



# New York State Teachers' Retirement System



## A Message From the Executive Director & Chief Investment Officer

On behalf of our Board and staff, I am pleased to present you with this Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. This document summarizes the System's financial position for the 2022 fiscal year. For additional details, see our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at NYSTRS.org.

The System is governed by a 10-member Board of Trustees, representing various stakeholders. Trustees are responsible as fiduciaries to protect the long-term value of the System's investment portfolio and provide benefit security for members. The Board receives counsel from staff, advisory committees and investment consultants to help formulate its investment policy.



NYSTRS is one of the 10 largest public funds in the U.S. based on portfolio size. The System is also consistently among the top-performing and best-funded public pension plans. Consistent receipt of required

employee and employer contributions; a disciplined, risk-controlled investment policy; and partnerships with top-performing fund managers are major contributing factors to this stability. As a long-term investor with liabilities often not payable for three decades or more, Board and staff take a prudent approach to asset management.

The System's year-end net assets totaled \$132.0 billion. During the same period, benefits paid to retirees and beneficiaries were approximately \$8.0 billion. The plan's funded ratio as of June 30, 2021, the date of the most-recent annual actuarial valuation and calculated using the Actuarial Value of Assets, was 99.3%.

Market volatility led to a total portfolio return of negative 7.1%, net of fees, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. Given market and economic conditions of the last fiscal year, this was not an unexpected result, and the percentage decline was similar to most major market indices. Our 30-year rate of return is 8.5%, net of fees.

As this report demonstrates, the NYSTRS Board and staff are committed to fulfilling our mission of providing our members with a secure pension. Our retirement plan was solidly built to endure the up and down cycles of the economy.

On behalf of all of us at NYSTRS, I am proud to say that our members can rest assured that their pension benefits are safe and will cover them for life. We remain dedicated to being the model for pension fund excellence and exceptional customer service.

Respectfully,

Thomas K. Lee  
Executive Director & Chief Investment Officer

### Table of Contents

<b>2</b> Who We Are; Membership Snapshot	<b>6</b> Actuarial Highlights
<b>3</b> Financial Highlights	<b>7</b> Statistical Highlights
<b>4</b> Investment Highlights	<b>8</b> Economic Driver; Benefits Paid By County
<b>5</b> Asset Allocation	

*Over a century of providing retirement security*

## 2022 Popular Annual Financial Report

As of June 30, 2022

## Who We Are

NYSTRS was established in 1921 by an act of the state legislature. The Retirement System administers the fund from which public school teachers and administrators employed outside New York City receive retirement and ancillary benefits.

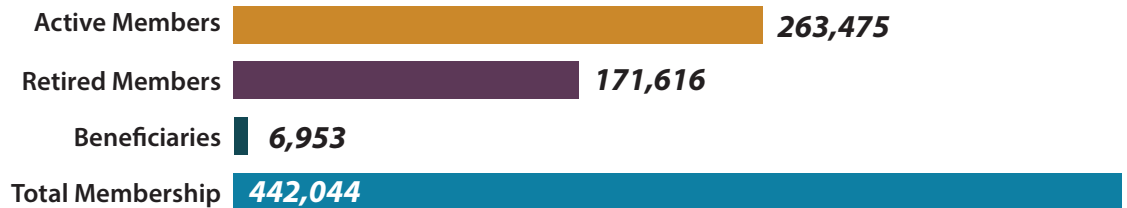
NYSTRS directs a defined benefit plan, with eligibility for benefits based on factors such as age, years of service and tier of membership. Eligible members receive a service retirement or disability pension; death benefits; the ability to borrow from member contributions; and, in some cases, coverage for beneficiaries.

Payments to eligible members and beneficiaries are guaranteed by law and cannot be diminished or impaired under New York's constitution. Benefit improvements, such as early retirement incentives, must be enacted into law by the state legislature and governor.

Defined benefit plans provide recipients a retirement income for as long as they live. This differs from defined contribution plans, such as 401(k)s, where a recipient can outlive accumulated savings.



## Membership Snapshot



Membership in NYSTRS is mandatory for all full-time teachers, teaching assistants, guidance counselors and administrators employed in New York State public schools (excluding those in New York City), Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), or charter schools that opt to participate as an employer in NYSTRS. Membership for teachers employed less than full time is optional.

Those employed by a New York State community college or the State University of New York (SUNY) generally may elect membership in NYSTRS, the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System or the Optional Retirement Program. Some teachers and administrators who are not members of a New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) bargaining unit and whose estimated annual wages are \$75,000 or more may join the Optional Retirement Program instead of NYSTRS.

In New York, there are six tiers of membership, with different benefit structures and eligibility requirements for each tier. A member is placed in the tier in effect when the member joins NYSTRS.

NYSTRS serves 442,044 active and retired members, including beneficiaries. The System also serves 822 employers — including public school districts, BOCES, institutions of higher education and charter schools that elect to participate.

## Supplementary Information

NYSTRS management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Plante Moran, PC performed an independent audit of such financial statements and expressed an unmodified opinion thereon. To view the financial statements and Plante Moran, PC's report, see the Financial section of our Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at NYSTRS.org.

In addition, recognition from various industry organizations demonstrates NYSTRS' commitment to excellence in financial reporting. Honors received within the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 include:

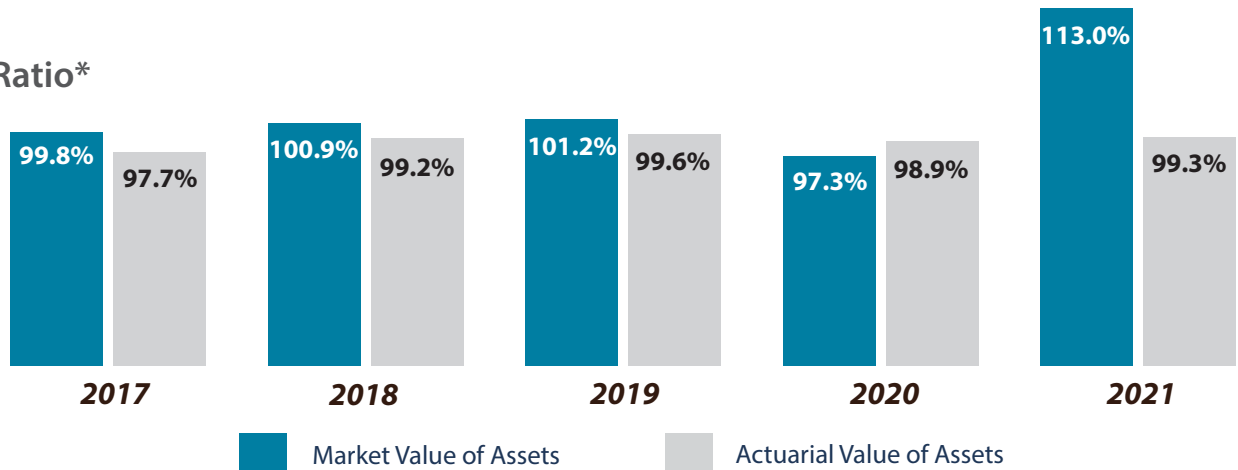
- Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, awarded by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) of the United States and Canada.
- Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, also awarded by GFOA.
- Public Pension Principles Achievement Award, presented by the Public Pension Coordinating Council.
- Popular Annual Financial Reporting Award, also awarded by GFOA.

# Financial Highlights

NYSTRS has made benefit payments on time and without fail since it was founded in 1921. Our total net position at fiscal year-end 2022 was valued at \$132.0 billion.

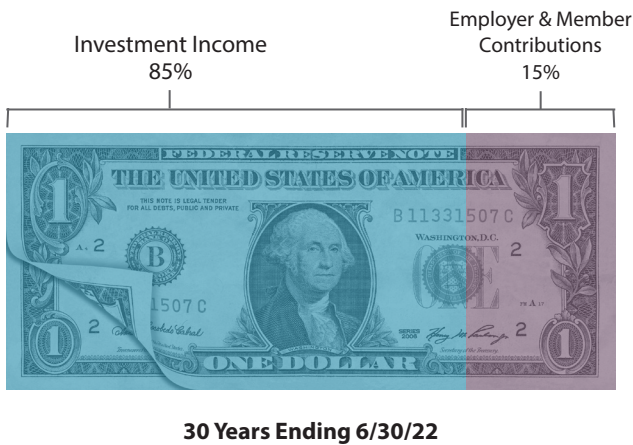
The System is one of the best-funded public pension plans in the nation. As of June 30, 2021, the most-recent calculation available, the System's funded ratio was 113.0% based on the market value of assets and 99.3% based on the actuarial value of assets. The actuarial value of assets smooths the volatility inherent in the market value of assets by phasing in unexpected gains and losses over a period of five years.

## Funded Ratio\*



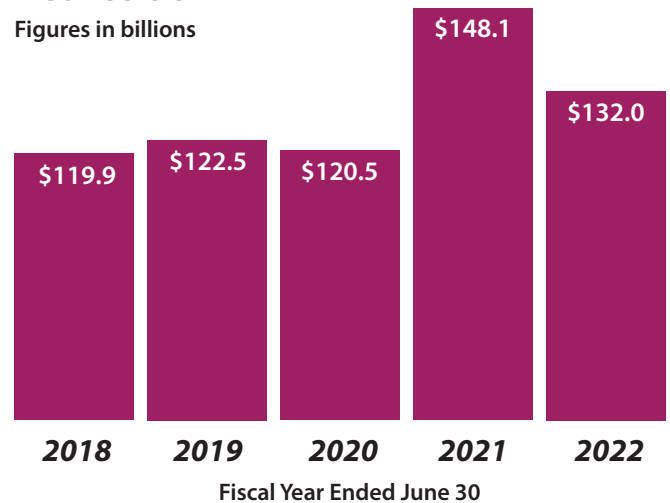
\* Calculated using the Entry Age Normal Cost Method

## Funding Sources



## Net Position

Figures in billions



## Other financial highlights for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022:

- The System paid out approximately \$8.0 billion in benefits to members and beneficiaries.
- Contributions collected from employers totaled \$1.7 billion.
- Over the past 30 years, NYSTRS' net position has increased nearly five fold despite paying out almost four times as much in benefits as contributions collected from employers and members over the same period.

## Looking for more detailed information?

NYSTRS' Annual Comprehensive Financial Report offers more information about the System's financial status, investments and statistics. Visit the Library at NYSTRS.org to read the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. To request a printed copy, email us at news@nystrs.org.

The Library of our website also includes a host of Infographics that further illustrate the System's finances and statistics.

## Investment Highlights

The System's assets are invested in the most prudent manner possible in order to achieve optimum long-term total returns with an appropriate level of risk. The System is committed to a disciplined, risk-controlled investment approach that focuses on thoughtful and prudent diversification of assets across a broad spectrum of capital market segments. The allocation of assets within the portfolio, as well as the fund's overall structure, are continuously reviewed and adjusted as appropriate to achieve these goals.

Market volatility led to a total portfolio return of negative 7.1%, net of fees, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. Given market and economic conditions of the last fiscal year, this was not an unexpected result, and the percentage decline was similar to most major market indices, such as the S&P 500 which returned negative 10.62% for the fiscal year.

Other highlights include:

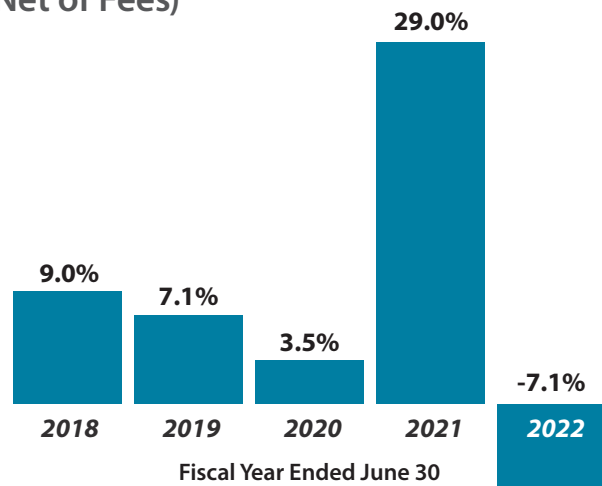
- NYSTRS' 10-year annualized net rate of return was 8.9% and its 30-year rate of return was 8.5%.
- Over the past 30 years, NYSTRS has paid out \$140.4 billion in benefits and expenses while collecting \$37.1 billion in member and employer contributions. During the same period, the System's net assets have grown from \$27.9 billion to \$132.0 billion, with 85% of NYSTRS' income generated by investment returns.
- More than half of the System's assets are managed internally. Managing assets internally keeps administrative costs down, which in turn leaves more money for paying benefits and future investments.

### Investment Returns\* (Net of Fees)

30-Year	8.5%
25-Year	7.3%
20-Year	7.7%
10-Year	8.9%
5-Year	7.7%

\*As of 6/30/22

### Investment Performance (Net of Fees)



## Assets Under Management

\$130.0 Billion as of June 30, 2022

Internally  
Managed  
\$74.4B  
57%

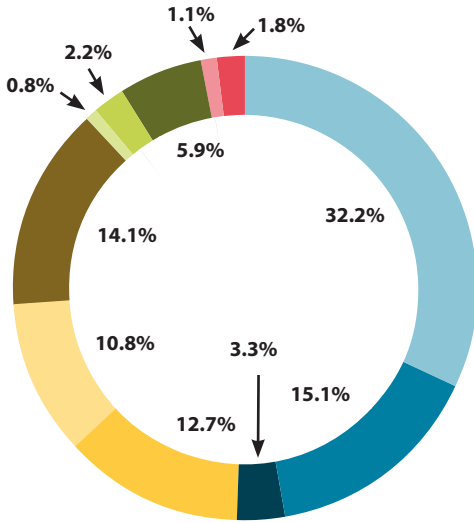
Externally  
Managed -  
Active  
\$41.0B  
32%

Externally  
Managed -  
Passive  
\$14.6B  
11%

Internal management of assets means lower investment fees. Lower fees mean more money for benefits and investing, and a lighter burden for employers and the taxpayers who fund them.

## Asset Allocation

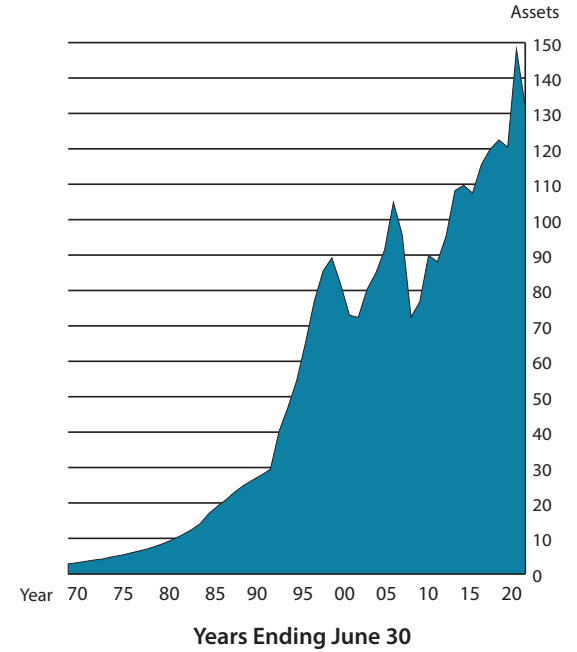
The most significant contributor to a fund's long-term investment performance is asset allocation. The allocation process helps control risk and ensures the overall portfolio is broadly diversified. NYSTRS' Board, with the assistance of an external consultant, reviews the asset allocation policy on an annual basis.



As of June 30, 2022

Domestic Equity	32.2%
International Equity	15.1%
Global Equity	3.3%
Real Estate Equity	12.7%
Private Equity	10.8%
Domestic Fixed Income	14.1%
High-Yield Bonds	0.8%
Global Bonds	2.2%
Real Estate Debt	5.9%
Private Debt	1.1%
Cash Equivalents	1.8%

## Growth of Net Assets 1970-2022



## Committed to The Highest Ethical Standards of Conduct

NYSTRS strives to model strong ethical values within the pension industry. Our Board and staff take their fiduciary responsibilities seriously and are committed to operating in an environment of transparency.

System staff adhere to the following guiding principles of ethics and conduct:

**Ensure compliance** with all applicable laws, ethical and professional standards, and NYSTRS' policies and procedures.

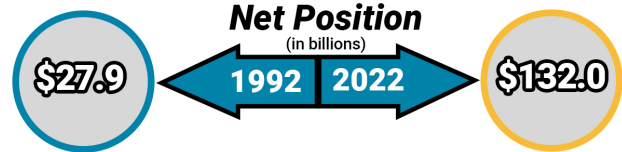
**Protect the interest** of stakeholders, including members, employers and the public.

**Act with integrity** at all times to prevent a violation of public trust.

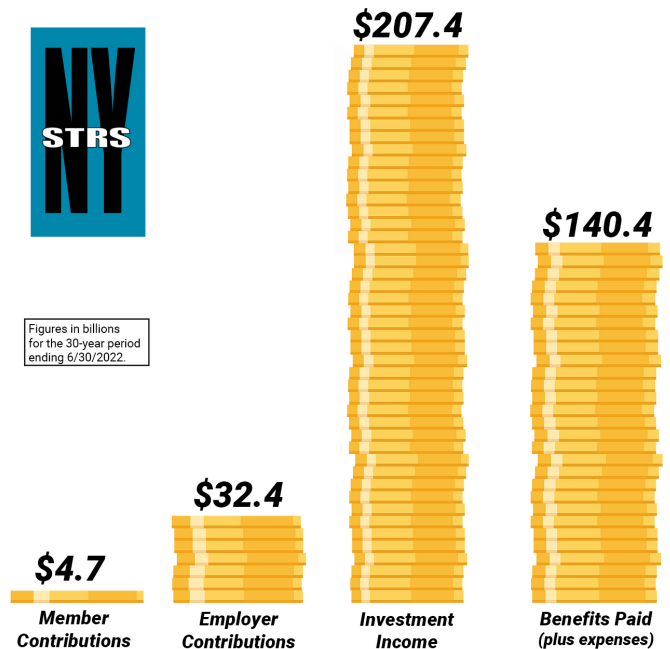
**Guard the privacy** of stakeholder information.

**Adhere** to NYSTRS' Internal Asset Management Code of Professional Conduct in managing NYSTRS funds.

## NYSTRS: A 30-Year Snapshot



Figures in billions for the 30-year period ending 6/30/2022.



# Actuarial Highlights

NYSTRS' primary objective is to properly fund retirement and ancillary benefits so sufficient assets are accumulated in order to pay benefits as they come due. To ensure this happens, an actuarial valuation of the System's assets and liabilities is performed annually utilizing the Aggregate Cost Method, as specified by law. In this method, actuarial gains and losses are spread over the average future working lifetime of active members.

Benefits provided by the Retirement System are funded from three sources: investment income, member contributions and employer contributions.



For the 30-year period ended June 30, 2022, 85% of NYSTRS' income came from investment returns. Over that same period, 2% of income came from member contributions, which vary by tier and are fixed in statute as follows:

- Tier 1 and 2 members (those first entering the System before July 27, 1976) are not required to contribute.
- Tier 3 and 4 members (those first entering the System on or after July 27, 1976 and before January 1, 2010) contributed 3.0% of salary for the first 10 years of service or membership, whichever occurred first.
- Tier 5 members (those first entering the System on or after January 1, 2010 and before April 1, 2012) contribute 3.5% of salary each year throughout their active membership.
- Tier 6 members (those first entering the System on or after April 1, 2012) contribute between 3.0% and 6.0% of salary each year throughout their active membership in accordance with a schedule based upon salary earned.

Employers help fund pensions by contributing a percentage of compensation they pay to NYSTRS members. This percentage, known as the Employer Contribution Rate (ECR), is established annually in accordance with an actuarial valuation of System assets and liabilities. The ECR, which was in single digits for 22 years prior to the 2011-12 school year, accounted for about 13% of NYSTRS income between 1992 and 2022.

An ECR of 9.80% was applied to member payroll for the July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 school year. These funds were collected by NYSTRS in fall 2022. The ECR applied to member payroll for the July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 school year is 10.29%, payable in fall 2023.

## Our Strategic Objectives

**Governance Structure:** Promote a governance model to appropriately manage System finances and risk, and maintain a positive reputation.

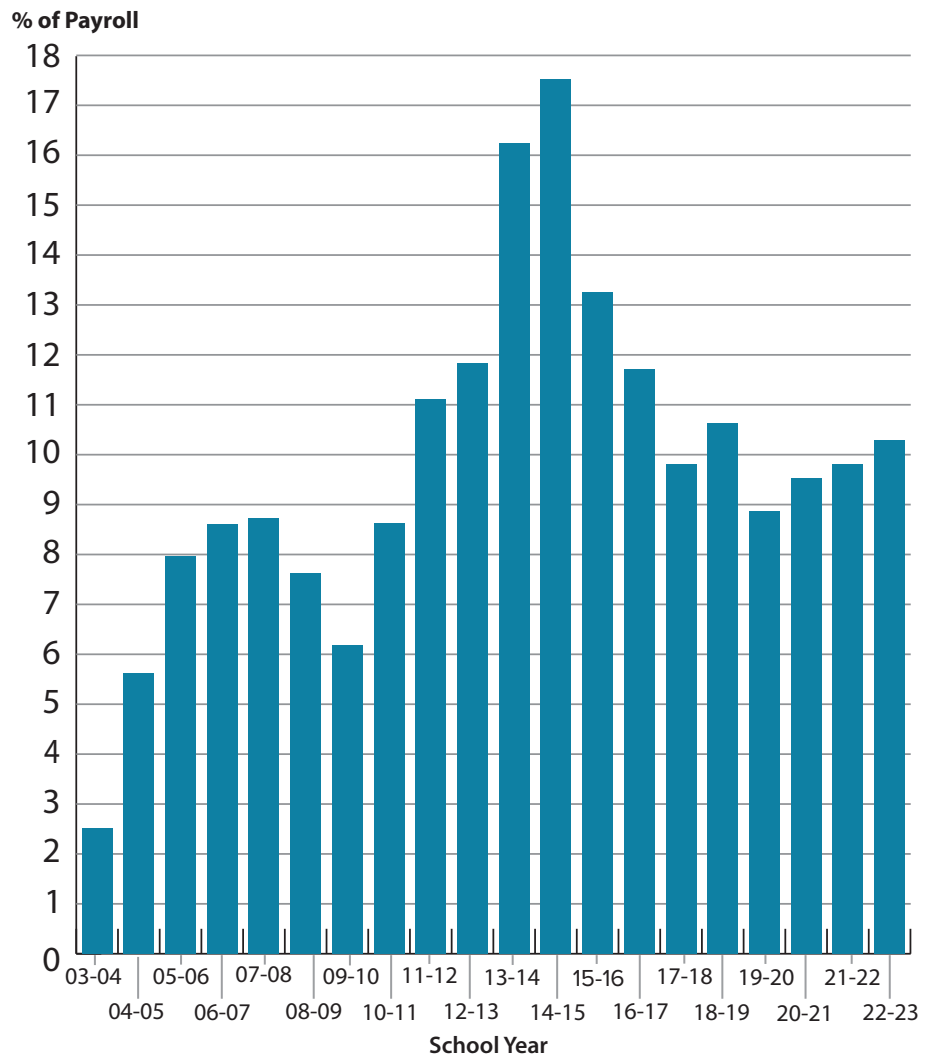
**Shared Accountability:** Foster an environment of shared accountability, awareness, commitment and integrity.

**Customer Service:** Maintain a high level of customer service and confidence.

**Safeguard System Funds:** Safeguard System funds and invest them in a prudent and diversified manner in order to achieve optimum long-term returns with an appropriate level of risk.

**Quality Workforce:** Ensure a quality workforce.

## Employer Contribution Rates





# The NYSTRS Retiree

As of 6/30/22

## 169,613

Retirees receiving a service retirement benefit

## 2,003

Retirees receiving a disability benefit

## \$44,484\*

Average Maximum annual benefit

## 79%

of benefits paid to New York State residents

## 28\*

Average years of service at retirement

## 71%

Female

\*All retirees as of 6/30/22 receiving a service retirement benefit.

## Statistical Highlights

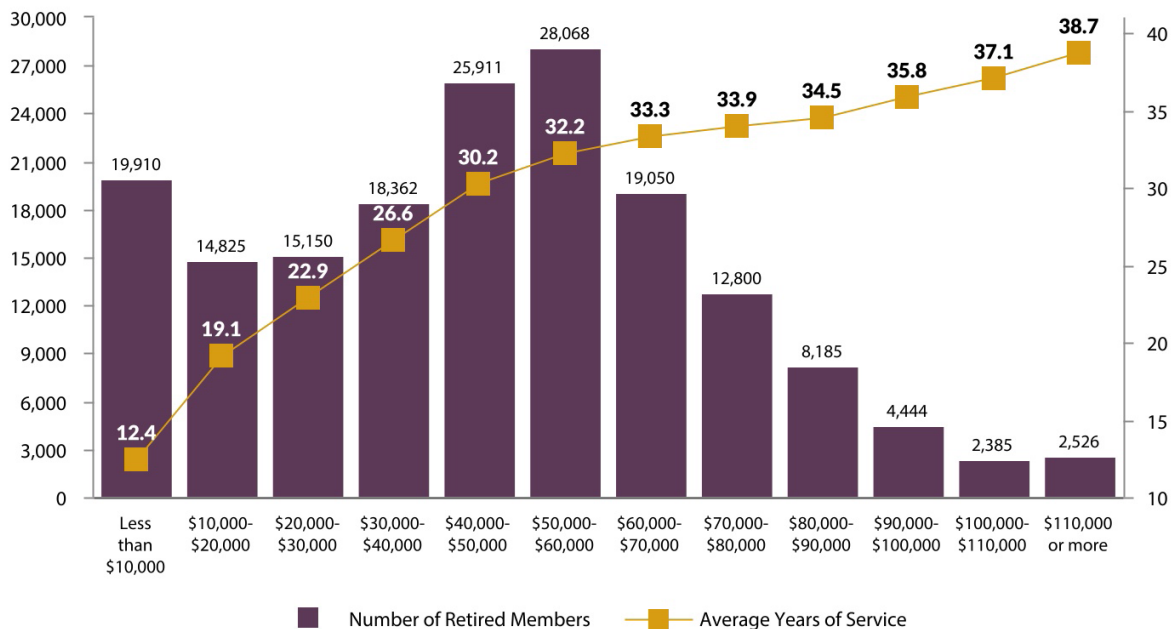
Statistics provide historical perspective, context and detail. When considered together with the financial statements, a more complete picture of factors impacting NYSTRS' economic condition is revealed.

As of June 30, 2022, retirees receiving a service retirement worked an average of nearly 28 years to earn their retirement benefit. Some additional statistical highlights:

- The average Maximum annual benefit for service retirees as of June 30, 2022 is \$44,484, representing about 53% of a member's final average salary at retirement.
- 47% of active members have 10 years or less of service.
- 35% of active members are 39 years of age or younger, meaning it will be 16 years or more before they will be eligible to collect a retirement benefit — providing time to accumulate the additional assets needed to fund the benefit.
- 36% of NYSTRS members are Tier 6 — a figure that will grow as more members join. Because these members pay higher employee contributions than their predecessors, employer costs should decline over time.

For more robust statistical analyses, refer to NYSTRS' full Annual Comprehensive Financial Report at NYSTRS.org.

## Distribution of the Annual Benefit\* of All Retired Members — as of June 30, 2022



\*Maximum annual retirement benefit including supplementation and COLA.

# An Economic Driver

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, NYSTRS distributed \$7.9 billion in benefits, with 80% of that total paid to New York state residents. The \$6.2 billion in System benefits paid to New Yorkers has a significant impact on state and local economies as shown in the chart below.

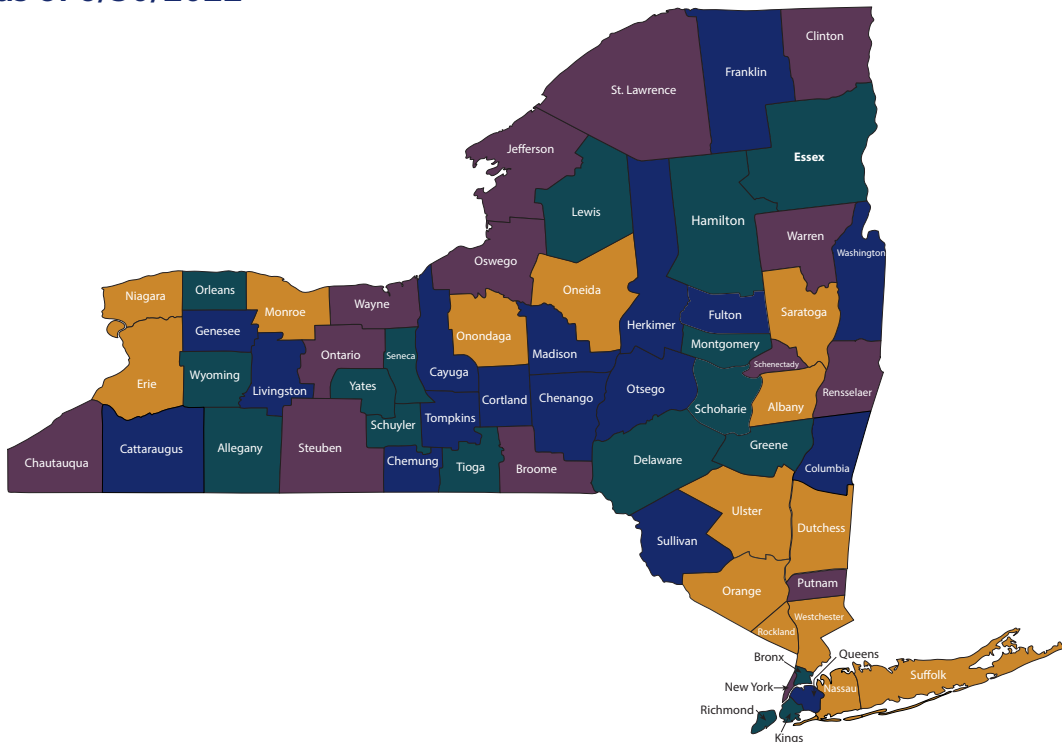
Retired public employees who live and spend their pension dollars in small towns and rural communities help jumpstart their local economies – especially during troubled times, according to a recent study by the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS).

Public pension benefit dollars account for significant amounts of total personal income and gross domestic product (GDP) in counties across the 43 states analyzed in the study, “Fortifying Main Street: The Economic Benefit of Public Pension Dollars in Rural America.”

For additional facts and figures about pensions, visit the Pension Education Toolkit at NYSTRS.org.

## Benefits Paid by County

### Benefits Paid to NYS Residents as of 6/30/2022

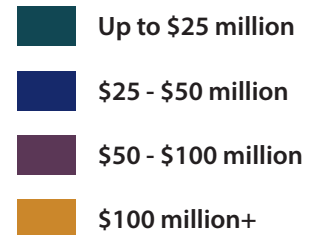


### Annual Benefits Paid\* (In Billions)

In State:	\$6.2
Out of State:	\$1.7
Total:	\$7.9

To see total payments and number of benefit recipients by county, visit About Us > Press Room at NYSTRS.org.

*(Computed on the optional annual benefit including supplementation and COLA.)*



\*Annual benefits paid in this chart may differ from retirement benefit payments that appear elsewhere in this report because this chart reflects the rate of annual payment for retired members and their beneficiaries in pay as of the last day of the fiscal year.

## Committed to Providing Educators With a Secure Retirement Since 1921



### NYSTRS

New York State Teachers' Retirement System  
 10 Corporate Woods Drive  
 Albany, New York 12211  
 NYSTRS.org

- Mission:** To provide our members with a secure pension.
- Vision:** To be the model for pension fund excellence and exceptional customer service.
- Values:** Integrity | Excellence | Respect | Resourcefulness  
 Diversity | Diligence | Balance