

Finances of Selected Public Employee Retirement Systems



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Major retirement systems covering employees of State and local governments held \$147.5 billion in cash and investment securities as of December 31, 1979. This amount represents an increase of 2.7 percent over the September 30, 1979 holdings of \$143.6 billion.

More than 40 percent, \$62.3 billion, of this sum is in corporate bonds. Other major holdings include \$30.9 billion invested in corporate stocks and \$11.1 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 December 31, 1979, U.S. Treasury obligations amounted to \$13.0 billion and Federal agency securities \$11.6 billion. State and local government securities totaled \$3.9 billion.

The total cash balance of \$1.8 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 December 31, 1979, receipts totaled \$9.4 billion. Of this total \$4.7 billion were from government (employer) contributions, \$3.2 billion from earnings on investments, and \$1.5 billion from employee contributions. Benefit and withdrawal payments totaled \$2.8 billion. Of this total, benefit payments were \$2.4 billion and withdrawals \$0.4 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-

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 December 31, 1979 and Prior Periods
(Millions of dollars)

Date	Cash and security holdings									
	Total ¹	Corporate bonds	Corporate stocks	Federal securities ¹			Mortgages	State and local government securities	Cash and deposits	Other securities
				Total ¹	United States Treasury	Federal agency				
December 31, 1979...	147,466	62,333	30,872	24,569	13,007	11,562	11,135	3,915	1,839	12,803
September 30, 1979..	143,558	61,357	29,815	22,564	12,363	10,201	10,857	3,885	1,622	13,458
June 30, 1979.....	140,275	58,231	28,096	22,671	12,851	9,820	10,528	3,876	1,517	15,356
March 31, 1979.....	134,671	57,179	27,405	19,903	10,296	9,607	10,295	4,085	1,459	14,345
December 31, 1978...	130,974	56,713	26,983	18,739	9,511	9,228	10,097	3,963	1,229	13,250
September 30, 1978..	126,205	57,032	26,389	15,791	8,392	7,399	9,815	3,691	1,270	12,217
June 30, 1978.....	123,015	56,506	25,796	14,614	7,555	7,059	9,669	3,741	1,082	11,607
March 31, 1978.....	118,329	55,881	25,347	13,179	6,203	6,976	9,220	3,378	912	10,412
December 31, 1977...	115,727	55,540	24,972	11,734	5,584	6,180	9,090	3,483	743	10,135
September 30, 1977..	112,725	54,622	24,629	11,773	5,767	6,006	8,912	3,448	771	8,930
June 30, 1977.....	109,768	53,816	23,490	11,388	5,690	5,698	8,523	3,489	718	8,344
March 31, 1977.....	105,812	53,424	22,966	10,008	4,161	5,847	8,148	2,967	564	7,735
December 31, 1976...	105,394	52,921	22,494	9,060	3,792	5,268	8,279	3,836	575	7,229
September 30, 1976..	102,550	53,868	21,902	8,728	3,227	5,501	7,749	4,204	515	6,584
June 30, 1976.....	99,661	52,345	21,318	7,479	2,620	4,859	7,492	4,104	545	6,378
March 31, 1976.....	95,742	51,528	20,675	6,683	2,430	4,253	7,272	2,983	475	6,126

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

¹Prior 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 December 31, 1979 and Prior Periods
(Millions of dollars)

Date	Receipts				Benefit and withdrawal payments		
	Total	Government contributions	Earnings on investments	Employee contributions	Total	Benefits	Withdrawals
December 31, 1979.....	9,385	¹ 4,695	3,225	1,465	2,831	2,439	392
September 30, 1979.....	8,050	4,255	2,651	1,144	2,791	2,332	459
June 30, 1979.....	8,748	4,428	2,822	1,498	2,568	2,247	321
March 31, 1979.....	7,537	3,696	2,475	1,366	2,481	2,170	311
December 31, 1978.....	7,101	3,336	2,460	1,305	2,541	2,138	403
September 30, 1978.....	7,247	3,714	2,337	1,196	2,444	2,072	372
June 30, 1978.....	7,493	3,736	2,380	1,377	2,268	1,989	279
March 31, 1978.....	6,507	3,206	2,008	1,293	2,227	1,948	279
December 31, 1977.....	6,236	2,852	2,098	1,286	2,269	1,953	316
September 30, 1977.....	6,215	3,194	1,836	1,185	2,306	1,971	335
June 30, 1977.....	6,422	3,336	1,868	1,218	2,083	1,828	255
March 31, 1977.....	5,370	2,513	1,659	1,198	2,009	1,732	277
December 31, 1976.....	5,213	2,357	1,694	1,162	2,014	1,722	292
September 30, 1976.....	5,074	2,542	1,495	1,037	1,994	1,697	297
June 30, 1976.....	4,363	2,651	1,527	1,185	1,846	1,618	228
March 31, 1976.....	4,505	1,992	1,369	1,145	1,812	1,580	232

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

¹Increase due to the timing of receipts of several large systems.