

TEXAS

Key Findings

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

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

175,350 jobs that paid \$10.2 billion in wages and salaries

\$34.3 billion in total economic output

\$4.5 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues

... in the state of Texas.

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.51 in total economic activity in Texas.

Each dollar "invested" by Texas taxpayers in these pension plans supported \$6.45 in total economic activity in the state.

Pensionomics 2025:

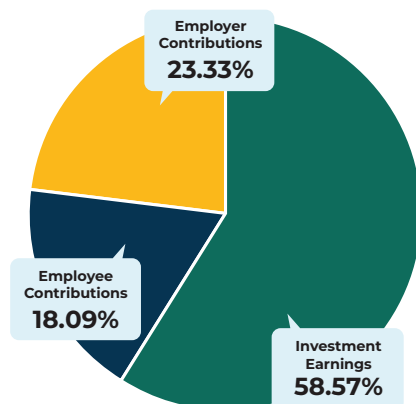
Measuring the Economic Impact of DB Pension Expenditures



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Overview

Expenditures made by retirees of state and local government provide a steady economic stimulus to Texas communities and the state economy. In 2022, 841,354 residents of Texas received a total of \$22.8 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans.



The average pension benefit received was \$2,257 per month or \$27,079 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, 23.33% of Texas's pension fund receipts came from employer contributions, 18.09% from employee contributions, and 58.57% 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 175,350 jobs in the state. The total income to state residents supported by pension expenditures was \$10.2 billion.

To put these employment impacts in perspective, in 2022 Texas's unemployment rate was 3.9%. The fact that DB pension expenditures supported 175,350 jobs is significant, as it represents 1.2 percentage points in Texas's labor force.

Economic Impact

State and local pension funds in Texas and other states paid a total of \$22.8 billion in benefits to Texas residents in 2022. Retirees' expenditures from these benefits supported a total of \$34.3 billion in total economic output in the state, and \$19.5 billion in value added in the state.

Impact on Tax Revenues

State and local pension payments made to Texas residents supported a total of \$4.5 billion in revenue to federal, state, and local governments. Taxes paid by retirees and beneficiaries directly out of pension payments totaled \$221.9 million. Taxes attributable to pension expenditures in the local economy accounted for \$4.3 billion in tax revenue.

Federal Tax	\$2.7 billion
State/Local Tax	\$1.8 billion
Total	\$4.5 billion

Pension Benefit Multiplier



pension benefits paid to retirees in Texas



total output



Each \$1 in state and local pension benefits paid to Texas residents ultimately supported \$1.51 in total output in the state. This “multiplier” incorporates multiple rounds of impacts of retiree spending, as each purchase ripples through the state economy.

contributed by taxpayers to Texas pensions over 30 years



total output

Each \$1 in taxpayer contributions to Texas's state and local pension plans supported \$6.45 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.

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

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.

The pension benefits in Texas 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	18,751	\$397,022,200	\$70,827,185	\$467,849,385
Sales and Related Occupations	17,142	\$731,726,012	\$135,119,883	\$866,845,895
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	16,212	\$799,590,546	\$155,627,194	\$955,217,740
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	11,508	\$496,035,886	\$101,903,937	\$597,939,822
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	10,699	\$983,017,331	\$209,878,542	\$1,192,895,873