

Pensionomics 2014:

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 Washington.

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 2012, expenditures stemming from state and local pensions supported...

- 32,500 jobs that paid \$1.6 billion in wages and salaries
- \$5.0 billion in total economic output
- \$720.4 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues

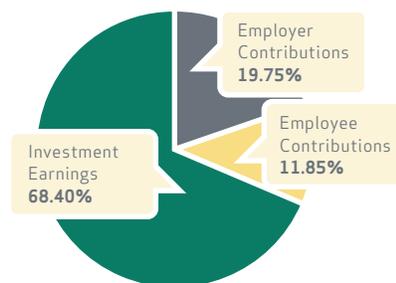
... in the state of Washington.

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.41 in total economic activity in Washington.

Each dollar "invested" by Washington taxpayers in these plans supported \$7.41 in total economic activity in the state.

Overview

Expenditures made by retirees of state and local government provide a steady economic contribution to Washington communities and the state economy. In 2012, 149,628 residents of Washington received a total of \$3.3 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans.



The average pension benefit received was \$1,863 per month or \$22,359 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 2012, 19.75% of Washington's pension fund receipts came from employer contributions, 11.85% from employee contributions, and 68.40% from investment earnings. Earnings on investments and employee contributions—not taxpayer 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 32,500 jobs in the state. The total income to state residents supported by pension expenditures was \$1.6 billion.

To put these employment impacts in perspective, in 2012 Washington's unemployment rate was 8.1%. The fact that DB pension expenditures supported 32,500 jobs is significant, as it represents 0.9 percentage points in Washington's labor force.

Economic Impact

State and local pension funds in Washington and other states paid a total of \$3.3 billion in benefits to Washington residents in 2012. Retirees' expenditures from these benefits supported a total of \$5.0 billion in total economic output in the state, and \$3.1 billion in value added in the state.

\$2.4 billion in direct economic impacts were supported by retirees' initial expenditures. An additional \$1.5 billion in indirect impact resulted when these businesses purchased additional goods and services. \$1.2 billion in induced impacts occurred when workers employed by businesses as a result of the direct and indirect impacts made expenditures.

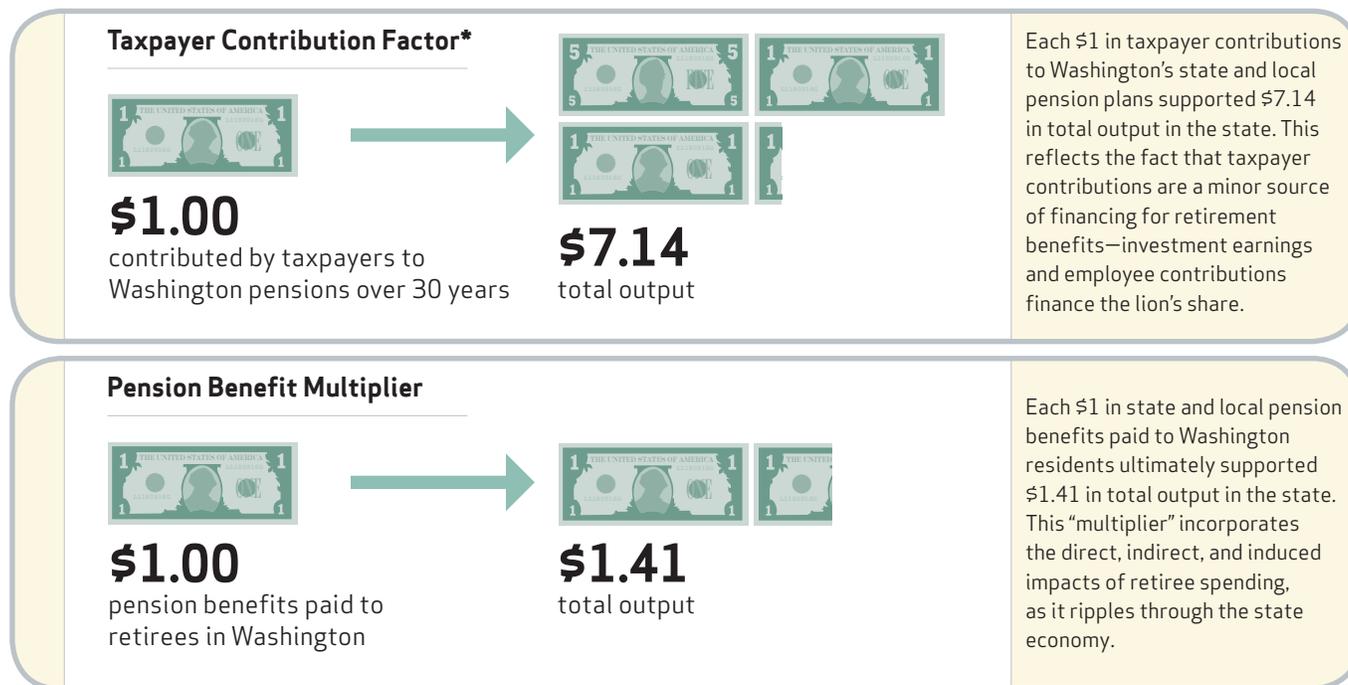
————— Total Economic Impact **\$5.0 billion** —————

**DIRECT
IMPACT**
\$2.4 billion

**INDIRECT
IMPACT**
\$1.5 billion

**INDUCED
IMPACT**
\$1.2 billion

Economic Multipliers



*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 Washington residents supported a total of \$720.4 million in revenue to federal, state, and local governments. Taxes paid by retirees and beneficiaries directly out of pension payments totaled \$26.8 million. Taxes attributable to direct, indirect and induced impacts accounted for \$693.6 million in tax revenue.

Federal Tax	\$420.1 million
State/Local Tax	\$300.3 million
Total	\$720.4 million

Economic Impacts by Industry Sector

The economic impact of state and local pension benefits was broadly felt across various industry sectors in Washington. 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
Food Services and Drinking Places	2,878	\$73,446,382	\$116,912,328	\$188,545,790
Physicians, Dentists, and other Health Practitioners	1,883	\$148,977,908	\$152,736,597	\$229,412,137
Real Estate Establishments	1,837	\$33,090,256	\$265,405,878	\$316,741,999
Private Hospitals	1,265	\$106,450,706	\$119,142,047	\$192,635,160
Wholesale Trade Businesses	1,119	\$93,154,124	\$170,818,111	\$251,340,732
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	1,077	\$39,259,524	\$45,640,757	\$65,458,490
Retail Stores - General Merchandise	824	\$28,758,003	\$51,641,309	\$61,004,210
Retail Stores - Food and Beverage	808	\$31,407,894	\$46,902,544	\$60,249,499
Individual and Family Services	646	\$16,846,191	\$16,621,460	\$24,647,311
Retail Stores - Motor Vehicle and Parts	561	\$31,827,412	\$43,079,438	\$57,358,244

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.