

J C PENNEY CO INC
Form 11-K
June 29, 2018

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

(Mark One)

x ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF
1934
For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

OR

o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the transition period from to _____

Commission File Number 001-15274

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc.
Safe Harbor 401(k) Savings Plan

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

J. C. Penney Company, Inc.
6501 Legacy Drive
Plano, Texas 75024 3698

REQUIRED INFORMATION

Form 11-K Annual Report

This form provides the annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, with respect to the J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Safe Harbor 401(k) Savings Plan, a plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974.

J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC.
SAFE HARBOR 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

Financial Statements and Supplemental Schedule
December 31, 2017
(With Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm Thereon)

J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC.
SAFE HARBOR 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

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MONTGOMERY COSCIA GREILICH LLP

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Benefit Plan Investment Committee,
Benefits Administration Committee, and
Human Resources Committee of
J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Safe Harbor 401(k) Plan:

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statement of net assets available for benefits of the J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Safe Harbor 401(k) Savings Plan (the "Safe Harbor Plan") as of December 31, 2017 and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year then ended, and the related notes and schedule (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 Safe Harbor Plan as of December 31, 2017, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year 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 Safe Harbor Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Safe Harbor Plan's financial statements based on our audit. 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 Safe Harbor 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 audit 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.

Our audit 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 regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audit 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 audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Supplemental Information

The supplemental information in the accompanying schedule of Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2017, has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Safe Harbor Plan's financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Safe Harbor Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the 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, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and

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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 is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ Montgomery Coscia Greilich LLP

Montgomery Coscia Greilich LLP

We have served as the Safe Harbor Plan's auditor since 2015.

Plano, Texas

June 29, 2018

2500 Dallas Parkway, Suite 300 Plano, Texas
75093

300 Throckmorton Street, Suite 520
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

2901 Via Fortuna, Building 6,
Suite 550
Austin, Texas 78746

J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC.
 SAFE HARBOR 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN
 STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
 December 31, 2017

(\$ in thousands)	2017
Assets:	
Investments at fair value:	
Interest in Master Trust-Participant directed investments	\$438,005
Self-directed brokerage accounts-Participant directed investments	1,685
Total investments	439,690
Receivables:	
J. C. Penney Company, Inc. contribution	452
Notes receivable from participants	19,300
Due from broker for securities sold	42
Interest and dividends	2
Total receivables	19,796
Total assets	459,486
Liabilities:	
Due to broker for securities purchased	33
Total liabilities	33
Net assets available for benefits	\$459,453

See the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC.
 SAFE HARBOR 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN
 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
 For The Year Ended December 31, 2017

(\$ in thousands)	2017
Additions to net assets attributed to:	
Investment income-Plan interest in Master Trust	\$54,122
Net Appreciation-Self-directed brokerage accounts	286
Interest and dividends-Self-directed brokerage accounts	51
Net investment income	54,459
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	742
Contributions:	
J. C. Penney Company, Inc., net of forfeitures	33,921
Participants	54,549
	88,470
Total additions	143,671
Deductions from net assets attributed to:	
Benefit payments	(57,737)
Administrative expenses	(117)
Total deductions	(57,854)
Increase before transfers	85,817
Transfer from J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Savings, Profit-Sharing and Stock Ownership Plan	373,636
Increase after transfers	459,453
Beginning net assets available for benefits	—
Ending net assets available for benefits	\$459,453

See the accompanying notes to the financial statements.

J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC.
SAFE HARBOR 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2017

1. Description of Plan

The following description of the J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Safe Harbor 401(k) Savings Plan (the Safe Harbor Plan) provides only general information. For more complete information, Participants should refer to the Summary Plan Description for the Safe Harbor Plan. If these Notes to Financial Statements or the Summary Plan Description result in any misunderstanding or inconsistency with the Safe Harbor Plan document, the Safe Harbor Plan document will govern.

(a) General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan available to all eligible employees (Associates) of J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. (the Company and Plan Sponsor) and certain subsidiaries. Associates who were hired or rehired after Dec. 31, 2006, are not accruing a benefit in the J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Pension Plan (the Pension), and have attained age 21 are immediately eligible to participate in the Safe Harbor Plan upon completing one hour of service. An eligible Associate must be enrolled in the Safe Harbor Plan to be a participant in the Safe Harbor Plan (Participant). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (ERISA). The financial statements include all of the funds that comprise the Safe Harbor Plan.

The Benefit Plans Investment Committee (BPIC) is the named fiduciary for the control and management of the assets of the Safe Harbor Plan except for the J. C. Penney Common Stock Fund (Penney Stock Fund). Newport Group, Inc. is the named fiduciary with respect to the management and disposition of the Penney Stock Fund. The BPIC also has the responsibility for selecting investment funds, other than the Penney Stock Fund, to be offered under the Safe Harbor Plan. The Benefits Administration Committee (BAC) is the named fiduciary for the review of denied benefit claims and has overall responsibility for the day-to-day administration of the Safe Harbor Plan. The Human Resources Committee (HRC) approves the Company's overall benefit strategy for the Safe Harbor Plan and any modifications or amendments to the Safe Harbor Plan and is responsible for appointing members of the BAC and the BPIC and appoints the trustee. The HRC has named State Street Bank & Trust Company (State Street Bank) as the trustee for the Safe Harbor Plan and Alight Solutions LLC as the third party administrator/record keeper for the Safe Harbor Plan (name changed from Aon Hewitt Associates to Alight Solutions LLC in May 2017).

(b) Payment of Benefits

Generally, Participants who have separated from service with account balances over \$5,000 remain in the Safe Harbor Plan until the Participant elects payment. A Participant will receive an involuntary lump sum distribution if the total vested account balance is \$5,000 or less at the time of distribution. If the participant is under the age of 65 and the participant does not elect to receive the mandatory lump-sum distribution directly as a cash distribution, as a direct rollover to an eligible retirement Plan or as a direct rollover to an Individual Retirement Arrangement (IRA), then the participant's mandatory lump-sum distribution will be automatically paid as a direct rollover to an IRA in the participant's name with Millennium Trust Company. If a cash distribution is elected applicable taxes and early withdrawal penalties may apply. Certain Participants who have separated from service and who are 100% vested in the Company contributions may request periodic withdrawals, fixed monthly payments of at least \$100, or a complete distribution. Minimum required distributions will begin by April 1 of the year following the year of separation for a Participant who has attained age 70½ and will continue each year thereafter to comply with federal law.

(c) Contributions

Participants are permitted to contribute from 1% to 50% of their eligible pay (subject to an annual maximum of \$18,000 in 2017) in before-tax, Roth and /or after-tax deposits. Federal law limits the amount of annual pay that can be taken into account when calculating your 401(k) Safe Harbor Plan deposits and Company matching contributions. This limit is determined by the IRS and changes from time to time. For 2017, the limit is \$270,000.

The Plan allows Participants who have attained the age of 50 by the end of the year to make an additional tax-deferred deposit (catch-up contribution) up to a maximum of \$6,000 during 2017. These catch-up contributions, to the extent possible, are eligible for the Company's matching contribution.

The Plan allows Participants who participated in another employer's qualified retirement plan before coming to work for the Company to rollover a portion or all of their distributions from the prior employer's plan. The Participant cannot rollover a loan from another plan. The Plan accepts eligible cash rollovers directly from another qualified retirement plan that meets certain legal requirements within 60 days after receipt of an eligible distribution. If the

rollover is not a direct rollover, then only the taxable portion of the prior Roth 401(k) account may be rolled over and the Roth Begin Date doesn't carryover. The associate is immediately vested in these contributions to the Safe Harbor Plan.

Participants age 21 or older become eligible for the Company matching contributions after completing 1,000 hours of service in an eligibility period. The Company matching contribution is a per pay period Company match of \$1.00 for every dollar deposited of the first 5% of eligible pay. If the participant is eligible to receive Company matching contributions, the participant is also eligible to receive a year-end true-up contribution to their account. Annually, the participant's prior year eligible pay will be compared to the prior year's Company matching contributions. If the total amount of Company matching contributions that the participant received on a per-paycheck basis was less than the annualized amount of Company matching contributions that the participant should have received based on their effective contribution rate, they will receive a true-up contribution. The year-end true-up process will ensure the participant receives their full Company matching contributions. In some years the Company may choose to make an additional discretionary contribution to the Safe Harbor Plan to eligible participants.

During 2017, the Company matching contribution totaled approximately \$33.4 million and the true-up contribution totaled approximately \$0.5 million.

(d) Participants' Investment Funds

All Participant contributions, Company matching contributions and Company retirement account contributions are invested in the Safe Harbor Plan's investment funds in accordance with the Participant's investment elections. Participants direct their investments amongst three tiers of funds as follows: Tier 1 funds consist of target date retirement funds managed by Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company. Tier 2 funds consist of index funds, including the Penney Stock Fund. Tier 3 funds consist of the Participant directed brokerage window. The funds are maintained on a unit-value basis, and, accordingly, the actual earnings and appreciation or depreciation in the underlying securities are reflected in the daily unit value.

(e) Participant Accounts

Each Participant's account is credited with the Participant's contributions, the Company's contributions, Plan earnings and appreciation or depreciation in underlying securities, and is charged with an allocation of administrative expenses. Allocations are based on Participant account balances, as defined. The benefit to which a Participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the Participant's vested account.

(f) Participants' Loans

A Participant who has not separated from service may request a loan. The minimum loan amount is \$500. The maximum loan amount is the lesser of: the value of a Participant's before-tax, Roth, Roth rollover, rollover and after-tax deposits on the valuation date, 50% of a Participant's total vested account value on the valuation date, or \$50,000 minus the highest aggregate balance of any other loans owed to the Safe Harbor Plan during the previous 12 months. All loans must be adequately secured and bear interest at the prime rate plus 1%. Interest rates on the loans outstanding as of December 31, 2017 ranged from 4.25% to 7.61% and maturities ranged from 2018 through 2024. Loan amounts and the terms of repayment are limited in accordance with Plan provisions.

(g) Vesting

Participants are immediately vested in the value of their deposits and earnings thereon. All Company contributions in the 401(k) Safe Harbor Plan are 100 percent vested as soon as they are deposited into your account. If the participants account transferred from the J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Savings, Profit Sharing and Stock Ownership Plan (the 401(k) Savings Plan) to the 401(k) Safe Harbor Plan the non-vested portion of your Company contributions and any related earnings are subject to the vesting schedule of the 401(k) Savings Plan. Company contributions to the 401(k) Savings Plan and earnings thereon for Plan years 2007 and later will be 100% cliff vested after three years of service or if they separate from service at normal retirement age, death, total disability, or a reduction in force or unit closing.

(h) Forfeited Accounts

Forfeitures are available to restore forfeited amounts of rehired Participants, offset Company contributions, or pay Plan expenses. Forfeitures available as of December 31, 2017 totaled \$0.2 million. Forfeitures utilized to offset company contributions during 2017 were approximately \$1.9 million.

(i) Expenses

Participants' accounts share in the expenses to administer the Safe Harbor Plan. These expenses include trustee, investment management, audit, administrative service provider fees, and other expenses. Administrative expenses not paid by the Safe Harbor Plan are paid by the Company.

(j) Transfers from Affiliated Plan

Effective January 1, 2017, the Company added the J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Safe Harbor 401(k) Savings Plan ("Safe Harbor Plan") that was made available for active employees hired or rehired on or after January 1, 2007. The Safe Harbor Plan replaced the noncontributory Company retirement account previously provided for in the J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Savings, Profit Sharing and Stock Ownership Plan (401(k) Savings Plan). On January 1, 2017, net assets of approximately \$367 million, which consisted of approximately \$334 million in investments, \$18 million in notes receivable from participants, and \$15 million for the 2016 2% RAP company contribution receivable, were transferred into the Safe Harbor Plan from the 401(k) Savings Plan. During the year approximately \$7 million in net assets was transferred to the Safe Harbor Plan for participants who lost eligibility in the 401(k) Savings Plan and became eligible for the Safe Harbor Plan.

(k) Interest in Master Trust

The Plan participates in the J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Savings Plans Master Trust ("Master Trust") along with the 401(k) Savings Plan. Certain investments of the Plan are maintained through the Master Trust. The value of the Plan's interest in the Master Trust is based on the beginning value of the Plan's interest in the Master Trust plus actual contributions and allocated net investment income (loss) less actual distributions and allocated administrative expenses. The Plan's allocated share of investment activities is based upon each plan's participation in investment options within the Master Trust.

2. Related Party and Party in Interest Transactions

Certain Master Trust investment options are investment products managed by State Street Global Advisors (SSgA), which is the investment management division of State Street Bank and Trust Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of State Street Corporation. State Street Bank and Trust Company is the trustee, as defined by the Safe Harbor Plan, and the disbursement agent. The trustee and investment manager fees are paid by the Safe Harbor Plan.

As of December 31, 2017, the Master Trust held investments in J.C. Penney Company Inc. common stock totaling \$43.1 million. During the year ended December 31, 2017, 5.5 million shares were acquired and 5.0 million were sold by the Master Trust. All of these transactions are exempt from the prohibitions against party-in-interest transactions. Eligible Participants may borrow from their individual account balance in the Safe Harbor Plan as discussed in note 1(f), and these transactions qualify as exempt party-in-interest transactions.

Certain administrative functions and services necessary for the operation of the plan are performed by employees of the Company who may also be Participants in the Safe Harbor Plan. The Plan pays reasonable compensation for those services.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the Safe Harbor Plan are prepared under the accrual method of accounting.

(b) Valuation of Investments and Income Recognition

The Safe Harbor Plan's investments and investments in the Master Trust are stated at fair value. Purchases and sales of investments are recorded on a trade date basis. The average cost method is used to calculate gains and losses on the sale of investments. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex dividend date. Net appreciation (depreciation) includes the Safe Harbor Plan's gains and losses on investments bought and sold as well as held during the year.

(c) Notes Receivable From Participants

Participant loans are recorded at amortized costs which represent the unpaid principal balance plus accrued interest.

(d) Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

(e) Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

(f) New Accounting Pronouncements

In February 2017, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2017-06, Plan Accounting-Defined Benefit Pension Plans (Topic 960), Defined Contribution Pension Plans (Topic 962), Health and Welfare Benefit Plans (Topic 965): Employee Benefit Plan Master Trust reporting (A Consensus of the Emerging Issues Task Force). The guidance clarifies that for each master trust in which a plan holds an interest, the plan should report its interest in each master trust and the change in value in each master trust interest on separate line items on the statement of net asset available for benefits and statement of changes in net assets available for benefits. The guidance continues to require disclosure of a master trust's investments by general type and now additionally requires disclosure of the individual plan's dollar amount of its interest in the master trust's investments by general type. The update also clarifies that the master trust's other assets and liabilities and the individual plan's interest in each of those balances should be disclosed. The guidance eliminates the disclosure of a plan's percentage interest in the master trust for a plan with a divided interest in the individual investments of a master trust. The amendments are effective for the Plan beginning January 1, 2019 and are to be applied retrospectively. Earlier adoption is permitted. The Plan elected to adopt this new guidance early, beginning on January 1, 2017, and as a result, the Plan's financial statements are presented to conform to the requirements of ASU 2017-06.

4. Plan's Interest in Master Trust

As previously discussed, a majority of the investments of the Plan are maintained through the Master Trust at December 31, 2017. A majority of the investments of the Safe Harbor Plan are maintained through the Master Trust. Use of the Master Trust permits the commingling of Safe Harbor Plan assets with the assets of the other Plan sponsored by the Company for investment and administrative purposes. Although assets of the plans are commingled in the Master Trust, the record keeper maintains supporting records for the purpose of allocating the net gain or loss of the investment account to the participating plans. The net investment income or loss of the investment assets are allocated by the record keeper to each participating plan based on the relationship of the interest of each plan to the total of the interests of the participating plans.

The following table presents the Master Trust net assets and the Safe Harbor Plan's interest in the Master Trust net assets at December 31, 2017:

(\$ in thousands)	12/31/2017	
	Master Trust	Plan's Interest in Master Trust
Investments		
J. C. Penney Company, Inc. common stock	\$43,105	\$5,476
Common and collective trusts	2,518,692	432,529
Total investments	2,561,797	438,005
Net assets available for benefits	\$2,561,797	\$438,005

The following table presents net investment income (loss) for the Master Trust and the Safe Harbor Plan's interest in the Master Trust net investment income (loss) for the year ended December 31, 2017:

(\$ in thousands)

Additions to net assets attributed to:

Net appreciation in the fair value of investments	\$205,888
Interest	17,731
	223,619
Less investment expenses	(830)
Net investment income	222,789
Net purchases (sales)	(320,611)
Administrative expenses	(1,539)
Net (decrease) in assets	(99,361)

Net Transfers	2,661,158
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Master Trust net assets at inception	—
Ending net assets available for benefits	\$2,561,797

Plan's interest in the Master Trust - net investment income: \$54,122

5. Fair Value Measurements

Fair value is defined as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability (i.e., the exit price) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. In determining fair value, the accounting standards establish a three level hierarchy for inputs used in measuring fair value, as follows:

Level 1 – Quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities.

Level 2 – Significant observable inputs other than quoted prices in active markets for similar assets and liabilities, such as quoted prices for identical or similar assets or liabilities in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3 – Significant unobservable inputs reflecting our own assumptions, consistent with reasonably available assumptions made by other market participants.

The following tables present a summary of the Master Trust's investments, the Plan's interest in the Master Trust's investments, and the investments in the self-directed brokerage accounts measured at fair value as of December 31, 2017 :

(\$ in thousands)	Quoted Prices in Active Market (Level 1)	Significant Other Observable Input (Level 2)	Total
Master Trust Investments:			
Common stock (a):			
J. C. Penney Company, Inc.	\$43,105	\$—	\$43,105
Common and collective trusts (b)	—	2,518,692	2,518,692
Total investments in the Master Trust at fair value	\$43,105	\$2,518,692	\$2,561,797
Plan's interest in Master Trust investmetns:			
Common stock (a):			
J. C. Penney Company, Inc.	\$5,476	\$—	\$5,476
Common and collective trusts (b)	—	432,529	432,529
Total investments in the Master Trust at fair value	\$5,476	\$432,529	\$438,005
Plan investments not in the Master Trust			
Self-directed brokerage accounts (c):			
Mutual funds	\$520	\$—	\$520
Common stock	860	—	860
Other:			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	—	3
Preferred stock	289	—	289
Partnerships	13	—	13
Total other	305	—	305
Total Investments not in the Master Trust at fair value	1,685	—	1,685
Total Plan investments at fair value	\$7,161	\$432,529	\$439,690

Actual risk depends on the individual investments which are selected by each applicable participant.

As of December 31, 2017, the plan's investments have no future commitments and a daily redemption frequency with one days notice. In addition, the Safe Harbor Plan's investments had no transfers between levels 1 to 3 from January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. See also footnote 3(b) for more information.

(a) Common stock: Valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual securities are traded.

Common and collective trusts: Valued at the net asset value (NAV) of shares held by the plan at year end. The target date funds are comprised of eleven collective trusts, which manage risk and investment return over time.

(b) There are three general market risk levels: low to moderate, moderate, and moderate to high. Each fund is a different mix of investments – stocks, bonds and cash. The funds start out with more stock for growth opportunity and end with less stock. The equity funds are comprised of 3 large cap funds and 2 small cap funds with low to moderate and high risk levels, respectively. The fixed income securities have low general market risk.

There are no known commitments or restrictions on the common and collective trusts except for some withdrawal restrictions as related to liquidation by the Plan Sponsor of the equity funds. The Plan Sponsor has no plans to

liquidate these funds.

9

Self-directed brokerage window includes cash and cash equivalents, common stock, corporate bonds, mutual funds, notes, preferred stock, publicly traded partnerships: Certain U.S. Treasury notes and corporate bonds are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the security is traded. Other corporate bonds are valued (c) based on yields currently available on comparable securities of issuers with similar credit ratings. Other investments listed are valued at the closing price reported in the active market in which the individual securities are traded. Actual risk depends on the individual investments which are selected by each applicable participant.

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

6. Synthetic Investment Contracts

The Master Trust in 2017 entered into two new synthetic investment contracts (SICs), while retaining three existing SICs, with certain insurance companies and financial institutions (the Contract Issuers). The SICs provide a crediting rate based on the performance of fixed income securities underlying each SIC and held by the Master Trust for the Plan. SICs totaled \$645.4 million in the Master Trust as of December 31, 2017. Additionally, there are no reserves against contract values for credit risk of the Contract Issuer or otherwise.

Key factors that could influence future average interest crediting rates include, but are not limited to: Plan cash flows, changes in interest rates, total return performance of the fair market value bond strategies underlying each SIC contract, default or credit failures of any of the securities, investment contracts, or other investments held in the fund, the initiation of an extended termination (immunization) of one or more SIC contracts by the manager or the Contract Issuers.

Specific coverage provided by each SIC may be different for each contract, and can be found in the individual SIC contracts held by the Master Trust. Contract Issuers are not allowed to terminate any of the above SICs and settle at an amount different from contract value unless there is a breach of the contracts terms, which is not corrected within the applicable cure period. Actions that may result in a breach (after any relevant cure period) include, but are not limited to: material misrepresentation; failure to pay SIC fees, or any other payment due under the contract; failure to adhere to investment guidelines; and the bankruptcy or liquidation of the Plan sponsor.

7. Tax Status

The Safe Harbor Plan is a spinoff of the J. C. Penney Corporation, Inc. Savings, Profit Sharing and Stock Ownership Plan (401(k) Savings Plan). The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has determined and informed the Company by a letter (determination letter) dated February 22, 2016 that the 401(k) Savings Plan and the related trust are designed in accordance with the applicable sections of the IRC.

The Plan Administrator believes that the Safe Harbor Plan is designed and is currently being operated in material compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. If, and when, the IRS modifies the determination letter process to allow for determination letter application for spinoff plans, the Company intends to apply for a determination letter for the Plan.

The Plan evaluates the uncertainties of tax positions taken or expected to be taken on a return based on the probability of whether the position taken will be sustained upon examination by tax authorities. The Plan uses a more likely than not threshold for recognition and derecognition of tax positions taken or to be taken in a return. The Plan concluded that it has no material uncertain tax liabilities to be recognized as of December 31, 2017. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The Plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2017.

8. Form 5500 Reconciliation

There were no reconciling items between the net assets available for benefits as disclosed in these financial statements and the Form 5500.

9. Plan Termination

Although the Company has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right to terminate the Safe Harbor Plan and the related Trust at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA. In the event of Plan termination, affected Participants will become fully vested in amounts allocated to their accounts as of the date of the termination.

10. Risks and Uncertainties

The Safe Harbor Plan and Master Trust invest in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

Market conditions can result in a high degree of volatility and increase the risks and short-term liquidity associated with certain investments held by the Safe Harbor Plan, which could impact the value of investments after the date of these financial statements. Due to uncertainties inherent in the estimations and assumptions process, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in these estimates and assumptions in the near term would be material to the financial statements.

J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC.

SAFE HARBOR 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

EIN: 13-5583779 Plan #006

Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2017:

(\$ in thousands)

(A) Identity of issue, borrower, lessor, or similar party, description of investment	(B) Description of Investment	Cost	Current Value
	Shares/Par Rate of Interest Maturity		
* Plan's interest in the Master Trust		(a)	\$438,005
Self directed brokerage accounts		(a)	1,685
Total investments			\$439,690
Notes receivable from participants:			
* Participant loans, interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 7.61% and maturing 2018 through 2024		(a)	\$19,300
Total Investments and Notes receivable			\$458,990

* Party-in-interest to the Safe Harbor Plan.

(a) Cost omitted for participant-directed investments.

See accompanying report of independent registered public accounting firm.

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.

J. C. PENNEY CORPORATION, INC.
SAFE HARBOR 401(k) SAVINGS PLAN

By: /s/ Douglas J. Riley
Douglas J. Riley
Plan Administrator

Date: June 29, 2018

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number Description

23.1* Consent of Montgomery Coscia Greilich LLP

* Filed herewith.