

UNITED NATURAL FOODS INC  
Form 11-K  
June 28, 2018

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

Form 11-K

FOR ANNUAL REPORTS OF EMPLOYEE STOCK  
PURCHASE, SAVINGS AND SIMILAR PLANS  
PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE  
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15 (d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

Commission File Number: 000-21531

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

United Natural Foods, Inc. Retirement Plan

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

United Natural Foods, Inc.  
313 Iron Horse Way  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

## REQUIRED INFORMATION

### I. Financial Statements

The United Natural Foods, Inc. Retirement Plan (the “Plan”) is subject to the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”). The following financial statements and schedules have been prepared in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of ERISA, as permitted by Item 4 of Form 11-K:

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm 3

Financial Statements:

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits 4

Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits 5

Notes to Financial Statements 6

Supplemental Schedules:

Schedule H, line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) 11

Note: Additional supplemental schedules required by Section 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 have been omitted because they are either not applicable or the information required therein has been included in the financial statements or notes thereto.

### II. Exhibits

23 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

To the Plan Administrator and Plan Participants  
United Natural Foods, Inc. Retirement Plan:

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the United Natural Foods, Inc. Retirement 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, 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 U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these 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. 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 regarding 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.

Accompanying Supplemental Information

The supplemental information in the accompanying 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 Plan's financial statements. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the 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 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.

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2001.

Providence, Rhode Island  
June 28, 2018



## UNITED NATURAL FOODS, INC. RETIREMENT PLAN

Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits  
December 31, 2017 and 2016

	2017	2016
Assets:		
Investments at fair value:		
Mutual funds	\$263,264,988	\$208,813,722
Common collective trusts	16,545,146	16,259,706
United Natural Foods, Inc. common stock	48,798,088	56,371,726
Total investments at fair value	328,608,222	281,445,154
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	11,046,188	9,915,430
Other receivables	—	13,110
Total receivables	11,046,188	9,928,540
Total assets	\$339,654,410	\$291,373,694
Liabilities:		
Excess contributions payable	\$—	\$293,171
Total liabilities	—	293,171
Net assets available for benefits	\$339,654,410	\$291,080,523

See notes to financial statements

## UNITED NATURAL FOODS, INC. RETIREMENT PLAN

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

	2017	2016
Investment income:		
Interest and dividends	\$7,482,540	\$6,120,736
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	33,234,091	17,652,594
Total investment gains	40,716,631	23,773,330
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	466,271	383,452
Contributions:		
Employee contributions	25,209,464	21,693,880
Employer contributions	10,113,944	8,652,251
Rollover contributions	3,425,144	2,766,475
Rollover contributions resulting from acquisition	—	10,756,994
Total contributions	38,748,552	43,869,600
Total additions	79,931,454	68,026,382
Deductions from net assets attributed to:		
Benefits paid directly to participants	31,133,791	27,534,163
Deemed distributions of participant loans	4,223	2,057
Administrative expenses	219,553	170,803
Total deductions	31,357,567	27,707,023
Net increase	48,573,887	40,319,359
Net assets available for benefits, beginning of plan year	291,080,523	250,761,164
Net assets available for benefits, end of plan year	\$339,654,410	\$291,080,523

See notes to financial statements

UNITED NATURAL FOODS, INC. RETIREMENT PLAN

Notes to Financial Statements

Years Ended December 31, 2017 and 2016

1. Plan Description

The following description of the United Natural Foods, Inc. Retirement Plan (the "Plan") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the plan document, including the adoption agreement, for a more complete description of the Plan's provisions.

(a) General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan providing retirement benefits for all eligible employees of United Natural Foods, Inc. and its subsidiaries (the "Company" or "Plan Administrator"). Substantially all employees who have completed six months of service are eligible to participate in the Plan.

The Plan is intended to be qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Internal Revenue Code"), and is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

Effective October 30, 2015, shares owned as part of the Company's Employee Stock Ownership Plan ("ESOP") were merged into the Plan.

(b) Contributions

Each year, participants may contribute up to 75% of their eligible pretax compensation, as defined by the Plan, subject to limitations established by the Internal Revenue Code.

The Company may elect to make discretionary matching contributions or non-elective contributions to the Plan. During the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Company matched 50% of the first 8% of eligible compensation that a participant contributed to the Plan. Company contributions totaled \$10,113,944 and \$8,652,251 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. The Plan also permits participants to make catch-up contributions and rollover contributions. Catch-up contributions and rollover contributions are not eligible for Company matching contributions.

(c) Participant Accounts

The Plan's record keeper maintains an account in the name of each participant to which each participant's contributions, the Company's contributions for such participant, and the participant's share of the net earnings, losses and expenses, if any, of the various investments are recorded. Allocations are generally based on eligible participants' compensation or account balances, as defined by the Plan. The earnings on the assets held in each of the investments and all proceeds from the sale of such assets are held and reinvested in the respective investments.

Participants may rollover contributions of before-tax dollars from a prior employer's eligible retirement plan, as defined in the Plan, or an Individual Retirement Account, into their plan accounts. Rollovers must be made within the time limits prescribed by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"). Rollover contributions totaled \$3,425,144 and \$13,523,469 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. During the year ended December 31, 2016 the plan received rollover contributions totaling \$10,756,994 as a result of the Company's acquisition of Haddon House Food Products, Inc.

(d) Vesting

Participants are immediately fully vested in their contributions transferred from previous employers' plans, employee pretax contributions and any earnings thereon. Vesting in the Company's contribution portion of a participant's account (whether through matching or non-elective contributions), plus any earnings thereon, is generally based on years of continuous service. A participant is 100% vested in such contributions after four years of credited service, with 25% vesting each year. Participants earn one year of service for each twelve months of service completed with the Company. Participants also become fully vested in the Company's contributions regardless of years of service at age 59 or upon death or permanent and total disability.

(e) Notes Receivable from Participants

Participants (other than eligible employees who have made rollover contributions to the Plan but are not yet active participants) may borrow from their investment accounts. Loans are secured by the vested portion of a participant's account



balance, with a \$1,000 minimum principal amount for each loan and a maximum principal amount that cannot exceed the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of the participant's vested account balance. The loans have a maximum term of five years (except for loans used to purchase principal residences), but become immediately payable upon death, termination, or disability. The loans bear interest at rates that range from 4.00% to 9.50%, which are commensurate with prevailing rates as determined by the Plan Administrator at the date of the loan. Principal and interest are paid ratably through automatic payroll deductions.

(f) Distribution of Benefits

Participants (or, in the event of a participant's death, their beneficiary) may request a distribution of all or part of the value in their accounts in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Plan upon retirement, termination of service, disability, or death. In addition, participants who have attained age 59 ½ may elect to withdraw all or a portion of their vested accounts while they are still employed by the Company. Participants with account balances greater than \$1,000 may defer receipt of their distributions until they are required by law to receive minimum required distributions. Distributions made to individuals who have not attained the age of 59 ½ may be subject to a 10% early distribution penalty.

Benefit payments may be made in a lump-sum distribution or in installments. The participant or beneficiary is entitled to select the manner in which benefit payments are received subject to the terms of the Plan. If the participant's vested account balance is \$1,000 or less, payment must be made in a lump-sum distribution.

Withdrawals for financial hardship are permitted provided they meet regulations prescribed by the IRS and are for a severe and immediate financial need. The participant must have exhausted all other assets reasonably available, including obtaining a loan from the Plan and any other qualified plan maintained by the Company, prior to obtaining the hardship withdrawal.

(g) Forfeited Amounts

At December 31, 2017 and 2016, the balance of non-vested forfeited accounts totaled \$461,226 and \$42,333, respectively. These account balances are used to reduce future employer contributions. During the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, forfeited amounts totaling \$16,442 and \$275,038, respectively, were used to reduce employer contributions.

## 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Accounting

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

(b) Payments of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

(c) Valuation of Investments

The Plan's investments are stated at fair value. Shares of registered investment companies and United Natural Foods, Inc. common stock are valued at quoted market prices in active markets. The Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio is valued at the sum of the fair value of the investment "wrapper" and the underlying assets of commingled funds as reported by Fidelity Management Trust Company. Money market funds are valued at cost which approximates fair value. See Note 3 for further discussion of the methods used to determine the fair value of investments held by the Plan.

The Fidelity Managed Income Portfolio and the Wells Fargo Stable Value Fund investment options are common collective trusts that are invested in guaranteed investment contracts deemed to be fully benefit-responsive within the

meaning of Financial Accounting Standards Board (“FASB”) Accounting Standards Codification (“ASC”) 962-325, Defined Contribution Pension Plans - Investments (Other) (“ASC 962-325”) and are recorded at fair value.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Net appreciation in the fair value of investments includes both realized and unrealized gains and losses. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

(d) Valuation of Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus accrued but unpaid interest.

(e) Administrative Expenses

Administrative expenses as reported on the financial statements include various fees charged to participants for transactions. All other administrative expenses, including legal and audit fees, are paid by the Company.

(f) Use of Estimates

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

(g) Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in various types of 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 value of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits.

### 3. Fair Value Measurements

The Plan applies ASC 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures (“ASC 820”), which provides a framework for measuring fair value and specifies required disclosure about fair value measurements of assets and liabilities.

ASC 820 defines fair value as, “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.” Its objective is to provide a consistent definition of fair value which focuses on exit price and emphasizes the use of market-based inputs over entity-specific inputs. ASC 820 places a higher priority on the use of observable inputs over unobservable inputs. A fair value hierarchy based on inputs was developed to categorize assets into three levels:

Level 1: Assets that have observable inputs that reflect quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets (NYSE, NASDAQ). Observable inputs reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from sources independent of the reporting entity.

Level 2: Assets that have inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are either directly or indirectly observable for the asset. Inputs are observable but do not solely rely on quoted market prices to establish fair value.

Level 3: Assets with unobservable inputs. Unobservable inputs reflect the reporting entity's own assumptions about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances.

An asset's level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for the Plan's investments measured at fair value, including the general classification of such investments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

#### Common Stock

UNFI Common Stock is valued at the closing price reported on the NASDAQ Global Select Market and is therefore, presented as a Level 1 asset.

#### Mutual Funds

Mutual funds within the Plan are classified as Level 1 assets and are valued at the published closing price in active markets.

#### Common Collective Trusts

The guaranteed investment contracts (or “GIC”) are comprised of wrapper contracts and underlying investments. The fair value of the wrapper contracts represent the difference between the replacement cost and actual cost of the

contracts and are calculated using a discounted cash flow model which considers recent fee bids as determined by recognized dealers, an appropriate discount rate and the duration of the underlying portfolio securities. These inputs are considered unobservable inputs in that they reflect the Plan's own assumptions about the inputs that market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability and therefore would be considered Level 3 assets. The Plan believes that this is the best information available for use in the fair value measurement. The underlying assets are commingled funds which are valued using the Net Asset Value (or "NAV") which is quoted on a private market that is not active; however, the unit price is based on underlying investments which are traded on an active market as defined above under "Mutual Funds", and are therefore classified as Level 2 assets. As the fair market value of the wrapper contracts represent an insignificant amount of the total value of the Common Collective Trusts, they have been shown combined as a level 2 asset.

Below are the Plan's investments carried at fair value on a recurring basis classified by the ASC 820 fair value hierarchy levels as of December 31, 2017 and 2016:

	December 31, 2017			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
UNFI Common Stock	\$48,798,088	\$—	\$	—\$48,798,088
Mutual Funds				
Balanced Funds	195,154,222	—	—	195,154,222
Domestic Funds	56,249,728	—	—	56,249,728
Bond Funds	11,861,038	—	—	11,861,038
Common Collective Trusts	—	16,545,146	—	16,545,146
Totals	\$312,063,076	\$16,545,146	\$	—\$328,608,222

	December 31, 2016			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
UNFI Common Stock	\$56,371,726	\$—	\$	—\$56,371,726
Mutual Funds				
Balanced Funds	149,028,821	—	—	149,028,821
Domestic Funds	48,666,397	—	—	48,666,397
Bond Funds	11,118,504	—	—	11,118,504
Common Collective Trust	—	16,259,706	—	16,259,706
Totals	\$265,185,448	\$16,259,706	\$	—\$281,445,154

#### 4. Related Party Transactions (Party-In-Interest)

Certain Plan investments are shares of registered investment companies and common collective trusts managed by Fidelity Management Trust Company (“Fidelity”). Fidelity is the trustee and custodian as defined by the Plan. Activities involving these funds qualify as party-in-interest transactions. In addition, at December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Plan held 990,384 and 1,181,266 shares of the Company's \$0.01 par value per share common stock, respectively.

#### 5. Plan Termination

Although it has not expressed any intent to do so, the Company has the right to terminate the Plan at any time subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA and the Internal Revenue Code. In the event of Plan termination, participants will become 100% vested in their accounts.

#### 6. Income Tax Status

In prior years, and through October 30, 2015, the Plan was based on a volume submitter plan. The IRS informed the volume submitter plan sponsor (Fidelity Management and Research Company), in an opinion letter dated March 31, 2008, that the form of the Plan is acceptable under the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code. An employer may rely on a favorable opinion letter issued to a volume submitter sponsor as evidence that the plan is qualified under Code Section 401(a) as provided in Revenue Procedure 2011-49. As of October 30, 2015, to reflect the merger of the ESOP into the Plan, the Plan was amended and restated as an individually-designed plan. The Plan Administrator intends to maintain and operate the Plan in accordance with the applicable requirements of the IRS so that the Plan is qualified and the related trust is tax-exempt.

U.S. generally accepted accounting principles require the Plan's management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability or asset if the Plan has taken an uncertain tax position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination. The Plan Administrator believes that there are no uncertain tax positions that would have a material impact on the financial statements of the Plan. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been recorded in these financial statements.

## 7. Reconciliation of Financial Statements to Form 5500

The following is a reconciliation of net assets available for benefits per the financial statements as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 to the Form 5500:

	2017	2016
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$339,654,410	\$291,080,523
Excess contributions payable as of period end	—	293,171
Net assets per Form 5500	\$339,654,410	\$291,373,694

The following is a reconciliation of employee contributions, total additions, and total deductions per the financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016:

	2017	2016
Employee contributions per the financial statements	\$25,209,464	\$21,693,880
Excess contributions payable	—	293,171
Difference between prior year accrual and actual for excess contributions	14,650	(14,303 )
Employee contributions per Form 5500	\$25,224,114	\$21,972,748
Total additions per the financial statements	\$79,931,454	\$68,026,382
Change in the adjustment from contract value to fair value for fully benefit-responsive investment contracts	—	(94,868 )
Items to reconcile employee contributions per the financial statements to employee contributions per the Form 5500	14,650	278,868
Total income per Form 5500	\$79,946,104	\$68,210,382
Total deductions per the financial statements	\$31,357,567	\$27,707,023
Excess contributions paid during the current year	307,821	270,838
Total expenses per Form 5500	\$31,665,388	\$27,977,861

## SCHEDULE I

## UNITED NATURAL FOODS, INC. RETIREMENT PLAN

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

December 31, 2017

(b) Identity of issue, borrower, (a) lessor, or similar party	(c) Description of investment, including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par, or maturity value	(d) Cost	(e) Current value
Mutual funds:			
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2030 Fund	1,492,951 shares **	\$34,517,023
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2025 Fund	1,212,276 shares **	27,712,628
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2035 Fund	1,004,078 shares **	23,465,306
* Fidelity	500 Index Fund	244,984 shares **	22,893,729
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2020 Fund	1,003,939 shares **	22,618,746
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2040 Fund	871,281 shares **	20,579,649
* Fidelity	Contrafund Fund	117,313 shares **	14,357,948
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2045 Fund	495,123 shares **	11,783,926
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2050 Fund	453,955 shares **	10,813,218
* Fidelity	International Discovery Fund	183,954 shares **	8,375,439
* Fidelity	Extended Market Index Fund	126,121 shares **	7,825,818
Vanguard	Mid Cap Growth Fund	290,214 shares **	7,664,551
Columbia	High Yield Bond Fund	2,072,729 shares **	6,114,552
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2015 Fund	245,837 shares **	5,405,961
MetWest	Total Return Bond Fund	529,994 shares **	5,315,840
Hartford	Small Company HLS IB Fund	254,023 shares **	5,187,149
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2055 Fund	205,735 shares **	4,908,843
* Fidelity	Balanced Fund	200,150 shares **	4,749,561
AB Global	Discovery Value Fund	207,944 shares **	4,695,382
Calvert	Investment Equity I Fund	82,443 shares **	4,064,449
Hartford	Value HLS IA Fund	244,153 shares **	3,918,650
Vanguard	Target Retirement Income Fund	143,516 shares **	3,085,587
* Fidelity	Government Income Fund	189,726 shares **	1,937,106
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2060 Fund	34,969 shares **	834,368
Vanguard	Federal Money Market Fund	430,646 shares **	430,646
Vanguard	Target Retirement 2065 Fund	410 shares **	8,913
	Subtotal Mutual Funds		263,264,988
Common Collective Trust			
* Fidelity	Managed Income Portfolio	12,309,202 shares **	12,309,202
Wells Fargo	Stable Value Fund	80,394 shares **	4,235,944
	Subtotal Common Collective Trust		16,545,146
Corporate Stock (including Employer stock)			
* UNFI	Common Stock	990,384 shares **	48,798,088
	Subtotal Corporate Stock		48,798,088
Receivables:			
* Notes receivable from participants	Interest rates ranging from 4.00% to 9.50% and maturities from January 2, 2018 through September 29, 2032		11,046,188



Total Assets (Held at End of Year)

\$339,654,410

\* Denotes party-in-interest

\*\* Cost not determinable for participant directed investments

See accompanying report of independent registered public accounting firm.

11

---

Signatures

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.

United Natural Foods, Inc. Retirement Plan

By: United Natural Foods, Inc., as Plan Administrator

By: /s/ Michael P. Zechmeister  
Michael P. Zechmeister  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)

Date: June 28, 2018

EXHIBIT INDEX

Exhibit No. Description of Exhibit

23 Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

13