

AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC.
Form 11-K
June 27, 2018

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

Form 11-K

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 No. 001-10308

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

Avis Budget Group, Inc.
Employee Savings Plan

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

Avis Budget Group, Inc.
6 Sylvan Way
Parsippany, New Jersey 07054

AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC. EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN

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All other 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 not applicable.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

To the Administrator, Trustee and Participants of the
Avis Budget Group, Inc. Employee Savings Plan

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Avis Budget Group, Inc. Employee Savings Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2017, and the related notes to 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 year ended December 31, 2017, 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.

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.

Supplemental Information

The schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2017 and the schedule of delinquent contributions for the year ended December 31, 2017 have been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's 2017 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 2009.

/s/ CohnReznick LLP

Roseland, New Jersey

June 27, 2018

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AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC. EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017 AND 2016

	2017	2016
ASSETS:		
Participant directed investments:		
Investments, at fair value	\$656,098,148	\$603,859,402
Receivables:		
Notes receivable from participants	12,241,948	12,189,235
Participant contributions	660,323	717,040
Employer contributions	448,730	493,966
Interest and dividends	1,007	79
Total receivables	13,352,008	13,400,320

NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS \$669,450,156 \$617,259,722

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

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AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC. EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

ADDITIONS TO NET ASSETS:

Net investment income:	
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$70,339,774
Dividends	19,069,205
Interest	73,958
Net investment income	89,482,937
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	523,792
Contributions:	
Participants	21,676,141
Employer	13,622,330
Rollovers	2,177,159
Total contributions	37,475,630
Total additions	127,482,359
DEDUCTIONS FROM NET ASSETS:	
Benefits paid to participants	74,918,494
Net transfers of participant account balances to affiliated plans	280,937
Administrative expenses	92,494
Total deductions	75,291,925
NET INCREASE IN ASSETS	52,190,434
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS:	
BEGINNING OF YEAR	617,259,722
END OF YEAR	\$669,450,156

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

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AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC. EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN

The following description of the Avis Budget Group, Inc. Employee Savings Plan (the “Plan”) provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Summary Plan Description or the Plan document, which are available from Avis Budget Group, Inc. (the “Company”), for a more complete description of the Plan’s provisions.

General – The Plan is a defined contribution plan that provides Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) Section 401(k) employee salary deferral benefits and additional employer contributions for the Company’s eligible employees. The Avis Budget Group, Inc. Employee Benefits Committee is the Plan administrator (“Plan Administrator”). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (“ERISA”). Merrill Lynch Trust Company FSB (the “Trustee”) is the Plan’s trustee.

The following is a summary of certain Plan provisions:

Eligibility – Each regular employee of the Company (as defined in the Plan document) is eligible to participate in the Plan following the later of commencement of employment or the attainment of age 18. Each part-time employee of the Company (as defined in the Plan document) is eligible to participate in the Plan following certain requirements: (i) the attainment of age 18 and (ii) either 1,000 or more hours of service during the initial 12 consecutive month period of start date (“Year of Eligible Service”), or if the Year of Eligible Service was not met during the initial 12 consecutive month period, a part-time employee of the Company will be admitted into the Plan on the last day of the first plan year once the hours of service requirement have been reached. All eligible employees are automatically enrolled in the Plan at a pre-tax contribution rate of 1% of eligible compensation, as soon as administratively feasible after hire.

Participant Contributions – Participants may elect to make pre-tax contributions up to 50% but not less than 1% of pre-tax annual compensation, up to the statutory maximum of \$18,000 for 2017. Certain eligible participants (age 50 and over) are permitted to contribute an additional \$6,000 as a catch-up contribution, resulting in a maximum pre-tax contribution of \$24,000 for 2017. Participants may change their contribution investment direction on a daily basis.

Employer Contributions – Following the completion of one year of employment, the Company makes contributions to the Plan equal to 100% of each eligible participant’s pre-tax salary deferrals up to 6% of such participant’s eligible compensation.

Rollovers – All employees, upon commencement of employment, are provided the option of making a rollover contribution into the Plan in accordance with Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) regulations.

Investments – Participants direct the investment of contributions to various investment options and may reallocate investments among the various funds. The fund reallocation: (i) must be in 1% increments (if less, the entire amount invested under such option must be reallocated); (ii) must include both employee and employer contributions; and (iii) is limited to one reallocation per day, subject to restrictions imposed by the mutual fund companies to curb short-term trading. Participants should refer to the Plan document regarding investments in Company common stock. Participants should refer to each fund’s prospectus for a more complete description of the risks and restrictions associated with each fund.

Vesting – At any time, participants are 100% vested in their contributions, the Company’s matching contributions and any amounts rolled over to the Plan plus actual earnings thereon.

Notes Receivable from Participants – Participants actively employed by the Company may borrow, in the form of a loan, from their fund accounts up to the lesser of \$50,000, minus their highest outstanding loan balance during the past year or 50% of their vested balance, provided the vested balance is at least \$1,000. The initial

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principal amount of the loan may not be less than \$500. The notes are secured by the participant's vested account balance and bear interest at a rate commensurate to that charged by major financial institutions as determined by the Plan Administrator. Note repayments are made through payroll deductions over a term not to exceed five years, unless the proceeds of the note are used to purchase the principal residence of the participant, in which case the term is not to exceed 15 years. Notes receivable from participants, which are secured by the borrowing participant's vested balance, are valued at the outstanding principal balance plus any accrued and unpaid interest. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Related fees are recorded as administrative expenses and are expensed when they are incurred. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2017 and 2016. If a participant ceases to make loan repayments and the Plan Administrator deems the participant loan to be in default, the participant loan balance is reduced and a benefit payment is recorded.

Participant Accounts – A separate account is maintained for each participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contributions, the Company's matching contributions, and an allocation of Plan earnings, including interest, dividends and net realized and unrealized appreciation in fair value of investments. Each participant's account is also charged with an allocation of net realized and unrealized depreciation in fair value of investments and certain administrative expenses. Allocations are based on earnings or participant account balances, as defined in the Plan document. The benefit to which a participant is entitled is the benefit that can be provided from the participant's vested account.

Payment of Benefits to Participants – Participants are entitled to withdraw all or any portion of their vested accounts in accordance with the terms of the Plan and applicable law. Participants are permitted to process in-service withdrawals, in accordance with Plan provisions, upon attaining age 59½ or for hardship in certain circumstances, as defined in the Plan document, before that age. A terminated participant with an account balance of more than \$5,000 (excluding any rollover contributions and related earnings thereon) may elect to remain in the Plan and continue to be credited with fund earnings, or receive a lump-sum amount equal to the value of the participant's vested interest in his or her account. A terminated participant with an account balance of \$5,000 or less will automatically receive a lump-sum distribution.

Forfeited Accounts – Forfeited balances of terminated participants' non-vested accounts are used to reduce employer contributions. As of December 31, 2017 and 2016, forfeited account balances amounted to \$1,984 and \$9,831, respectively. During 2017, \$14,006 of forfeited non-vested accounts were used to reduce employer contributions.

Administrative Expenses – Administrative expenses of the Plan may be paid by the Company; otherwise, such expenses are paid by the Plan. Fees for participants' distributions, withdrawals and similar expenses are paid by the Plan.

Transfers to Affiliated Plans – Net transfers of participant account balances to affiliated plans of the Company totaled \$280,937 for the year ended December 31, 2017.

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2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Accounting – The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (“U.S. GAAP”).

Use of Estimates – The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported and related disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties – The Plan invests in various securities, including mutual funds, common/collective trusts and Avis Budget Group, Inc. common stock. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate and credit risks and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes would materially affect participant account balances and the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Cash and Cash Equivalents – The Plan considers highly liquid investments with an original maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Valuation of Investments and Income Recognition – The Plan’s investments are stated at fair value, which the Plan classifies as follows: (i) Level 1, which refers to securities valued using quoted prices from active markets for identical assets, includes the common stock of publicly traded companies, mutual funds with quoted market prices and common/collective trusts with quoted market prices which operate similar to mutual funds, (ii) Level 2, which refers to securities for which significant other observable market inputs are readily available including common/collective trusts for which quoted market prices are not readily available and (iii) Level 3, which refers to securities valued based on significant unobservable inputs.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Securities traded on a national securities exchange are valued at the last reported sales price on the last business day of the Plan year. Mutual funds are valued at the quoted market price, which represents the net asset value of shares held by the Plan at year-end. Common/collective trusts are valued at the net asset value of the shares held by the Plan at year-end, which is based on the fair value of the underlying assets.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date and interest is recorded when earned. The accompanying statement of changes in net assets available for benefits presents net appreciation in fair value of investments, which includes unrealized gains and losses on investments held at December 31, 2017, realized gains and losses on investments sold during the year then ended and management and operating expenses associated with the Plan’s investments in mutual funds and common/collective trusts.

Management fees and operating expenses charged to the Plan for investments in the mutual funds and common/collective trusts are deducted from income earned on a daily basis and are not separately reflected. Consequently, management fees and operating expenses are reflected as a reduction of investment return for such investments.

Benefit Payments – Benefits paid to participants are recorded upon distribution. Amounts allocated to accounts of participants who have elected to withdraw from the Plan, but have not yet received distributions from the Plan, totaled \$916,377 and \$270,411 at December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

3. FEDERAL INCOME TAX STATUS

The IRS determined and informed the Company by letter dated April 4, 2017 that the Plan and related trust are designed in accordance with applicable sections of the IRC. The Plan has been amended since receiving this determination letter. However, the Plan Administrator and the Plan's counsel believe that the Plan is designed and is currently being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC and that the Plan and related trust continue to be tax exempt. Therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the Plan's financial statements.

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U.S. GAAP requires Plan management to evaluate uncertain tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the organization has taken an uncertain tax position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS.

4. EXEMPT PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Loans to participants qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

At December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Plan held 503,662 and 600,267 shares, respectively, of Avis Budget Group, Inc. common stock with a cost basis of \$7,564,889 and \$9,137,124, respectively. During 2017 and 2016, the Plan did not receive dividend income from Avis Budget Group, Inc., which is the sponsoring employer of the Plan.

5. PLAN TERMINATION

Although the Company has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company reserves the right to modify, suspend, amend or terminate the Plan in whole or in part at any time subject to the provisions of ERISA.

6. RECONCILIATION TO FORM 5500

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

	2017	2016
Net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$669,450,156	\$617,259,722
Less: Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants	(916,377)	(270,411)
Net assets available for benefits per Form 5500	\$668,533,779	\$616,989,311

The following is a reconciliation of benefits paid to participants per the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 to Form 5500:

Benefits paid to participants per the financial statements	\$74,918,494
Less: Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants at December 31, 2016	(270,411)
Certain deemed distributions of notes receivable from participants	(1,762,379)
Add: Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants at December 31, 2017	916,377
Benefits paid to participants per Form 5500	\$73,802,081

Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants are recorded on the Form 5500 for benefit claims that have been processed and approved for payment prior to December 31, 2017, but not yet paid as of that date.

The following is a reconciliation of changes in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017 to the net income per Form 5500:

Increase in net assets available for benefits per the financial statements	\$52,190,434
Less: Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants at December 31, 2017	(916,377)
Add: Amounts allocated to withdrawing participants at December 31, 2016	270,411
Net transfer of assets from the Plan (Reflected in line L-Transfer of assets on Form 5500)	280,937
Net income per Form 5500	\$51,825,405

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The Plan measures certain financial assets and liabilities at fair value. The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques used need to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. See Note 2-Summary of Significant Accounting Policies for the Plan's valuation methodology used to measure fair value.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets and liabilities measured at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2017 and 2016.

Cash and cash equivalents – Money market funds are valued at the closing price reported from an actively traded exchange and are classified as Level 1. Certificates of deposit are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value and are classified as Level 2.

Avis Budget Group, Inc. common stock – The fair value of Avis Budget Group, Inc. common stock is valued at the closing price reported on the active markets on which the security is traded. As such, these assets are classified as Level 1.

Mutual funds – Valued at the net asset value (“NAV”) of shares held by the Plan at year end. NAV is derived by the quoted prices of underlying investments and are classified as Level 1.

Common/collective trusts – are valued based on the NAV of units held by the Plan at year-end. Although the common/collective trusts are not available in an active market, the NAV of the units are approximated based on the quoted prices of the underlying investments that are traded in an active market. The NAV is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value and would not be used if it is determined to be probable that the Plan would sell these investments for an amount different from the reported NAV. These investments are not included in the fair value hierarchy.

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 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 at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2017:

Asset Class _____	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$919,665	\$9,345,657	\$10,265,322
Common stock	22,100,676	—	22,100,676
Mutual funds	356,883,484	—	356,883,484
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	\$379,903,825	\$9,345,657	389,249,482
Investments measured using net asset value per share practical expedient ^(a)			266,848,666
Investments, at fair value			\$656,098,148

^(a) In accordance with Subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share practical expedient of the fund (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

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The following table sets forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's investments at fair value as of December 31, 2016:

Asset Class	Level 1	Level 2	Total
Cash and cash equivalents	\$270,279	\$9,839,948	\$10,110,227
Common stock	22,017,777	—	22,017,777
Mutual funds	323,194,534	—	323,194,534
Total assets in the fair value hierarchy	\$345,482,590	\$9,839,948	355,322,538
Investments measured using net asset value per share practical expedient ^(a)			248,536,864
Investments, at fair value			\$603,859,402

^(a) In accordance with Subtopic 820-10, certain investments that were measured at net asset value per share practical expedient of the fund (or its equivalent) have not been classified in the fair value hierarchy. The amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the line items presented in the statement of net assets available for benefits.

The following table summarizes investments for which fair value is measured using the net asset value per share practical expedient as of December 31, 2017 and 2016. There are no participant redemption restrictions for these investments; the redemption notice period is applicable only to the Plan.

Fund	2017 Fair Value	2016 Fair Value	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency (if Currently Eligible)	Redemption Notice Period
Common/collective trusts	\$266,848,666	\$248,536,864	N/A	Daily	None

8. NONEXEMPT TRANSACTIONS

As reported on the supplemental schedule of delinquent participant contributions (Schedule H, Line 4a), certain Plan contributions were not remitted to the trust within the time frame specified by the Department of Labor's Regulation 29 (CFR 2510.3-102), thus constituting nonexempt transactions between the Plan and the Company for the year ended December 31, 2017.

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Plan Number: 002
 EIN: 06-0918165
 AVIS BUDGET
 GROUP, INC.
 EMPLOYEE
 SAVINGS PLAN

FORM 5500,
 SCHEDULE H,
 PART IV, LINE 4i
 - SCHEDULE OF
 ASSETS (HELD
 AT END OF
 YEAR)
 AS OF
 DECEMBER 31,
 2017

Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor or Similar Party	Description of Investment	Number of Shares, Units or Par Value	Cost ***	Current Value
* Avis Budget Group, Inc.	Common stock	503,662		\$22,100,676
Wells Fargo Stable Return Fund	Common/collective trust	1,951,949		102,848,176
State Street S&P 500 Index Fund	Common/collective trust	3,240,234		80,305,949
Northern Trust Extended Equity Market Fund	Common/collective trust	290,850		38,781,925
Openheimer International Growth Trust	Common/collective trust	745,161		19,277,310
Northern Trust Collective All Country World Ex-US Index Fund	Common/collective trust	62,920		10,998,414
Harding Loevner Emerging Markets Fund	Common/collective trust	685,395		10,945,765
BlackRock US Debt Index Fund	Common/collective trust	173,289		3,691,127
The Oakmark Equity and Income Fund	Registered investment fund	1,974,194		63,549,312
American Growth Fund of America	Registered investment fund	1,276,510		63,174,499
Federated Total Return Bond Fund	Registered investment fund	5,514,857		60,111,945
Harbor Small Cap Value Fund	Registered investment fund	1,195,793		43,407,302
MFS Value Fund	Registered investment fund	782,578		31,741,374
Prudential Jennison Growth Fund	Registered investment fund	691,362		26,921,640
Harbor International Fund	Registered investment fund	364,327		24,599,382
Deutsche Real Estate Fund	Registered investment fund	733,849		14,941,166

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Vanguard Explorer Admiral Fund	Registered investment fund	168,337	14,882,698
Lord Abbett Bond Debenture Fund	Registered investment fund	1,158,594	9,512,060
Vanguard Inflation-Protected Securities Fund	Registered investment fund	157,895	4,042,106
* Various participants**	Participant loans		12,241,948
Certificates of Deposit	Cash and cash equivalents		9,345,657
Money Market Funds	Cash and cash equivalents		919,665
Total			\$668,340,096

* Represents a permitted party-in-interest.

** Maturity dates range from January 2018 to November 2032. Interest rates range from 4.25% to 10.00%.

*** Cost information is not required for participant-directed investments.

See Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

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Plan Number: 002
 EIN: 06-0918165

AVIS BUDGET GROUP, INC. EMPLOYEE SAVINGS PLAN

FORM 5500, SCHEDULE H, PART IV, LINE 4a - SCHEDULE OF DELINQUENT PARTICIPANT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

Participant Contributions Transferred Late to Plan	Total that Constitute Nonexempt Prohibited Transactions	Contributions Corrected	Contributions Pending	Total Fully Corrected Under VFCP and PTE 2002-51
\$13,677,726	\$-	-\$	\$1,392,139	\$12,285,587

Check here if Late Participant Loan Repayments are included:
 See Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm.

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SIGNATURE

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.

Avis Budget Group, Inc. Employee Savings Plan

By: /s/ Edward P. Linnen
Edward P. Linnen
Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer
Avis Budget Group, Inc.

Date: June 27, 2018