the accompanying schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information referred to above is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2009.

/s/ GRANT THORTON LLP

Columbia, South Carolina  
June 28, 2018

Grant Thornton LLP  
U.S. member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd

---

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
 Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits  
 December 31, 2017 and 2016

---

(in thousands of dollars)	2017	2016
Assets		
Investments:		
Plan investments at fair value (Note 4)	\$803,194	\$683,026
Plan investments at contract value (Note 3)	180,728	198,949
Total investments	983,922	881,975
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	30,406	28,256
Employer contributions (Note 2)	14,378	14,317
Total receivables	44,784	42,573
Net assets available for benefits	1,028,706	924,548

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.



Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
 Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits  
 Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

(in thousands of dollars)	2017	2016
Additions to net assets attributed to:		
Net appreciation in fair value of Plan investments	\$ 109,147	\$ 71,812
Interest and dividends on Plan investments	6,652	6,198
Net investment income (Note 2)	115,799	78,010
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	1,338	1,211
Contributions:		
Employer	25,375	25,622
Employee	38,987	36,500
Total contributions (Note 2)	64,362	62,122
Total additions	181,499	141,343
Deductions from net assets attributed to:		
Distributions to participants	92,793	72,349
Administrative expenses (Note 5)	1,158	1,197
Total deductions	93,951	73,546
Increase in net assets available for benefits before transfers in from/out to other qualified plans	87,548	67,797
Transfers in from other qualified plan (Note 1)	16,610	—
Transfers out to other qualified plans (Note 1)	—	(574 )
Increase in net assets available for benefits	104,158	67,223
Net assets available for benefits:		
Beginning of year	924,548	857,325
End of year	\$ 1,028,706	\$ 924,548

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.





Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Description of the Plan

The following description of the Plan is provided for general information purposes only. Participants should refer to the Plan document or the Summary Plan Description, not included herein, for a more complete description of the Plan and its provisions.

General

The Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan (the "Plan") is a defined contribution retirement plan provided for certain of the Company's U.S. employees. The Plan is comprised of both an elective and non-elective component.

The elective component of the Plan, which is designed to meet the requirements of section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code, allows participants to set aside a portion of their wages and salaries for retirement and encourages saving by matching a portion of their contributions with contributions from the Company.

The non-elective component of the Plan, the Sonoco Retirement Contribution ("SRC"), is available to certain employees who are not currently active participants in the Company's U.S. qualified defined benefit pension plan.

The Company, a global manufacturer of industrial and consumer packaging products and provider of packaging services, is a South Carolina corporation founded in 1899 in Hartsville, South Carolina and has approximately 300 locations in 33 countries. The Plan is subject to the applicable provisions of the Employee Retirement Income and Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

On October 28, 2016, Sonoco acquired Plastic Packaging Inc. ("PPI"). On March 1, 2017, approximately \$16,610,000 of assets from Plastic Packaging, Inc. 401(k) Plan were transferred into the Plan. Assets from the Plastic Packaging, Inc. 401(k) Plan were merged into the Plan pursuant to the Second Amendment to the Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan dated April 19, 2017.

On November 7, 2016, the Company completed the sale of its rigid plastic blow molding operations to Amcor Rigid Plastics USA, LLC and Amcor Packaging Canada, Inc. Pursuant to the sale, assets totaling \$574,000, representing the participant account balances on the date of the sale, were transferred from the Plan to the Amcor plan.

Participation

Most of the Company's employees are eligible to participate with respect to Plan benefits upon completion of 30 days of service. However, employees at certain union locations may participate after 30 days of service, but are eligible to receive the Company's matching and discretionary contributions only after 60 days of service, or after attaining age 21 and completing 1 year of service in which the employee worked a minimum of 1,000 hours, depending on the location.

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Description of the Plan (Continued)

Contributions

Participants could elect to defer up to 30% of eligible gross pay through payroll deductions through December 15, 2010 and 100% thereafter. Employee contributions may be pre-tax, after-tax, Roth, or a combination thereof. The maximum annual employee pre-tax contribution for any participant was \$18,000 in both 2017 and 2016. Participants over age 50 could contribute additional pre-tax contributions up to \$6,000 in both 2017 and 2016, subject to certain catch-up rules as defined under the Internal Revenue Code. Each participant's total annual contributions, including employer matching contributions and excluding catch-up contributions, were limited to the lesser of \$54,000 or 100% of gross pay in 2017 and \$53,000 or 100% of gross pay in 2016. Under the Plan, participants may elect to have their account balances invested in 1% increments in any combination of sixteen index funds, a Company stock fund (the "Sonoco Stock Fund"), and a Stable Value Fund. Participants have the option to reinvest Sonoco Stock Fund dividends within the Plan or to receive these dividends in cash. The participant can also invest funds in a Self-Managed Account once certain criteria are met.

The Company provides matching and SRC contributions. Matching contributions are made in amounts determined annually by the Company's Board of Directors (the "Board"), and may be made in either cash or the Company's common stock at the discretion of the Board. For 2017 and 2016, the Company matching contributions were equal to 50% on the first 4% of a non-union participant's pre-tax contributions. For union participants, the Company matching contributions are determined in accordance with collectively bargained agreements. All matching contributions in 2017 and 2016 were paid in cash and invested in accordance with the participants' chosen investment allocations. Although the Board may elect to provide additional matching contributions at its discretion, no such contributions were elected in 2017 or 2016. SRCs are made by the Company and equal 4% of eligible pay plus 4% of eligible pay in excess of the Social Security wage base to eligible participant accounts. Participants may direct the recordkeeper, Empower Retirement ("Empower"), formerly J.P. Morgan Retirement Services ("JPM"), to invest any portion of SRCs in the available investment options.

Participant Accounts

For those eligible without respect to Plan benefits other than SRCs, each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the Company's matching contributions, and an allocation of Plan earnings and losses. Each participant eligible with respect to SRCs is credited with the annual contribution for service in the previous year and Plan earnings and losses in his or her account. The allocation is based on participant earnings or account balances, as defined in the Plan. Net appreciation or depreciation of investments and investment earnings of each fund are allocated to participant accounts in proportion to each participant's account balance within each fund. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Vesting

The majority of participants are vested immediately in both the participant-funded contributions and the Company's matching contributions and SRCs, plus actual earnings thereon. However, at certain union locations, participants vest in employer matching and discretionary contributions after completing a minimum number of years of service, ranging from two to five years, as specified by the union contract. Vesting in the Company's SRCs and earnings thereon are based on years of service. A participant is 100% vested after three years of service or upon reaching age 55, if earlier. The participant's account is fully payable at retirement with respect to all contributions, including participant and employer matching contributions and SRCs.



Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 1. Description of the Plan (Continued)

Payment of Benefits

The Plan provides for benefits payable upon retirement, death, termination, or total and permanent disability. Benefits are distributed through lump-sum payments in cash or Company common stock, or in quarterly or annual installments of not less than \$1,000.

For vested retirement contribution accounts, distribution is made as a single lump-sum payment as soon as administratively practicable upon cessation of employment for amounts of \$5,000 or less. If the vested value is greater than \$5,000, distributions may be deferred until the participant reaches the age of 70 ½. If the participant dies and the balance is less than \$5,000, the vested account balance is distributed to the beneficiary as soon as administratively practicable. If the balance is greater than \$5,000, the beneficiary may elect to defer distribution of the vested account balance to a later date (distribution cannot be postponed beyond the age of 70 ½ for a spouse or one year for a non-spousal beneficiary). Alternatively, the beneficiary can make an election for a payment option for a complete distribution within five years of the participant's death.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts up to an amount no greater than the lesser of 50% of the vested account balance - excluding the portion attributable to SRCs - or \$50,000 minus the highest outstanding note balance during the previous 12-month period. Notes are secured by the balances in the participant's accounts, excluding any balances related to the SRCs. Interest is charged at a fixed rate for the full term of the note. The rate is based on the prime rate at the end of the fiscal quarter prior to note origination plus 1% (5.50% at December 31, 2017 and 4.75% at December 31, 2016). Interest rates vary from 4.25% to 10.50% for both years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. Principal and interest is paid through payroll deductions over a period of no more than five years for a personal use note or twenty years for a residential home note. The range of maturity dates for outstanding loans at December 31, 2017 was January 2018 to November 2037. Participants are limited to two outstanding loans at any given time.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan provides for various investment options. Investments are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit risk. Due to the nature of most investment securities, it is likely that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and it is reasonably possible that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the "Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits."

Forfeitures

When certain terminations of participation in the Plan occur, the non-vested portion of the participant's account, as defined by the Plan, represents a forfeiture. Forfeitures of account balances are used to reduce future employer matching contributions and SRCs. For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, forfeitures totaling approximately \$196,000 and approximately \$205,000, respectively, were used to reduce employer matching contributions. No forfeitures were used to reduce SRCs in the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. At December 31, 2017 and 2016, the remaining balance in the forfeitures account totaled approximately \$601,000 and \$606,000, respectively.

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America ("US GAAP").

Contributions

Contributions from the Company are recorded in the year and in the amount authorized by the Board. The contribution receivable from the Company represents amounts authorized at year-end, but not yet received by the Plan, and includes both matching contributions and SRCs. Matching contributions and SRCs receivable - net of forfeitures - were approximately \$227,000 and \$14,151,000 respectively, at December 31, 2017, and approximately \$250,000 and \$14,067,000, respectively, at December 31, 2016. Employee contributions are recorded in the year in which they are withheld from employee pay. All contributions from the Company are in the form of cash payments or Company common stock, as elected by the Board. The investment allocations of all employee and employer contributions are participant directed.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Shares of collective trusts are valued at the net asset value of units held at year end. Shares of common stock in the Sonoco Stock Fund are valued at open market values published by the respective stock exchange markets. Individual assets of the Stable Value Fund are comprised of synthetic investment contracts ("SIC"). All security backed contracts held by the Fund are fully benefit-responsive, which means participant-initiated transactions from these investment contracts may be made at contract value for qualifying benefit payments, including participant-directed transfers. All SIC investments are held in the Stable Value Fund (see Note 3). The Self-Managed Account includes shares of common stock valued at open market values published by the respective stock exchange markets and mutual funds valued at quoted net asset values in their respective active markets.

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

Most investments of the Plan are reported at fair value. However, fully benefit-responsive investment contracts held by the Plan are reported at contract value as it represents the amount participants would receive if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of the Plan. The Plan invests in such investment contracts through its Stable Value Fund.

The Key Guaranteed Portfolio Fund consists of investment-grade fixed annuities seeking to achieve consistent returns and is reported at fair value by discounting the related cash flows based on current yields of similar instruments with comparable durations considering the credit-worthiness of the issuer. Principal and interest are fully guaranteed by the entire general account assets of Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with US GAAP requires management to make estimates that affect the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. Delinquent notes are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded as distributions to participants when paid.

8

---

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (Continued)

Administrative Expenses

Most trust and custodial expenses and investment management fees are paid by the Plan. These expenses are deducted from the investment returns in the accompanying "Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits." Certain trust and custodial expenses and investment management fees are paid by the Company in accordance with the plan documents. In addition, the Plan pays certain recordkeeping and other expenses which are included in administrative expenses in the "Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits."

New Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2017, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued ASU 2017-06, Plan Accounting: Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Topic 960), Defined Contribution Pension Plans (Topic 962), and Health and Welfare Benefit Plans (Topic 965): Employee Benefit Master Trust Reporting, which requires a plan's interest in a master trust and any change in that interest to be presented as separate line items in the statement of net assets available for benefits and in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits. The amendments under ASU 2017-06 are effective for fiscal years beginning after December 15, 2018, with early adoption permitted. Management does not expect the adoption of ASU 2017-06 to have a material impact on the financial statements.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, there were no other newly issued nor newly applicable accounting pronouncements that have had, or are expected to have, a material impact on the Plan's financial statements.



Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 3. Investments

The Sonoco Products Company Master Trust (the "Master Trust") was established for the investment of assets of both the Plan and the Sonoco Investment and Retirement Plan (the "SIRP Plan"). The plans were merged on December 15, 2012, and the Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan holds the sole interest in the Trust. Although the Master Trust has not been legally dissolved and still exists, the Plan has elected to report investments at the Plan level instead of the Master Trust level as of and for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016. GWFS Equities, Inc. ("GWFS") served as trustee of the Plan in 2017 and JPM in 2016. StateStreet Global Advisors ("SSGA") is a wholly owned subsidiary of State Street Bank and Trust ("SSBT") that manages several of the investment funds held by the Plan. At December 31, 2017 and 2016, all investments represent specific interests of the Plan, as the Plan was the sole owner of the investments. Investment options in which the Plan participates include the S&P 500 Index Fund, Bond Market Index Fund, Russell 2000 Index Fund, International Stock Index Fund, S&P Mid-Cap Fund, SSGA Retirement Income Fund, SSGA Retirement 2015 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2020 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2025 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2030 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2035 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2040 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2045 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2050 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2055 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2060 Fund, the Self-Managed Account, Sonoco Stock Fund, Key Guaranteed Portfolio Fund, and the Stable Value Fund. The Plan participated in the same investments for the year ended December 31, 2016, however, funds may now be invested in the newly available SSGA Retirement 2015 Fund (fund continues to evolve for five years after the assumed retirement age of 65), SSGA Retirement 2025 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2035 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2045 Fund, SSGA Retirement 2055 Fund, and Key Guaranteed Portfolio Fund.

S&P 500 Index Fund

The S&P 500 Index Fund invests in all 500 common stocks included in the S&P 500 Index.

Bond Market Index Fund

The Bond Market Index Fund invests primarily in government, corporate, mortgage-backed and asset-backed securities intended to approximate the Barclay's Capital U.S. Aggregate Bond Index.

Key Guaranteed Portfolio Fund

The Key Guaranteed Portfolio Fund invests primarily in asset-backed securities, mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage-backed securities, commercial mortgage and private equity.

Russell 2000 Index Fund

The Russell 2000 Index Fund invests in the 2000 small cap equities that comprise the Russell 2000 Index.

International Stock Index Fund

The International Stock Index Fund invests in the stocks in the Morgan Stanley Capital International EAFE Index, a compilation of international equities.

S&P Mid-Cap Fund

The S&P Mid-Cap Fund invests in all stocks in the S&P Mid-Cap 400 Index in proportion to their weighting in the Index.

Self-Managed Account

The Self-Managed Account allows employees to invest in a wide variety of highly diversified mutual funds, common stocks, and interest-bearing cash held for liquidity purposes. To invest in the Self-Managed Account, participants must

transfer funds from other investment options. The initial investment must be at least \$2,500 and the total amount in the Self-Managed Account cannot exceed 50% of the participant's vested account balance.

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 3. Investments (Continued)

SSGA Retirement Income Fund

The SSGA Retirement Income Fund is the option in the Target Retirement series with a focus on income generation as opposed to wealth accumulation. The strategy seeks to address the needs of investors who have reached their retirement date and is comprised mainly of bonds with a reduced exposure to equities to provide greater stability and income. The fund has a target mix of 26% equity funds and 74% bond and money market funds as of December 31, 2017.

SSGA Retirement Date Funds

The SSGA Retirement Date series of funds are intended for investors expecting to retire around the target year and who are likely to gradually begin withdrawing the value of their account following that date. The Funds are designed for investors seeking to optimize the asset allocation and risk profile for the wealth accumulation, wealth preservation, and income generation phases of retirement planning and includes adjustments in the critical years immediately preceding and following the retirement date. As the target date for a Fund approaches, the asset allocation and risk profile of the Funds are automatically adjusted to a more conservative approach to reduce (but not to eliminate) risk by increasing the allocation to fixed income investments, which have historically been subject to lower levels of volatility, while reducing the allocation to equity investments.

The following table presents the SSGA Retirement Date Funds held by the Plan and their respective investment allocations as of December 31, 2017:

Fund	Fund Allocation	
	Equities	Fixed Income
SSgA Retirement 2015 Fund	31%	69%
SSgA Retirement 2020 Fund	45%	55%
SSgA Retirement 2025 Fund	60%	40%
SSgA Retirement 2030 Fund	69%	31%
SSgA Retirement 2035 Fund	76%	24%
SSgA Retirement 2040 Fund	81%	19%
SSgA Retirement 2045 Fund	86%	14%
SSgA Retirement 2050 Fund	86%	14%
SSgA Retirement 2055 Fund	86%	14%
SSgA Retirement 2060 Fund	86%	14%

Sonoco Stock Fund

Employees may also elect to invest in the Sonoco Stock Fund that consists solely of investments in Company common stock.

Stable Value Fund

The Stable Value Fund (the "Fund") is a separately managed fund that invests in fully benefit-responsive SICs, which are supported by underlying assets owned by the Plan, including a pooled separate account and collective trusts. Assets underlying the pooled separate account and collective trusts include government securities, private and public mortgage-backed securities, investment grade corporate obligations and interest-bearing cash held for liquidity purposes. The fully benefit-responsive investment contracts are included in the financial statements of the Plan at

contract value as reported to the Plan by the issuers. Contract values reflect contributions made under the contract, plus earnings, less benefit withdrawals and administrative expenses. Participants may ordinarily direct the withdrawal or transfer of all or a portion of their investment at contract value.

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Security-backed SIC contracts generally provide for withdrawals associated with certain events which are not in the ordinary course of issuers' operations. These withdrawals are paid with a market value adjustment applied to the withdrawal as defined in the investment contract. Each contract issuer specifies the events which may trigger a market value adjustment; however, such events may include all or a portion of the following:

- material amendments to the Plan's structure or administration;
- changes to the participating plans' competing investment options including the elimination of equity wash provisions;
- complete or partial termination of the Plan, including a merger with another Plan;
- the failure of the Plan to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA;
- the redemption of all or a portion of the interests in the Plan held by a participating plan at the direction of the participating plan sponsor, including withdrawals due to the removal of a specifically identifiable group of employees from coverage under the participating plan (such as a group layoff or early retirement incentive program), the closing or sale of a subsidiary, employing unit, or affiliate, the bankruptcy or insolvency of a plan sponsor, the merger of the plan with another plan, or the plan sponsor's establishment of another tax qualified defined contribution plan;
- any change in law, regulation, ruling, administrative or judicial position, or accounting requirement, applicable to the Plan or participating plans;
- the delivery of any communication to plan participants designed to influence a participant not to invest in the Plan.

At this time, the Plan does not believe that the occurrence of any such market value event, which would limit the Plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants, is probable. Security-backed contracts generally are evergreen contracts that contain termination provisions, allowing the Plan or the contract issuer to terminate with notice, at any time at fair value, and providing for automatic termination of the contract if the contract value or the fair value of the underlying portfolio equals zero. The issuer is obligated to pay the excess contract value when the fair value of the underlying portfolio equals zero. In addition, if the Plan defaults in its obligations under the security-backed contract (including the issuer's determination that the agreement constitutes a non-exempt prohibited transaction as defined under ERISA), and such default is not corrected within the time permitted by the contract, then the contract may be terminated by the issuer and the Plan will receive the fair value as of the date of termination. There is no contractual waiting period for the Plan to exit the Fund; therefore, if the Plan chose to exit the Fund it would happen as soon as administratively possible.

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 3. Investments (Continued)

The following table presents the investments held by the Plan and Master Trust as of December 31:

(in thousands of dollars)	2017	2016
Common Stock and Mutual Funds		
Sonoco Stock Fund	\$59,054	\$63,167
Self-Directed Brokerage Account	8,068	6,129
Collective Trusts		
S&P 500 Index Fund	227,213	198,758
S&P Mid-Cap Fund	93,538	83,235
Bond Market Index Fund	72,647	70,292
International Stock Index Fund	92,150	70,160
Russell 2000 Index Fund	58,334	52,836
SSGA Retirement Date Funds:		
SSGA Retirement 2015 Fund	2,775	—
SSGA Retirement 2020 Fund	35,527	35,320
SSGA Retirement 2025 Fund	13,014	—
SSGA Retirement 2030 Fund	51,852	48,136
SSGA Retirement 2035 Fund	16,401	—
SSGA Retirement 2040 Fund	33,550	33,903
SSGA Retirement 2045 Fund	8,582	—
SSGA Retirement 2050 Fund	16,838	12,499
SSGA Retirement 2055 Fund	6,546	—
SSGA Retirement 2060 Fund	1,471	2,132
SSGA Retirement Income Fund	5,140	6,459
Fixed Annuity Contract		
Key Guaranteed Portfolio Fund	494	—
Stable Value Fund		
Synthetic investment contracts	170,704	181,988
Collective trusts	10,024	16,961
	180,728	198,949
Total investments	\$983,922	\$881,975

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements

The following table sets forth information regarding the Plan's financial assets that are measured at fair value in a three-tier value hierarchy to prioritize the inputs in measuring fair value as follows:

Level 1—Observable inputs such as quoted market prices in active markets;

Level 2—Inputs, other than quoted prices in active markets, that are observable either directly or indirectly; and

Level 3—Unobservable inputs in which there is little or no market data, which require the reporting entity to develop its own assumptions.

(in thousands of dollars)	Assets				
	December 31, 2017	Measured at NAV (d)	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
Description					
Assets					
Company Common Stock (a)	\$59,054	—	\$59,054	\$—	\$—
Mutual Funds, Common Stock, and Interest-Bearing Cash (b)	8,068	—	8,068	—	—
Fixed Annuity Contract (c)	494	—	—	494	—
Collective Trusts (d)	735,578	735,578	—	—	—
Total fair value of investments	\$803,194	735,578	\$67,122	\$494	\$—

(in thousands of dollars)	Assets				
	December 31, 2016	Measured at NAV (d)	(Level 1)	(Level 2)	(Level 3)
Description					
Assets					
Company Common Stock (a)	\$63,167	\$—	\$63,167	\$—	\$—
Mutual Funds, Common Stock, and Interest-Bearing Cash (b)	6,129	—	6,129	—	—
Collective Trusts (d)	613,730	613,730	—	—	—
Total fair value of investments	\$683,026	\$613,730	\$69,296	\$—	\$—

(a) Company Common Stock includes investment of shares of Sonoco Stock in the Sonoco Stock Fund, which is a publicly traded instrument valued using stated market value and, in some instances, the dividends receivable to the Plan as instrument holder on the day of record.

(b) Mutual Funds, Common Stock, and Cash Equivalents include investments held in the Self-Managed Account. In addition to common stock, the Self-Managed Account Fund is also comprised of highly diversified mutual funds and interest-bearing cash held for liquidity purposes. These investments are all publicly traded instruments valued using stated market values and, in some instances, the dividends receivable to the Plan as instrument holder on the day of record.

(c) The Fixed Annuity Contract is valued at fair value by discounting the related cash flows on current yields of similar instruments with comparable durations considering credit-worthiness of the issuer. Participants transact at contract value and fair value is determined annually for financial statement reporting purposes only.

(d) The Collective Trusts consist of the Plan's investment for all funds not specifically listed elsewhere in the chart. The underlying investments consist of equity investments, short term investments, collective





Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 4. Fair Value Measurements (Continued)

investment funds, and fixed income securities. Each Collective Trust fund provides for daily redemptions by the Plan at reported net asset values per share with no advance notice requirement. The underlying investments are valued based on the respective Collective Trust's net asset values. There were no unfunded commitments.

(e) Certain assets are measured at the net asset value (NAV) per share (or its equivalent) practical expedient and have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy.

The Plan currently has no non-financial assets or liabilities that are recognized or disclosed at fair value on a recurring basis. Changes in the fair value of investments held at the end of the period are reported in "Net appreciation/(depreciation) in fair value of Plan investments" in the "Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits."

Changes in economic conditions or valuation techniques may require the transfer of financial instruments from one fair value level to another. In such instances, the transfer is reported at the beginning of the reporting period. For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, there were no transfers in or out of levels 1, 2, or 3.

Note 5. Related Party Transactions

Certain Plan investments, including investments in the collective trusts and money market funds, are managed by SSGA and SSBT. Underlying investments in the Stable Value Fund are sponsored by the investment manager for the fund, Wells Fargo, N.A., which qualifies as a party-in-interest. As the Plan Trustee, GWFS issued, managed, or had custodial relationships with certain Plan investments. Therefore, transactions related to these investments qualify as party-in-interest transactions. In addition, the recordkeeper Empower was paid administrative fees throughout the year. Fees paid by the Plan to these related parties amounted to approximately \$1,158,000 and \$1,197,000 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

At December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Plan held approximately 1,111,000 and 1,199,000 shares, respectively, of common stock of the Company with a fair value of approximately \$59,054,000 and \$63,167,000, respectively. During the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Plan recorded dividend income on the common stock of the Company of approximately \$1,810,000 and \$1,865,000, respectively.

Note 6. Tax Status

The Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") has determined and informed Sonoco ("Plan Administrator") by a letter dated February 24, 2017, that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC"). The Plan Administrator believes that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

US GAAP requires Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan Administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2017, there are no uncertain positions taken or expected to be taken that would require recognition of a liability (or asset) or disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress.

Note 7. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA.



Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan  
Notes to Financial Statements

Note 8. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements at December 31 to the Form 5500:

(in thousands of dollars)	2017	2016
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$1,028,706	\$924,548
Plus:		
Adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	1,106	1,739
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	\$1,029,812	\$926,287

The following is a reconciliation of the increase in net assets available for benefits before transfers per the financial statements for the year ended December 31 to the Form 5500:

	Year ended December 31, 2017
(in thousands of dollars)	
Increase in net assets available for benefits before transfers per the financial statements	87,548
Adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	(633 )
Increase in net assets available for benefits before transfers per Form 5500	\$86,915

Note 9. Subsequent Events

On March 14, 2017, Sonoco acquired Packaging Holdings, Inc. and subsidiaries, including Peninsula Packaging LLC ("Packaging Holdings"). On January 1, 2018, subsequent to year end, approximately \$8,988,000 of assets from Packaging Holdings' 401(k) plan were transferred into the Plan. This transfer will be reflected in the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2018. Employees who are part of the acquisition are eligible to participate in the Plan starting January 1, 2018 pursuant to the Third Amendment to the Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan dated June 16, 2017.

On July 24, 2017, Sonoco acquired Clear Lam Packaging, Inc. ("Clear Lam"). On January 1, 2018, subsequent to year end, approximately \$26,342,000 of assets from Clear Lam's 401(k) plan were transferred into the Plan. This transfer will be reflected in the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2018. The Company agreed to merge the Clear Lam 401(k) plan into the Plan effective January 1, 2018 pursuant to the Fourth Amendment to the Sonoco Retirement and Saving Plan dated December 13, 2017.

Supplemental Schedule

---

Edgar Filing: SONOCO PRODUCTS CO - Form 11-K

Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan

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

December 31, 2017

(in thousands of dollars)

Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, and Par or Maturity Value	Number of Shares or Units	Current or Market Value
Common Stock and Mutual Funds			
Sonoco Products Company* Empower Retirement*	Sonoco Stock Fund Self-Managed Account	1,111,288 **	\$59,054 8,068
Collective Trusts			
StateStreet Global Advisors*	S&P 500 Index Fund	3,817,807	227,213
StateStreet Global Advisors*	S&P Mid-Cap Fund	2,591,522	93,538
StateStreet Global Advisors*	Bond Market Index Fund	5,172,834	72,647
StateStreet Global Advisors*	International Stock Index Fund	3,933,478	92,150
StateStreet Global Advisors*	Russell 2000 Index Fund	1,973,535	58,334
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2030 Fund	3,670,955	51,852
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2020 Fund	2,682,933	35,527
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2040 Fund	2,308,034	33,550
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2050 Fund	1,147,781	16,838
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2035 Fund	1,142,706	16,401
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2025 Fund	941,280	13,014
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2045 Fund	584,924	8,582
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2055 Fund	446,073	6,546
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement Income Fund	429,479	5,140
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2015 Fund	221,138	2,775
StateStreet Global Advisors*	SSgA Retirement 2060 Fund	116,837	1,471
Fixed Annuity Contract			
Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Company*	Key Guaranteed Portfolio Fund		494
Stable Value Fund			
Wells Fargo Fixed Income Funds F			
Prudential Insurance Company of America	Synthetic Investment Contract, 2.33%		
Transamerica Premier Life Ins. Co.	Synthetic Investment Contract, 2.56%		
Voya Ret. Ins. and Annuity Co.	Synthetic Investment Contract, 2.22%		
Wells Fargo, N.A.*	Fixed Income Fund F		72,622
Wells Fargo Fixed Income Funds L			
Prudential Insurance Company of America	Synthetic Investment Contract, 2.03%		
Transamerica Premier Life Ins. Co.	Synthetic Investment Contract, 2.49%		
Voya Ret. Ins. and Annuity Co.	Synthetic Investment Contract, 1.81%		
Wells Fargo, N.A.*	Fixed Income Fund L		56,941
Metropolitan Separate Account			

Edgar Filing: SONOCO PRODUCTS CO - Form 11-K

Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.	Synthetic Investment Contract, 2.98% (a)		
Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.	Synthetic Wrapper Agreement (b)		
Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.	Separate Account #613		41,141
Wells Fargo, N.A.*	Collective trust, Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund W	121,331	6,620
Wells Fargo, N.A.*	Collective trust, Wells Fargo Short-Term Investment Fund S	3,398,827	3,404
			983,922

Notes receivable from participants*	Notes receivable from participants have interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 10.5%, with varying maturity dates from 2018 to 2037	30,406
		\$1,014,328

\* Represents a party-in-interest to the Plan

(a) Represents the aggregate value of the segregated portfolio held by the contract issuer for the benefit of the Fund

\*\* Comprised of a mix of mutual funds, common stocks, and cash equivalents that are converted into units of the Self-Managed Account

**SIGNATURES**

The Plan. Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the trustees (or other persons who administer the employee benefit plan) have duly caused this Annual Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

**SONOCO RETIREMENT AND SAVINGS PLAN**

By: Sonoco Products Company as Plan Administrator

June 28, 2018 By: /s/ Barry L. Saunders

Date Barry L. Saunders  
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

---



EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit Number	Description
23-1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm to Incorporation by Reference of Independent Registered Accounting Firm's Report with Respect to Form 11-K for the Sonoco Retirement and Savings Plan