

# Annual Survey of Public Pensions: 2019

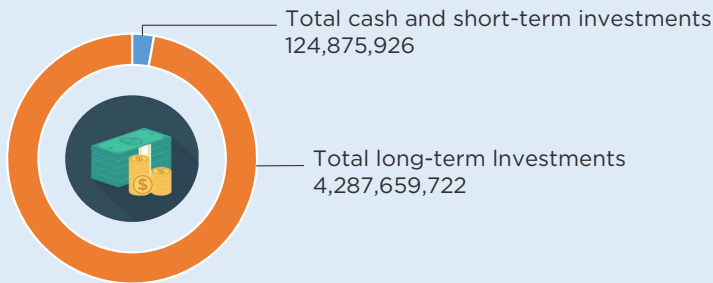
## Public Sector Briefs

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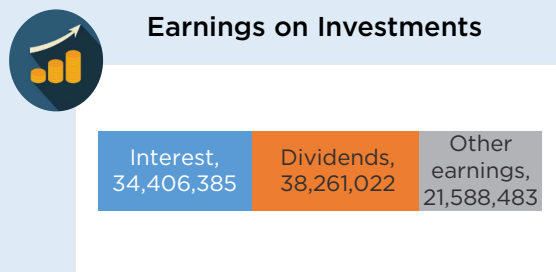
Released July 2020

G19-ASPP

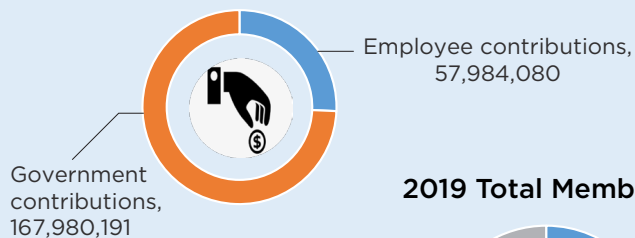
### 2019 Total Cash and Investments



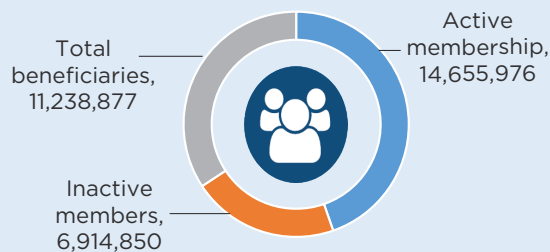
### Earnings on Investments



### Total Contributions



### 2019 Total Membership



## CASH AND INVESTMENTS

In 2019, assets (cash and investments) for State- and Locally-Administered Defined Benefit public pensions systems totaled \$4.4 trillion, virtually unchanged from the 2018 level of \$4.4 trillion. Cash and short-term investments decreased 17.1 percent in market value, from \$150.6 billion in 2018 to \$124.9 billion in 2019. Long term investments comprised of 97.2 percent of total assets of major public-pension systems while cash and short-term investments comprised of only 2.8 percent, which is typical and similar to prior years.

## Earnings on Investments

Earnings on investments totaled \$94.3 million in 2019. Earnings on investments make up for most of the deficit between contributions and benefits paid out, and are a critical contributor to the sustainability of pension plans.

## Benefits Paid and Contributions

In 2019, State- and Locally-Administered Defined Benefit public pensions systems paid \$323.0 million to beneficiaries. This was an increase of 4.1 percent

The data and technical documentation for this release can be found at <https://census.gov/programs-surveys/aspp.html>.

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from the 2018 level of \$310.4 million. Total contributions to State- and Locally-Administered Defined Benefit public pensions systems in 2019 totaled \$226.0 million, 2.2 percent above the 2018 contribution of \$221.1 million. Employee and government contributions increased 3.7 percent and 1.7 percent respectively to \$58.0 million and \$168.0 million.

For further information, please contact the Economy-Wide Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau at 1-800-832-2839 or by e-mail at <[ewd.pensions@census.gov](mailto:ewd.pensions@census.gov)>.

### **Systems and Membership**

For the 5,332 State- and Locally-Administered Defined Benefit public pensions systems, membership for 2019 was 32.8 million, which was an increase of 1.8 percent, compared to the 2018 figure of 32.2 million. The 2019 distribution of active members, inactive members, and beneficiaries has remained consistent at 44.7 percent, 21.1 percent, and 34.3 percent, respectively.