

## Pensionomics 2021:

### *Measuring the Economic Impact of DB Pension Expenditures*

#### Key Findings

Benefits paid by state and local pension plans support a significant amount of economic activity in the state of Massachusetts.

Pension benefits received by retirees are spent in the local community. This spending ripples through the economy, as one person's spending becomes another person's income, creating a multiplier effect.

In 2018, expenditures stemming from state and local pensions supported...

- 62,533 jobs that paid \$4.2 billion in wages and salaries
- \$11.4 billion in total economic output
- \$1.7 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues

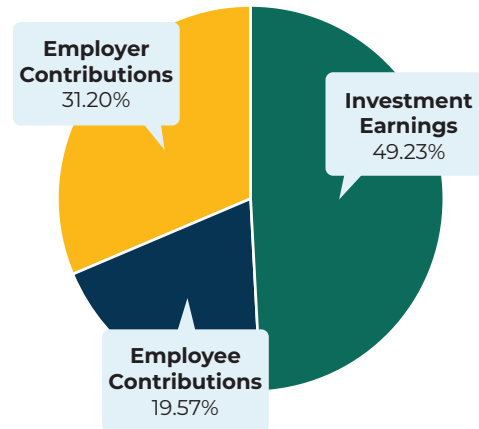
... in the state of Massachusetts.

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.60 in total economic activity in Massachusetts.

Each dollar "invested" by Massachusetts taxpayers in these pension plans supported \$5.13 in total economic activity in the state.

#### Overview

Expenditures made by retirees of state and local government provide a steady economic stimulus to Massachusetts communities and the state economy. In 2018, 230,186 residents of Massachusetts received a total of \$7.1 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans.



The average pension benefit received was \$2,585 per month or \$31,017 per year. These modest benefits provide retired teachers, public safety personnel, and others who served the public during their working careers income to meet basic needs in retirement.

Between 1993 and 2018, 31.20% of Massachusetts's pension fund receipts came from employer contributions, 19.57% from employee contributions, and 49.23% from investment earnings.\* Earnings on investments and employee contributions—not taxpayer based contributions—have historically made up the bulk of pension fund receipts.

#### Impact on Jobs and Incomes

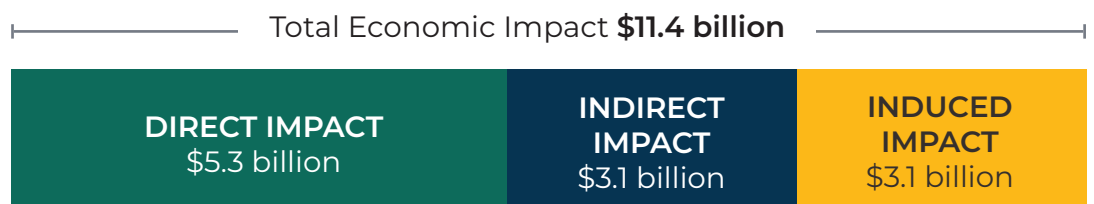
Retiree expenditures stemming from state and local pension plan benefits supported 62,533 jobs in the state. The total income to state residents supported by pension expenditures was \$4.2 billion.

To put these employment impacts in perspective, in 2018 Massachusetts's unemployment rate was 3.4%. The fact that DB pension expenditures supported 62,533 jobs is significant, as it represents 1.72 percentage points in Massachusetts's labor force.

#### Economic Impact

State and local pension funds in Massachusetts and other states paid a total of \$7.1 billion in benefits to Massachusetts residents in 2018. Retirees' expenditures from these benefits supported a total of \$11.4 billion in total economic output in the state, and \$7.1 billion in value added in the state.

\$5.3 billion in direct economic impacts were supported by retirees' initial expenditures. An additional \$3.1 billion in indirect impact resulted when these businesses purchased additional goods and services. \$3.1 billion in induced impacts occurred when workers employed by businesses as a result of the direct and indirect impacts made expenditures.



## Economic Multipliers

### Taxpayer Contribution Factor\*



**\$1.00**

contributed by taxpayers to  
Massachusetts pensions over  
30 years



**\$5.13**

total output



Each \$1 in taxpayer contributions to Massachusetts's state and local pension plans supported \$5.13 in total output in the state. This reflects the fact that taxpayer contributions are a minor source of financing for retirement benefits—investment earnings and employee contributions finance the lion's share.

### Pension Benefit Multiplier



**\$1.00**

pension benefits paid to  
retirees in Massachusetts



**\$1.60**

total output



Each \$1 in state and local pension benefits paid to Massachusetts residents ultimately supported \$1.60 in total output in the state. This "multiplier" incorporates the direct, indirect, and induced impacts of retiree spending, as it ripples through the state economy.

\*Caution should be used in interpreting these numbers. See the Technical Appendix of the full *Pensionomics* report for details.

## Impact on Tax Revenues

State and local pension payments made to Massachusetts residents supported a total of \$1.7 billion in revenue to federal, state, and local governments. Taxes paid by retirees and beneficiaries directly out of pension payments totaled \$221.3 million. Taxes attributable to direct, indirect, and induced impacts accounted for \$1.5 billion in tax revenue.

Federal Tax	\$1.1 billion
State/Local Tax	\$573.8 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1.7 billion</b>

## Economic Impacts by Industry Sector

The economic impact of state and local pension benefits was broadly felt across various industry sectors in Massachusetts. The ten industry sectors with the largest employment impacts are presented in the table below.

Industry	Employment Impact (# Jobs)	Labor Income Impact	Value Added Impact	Output Impact
Hospitals	3,698.80	\$356,384,807	\$418,707,128	\$728,395,833
Full-service restaurants	2,680.80	\$85,376,939	\$126,433,243	\$205,168,530
Limited-service restaurants	2,151.90	\$60,661,983	\$94,189,444	\$184,576,993
Nursing and community care facilities	2,000.60	\$96,655,313	\$106,995,777	\$175,448,120
Offices of physicians	1,832.40	\$230,105,620	\$268,453,256	\$377,472,957
Retail - Food and beverage stores	1,819.70	\$63,377,740	\$77,573,349	\$130,341,586
Other real estate	1,793.60	\$55,934,528	\$187,288,807	\$397,619,269
Individual and family services	1,486.80	\$51,130,732	\$46,340,897	\$66,769,006
All other food and drinking places	1,199.10	\$45,827,132	\$58,781,586	\$85,418,166
Home health care services	1,181.80	\$62,880,384	\$43,027,264	\$58,555,297

Industry totals include the first round of impacts from pension payments to state residents, and do not account for recaptured "leakage" to or from other states.