#### **UTAH**

# **Key Findings**

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

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 2020, expenditures stemming from state and local pensions supported...

16,896 jobs that paid \$837.7 million in wages and salaries

\$2.8 billion in total economic output

\$382.6 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues

... in the state of Utah.

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

Each dollar "invested" by Utah taxpayers in these pension plans supported \$5.08 in total economic activity in the state.

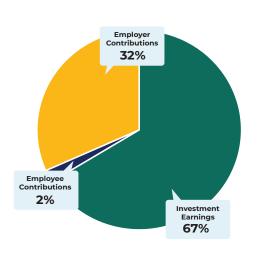
## Pensionomics 2023:



Measuring the Economic Impact of DB Pension Expenditures

#### Overview

Expenditures made by retirees of state and local government provide a steady economic stimulus to Utah communities and the state economy. In 2020, 70,019 residents of Utah received a total of \$1.8 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans.



The average pension benefit received was \$2,090 per month or \$25,075 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 2020, 32% of Utah's pension fund receipts came from employer contributions, 2% from employee contributions, and 67% 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 16,896 jobs in the state. The total income to state residents supported by pension expenditures was \$837.7 million.

To put these employment impacts in perspective, in 2020 Utah's unemployment rate was 4.7%. The fact that DB pension expenditures supported 16,896 jobs is significant, as it represents 1.0% percentage points in Utah's labor force.

## **Economic Impact**

State and local pension funds in Utah and other states paid a total of \$1.8 billion in benefits to Utah residents in 2020. Retirees' expenditures from these benefits supported a total of \$2.8 billion in total economic output in the state, and \$1.6 billion in value added in the state.

### **Impact on Tax Revenues**

State and local pension payments made to Utah residents supported a total of \$382.6 million in revenue to federal, state, and local governments. Taxes paid by retirees and beneficiaries directly out of pension payments totaled \$106.0 million. Taxes attributable to pension expenditures in the local economy accounted for \$276.6 million in tax revenue.

Federal Tax	\$120.8 million	
State/Local Tax	\$261.8 million	
Total	\$382.6 million	

### **Economic Multipliers**

#### Pension Benefit Multiplier



\$1.00 pension benefits paid to retirees in Utah





\$1.60 total output

Each \$1 in state and local pension benefits paid to Utah residents ultimately supported \$1.60 in total output in the state. This "multiplier" incorporates multiple rounds of impacts of retiree spending, as each purchase ripples through the state economy.

#### **Taxpayer Investment Factor**





Utah pensions over 30 years





Each \$1 in taxpayer contributions to Utah's state and local pension plans supported \$5.08 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.

### **Economic Impacts by Industry Sector**

The economic impact of state and local pension benefits was broadly felt across various industry sectors in Utah. The five industry sectors with the largest employment impacts are presented in the table to the side.

Industry	Employment Impact (# Jobs)
Limited-service restaurants	984
Hospitals	753
Other real estate	690
Retail- general merchandise stores	570
Full-service restaurants	523

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.

## **Economic Impacts by Occupation Category**

The pension benefits in Utah supported jobs in every civilian job category, as shown in the table below.

Occupation Category	Wage and Salary Employment	Wage and Salary Income	Supplements to Wages and Salaries	Employee Compensation
Sales and Related Occupations	1,838	\$70,489,216	\$13,135,192	\$83,624,408
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	1,700	\$33,229,367	\$5,946,425	\$39,175,793
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	1,641	\$70,611,681	\$14,005,899	\$84,617,581
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	1,261	\$50,737,656	\$10,830,630	\$61,568,286
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	1,008	\$83,048,586	\$17,776,630	\$100,825,217

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