

Pensionomics 2023:

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 Ohio.

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...

129,688 jobs that paid \$7.0 billion in wages and salaries

\$21.7 billion in total economic output

\$2.8 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues

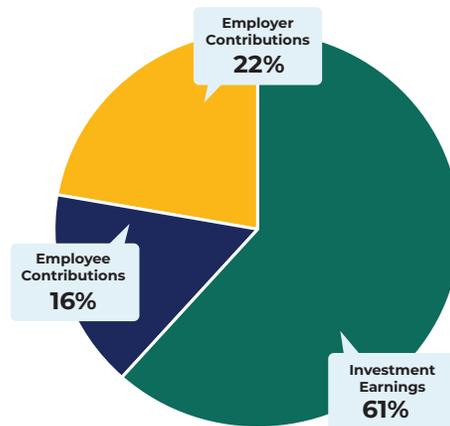
... in the state of Ohio.

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.34 in total economic activity in Ohio.

Each dollar "invested" by Ohio taxpayers in these pension plans supported \$5.98 in total economic activity in the state.

Overview

Expenditures made by retirees of state and local government provide a steady economic stimulus to Ohio communities and the state economy. In 2020, 492,723 residents of Ohio received a total of \$16.2 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans.



The average pension benefit received was \$2,741 per month or \$32,898 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, 22% of Ohio's pension fund receipts came from employer contributions, 16% from employee contributions, and 61% 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 129,688 jobs in the state. The total income to state residents supported by pension expenditures was \$7.0 billion.

To put these employment impacts in perspective, in 2020 Ohio's unemployment rate was 8.2%. The fact that DB pension expenditures supported 129,688 jobs is significant, as it represents 2.3 percentage points in Ohio's labor force.

Economic Impact

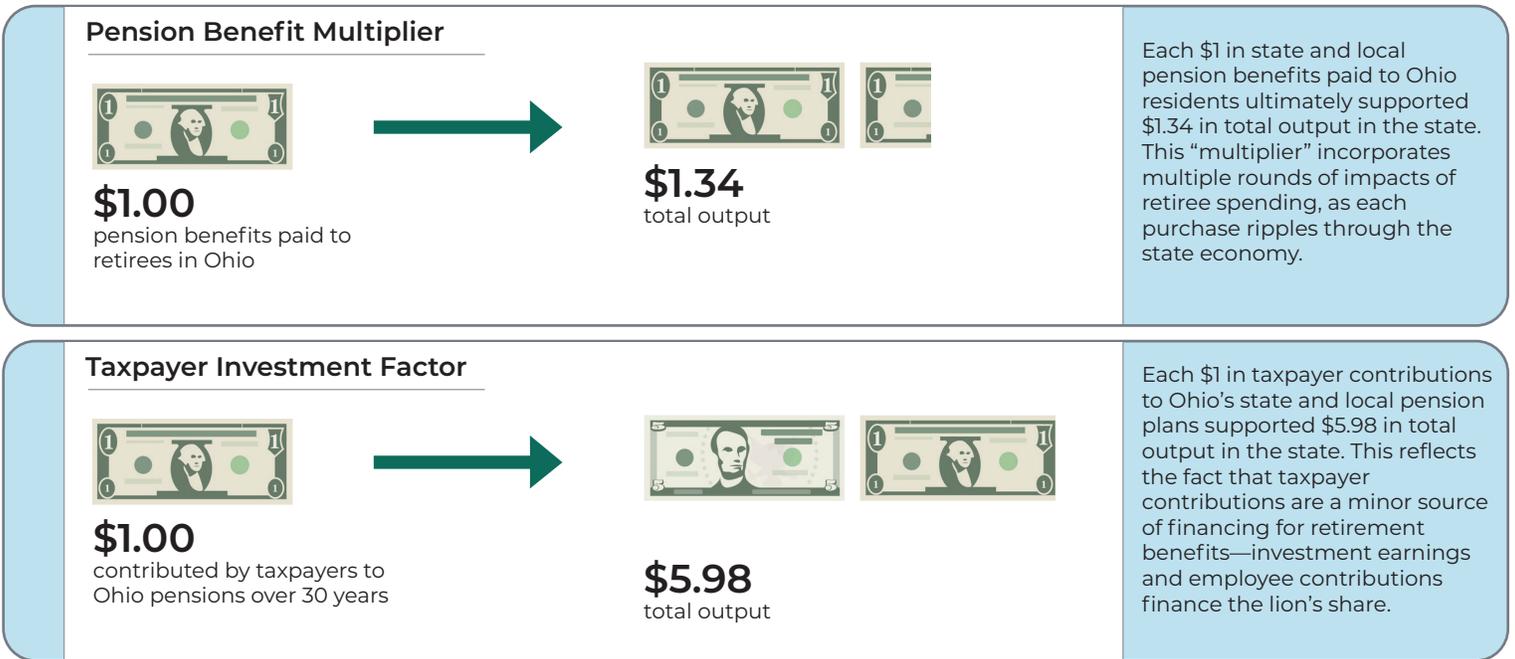
State and local pension funds in Ohio and other states paid a total of \$16.2 billion in benefits to Ohio residents in 2020. Retirees' expenditures from these benefits supported a total of \$21.7 billion in total economic output in the state, and \$12.6 billion in value added in the state.

Impact on Tax Revenues

State and local pension payments made to Ohio residents supported a total of \$2.8 billion in revenue to federal, state, and local governments. Taxes paid by retirees and beneficiaries directly out of pension payments totaled \$483.8 million. Taxes attributable to pension expenditures in the local economy accounted for \$2.3 billion in tax revenue.

Federal Tax	\$957.7 million
State/Local Tax	\$1.8 billion
Total	\$2.8 billion

Economic Multipliers



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

Economic Impacts by Industry Sector

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

Industry	Employment Impact (# Jobs)
Hospitals	10,187
Limited-service restaurants	6,847
Full-service restaurants	4,967
Offices of physicians	4,578
Other real estate	3,865

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 Ohio 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
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	13,402	\$256,470,008	\$46,056,103	\$302,526,111
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	13,144	\$587,608,350	\$117,697,032	\$705,305,382
Sales and Related Occupations	12,518	\$472,280,676	\$87,323,001	\$559,603,678
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	11,146	\$988,190,578	\$213,017,774	\$1,201,208,352
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	8,951	\$353,640,412	\$72,067,139	\$425,707,552