



U.S. Department of Commerce
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

Finances of Selected Public Employee Retirement Systems

GR81 No. 3

Issued February 1982

September 30, 1981

Major retirement systems covering employees of State and local governments held \$186.6 billion in cash and investment securities as of September 30, 1981. This amount represents an increase of 3.2 percent over the June 30, 1981 holdings of \$180.7 billion.

More than 38 percent, \$71.4 billion, of this sum is in corporate bonds. Other major holdings include \$42.1 billion invested in corporate stocks and \$13.5 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 September 30, 1981, U.S. Treasury obligations amounted to \$21.0 billion and Federal agency securities \$16.3 billion. State and local government securities totaled \$3.9 billion.

The total cash balance of \$2.0 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 September 30, 1981, receipts totaled \$9.4 billion. Of this total \$4.1 billion were from government (employer) contributions, \$4.0 billion from earnings on investments, and \$1.3 billion from employee contributions. Benefit and withdrawal payments totaled \$3.4 billion. Of this total, benefit payments were \$2.9 billion and withdrawals \$.5 billion.

The current panel of 105 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 105 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 ex-

penditures 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.

For further information regarding data contained in this report, contact Vance Kane, Governments Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233 (area code 301/763-7664).

Table 1. Cash and Security Holdings of Major Public-Employee Retirement Systems as of September 30, 1981 and Prior Periods

(Millions of dollars)

| Date | Cash and security holdings | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | Total | Corporate bonds | Corporate stocks | Federal securities | | | Mortgages | State and local government securities | Cash and deposits | Other securities |
| | | | | Total | United States Treasury | Federal agency | | | | |
| September 30, 1981.. | 186,577 | 71,385 | 42,099 | 37,256 | 20,999 | 15,266 | 13,549 | 3,874 | 2,033 | 16,372 |
| June 30, 1981..... | 180,714 | 70,601 | 39,741 | 36,597 | 20,820 | 15,977 | 12,875 | 3,911 | 2,302 | 14,687 |
| March 31, 1981..... | 172,888 | 68,055 | 37,670 | 34,112 | 18,658 | 15,454 | 12,462 | 3,920 | 2,338 | 14,331 |
| December 31, 1980... | 167,621 | 37,170 | 33,549 | 32,332 | 17,372 | 14,950 | 11,929 | 4,074 | 1,984 | 13,583 |
| September 30, 1980.. | 152,378 | 65,529 | 34,574 | 30,589 | 16,592 | 13,997 | 11,945 | 3,933 | 1,836 | 12,972 |
| June 30, 1980..... | 159,068 | 85,175 | 33,290 | 28,085 | 14,520 | 13,535 | 11,927 | 4,020 | 1,815 | 14,755 |
| March 31, 1980..... | 152,660 | 63,435 | 32,360 | 25,277 | 13,659 | 12,618 | 11,617 | 4,084 | 1,814 | 13,073 |
| December 31, 1979... | 147,465 | 32,333 | 30,872 | 24,569 | 13,007 | 11,562 | 11,135 | 3,915 | 1,839 | 12,803 |
| September 30, 1979.. | 143,658 | 61,357 | 29,815 | 22,534 | 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 | 9,507 | 10,295 | 4,085 | 1,459 | 14,345 |
| December 31, 1978... | 130,974 | 55,713 | 25,983 | 18,739 | 9,511 | 9,228 | 10,097 | 3,933 | 1,229 | 13,250 |
| September 30, 1978.. | 124,205 | 57,032 | 23,389 | 15,791 | 8,392 | 7,399 | 9,815 | 3,391 | 1,270 | 12,217 |
| June 30, 1978..... | 123,015 | 55,506 | 25,796 | 14,614 | 7,555 | 7,059 | 9,869 | 3,741 | 1,082 | 11,607 |
| March 31, 1978..... | 118,329 | 55,881 | 25,347 | 13,170 | 6,203 | 6,976 | 9,220 | 3,378 | 912 | 10,412 |

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

Table 2. Receipts, Benefits, and Withdrawal Payments of Major Public Employee-Retirement Systems: Quarter Ended September 30, 1981 and Prior Periods

(Millions of dollars)

| Date | Receipts ¹ | | | | Benefit and withdrawal payments | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| | Total | Government contributions | Earnings on investments | Employee contributions | Total | Benefits | Withdrawals |
| September 30, 1981..... | 9,392 | 4,106 | 3,993 | 1,323 | 3,438 | 2,905 | 533 |
| June 30, 1981..... | 10,539 | 4,589 | 4,270 | 1,680 | 3,278 | 2,896 | 382 |
| March 31, 1981..... | 9,111 | 4,038 | 3,442 | 1,631 | 3,084 | 2,730 | 354 |
| December 31, 1980..... | 8,851 | 3,557 | 3,660 | 1,534 | 3,142 | 2,710 | 432 |
| September 30, 1980.. | 7,938 | 3,430 | 3,007 | 1,301 | 3,106 | 2,665 | 441 |
| June 30, 1980..... | 8,720 | 3,922 | 3,291 | 1,507 | 2,902 | 2,523 | 379 |
| March 31, 1980..... | 7,644 | 3,358 | 2,840 | 1,446 | 2,845 | 2,498 | 347 |
| December 31, 1979..... | 7,627 | 3,489 | 2,761 | 1,397 | 2,803 | 2,411 | 392 |
| September 30, 1979.. | 6,732 | 3,279 | 2,384 | 1,089 | 2,791 | 2,332 | 459 |
| June 30, 1979..... | 7,497 | 3,535 | 2,524 | 1,438 | 2,568 | 2,247 | 321 |
| March 31, 1979..... | 6,518 | 2,969 | 2,241 | 1,308 | 2,481 | 2,170 | 311 |
| December 31, 1978..... | 6,265 | 2,735 | 2,290 | 1,240 | 2,541 | 2,138 | 403 |
| September 30, 1978.. | 6,503 | 3,159 | 2,203 | 1,141 | 2,444 | 2,072 | 372 |
| June 30, 1978..... | 6,564 | 3,183 | 2,081 | 1,300 | 2,258 | 1,989 | 279 |
| March 31, 1978..... | 5,800 | 2,754 | 1,819 | 1,227 | 2,227 | 1,948 | 279 |

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

¹ Receipt data for calendar years 1978, 1979, 1980 and the first and second quarters of 1981 were revised in the September 30, 1981 report to reflect a change in the estimation procedure for nonrespondents.