

Methodology

This report reviews the relative position of the public retirement systems in all 50 states (and the District of Columbia) by drawing largely on information released by the U.S. Department of Commerce in December 2003 covering 2,670 public retirement plans for the period July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002 (fiscal year 2002). The report also will extract information from data released by the U.S. Department of Commerce in prior years.

In addition, the report presents information secured from a survey forwarded to 190 plans in all 50 states by The Council of State Governments (See Appendix A). The latter information deals with the market value, number of active participants and annuitants and the actuarial assets and liabilities of the different plans. This survey was initially faxed, emailed or mailed to the administrators of these 190 plans on March 23, 2004, with a response deadline of April 19, 2004. For those plans that did not respond by April 24, further attempts were made to obtain responses with an extension in the deadline to May 7, 2004. Of the 190 plan administrators that initially were contacted, 85 plans, or 45 percent, did not respond to these repeated attempts. The remaining 105 plans, or 55 percent of the plans contacted, did provide responses to at least three of the five questions forwarded. Twelve plans did not provide information for at least one of the five questions. In an effort to confirm and provide an opportunity for the respondents to update the information provided previously, all 105 plan administrators were contacted again on July 19, 2004. On this occasion, the plans' administrators were asked to confirm the information previously provided and update the information if necessary.

Based on these efforts, importantly, the survey elicited information from at least one plan in 46 states, information from which is presented in this report. No plan from four states (Hawaii, Michigan, Rhode Island and Vermont) responded to the survey. The plans not responding to the survey are presented in Table 29.

State and Plans that Did Not Respond to the Survey of Public Sector Retirement Finances

State		Plan Name
AK	1	Judicial Retirement System
	2	National Guard/Naval Militia Retirement System
	3	Alaska Supplemental Annuity Plan
	4	Alaska Deferred Compensation Plan
	5	Elected Public Officers Retirement System
	6	Teachers' Retirement Board
	7	Judicial Retirement System
AR	8	Arkansas Fire and Police Pension Review Board
	9	Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System
	10	Arkansas Teacher Retirement System
AZ	11	Corrections Officer Retirement Plan
	12	Elected Officials' Retirement Plan
CA	13	Part-time, Seasonal or Temporary Employee Retirement Program
	14	Savings Plus Program
	15	California State Teachers' Retirement System
CO	16	Fire & Police Pension Association of Colorado
CT	17	Alternate Retirement Program (TIAA-CREF)
	18	Deferred Compensation Plan
	19	Retirement and Benefits Services Division
	20	State Employees Retirement System Tier I
	21	State Employees Retirement System Tier II
	22	State Employees Retirement System Tier IIA
DC	23	District of Columbia's 401(a) Defined Contribution Pension Plan
DE	24	Delaware Match Plan
	25	State of Delaware - Office of Pensions
FL	26	Deferred Retirement Option Program
	27	State University System Optional Retirement Program
	28	State Senior Management Service Optional Annuity Program
GA	29	Georgia Defined Contribution Plan
	30	State Employees' Assurance Department
	31	Teachers Retirement System of Georgia
HI	32	Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawaii

State		Plan Name
IL	33	Illinois Public Pension Fund Association
	34	State of Illinois Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan
	35	State Employees' Retirement System
	36	State Retirement Systems of Illinois
IN	37	State of Indiana Deferred Compensation and Matching Incentive Plans
	38	Indiana Public Employees' Retirement Fund
KY	39	Kentucky Public Employees' Deferred Compensation Authority
	40	Kentucky Teachers Retirement System
LA	41	Sheriffs Pension & Relief Fund
	42	School Employees' Retirement System
MA	43	Contributory Retirement Appeal Board
	44	Massachusetts Association of Contributory Retirement Systems
	45	Massachusetts Port Authority Employees' Retirement System
	46	Pension Reserves Investment Management Board
	47	Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission
ME	48	Deferred Compensation 457 Program
	49	Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust - Retiree Coverage
	50	Maine National Guard Retirement Benefits
MI	51	Deferred Compensation and Defined Contribution Retirement Plans
	52	Judges Retirement Board
	53	Office of Retirement Systems
	54	Public School Employees' Retirement System
	55	State Employees' Retirement System
	56	State Police Retirement Board
MN	57	Minnesota State Deferred Compensation Plan
	58	State Board of Investment
	59	State Retirement System
MT	60	PERS Defined Benefit Retirement Plan
	61	Montana Teachers' Retirement System
NE	62	University of Nebraska Basic Retirement Plan
	63	University of Nebraska Deferred Compensation Plan
	64	University of Nebraska Supplemental Plan

State		Plan Name
NH	65	University of New Hampshire Retirement System
NM	66	Educational Retirement Board
NY	67	State Deferred Compensation Plan
	68	State and Local Retirement Systems
OH	69	Deferred Compensation Program
	70	Public Employees' Retirement System
	71	School Employees' Retirement System
OK	72	Firefighters Pension and Retirement System
	73	SoonerSave Deferred Compensation Plan
OR	74	Oregon Savings Growth Plan
	75	Oregon University System - Optional Retirement Plan
	76	Oregon University System - Tax Deferred Plan
PA	77	Municipal Retirement System
RI	78	Employees Retirement System
SD	79	Supplemental Retirement Plan
TX	80	TexaSaver Program
VT	81	Municipal Employees Retirement System
	82	State Employees Retirement System
	83	State Teachers Retirement System
WA	84	Deferred Compensation Program
WI	85	Deferred Compensation Program

Table 29