

Summary of the Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions for 2013:Q1¹

TOTAL HOLDINGS AND INVESTMENTS OF MAJOR PUBLIC PENSION SYSTEMS REACH HIGHEST LEVEL EVER, PASSING THE 2007 PEAK

Released June 27, 2013

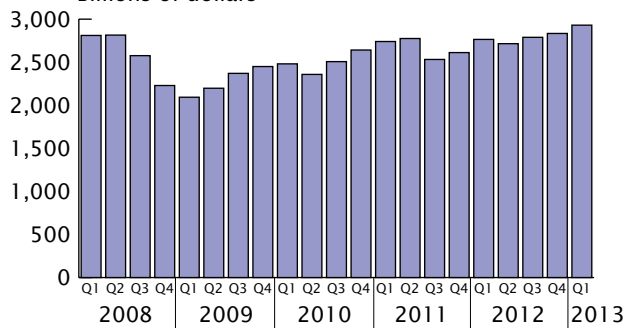
G13-QSPP1

2013 QUARTER 1

For the 100 largest public-employee retirement systems in the country, cash and security holdings totaled \$2,930.3 billion in the first quarter of 2013, passing the 2007 fourth quarter peak of \$2,928.9 billion, and reaching the highest level since this survey began collecting data in 1968. Cash and security holdings had a quarter-to-quarter increase of 3.4 percent from \$2,834.1 billion last quarter, and a year-to-year increase of 6.0 percent, from \$2,764.9 billion in the first quarter of 2012. Earnings on investments totaled \$115.5 billion in the first quarter of 2013.

Figure 1.
Total Holdings and Investments at End of Quarter at Market Value

Billions of dollars



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions.

CORPORATE STOCKS

Corporate stocks reached the \$1 trillion mark for the first time in over five years (since the fourth quarter of 2007). They had a quarter-to-quarter increase of 6.7 percent, from \$938.8 billion to \$1,001.9 billion in the first quarter of 2013, and a year-to-year increase of 2.8 percent from \$974.7 billion in the first quarter of 2012. Corporate stocks comprised about one-third (34.2 percent) of the total cash and security holdings of major public pension systems for the current quarter.

CORPORATE BONDS

Corporate bonds quarter-to-quarter decreased 3.7 percent from \$346.2 billion to \$333.4 billion in the first quarter of 2013. Corporate bonds year-to-year decreased 10.1 percent from \$370.9 billion in the first quarter of 2012. Corporate bonds comprised less than one-eighth (11.4 percent) of the total cash and security holdings of major public pension systems for the current quarter.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES

International securities totaled \$591.6 billion, reaching the highest level since this survey began collecting data for international securities in the third quarter of the year 2000. International securities had a quarter-to-quarter increase of 3.0 percent from \$574.5 billion last quarter, and a year-to-year increase of 7.5 percent from \$550.4 billion in the first quarter of 2012. International

¹ This summary is based on the Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions, which consists of a panel of the 100 largest state and local government pension systems, as determined by their total cash and security holdings reported in the 2007 Census of Governments. These 100 systems comprised 89.4 percent of financial activity among such entities, based on the 2007 Census of Governments. Each of the 100 systems represents itself only. These data are not subject to sampling error, but are subject to various nonsampling errors such as errors of nonresponse and respondent error. The data and technical documentation for this release can be found at <www.census.gov/govs/qpr>.

For further information on public pensions, please visit our Web site at <www.census.gov/govs> or contact Governments Division, U.S. Census Bureau, at 1-888-529-1963 or by e-mail at <govs.pensions@census.gov>.



securities comprised about one-fifth (20.2 percent) of the total cash and security holdings of major public pension systems for the current quarter.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

Federal government securities quarter-to-quarter increase was 5.7 percent from \$251.7 billion to \$266.1 billion in the first quarter of 2013. Federal government securities increased year-to-year 18.5 percent from \$224.5 billion in the first quarter of 2012. Federal government securities comprised less than one-tenth (9.1 percent) of the total cash and security holdings of major public pension systems for the current quarter.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND PAYMENTS

Government contributions had a quarter-to-quarter decrease of 12.9 percent from \$23.4 billion to \$20.4 billion in the first quarter of 2013, and a year-to-year

decrease of 14.0 percent from \$23.7 billion in the first quarter of 2012. Employee contributions had a quarter-to-quarter decrease of 8.2 percent from \$10.3 billion to \$9.4 billion in the first quarter of 2013, and a year-to-year increase of 1.4 percent from \$9.3 billion in the first quarter of 2012. Government contributions to employee contributions showed a 2.2 to 1 ratio this quarter—government contributions comprised 68.4 percent and employee contributions comprised 31.6 percent of total contributions. Total payments were \$60.0 billion, reaching the highest level since this survey began collecting data for payments in the third quarter of 1974. Total payments showed a quarter-to-quarter increase of 6.5 percent from \$56.4 billion last quarter, and a year-to-year increase of 9.2 percent from \$55.0 billion in the first quarter of 2012.

Figure 2.
Corporate Stocks¹ and Corporate Bonds² at End of Quarter at Market Value

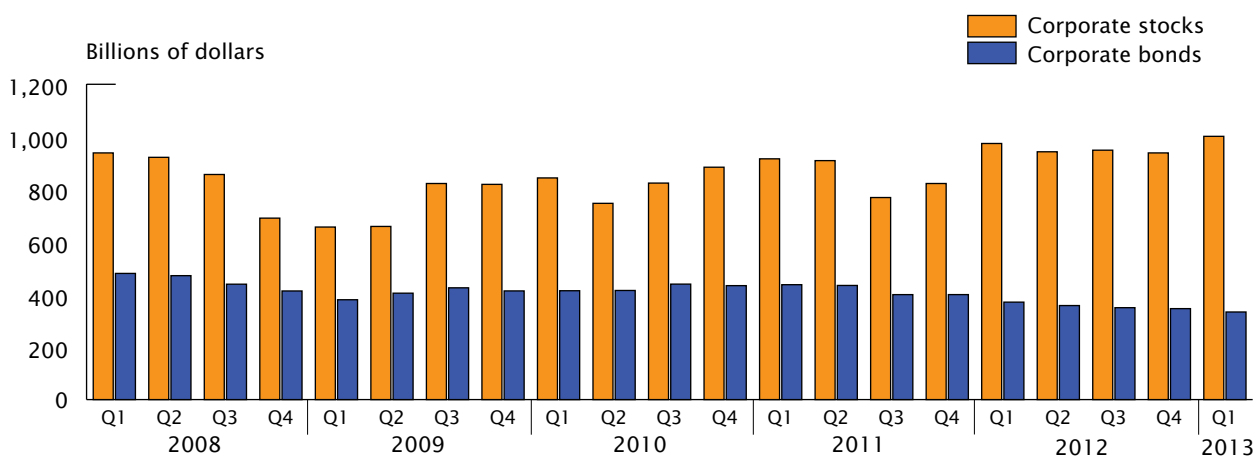
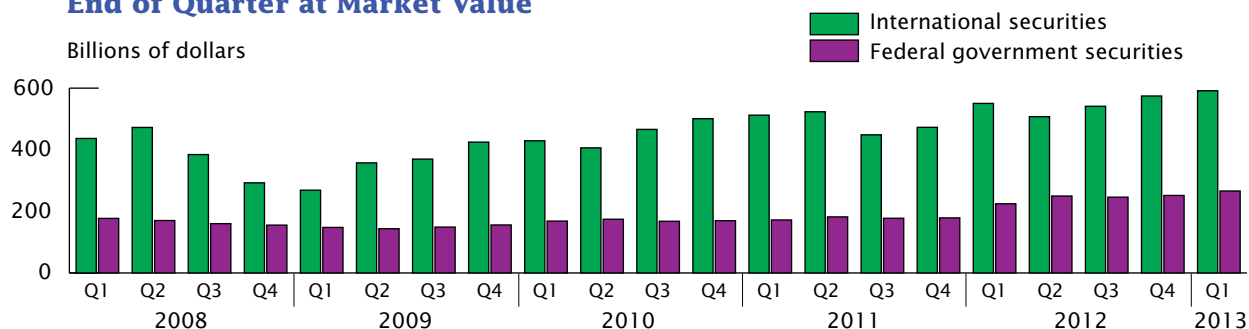


Figure 3.
International Securities and Federal Government Securities² at End of Quarter at Market Value



¹ Effective with the first quarter of 2012, private equity, venture capital, and leveraged buy-outs are now classified under *corporate stocks* instead of other securities. As such, for these asset categories, any data comparisons between the quarters of 2012 and the quarters prior to 2012 should be done with caution.

² Effective with the first quarter of 2012, federally-sponsored agency securities are now classified under *federal government securities* instead of corporate bonds. As such, for these asset categories, any data comparisons between the quarters of 2012 and the quarters prior to 2012 should be done with caution.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions.