

ALABAMA

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 Alabama.

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...

- 36,063 jobs that paid \$1.4 billion in wages and salaries
- \$4.8 billion in total economic output
- \$559.2 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues

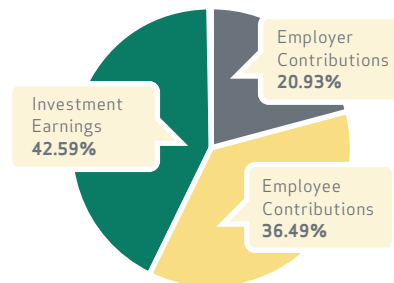
... in the state of Alabama.

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits supported \$1.63 in total economic activity in Alabama.

Each dollar "invested" by Alabama taxpayers in these plans supported \$7.79 in total economic activity in the state.

Overview

Expenditures made by retirees of state and local government provide a steady economic contribution to Alabama communities and the state economy. In 2012, 115,224 residents of Alabama received a total of \$2.9 billion in pension benefits from state and local pension plans.



The average pension benefit received was \$2,114 per month or \$25,367 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, 20.93% of Alabama's pension fund receipts came from

employer contributions, 36.49% from employee contributions, and 42.59% 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 36,063 jobs in the state. The total income to state residents supported by pension expenditures was \$1.4 billion.

To put these employment impacts in perspective, in 2012 Alabama's unemployment rate was 7.1%. The fact that DB pension expenditures supported 36,063 jobs is significant, as it represents 1.7 percentage points in Alabama's labor force.

Economic Impact

State and local pension funds in Alabama and other states paid a total of \$2.9 billion in benefits to Alabama residents in 2012. Retirees' expenditures from these benefits supported a total of \$4.8 billion in total economic output in the state, and \$2.6 billion in value added in the state.

\$2.6 billion in direct economic impacts were supported by retirees' initial expenditures. An additional \$1.3 billion in indirect impact resulted when these businesses purchased additional goods and services. \$868.7 million in induced impacts occurred when workers employed by businesses as a result of the direct and indirect impacts made expenditures.

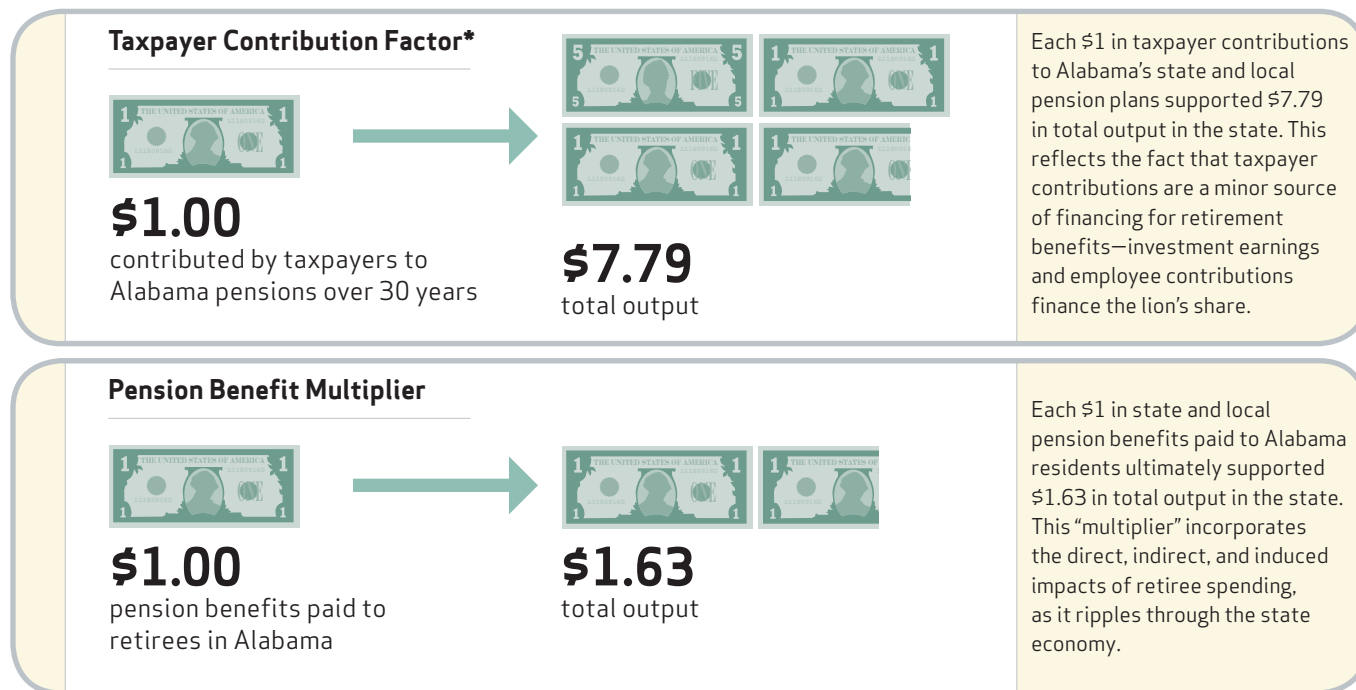
Total Economic Impact **\$4.8 billion**

**DIRECT
IMPACT**
\$2.6 billion

**INDIRECT
IMPACT**
\$1.3 billion

**INDUCED
IMPACT**
\$868.7 million

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 Alabama residents supported a total of \$559.2 million in revenue to federal, state, and local governments. Taxes paid by retirees and beneficiaries directly out of pension payments totaled \$23.4 million. Taxes attributable to direct, indirect and induced impacts accounted for \$535.8 million in tax revenue.

Federal Tax	\$328.8 million
State/Local Tax	\$230.4 million
Total	\$559.2 million

Economic Impacts by Industry Sector

The economic impact of state and local pension benefits was broadly felt across various industry sectors in Alabama. 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	3,268	\$63,403,944	\$95,331,197	\$176,672,356
Real Estate Establishments	2,149	\$29,865,721	\$203,562,722	\$263,609,306
Physicians, Dentists, and other Health Practitioners	1,684	\$140,794,507	\$143,402,177	\$211,966,973
Private Household Operations	1,476	\$4,327,664	\$4,327,664	\$4,327,664
Private Hospitals	1,374	\$81,408,321	\$93,102,446	\$172,928,948
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	1,238	\$38,837,498	\$45,868,778	\$68,645,428
Wholesale Trade Businesses	1,122	\$77,342,970	\$138,738,900	\$219,486,145
Retail Stores - General Merchandise	956	\$25,929,810	\$44,243,747	\$55,106,223
Retail Stores - Food and Beverage	917	\$24,914,353	\$35,232,181	\$50,372,681
Employment Services	747	\$16,646,454	\$18,573,175	\$23,293,885

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.