COLORADO

Key Findings

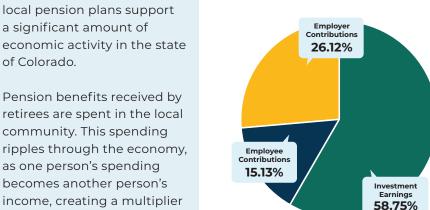
Pensionomics 2025:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON Retirement Security

Measuring the Economic Impact of DB Pension Expenditures

Overview

Expenditures made by retirees of state and local government provide a steady economic stimulus to Colorado communities and the state economy. In 2022, 164,246 residents of Colorado received a total of \$6.7 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans.



The average pension benefit received was \$3,396 per month or \$40,756 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 2022, 26.12% of Colorado's pension fund receipts came from employer contributions, 15.13% from employee contributions, and 58.75% from investment earnings.* Earnings on investments and employee contributions—not taxpayer based contributions—have historically made up the bulk of pension fund receipts.

Benefits paid by state and

local pension plans support a significant amount of economic activity in the state of Colorado.

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 2022, expenditures stemming from state and local pensions supported...

45,999 jobs that paid \$2.9 billion in wages and salaries

\$9.2 billion in total economic output

\$1.4 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues

... in the state of Colorado.

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.37 in total economic activity in Colorado.

Each dollar "invested" by Colorado taxpayers in these pension plans supported \$5.25 in total economic activity in the state.

Impact on Jobs and Incomes

Retiree expenditures stemming from state and local pension plan benefits supported 45,999 jobs in the state. The total income to state residents supported by pension expenditures was \$2.9 billion.

To put these employment impacts in perspective, in 2022 Colorado's unemployment rate was 3.1%. The fact that DB pension expenditures supported 45,999 jobs is significant, as it represents 1.4 percentage points in Colorado's labor force.

Economic Impact

State and local pension funds in Colorado and other states paid a total of \$6.7 billion in benefits to Colorado residents in 2022. Retirees' expenditures from these benefits supported a total of \$9.2 billion in total economic output in the state, and \$5.5 billion in value added in the state.

Impact on Tax Revenues

State and local pension payments made to Colorado residents supported a total of \$1.4 billion in revenue to federal, state, and local governments. Taxes paid by retirees and beneficiaries directly out of pension payments totaled \$157.6 million. Taxes attributable to pension expenditures in the local economy accounted for \$1.3 billion in tax revenue.

Federal Tax	\$793.2 million	
State/Local Tax	\$648.4 million	
Total	\$1.4 billion	

Economic Multipliers

Pension Benefit Multiplier



retirees in Colorado









Each \$1 in state and local pension benefits paid to Colorado residents ultimately supported \$1.37 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











Each \$1 in taxpayer contributions to Colorado's state and local pension plans supported \$5.25 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 Colorado. The five industry sectors with the largest employment impacts are presented in the table to the side.

Industry	Employment Impact (# Jobs)
Limited-service restaurants	2,795
Full-service restaurants	2,217
Hospitals	1,524
Other real estate	1,499
Tenant-occupied housing	1,269

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 Colorado 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	4,917	\$120,662,747	\$21,436,559	\$142,099,306
Sales and Related Occupations	4,335	\$196,092,320	\$35,998,931	\$232,091,251
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	4,083	\$212,433,888	\$41,595,153	\$254,029,041
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	2,920	\$130,575,578	\$26,741,146	\$157,316,723
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	2,498	\$242,950,932	\$51,672,841	\$294,623,774

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