

FLORIDA

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 Florida.

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...

- 123,246 jobs that paid \$5.9 billion in wages and salaries
- \$19.5 billion in total economic output
- \$2.7 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues

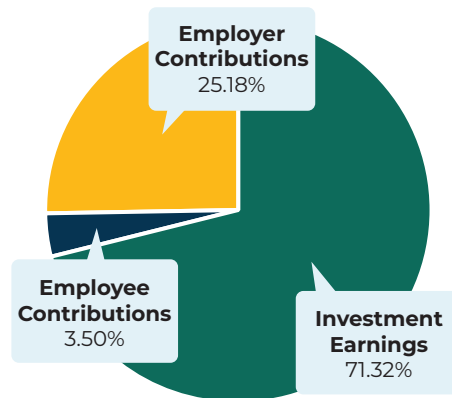
... in the state of Florida.

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.68 in total economic activity in Florida.

Each dollar "invested" by Florida taxpayers in these pension plans supported \$6.67 in total economic activity in the state.

Overview

Expenditures made by retirees of state and local government provide a steady economic stimulus to Florida communities and the state economy. In 2018, 471,769 residents of Florida received a total of \$11.6 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans.



The average pension benefit received was \$2,051 per month or \$24,611 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, 25.18% of Florida's pension fund receipts came from employer contributions, 3.50% from employee contributions, and 71.32% 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 123,246 jobs in the state. The total income to state residents supported by pension expenditures was \$5.9 billion.

To put these employment impacts in perspective, in 2018 Florida's unemployment rate was 3.6%. The fact that DB pension expenditures supported 123,246 jobs is significant, as it represents 1.40 percentage points in Florida's labor force.

Economic Impact

State and local pension funds in Florida and other states paid a total of \$11.6 billion in benefits to Florida residents in 2018. Retirees' expenditures from these benefits supported a total of \$19.5 billion in total economic output in the state, and \$10.8 billion in value added in the state.

\$8.7 billion in direct economic impacts were supported by retirees' initial expenditures. An additional \$5.9 billion in indirect impact resulted when these businesses purchased additional goods and services. \$4.9 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
 Florida pensions over 30
 years



\$6.67
 total output



Each \$1 in taxpayer contributions to Florida's state and local pension plans supported \$6.67 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 Florida



\$1.68
 total output



Each \$1 in state and local pension benefits paid to Florida residents ultimately supported \$1.68 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 Florida residents supported a total of \$2.7 billion in revenue to federal, state, and local governments. Taxes paid by retirees and beneficiaries directly out of pension payments totaled \$359.9 million. Taxes attributable to direct, indirect, and induced impacts accounted for \$2.3 billion in tax revenue.

Federal Tax	\$1.7 billion
State/Local Tax	\$1.0 billion
Total	\$2.7 billion

Economic Impacts by Industry Sector

The economic impact of state and local pension benefits was broadly felt across various industry sectors in Florida. 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
Full-service restaurants	6,144.50	\$171,964,504	\$255,812,636	\$435,721,283
Limited-service restaurants	5,850.10	\$126,920,510	\$207,688,261	\$452,628,016
Hospitals	5,384.50	\$400,659,687	\$481,045,350	\$932,375,475
Other real estate	4,209.40	\$79,368,476	\$278,194,103	\$772,449,859
Offices of physicians	3,903.10	\$386,577,905	\$466,397,691	\$698,983,811
Retail - Food and beverage stores	3,274.80	\$96,897,852	\$143,507,305	\$238,449,043
Retail - General merchandise stores	3,193.40	\$97,504,246	\$145,902,130	\$233,343,941
Nursing and community care facilities	2,794.80	\$108,941,599	\$123,439,454	\$218,946,981
Other financial investment activities	2,356.20	\$45,162,144	\$52,310,477	\$242,517,616
Offices of other health practitioners	2,103.60	\$102,514,357	\$94,496,997	\$143,361,469

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.