

Notes and Brief Reports

Benefits and Beneficiaries Under Public Employee Retirement Programs, 1980*

During calendar year 1980, the number of persons receiving benefits from civilian and military Federal, State, and local employee retirement systems rose to 5.8 million, 5.4 percent higher than in the previous year. The amount of such benefits was \$41.1 billion, or 17.1 percent more than in 1979. Retirement systems covering Federal employees, including members of the armed services, accounted for about two-thirds of the benefit payments and slightly more than half the beneficiary population. These percentages have remained constant since the mid-1960's.

Table 1 presents 1980 data on the amount of benefits and number of beneficiaries for each retirement system, arranged according to the category of benefit received. Table 2 shows the percentage distribution of this data by benefit category and level of government. The State and

local government figures are aggregated from the 3,075 separate retirement systems surveyed by the 1977 Census of Governments.¹ Nearly three-fourths of all the benefits paid in the "State and local" category, however, were paid by the 197 State systems included in the sample. The 2,878 local systems accounted for only 28 percent of the total.

Table 3 shows the average annual benefit amount in each category of receipt for both Federal and State-local systems. Average benefits are shown in both current and constant (1980) dollars for selected years from 1970 to 1980. In constant dollars, the category for Federal survivor benefits showed the largest percentage increase—59.6 percent—over the 10-year period. The largest percentage decrease was seen in monthly survivor benefits under State and local systems: 39.8 percent.

Tables 4 and 5 provide time series data on public employee retirement systems—table 4 by category of risk and table 5 by level of government. Data for the Federal civil service and armed services are shown separately in table 5.

Data on the beneficiary population of State and local

*By Ann Kallman Bixby, Division of Retirement and Survivors Studies, Office of Retirement and Survivors Insurance, Social Security Administration.

¹ *Finances of Public Employee-Retirement Systems of State and Local Governments*, Bureau of the Census, May 1980.

Table 1.—Benefits and beneficiaries under public employee retirement systems, by reason for benefit receipt, calendar year 1980

System	Total	Age and service	Disability	Survivor	
				Monthly	Lump-sum
Benefits (in thousands)					
Total	\$41,087,466	\$32,713,126	\$5,073,116	\$2,883,576	\$417,648
Federal employees, total	28,041,466	21,624,126	4,160,116	2,231,576	25,648
Civil Service	15,065,310	10,227,491	2,884,677	1,930,252	22,890
Armed Forces	12,478,086	10,980,390	1,225,375	272,321	...
Other Federal programs, total	498,070	416,245	50,064	29,003	2,758
Contributory systems	182,243	156,437	10,091	14,165	1,550
Federal judiciary survivors ¹	1,999	1,999	...
Foreign Service	145,366	128,867	7,450	8,902	147
Tennessee Valley Authority	34,878	27,570	2,641	3,264	1,403
Noncontributory systems	315,827	259,808	39,973	14,838	1,208
Coast Guard ²	218,300	176,321	33,292	8,687	...
Federal judiciary ³	10,562	9,516	996	50	...
Federal Reserve banks (and Board) ⁴	39,231	33,461	760	3,802	1,208
NOAA ⁵	3,203	2,529	464	210	...
Public Health Service ⁶	44,036	37,561	4,461	2,014	...
Tax Court ⁷	495	420	...	75	...
State and local employees, ⁸ total	13,046,000	11,089,000	913,000	652,000	392,000

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1.—Benefits and beneficiaries under public employee retirement systems, by reason for benefit receipt, calendar year 1980—Continued

System	Total	Age and service	Disability	Survivor	
				Monthly	Lump-sum
Beneficiaries as of June 30 ⁹					
Total	5,841,643	4,313,815	694,799	833,029	...
Federal employees, total	3,051,643	2,053,815	499,799	498,029	...
¹ Civil Service	1,675,338	904,635	343,231	427,452	...
Armed Forces ¹⁰	1,330,341	1,113,620	151,096	65,625	...
Other Federal programs, total	45,964	35,560	5,452	4,952	...
Contributory systems	12,923	9,660	1,127	2,136	...
Federal judiciary survivors ¹	213	213	...
Foreign Service	6,938	5,626	390	922	...
Tennessee Valley Authority	5,772	4,034	737	1,001	...
Noncontributory systems	33,041	25,900	4,325	2,816	...
Coast Guard ^{2 10}	20,927	15,472	3,826	1,629	...
Federal judiciary ^{3 10}	215	183	25	7	...
Federal Reserve banks (and Board) ^{4 11}	9,789	8,625	222	942	...
NOAA ^{5 10}	157	100	25	32	...
Public Health Service ^{6 10}	1,939	1,512	227	200	...
Tax Court ^{7 10}	14	8	...	6	...
State and local employees, ^{8 12} total	2,790,000	2,260,000	195,000	335,000	...

¹ Excludes annuities to widows of Supreme Court justices. See footnote 4 below.
² Includes former Lifesaving and Lighthouse Services employees and their widows.
³ Includes Supreme Court justices and other Federal judges retired on salary as well as widows of Supreme Court justices receiving noncontributory annuities.
⁴ Contributory Board Plan not available separately. Lump-sum benefits relate to Board plan only.
⁵ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration commissioned officers.
⁶ Commissioned officers.

⁷ Retirement pay for judges is noncontributory; survivor benefits are contributory.
⁸ Benefits estimated by Social Security Administration from Census of Governments data for fiscal years; beneficiaries estimated from most recent (1977) quinquennial Census of Governments benchmarks.
⁹ Unless otherwise specified, number of survivor beneficiaries represents number of individuals.
¹⁰ Survivor beneficiaries represent families.
¹¹ Survivor beneficiaries represent widows only.
¹² Survivor beneficiaries represent payees, not necessarily individuals.
 Source: Data reported by administering agencies, except as noted.

Table 2.—Percentage distribution of benefits and beneficiaries of public employee retirement systems, by reason for benefit receipt and level of administering government, 1970 and 1978-80

Reason for receipt and level of government	1970	1978	1979	1980	Reason for receipt and level of government	1970	1978	1979	1980
All levels of government, by reason for receipt					All reasons for receipt, by level of government				
Benefits, total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	Benefits, total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age and service	77.1	79.4	79.5	79.6	Federal	64.9	67.1	67.2	68.2
Disability	14.0	12.6	12.5	12.4	Civil Service	30.1	35.4	35.7	36.7
Survivor, monthly benefits	6.9	6.8	6.9	7.0	Armed Forces	33.5	30.5	30.3	30.4
Survivor, lump-sum benefits	2.0	1.1	1.1	1.0	Other	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2
Beneficiaries, total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	State and local	35.1	32.9	32.8	31.8
Age and service	72.3	73.2	73.4	73.8	Beneficiaries, total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Disability	13.7	12.3	12.1	11.9	Federal	57.7	54.2	53.2	52.2
Survivor, monthly benefits	14.0	14.5	14.5	14.3	Civil Service	31.4	29.7	29.2	28.7
					Armed Forces	25.3	23.7	23.2	22.8
					Other	1.0	.8	.8	.8
					State and local	42.3	45.8	46.8	47.8

government retirement systems are available only through the quinquennial Census of Governments reports, last published for the 1977 census. Intercensile year figures are estimated by the Social Security Administration's Office of Retirement and Survivors Insurance, based on the amount of benefits paid during the year. The total amount of benefits paid by State and local retirement systems is published annually by the

Bureau of the Census for the fiscal year.² Calendar year figures presented here are derived from an aggregation of fiscal years 1980 and 1981. The proportion of benefits assigned to each risk category is estimated by using the proportions observed in the most recent Census of Governments. Data on Federal retirement systems are taken from reports of the administering agencies.

² Ibid.

Table 3.—Average annual benefits, by reason for benefit receipt and level of government, 1970 and 1978–80, and percentage increase, 1970–80, in current and constant (1980) dollars

Reason for receipt	1970	1978	1979	1980	Percentage increase, 1970–80	1970	1978	1979	1980	Percentage increase, 1970–80
	Current dollars					Constant (1980) dollars				
All public employee retirement systems, total	\$3,005	\$5,788	\$6,269	\$6,962	131.7	\$5,824	\$6,957	\$6,912	\$6,962	19.5
Age and service	3,271	6,348	6,865	7,583	131.8	6,339	7,630	7,569	7,583	19.6
Disability	3,131	6,009	6,511	7,302	133.2	6,068	7,222	7,179	7,302	20.3
Survivor, monthly benefit	1,510	2,767	3,039	3,462	129.3	2,926	3,326	3,351	3,462	18.3
Federal employee retirement systems, total	3,440	7,238	7,994	9,181	166.9	6,667	8,700	8,814	9,181	37.7
Age and service	4,066	8,343	9,221	10,529	159.0	7,880	10,028	10,166	10,529	33.6
Disability	3,174	6,642	7,273	8,324	162.3	6,151	7,983	8,019	8,324	35.3
Survivor, monthly benefit	1,449	3,390	3,795	4,481	209.2	2,808	4,075	4,184	4,481	59.6
State and local employee retirement systems, total	2,413	4,076	4,305	4,535	87.9	4,676	4,899	4,746	4,535	-3.0
Age and service	2,452	4,408	4,657	4,907	100.1	4,752	5,298	5,134	4,907	3.3
Disability	2,965	4,207	4,442	4,682	57.9	5,746	5,056	4,897	4,682	-18.5
Survivor, monthly benefit	1,667	1,752	1,849	1,946	16.7	3,231	2,106	2,039	1,946	-39.8

Table 4.—Benefits and beneficiaries of public employee retirement systems, by reason for benefit receipt, 1954–80

Calendar year	Benefits (in millions)					Beneficiaries as of June 30 (in thousands)			
	Total	Age and service	Disability	Survivor		Total	Age and service	Disability	Monthly survivor
				Monthly	Lump-sum				
1954.....	\$1,300.0	\$880.6	\$300.8	\$68.7	\$49.5	849.5	559.3	180.3	109.9
1955.....	1,463.2	998.0	334.7	80.6	49.8	917.4	606.1	188.8	122.5
1956.....	1,664.6	1,152.8	359.8	96.3	55.7	1,004.2	671.5	196.7	136.0
1957.....	1,881.3	1,331.1	377.2	111.6	61.5	1,107.5	756.2	200.8	150.4
1958.....	2,155.8	1,533.9	419.1	134.7	68.0	1,222.1	834.8	217.2	170.2
1959.....	2,424.1	1,735.7	459.1	162.1	67.2	1,341.2	906.6	231.5	203.1
1960.....	2,673.6	1,921.4	491.9	184.6	75.7	1,447.9	977.2	247.2	223.5
1961.....	3,007.8	2,181.4	530.2	208.3	87.9	1,578.3	1,072.3	262.9	243.1
1962.....	3,303.0	2,406.8	570.6	228.6	96.9	1,688.1	1,149.5	279.9	258.7
1963.....	3,753.9	2,762.8	624.9	265.6	100.7	1,837.5	1,263.4	293.7	280.4
1964.....	4,252.7	3,151.0	692.8	295.8	113.1	1,983.7	1,372.4	310.3	301.0
1965.....	4,720.4	3,520.1	751.3	324.4	124.6	2,117.3	1,472.2	326.1	318.8
1966.....	5,478.7	4,104.5	856.7	382.3	135.3	2,293.3	1,607.1	346.1	340.0
1967.....	6,171.8	4,636.2	942.5	448.0	145.1	2,474.3	1,743.6	364.4	366.3
1968.....	6,926.5	5,250.1	1,022.5	491.8	162.0	2,665.6	1,889.8	378.1	387.7
1969.....	7,919.7	6,052.3	1,134.9	553.6	178.9	2,853.5	2,049.0	398.1	406.3
1970.....	9,355.2	7,209.5	1,311.8	644.7	189.2	3,050.1	2,204.3	418.8	426.9
1971.....	10,946.8	8,552.7	1,490.7	733.9	199.5	3,265.0	2,375.1	438.7	451.3
1972.....	12,783.3	10,038.8	1,687.4	837.1	220.0	3,474.5	2,542.7	456.3	475.6
1973.....	14,974.7	11,866.8	1,906.7	965.1	236.1	3,796.4	2,784.9	486.7	524.7
1974.....	18,051.7	14,381.7	2,240.6	1,171.1	258.4	4,136.3	3,035.4	517.7	583.2
1975.....	21,617.3	17,199.7	2,707.3	1,438.9	271.4	4,427.7	3,243.1	549.1	635.5
1976.....	24,525.6	19,505.8	3,095.9	1,641.4	282.5	4,738.7	3,747.0	576.8	688.0
1977.....	27,429.0	21,795.1	3,499.6	1,842.2	292.0	5,006.3	3,660.0	611.4	734.9
1978.....	30,869.0	24,520.3	3,903.5	2,110.8	334.4	5,275.3	3,862.8	649.6	762.8
1979.....	35,068.2	27,890.9	4,375.9	2,433.8	367.5	5,535.4	4,062.6	672.1	800.8
1980.....	41,087.5	32,713.1	5,073.1	2,883.6	417.6	5,841.6	4,313.8	694.8	833.0

Table 5.—Benefits and beneficiaries of public employee retirement systems, by level of government, 1954–80

Calendar year	Benefits (in millions)					Beneficiaries as of June 30 (in thousands)				
	All systems	Federal			State and local	All systems	Federal			State and local
		Total ¹	Civil Service	Armed Forces			Total ¹	Civil Service	Armed Forces	
1954	\$1,300.0	\$764.5	\$337.7	\$397.9	\$535.0	849.5	450.5	269.3	167.9	399.0
1955	1,463.2	868.2	379.6	456.0	595.0	917.4	490.4	296.9	179.5	427.0
1956	1,664.6	987.6	455.7	495.6	677.0	1,004.2	533.2	327.1	191.3	471.0
1957	1,881.3	1,106.3	535.9	531.1	775.0	1,107.5	584.5	369.3	199.9	523.0
1958	2,155.8	1,280.8	637.4	600.8	875.0	1,222.1	649.1	418.2	215.0	573.0
1959	2,424.1	1,499.1	740.5	663.7	975.0	1,341.2	722.2	475.5	230.3	619.0
1960	2,673.6	1,595.6	816.1	732.2	1,078.0	1,447.9	787.9	514.9	256.0	660.0
1961	3,007.8	1,804.8	908.7	845.3	1,203.0	1,578.3	869.3	559.1	292.6	709.0
1962	3,303.0	2,006.1	999.8	951.7	1,296.0	1,688.1	949.1	601.7	328.8	739.0
1963	3,753.9	2,303.9	1,148.7	1,097.3	1,450.0	1,837.5	1,044.5	643.0	382.2	793.0
1964	4,252.7	2,642.7	1,269.8	1,310.1	1,610.0	1,983.7	1,143.7	688.0	434.7	840.0
1965	4,720.4	2,945.4	1,384.1	1,429.8	1,775.0	2,117.3	1,231.3	728.9	481.0	886.0
1966	5,478.7	3,493.7	1,713.1	1,703.2	1,985.0	2,293.3	1,348.3	795.7	529.8	945.0
1967	6,171.8	3,951.8	1,905.9	1,960.2	2,220.0	2,474.3	1,445.3	831.2	590.1	1,029.0
1968	6,926.5	4,441.5	2,086.8	2,259.6	2,485.0	2,665.6	1,548.6	871.9	651.3	1,117.0
1969	7,919.7	5,084.7	2,346.0	2,631.3	2,835.0	2,853.5	1,650.5	910.4	714.0	1,203.0
1970	9,355.2	6,075.2	2,819.9	2,133.1	3,280.0	3,050.1	1,759.1	958.8	772.8	1,291.0
1971	10,946.8	7,126.8	3,329.4	3,660.2	3,820.0	3,265.0	1,886.0	1,026.3	831.3	1,379.0
1972	12,783.3	8,248.3	3,946.4	4,148.8	4,535.0	3,474.5	2,011.5	1,091.8	890.2	1,463.0
1973	14,974.7	9,659.7	4,808.4	4,679.3	5,315.0	3,796.4	2,171.4	1,192.5	948.2	1,625.0
1974	18,051.7	11,941.7	6,082.5	5,651.0	6,110.0	4,136.3	2,350.3	1,306.2	1,011.5	1,786.0
1975	21,617.3	14,592.3	7,531.5	6,808.0	7,025.0	4,479.7	2,479.7	1,372.1	1,073.0	1,948.0
1976	24,525.6	16,545.6	8,584.4	7,673.6	7,980.0	4,738.7	2,629.7	1,432.0	1,161.0	2,109.0
1977	27,429.0	18,429.0	9,625.8	8,479.2	9,000.0	5,006.3	2,735.3	1,487.9	1,208.3	2,271.0
1978	30,869.0	20,709.0	10,925.2	9,420.2	10,160.0	5,275.3	2,857.3	1,564.5	1,252.1	2,418.0
1979	35,068.2	23,578.2	12,518.7	10,641.6	11,490.0	5,535.4	2,946.4	1,617.3	1,286.3	2,589.0
1980	41,087.5	28,041.5	15,065.3	12,478.1	13,046.0	5,841.6	3,051.6	1,675.3	1,330.3	2,790.0

¹ Includes Federal systems other than Civil Service and Armed Forces not shown separately.