Michigan
Retirement
Plans in Action

ORS HIGHLIGHTS

RANKING

15th largest public pension system in the U.S.

38th in the world

ASSETS IN '23

$113.7 billion
all systems

CUSTOMERS IN '23

602,177
all systems

PAID IN '23

$8.2 billion
in pension and
healthcare benefits

Welcome,

We are charged with the unique responsibility and trust to care for people who protect, educate, inform, and support Michigan's citizens. Our members have made a commitment to publicly serve their communities. They are teachers, state troopers, conservation officers, librarians, social workers, custodians, judges, Michigan National Guard members, and many more. The Michigan Office of Retirement Services (ORS) is driven to empower our customers for a successful today and a secure tomorrow.

More than half a million Michiganders depend on the State of Michigan's five statewide public retirement systems to achieve financial security in retirement. It's our absolute goal to be good stewards responsible for the monetary futures of so many.

Our members and participants aren't the only ones who benefit. State and local public pension systems are economic multipliers for Michigan.

For every taxpayer dollar contributed to the pension system, there is an output of $1.32, reflecting earnings on investments. Every dollar paid to a retiree generates $4.21 from spending impacts. Through direct, indirect, and induced impact, Michigan sees $13 billion in economic output from our pension systems, according to the National Institute for Retirement Security's Pensionomics 2025 report. Around $1.6 billion in ORS retirement system funds are invested in Michigan companies.

We are pleased to serve those who serve our great state.

Kind regards,

Anthony Estell, executive director
Michigan Office of Retirement Services

Our retirement plans

We administer retirement programs that provide our valuable members with a means for a secure future. Our plans help our retirees live independently rather than relying on family, friends, and governmental assistance.
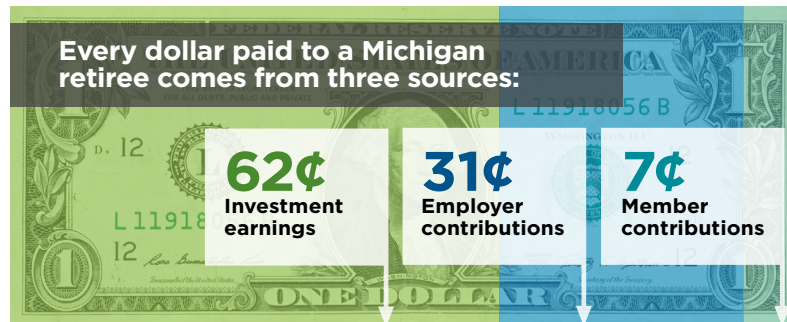
Plan types

- Closed defined benefit (DB) plans for public school employees, state employees, state police, and judges.
- Open DB Plan (Michigan National Guard).
- Hybrid plans.
- Defined contribution plans.

Additional benefits

- Death and disability benefits.
- Health, dental, vision, and prescription drug insurance.
- Life insurance.

DB plan funding

The systems are funded through a combination of investment earnings and member and employer contributions. The systems' net assets are held in trust to meet future benefit payments. Nearly 62% of the systems' DB plan funding comes from investment earnings.

Every dollar paid to a Michigan retiree comes from three sources:

62¢ Investment earnings

31¢ Employer contributions

7¢ Member contributions

Source: National Institute on Retirement Security, *Pensionomics 2025: Measuring the Economic Impact of DB Pension Expenditures,* Michigan (2025) **nirsonline.org**.

OUR PLANS

Our customers

We serve one out of every eight Michigan households and 694 employers across the state. We serve 602,177 active and deferred customers and retirees, and about 76% of our plan membership is composed of public school employees and retirees.

Retirement system	Active*	Deferred	Retired	Total
Public school employees K–12 public school and intermediate districts, district libraries, public school academies and charter schools, tax-supported community colleges, and seven universities	203,909	15,247	237,186	456,342
State employees Civil service employees, appointed officials in the executive branch, legislative, and judiciary staff	48,924	1,625	70,868	121,417
State police All sworn, enlisted officers	1,957	17	3,406	5,380
Judges All judges, governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, legislative auditor general, and constitutional court administrator	576	–	646	1,222
National Guard Michigan National Guard (Army or Air)	9,831	3,095	4,623	17,549
Legislature Michigan senators and representatives in the Defined Contribution (DC) Plan	148	–	119	267
Total	265,345	19,984	316,848	602,177

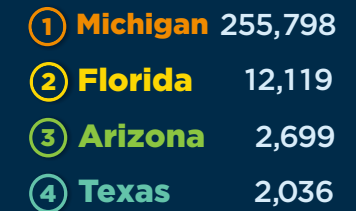| Fiscal impact		Total paid in pension and healthcare benefits
Annual covered payroll (active)	$14,186,632,681	
Annual pension benefit (retiree)	$7,212,267,372	**$8,181,107,960**
Total healthcare benefit (retiree)	$968,840,588	

*Active customer counts include membership in the DC Plans.

Sources: 2023 annual comprehensive financial report and ORS membership data for each retirement system, available online at **Michigan.gov/ORS**.
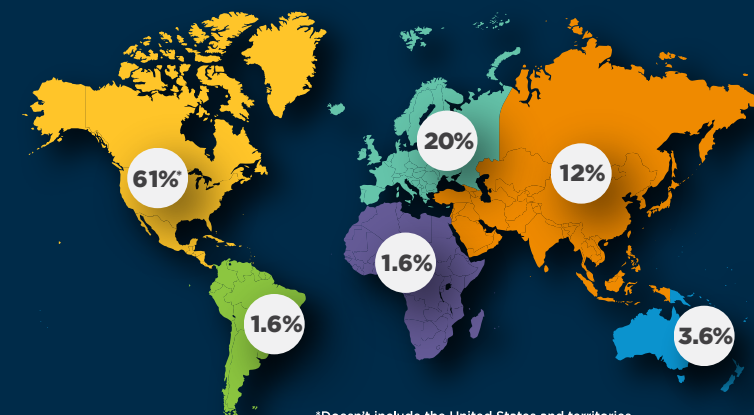
WHO WE SERVE

Mapping retirement

Retirees per state

- ○ 0
- ○ 1–99
- ○ 100–299
- ○ 300–599
- ○ 600–1,799
- ○ 1,800–5,399
- ○ 5,400–16,199
- ○ 16,200 or more

Top retirees states

① **Michigan** 255,798

② **Florida** 12,119

③ **Arizona** 2,699

④ **Texas** 2,036
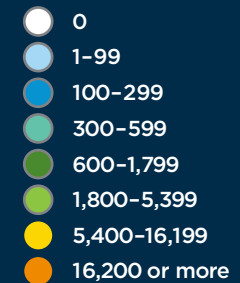
Percentage of international retirees by continent

61%*
20%
12%
1.6%
1.6%
3.6%

*Doesn't include the United States and territories.

Retirees in U.S. territories

18 Puerto Rico

6 U.S. Virgin Islands

2 Northern Mariana Islands

1 Guam

1 Palau

1 American Samoa

Top countries international retirees live

Canada
141

United Kingdom
12

Philippines
10

Germany
7
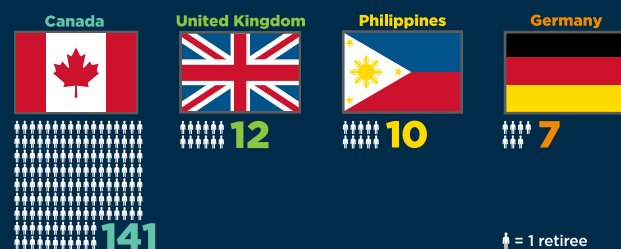
👤 = 1 retiree

Source: Michigan Office of Retirement Services, *Retiree membership data*, January 2025.

Retiree spending ripples through Michigan's economy

Our retirees are one of the major driving economic forces in our communities. Michigan retiree expenditures stemming from state and local pension plan benefits supported:

70,189 jobs

$1.9 billion in federal, state, and local tax revenues

$13 billion in total economic output

$4.1 billion in wages and salaries

Employment supported by industry type

4,949 hospital jobs

6,760 restaurant jobs

2,350 physician's office jobs

2,282 real estate jobs

Every dollar:

Paid out in pension benefits supported

$1.32

Invested by taxpayers in these plans supported

$4.21

in total economic activity in Michigan

Source: National Institute on Retirement Security, *Pensionomics 2025: Measuring the Economic Impact of Defined Benefit Pension Expenditures,* Michigan (2025) **NIRSOnline.org**.

ORS pensioners in Michigan

87% stay in Michigan

90% give to charity

90% own a home

86% are financially self-sufficient

60% actively volunteer

Source: 2024 ORS Pensioners and Community survey.

ORS retirees discuss what their pension means to them

Thanks to my pension, I can live independently and not burden my children. If I did not have my pension, as a single widow, I would not be able to maintain my home, pay my bills, or obtain proper health care.

I worked hard for my pension and am able to care for my mother with dementia without putting her in a nursing home. I'm partially blind and my pension helps me to live independently.

Permits a life style and a degree of comfort that allows us to assist my daughter's family with medical bills and contribute to nonprofit organizations in our community.

That my life is amazing! I can go on vacations, volunteer and take classes that are for enjoyment.

SOCIAL INFLUENCE

Michigan Office of Retirement Services is an innovative retirement organization driven to empower our customers for a successful today and a secure tomorrow.

Contact ORS

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Social media

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