

# Finances of Selected Public Employee Retirement Systems

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Major retirement systems covering employees of State and local governments held \$134.7 billion in cash and investment securities as of March 31, 1979. This amount represents an increase of 2.8 percent over the December 31, 1978 holdings of \$131.0 billion.

More than 40 percent, \$57.2 billion, of this sum is in corporate bonds. Other major holdings include \$27.4 billion invested in corporate stocks and \$10.3 billion in mortgages. Corporate stocks are generally reported at cost; therefore, the amounts shown do not reflect stock market fluctuations.

Beginning with the March 31, 1978 report, holdings of Federal securities include both United States Treasury obligations and Federal agency securities. In prior reports Federal agency securities were included under "Other securities." As of March 31, 1979, U.S. Treasury obligations amounted to \$10.3 billion and Federal agency securities \$9.6 billion. State and local government securities totalled \$4.1 billion.

The total cash balance of \$1.5 billion includes interest-earning time deposits as well as demand accounts; therefore, this amount does not entirely represent uninvested funds.

Detailed data for receipts and benefit and withdrawal payments are presented by quarter in table 2. In the quarter ending March 31, 1979, receipts totaled \$7.5 billion. Of this total \$1.4 billion were from employee contributions, \$3.7 billion from government (employer) contributions, and \$2.5 billion from earnings on investments. Benefit and withdrawal payments totaled \$2.5 billion. Of this total, benefit payments were \$2.2 billion and withdrawals \$0.3 billion.

The current panel of 106 systems constitutes approximately 85 percent of total assets of the more than 3,000 public employee retirement systems identified in the 1977 Census of Governments. The proportionate share of nongovernmental securities (corporate bonds and stocks, mortgages, etc.) held by the selected funds is especially high.

The statistics in this report are based on a quarterly mail survey which covers the 106 public employee retirement systems in the United States with the largest amount of cash and security holdings. Usable replies are received each quarter from about nine-tenths of the systems canvassed. Estimates are developed for each of the remaining systems in the panel from the latest available data. Data in this report are subject to possible inaccuracies in classi-

## INTRODUCTION

fication, response, and processing. Every effort is made to keep such errors to a minimum through care in examining, editing, and tabulating the data submitted.

It should be noted that some systems report all or part of receipts and expenditures on an "accrued" basis, and in some

cases receipts are accrued but expenditures are on a cash basis. Therefore, the relationship between quarterly revenues and expenditures does not directly tie to an equivalent change in "Cash and security holdings." However, these differences in the quarterly series will generally be resolved in the course of the fiscal year.

**Table 1. Cash and Security Holdings of Major Public-Employee Retirement Systems as of March 31, 1979 and Prior Periods**  
(Millions of dollars)

Date	Cash and security holdings									
	Total <sup>1</sup>	Cash and deposits	Federal securities <sup>1</sup>			State and local government securities	Corporate bonds	Corporate stocks	Mortgages	Other securities
			Total <sup>1</sup>	United States Treasury	Federal agency					
March 31, 1979.....	134,671	1,459	19,903	10,296	9,607	4,085	57,179	27,405	10,295	14,345
December 31, 1978...	130,974	1,229	18,739	9,511	9,228	3,963	56,713	26,983	10,097	13,250
September 30, 1978..	126,205	1,270	15,791	8,392	7,399	3,691	57,032	26,389	9,815	12,217
June 30, 1978.....	123,015	1,082	14,614	7,555	7,059	3,741	56,506	25,796	9,669	11,607
March 31, 1978.....	118,329	912	13,179	6,203	6,976	3,378	55,881	25,347	9,220	10,412
December 31, 1977...	115,727	743	11,764	5,584	6,180	3,483	55,540	24,972	9,090	10,135
September 30, 1977..	112,725	771	11,773	5,767	6,006	3,448	54,622	24,629	8,912	8,930
June 30, 1977.....	109,768	718	11,388	5,690	5,698	3,489	53,816	23,490	8,523	8,344
March 31, 1977.....	105,812	564	10,008	4,161	5,847	2,967	53,424	22,966	8,148	7,735
December 31, 1976...	105,394	575	9,060	3,792	5,268	3,836	52,921	22,494	8,279	7,229
September 30, 1976..	102,550	515	8,728	3,227	5,501	4,204	53,868	21,902	7,749	6,584
June 30, 1976.....	99,661	545	7,479	2,620	4,859	4,104	52,345	21,318	7,492	6,378
March 31, 1976.....	95,742	475	6,683	2,430	4,253	2,983	51,528	20,675	7,272	6,126

Note: Data based on a panel of large systems; see text.

<sup>1</sup>Prior to the March 31, 1978 report, Federal agency securities were included under "Other securities."

**Table 2. Receipts, Benefits, and Withdrawal Payments of Major Public-Employee Retirement Systems: Quarter Ended March 31, 1979 and Prior Periods**  
(Millions of dollars)

Date	Receipts				Benefit and withdrawal payments		
	Total	Employee contributions	Government contributions	Earnings on investments	Total	Benefits	Withdrawals
March 31, 1979.....	7,537	1,366	3,696	2,475	2,481	2,170	311
December 31, 1978.....	7,101	1,305	3,336	2,460	2,541	2,138	403
September 30, 1978.....	7,247	1,196	3,714	2,337	2,444	2,072	372
June 30, 1978.....	7,493	1,377	3,736	2,380	2,268	1,989	279
March 31, 1978.....	6,507	1,293	3,206	2,008	2,227	1,948	279
December 31, 1977.....	6,236	1,286	2,852	2,098	2,269	1,953	316
September 30, 1977.....	6,215	1,185	3,194	1,836	2,306	1,971	335
June 30, 1977.....	6,422	1,218	3,336	1,868	2,083	1,828	255
March 31, 1977.....	5,370	1,198	2,513	1,659	2,009	1,732	277
December 31, 1976.....	5,213	1,162	2,357	1,694	2,014	1,722	292
September 30, 1976.....	5,074	1,037	2,542	1,495	1,994	1,697	297
June 30, 1976.....	4,363	1,185	2,651	1,527	1,846	1,618	228
March 31, 1976.....	4,506	1,145	1,992	1,369	1,812	1,580	232

Note: Data based on a panel of large systems; see text.