

NASRA Issue Brief: Employee Contributions to Public Pension Plans



November 2024

Nearly all employees of state and local government are required to share in the cost of their retirement benefit, a requirement that contrasts with pension plans in the private sector, whose participants do not contribute to their pension benefit. Employee contributions to public pensions typically are set as a percentage of salary either by statute or by the board that oversees the pension plan. By providing a consistent and predictable stream of revenue to public pension funds, contributions from employees fill a vital role in financing pension benefits.ⁱ Reforms made in the wake of the 2008-09 market decline included higher employee contribution rates for many public pension plans. This issue brief examines employee contribution plan designs, policies and recent trends.

Mandatory Participation & Shared Financing

For nearly all employees of state and local government, participating in an employer-sponsored retirement plan and contributing toward its cost are mandatory terms of employment. For the significant majority of employees who participate in a pension plan, required contributions help distribute some of the responsibility for funding the plan. In plans with variable employee contribution rates, employees also assume a portion of one or more types of retirement plan risk. The primary types of risk in a retirement plan pertain to investment, longevity, and inflation.ⁱⁱ

The prevailing model for employees to contribute to their pension plan is for state and local governments to withhold contributions as a deduction from employee pay each pay period. This amount in most cases is established as a percentage of an employee's salary. As shown in Appendix A, employee contribution rates to pension benefits typically are between four and eight percent of pay and are outside these levels for some plans. In some cases, required employee contributions are variable, i.e., subject to change depending on the actuarial condition of

the plan, the fund's investment performance, or another factor. In some plans, the employee contribution is actually paid by the employer in lieu of a negotiated salary increase or other fiscal offset.

Some 25 to 30 percent of employees of state and local government do not participate in Social Security. By not participating in Social Security, these employees also do not contribute the 6.2 percent of their pay that Social Security participants do. In most cases for those outside of Social Security, the pension benefit and required employee contribution are greater than the typical benefit and contribution is for those who do participate in Social Security.ⁱⁱⁱ Appendix A of this brief identifies whether plan members participate in Social Security.

Figure 1: Public pension sources of revenue, 1994-2023

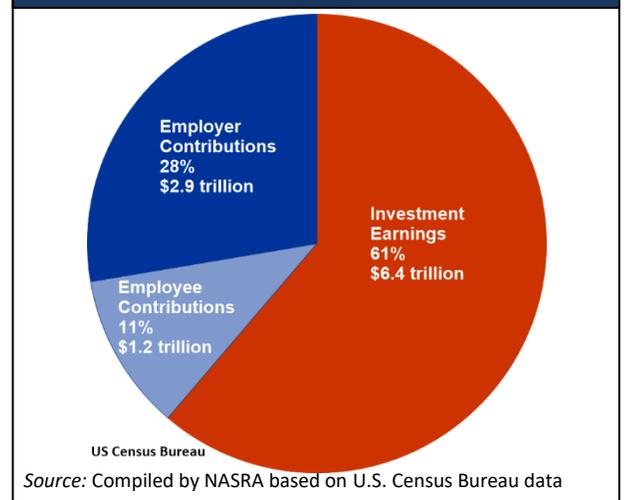


Figure 2: States that increased employee contributions in at least one public pension plan since 2009

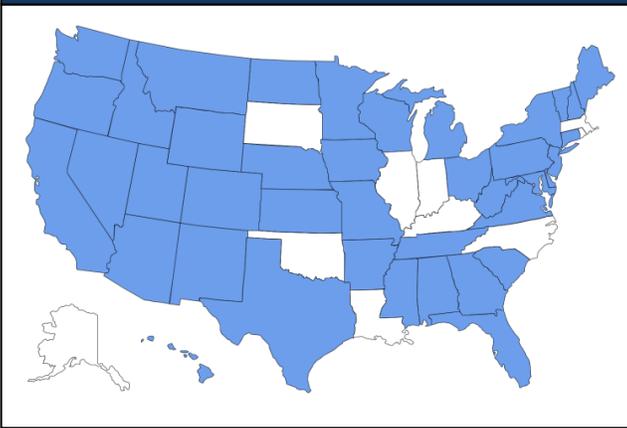
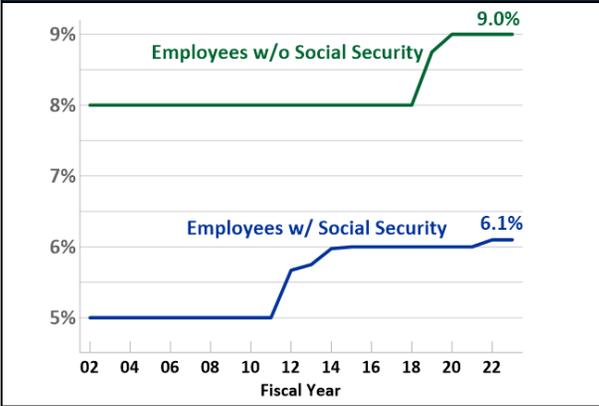


Figure 3: Median employee contribution rate by Social Security eligibility, FY 02 to FY 23 (non-public safety)



Trends in Employee Contributions

Many states in recent years made changes requiring employees to contribute more toward the cost of their retirement benefits: since 2009, 40 states increased required employee contribution rates (see Figure 2). Higher rates in some cases apply only to new hires, and in other cases, the higher rates apply to all active plan participants. As a result of these changes, the median contribution rate paid by employees has increased: Figure 3 shows that the median contribution rate has risen to 6.1 percent of pay for employees who also participate in Social Security, and to 9.0 percent for those who do not participate in Social Security. The most recent changes, reflected for FY 23, are a result of incremental increases in rates for a few plans.

New Contributions

Contribution requirements for plans covering certain employee groups in some states, such as **Missouri** and **Florida**, which previously did not require some employees to make pension contributions, were established in recent years for newly hired employees, existing workers, or both. Employees hired in **Utah** before July 1, 2011 are not required to contribute to the cost of their pension benefit. Those hired since, who are in Tier 2, must contribute any cost that exceeds 10 percent of pay (14 percent for public safety workers). Because the cost of the plan for public safety workers is 18.73 percent as of September 2024, those workers must contribute 4.73 percent of pay. In 2024, for the first time since Tier 2 took effect in Utah, the cost of the plan for general employees and teachers exceeds the 10 percent threshold; for FY 2025 Tier 2 workers are contributing 0.70 percent of pay toward their retirement benefit.

Variable Contributions

A growing number of states maintain plans in which the employee contribution rate may change, depending on the pension plan's actuarial condition or other factors. NASRA's report, [In-Depth: Risk-Sharing in Public Retirement Plans](#), describes a range of variable employee contribution rate arrangements, including those based on the plan's actuarial funding level, normal cost, or a rate that is tied to a percentage of the employer contribution rate. Changes approved in recent years in **Arizona**, **California**, and **Connecticut** require some workers to pay at least one-half of the normal cost of the benefit, which can result in a variable contribution rate. Similarly, recent reforms in **Michigan** require newly hired school teachers to pay one-half of the full cost of the plan. As described previously, the **Utah** plan affecting new hires since July 2011 could become variable, depending on the plan's required cost.

For employees participating in the Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association, the Pennsylvania State Employees Retirement System, and the Pennsylvania Public Schools Retirement System, recent reforms established variable contribution rates which call for increasing rates under certain conditions which can be rolled back in the future. In **Colorado**, the rates could rise by as much as 0.5 percent per year, up to a maximum of 2.0 percent, if contributions paid to the plan by employers fall short of 98 percent of the actuarially determined contribution level (with corresponding decreases, down to a minimum of the FY 18 rates), when contributions to the plan are greater than 120 percent of the actuarially determined contribution. In **Pennsylvania**, affected state employees and teachers hired since 2011 could pay higher contributions depending on their respective funds' investment performance.

Increased Contributions for Current Plan Participants

Most employee contribution rate increases approved in recent years affected all workers-current and future. In some states, such as **Virginia** and **Wisconsin**, new and existing employees are now required to pay the contributions that previously were made by employers in lieu of a salary increase.

Hybrid Plans

A growing number of public employees now participate in hybrid retirement plans, which combine elements of defined benefit and defined contribution plans, and that distribute some plan risk between the employer to the employee. In one type of hybrid plan, known as a combination defined benefit-defined contribution plan, employees in most cases are responsible for contributing all or most of the cost of the defined contribution portion of the plan.^{iv}

Contribution requirements to the DB component of combination plans vary: some are funded solely by employer contributions, while others require contributions from both employees and employers. As described in NASRA's issue brief, [State Hybrid Retirement Plans](#), in most of these cases, employees are also required to contribute toward the cost of the defined contribution portion of their hybrid plan benefit.^v

Collective Bargaining

Employee contributions in some cases are set by collective bargaining and can be changed when labor agreements are negotiated. For example, required employee contribution rates for employee groups in **California** and **Connecticut** increased in recent years as part of new labor agreements in those states.

Legal Landscape

The legality of increasing contributions for current plan participants varies. Some states prohibit an increase in contributions for existing plan participants. For example, a 2012 ruling in **Arizona** found that legislative efforts to increase contributions for existing workers violated a state constitutional protection against impairment of benefits. In other states, however, such as in **Minnesota** and **Mississippi**, higher employee contributions either did not produce a legal challenge, or withstood legal challenges, such as in **New Hampshire**, **New Mexico**, and **Oregon**.

Governance Changes

Traditionally, state legislatures have been responsible for determining employee (and employer) contribution rates for public pensions. A few states in recent years have granted limited authority to retirement system boards to adjust contribution rates for employers and employees. For example, the Arkansas Legislature in 2017 approved legislation authorizing the board of the state Teachers Retirement System to adjust employer and employee contribution rates as necessary "to maintain the actuarial soundness of the plan." Similarly, in 2020, the Colorado Legislature enacted a bill authorizing the board of the Fire and Police Pension Association to increase the member contribution rate if the rate increase is equal for the member and employer; and if the increase is approved by 65 percent of the active members and 50 percent of plan employers. Boards in other states, including Montana and Ohio, have been granted similar authority, while in Idaho and Iowa, among others, boards have had longstanding limited authority to modify contribution rates.

Conclusion

Employee contributions are a key component of public pension funding policies. Nearly all employees of state and local government are required to contribute to the cost of their pension benefit, and this number has grown in recent years as most states that previously administered non-contributory plans now require worker contributions. Many employees also are required to contribute more toward the cost of their retirement benefit. In some cases, this requirement applies to both current workers and new hires; in other cases, only to new hires. A growing number of states are exposing employee contributions to risk – either by tying the rate to such factors as the plan's funding condition or cost, or by requiring participation in hybrid or 401k-type plans as a larger component of the employee's retirement benefit.

See Also

Information is available on public pension contributions at

- [Contributions @NASRA.org](#)
- [Selected Approved Changes to State Public Pensions, 2019-Present](#), NASRA
- [Significant Reforms to State Retirement Systems](#), NASRA, December 2018
- [Public Fund Survey Summary of Findings](#), NASRA

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ⁱ NASRA Issue Brief: Public Pension Plan Investment Return Assumptions

<http://www.nasra.org/returnassumptionsbrief>

ⁱⁱ In-depth: Risk Sharing in Public Retirement Plans

<http://www.nasra.org/risksharing>

ⁱⁱⁱ [Social Security@NASRA.org](mailto:SocialSecurity@NASRA.org)

^{iv} NASRA Issue Brief: State Hybrid Retirement Plans

<http://www.nasra.org/hybridbrief>

^{iv} *ibid.*

Appendix A: Employee pension contribution rates
(Unless otherwise specified, information reflects rates in effect as of November 2024)

State	Plan	Employee Contribution Rate (Percent of Pay)	Social Security Coverage
AK	Alaska PERS	6.75% for general employees and 7.5% for police and fire hired before 7/1/06; those hired on or after 7/1/06 participate in a DC plan with an employee contribution rate of 8.0%	No
AK	Alaska Teachers	8.65% for those hired before 7/1/06; those hired on or after 7/1/06 participate in a DC plan with an employee contribution rate of 8.0%	No
AL	Alabama ERS	State employees hired on or after 1/1/13 contribute 6.0%; those hired before contribute 7.5%. Local government employees contribute 6.0% if hired on or after 1/1/13, or either 5.0% or 7.5% if hired previously, depending on employer election. State police contribute 10.0%; other law enforcement officers, correctional officers, and firefighters contribute 7.0% if hired on or after 1/1/13, or either 6.0% or 8.5% if hired previously, depending on employer election	Yes
AL	Alabama Teachers	6.2% for those hired on or after 1/1/13; 7.5% for those hired previously	Yes
AR	Arkansas PERS	5.25% for those hired since 7/1/05, increasing annually by 0.25% over an eight-year period beginning FY 23, resulting in an employee contribute rate of 7.0% effective FY 30.	Yes
AR	Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement Plan	7.0%	Yes
AR	Arkansas Teachers	Most teachers contribute 7.0%.	Yes
AZ	Arizona Public Safety Personnel	7.65% for those hired before 7/20/11; 11.65% for those hired since. Public safety officers hired since 7/1/17 may elect to participate in a DC plan with an employee contribution rate of 9.0% or a reduced DB plan with an employee contribution rate equal to one-half of the total plan contribution rate, and participation in a DC plan with an employee contribution of 3.0%. Correctional officers hired beginning 7/1/18 participate in a defined contribution plan only, to which they contribute 7.0%; officers may make a one-time election to contribute less than 7.0% but must contribute at least 5.0%.	Yes
AZ	Arizona SRS	12.27%	Yes
CA	California PERF	Most state employees contribute 8.0%; state safety, firefighters, and police contribute 9% to 11%, depending on the benefits offered; school employees contribute 7.0%; most local agency miscellaneous, firefighters and police officers contribute between 7% and 9%, depending on the benefits offered. Members hired since 1/1/13 must contribute at least one-half of the plan's normal cost, and contribute between 4.0% and 15.25%, depending on the employee classification and benefits offered.	Both

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CA	California Teachers	For members first hired before 2013, 10.25%. Members first hired after 2012 must contribute at least one-half of the plan’s normal cost, and currently contribute 10.205%.	No
CA	Los Angeles City Employees	11.0%; members first hired after 2012 must contribute at least one-half of the plan’s normal cost.	No
CA	Orange County ERS	Employee contribution rates vary based on plan and member age at time of entry into the system. General employee rates range between 5.5% and 17.185%, plus an amount for the auto-COLA. Public safety employee rates range between 8.8% and 23.32%, plus an amount for the auto-COLA. Contribution rates fluctuate each year based on results of the actuarial valuation.	No
CA	University of California	8%, minus \$19/month, for those hired before 7/1/13 (1976 Tier); 7% for those hired on or after 7/1/13 (2013 Tier, 2016 Tier); 9% for safety members and employees in certain unions (2013 Modified Tier and 1976 Tier). Members who elect to participate in the Savings Choice DC plan in lieu of the UCRP/Pension contribute 7%.	Yes (except safety members)
CO	Colorado Affiliated Local	Varies by plan; most employees contribute between 5% and 10%.	No
CO	Colorado Fire & Police Statewide	12.0%	No
CO	Colorado Local Government	9.0%; 13.0% for members with the state trooper benefit structure. Legislation approved in 2018 established risk-sharing plan provisions, including employee contribution rates that may rise or fall by up to 0.5% depending on the employer’s contribution effort. The state trooper benefit structure was approved for certain other safety officers hired on or after 1/1/20 within the Local Government division.	Mostly No
CO	Colorado School and Colorado State	Contribution rates for School and State plan members are 11.0%; 13.0% for state troopers in the State division. Legislation approved in 2018 established risk-sharing plan provisions, including employee contribution rates that may rise or fall by up to 0.5% depending on the employer’s contribution effort.	No

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CT	Connecticut SERS	4.0%; 7.0% for public safety personnel. If the plan's investment returns fall below the assumed rate of 6.9%, and the employer normal cost increases, employees may be required to make an additional contribution of one-half of the amount of the normal cost increase, not to exceed 2.0%. Employees hired after 6/30/17 participate in a new hybrid plan that requires employees to contribute 5.0% and potentially more, based on the risk-sharing provision described above, plus 1.0% to the DC portion of the plan.	Yes
CT	Connecticut Teachers	7.0%	No
DC	DC Police & Fire	8.0%	No
DC	DC Teachers	8.0%	No
DE	Delaware State Employees	3.0% of pay above \$6,000; employees hired since 1/1/12 contribute 5.0% of pay above \$6,000	Yes
FL	Florida RS	3.0%	Yes
GA	Georgia ERS	1.25% to the DB plan. Workers hired since 2009 participate in a hybrid plan. The default employee contribution to the DC component of the hybrid plan for those hired from 2009 until 6/30/14 is 1.0%, and 5.0% for those hired since 7/1/14. All hybrid plan participants may increase or decrease their level of contribution to the DC plan, and new hires may opt-out of the DC plan within the first 90 days of hiring.	Yes
GA	Georgia Teachers	6.0%	Mostly Yes
HI	Hawaii ERS	Between 6.0% and 9.75% for general employees and teachers, and 12.2% for public safety officers hired before 7/1/12; between 8.0% and 11.75% for general employees and teachers, and 14.2% for public safety officers hired on or after 7/1/12.	Yes
IA	Iowa PERS	6.29% for regular employees; 6.21% for protection occupations; 8.51% for sheriffs. The IPERS board has authority to adjust rates by up to one percent per year.	Yes
IA	Municipal Fire & Police RS	9.4%	No
ID	Idaho PERS	The employee contribution rate is set by statute at 60% of the employer rate, and 72% of the employer rate for public safety personnel. The current rate for general employees and teachers is 7.16%, and 9.13% for public safety personnel	Yes
IL	Illinois Municipal	3.75% for general employees; 6.75% for law enforcement personnel. All members contribute an additional 0.75% for survivor's pension benefits, for	Yes

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State	Plan	Employee Contribution Rate (Percent of Pay)	Social Security Coverage
		total contribution rates of 4.50% and 7.50%, respectively	
IL	Illinois SERS	3.5% for general employees and 8.0% for public safety members covered by Social Security, plus 0.5% for survivor's pension benefits, 7.0% for general employees and 11.5% for public safety members not covered, plus 1.0% for survivor's pension benefit	Yes
IL	Illinois Teachers	9.0%, allocated as follows: 7.5% for retirement; 0.5% for post-retirement increases; and 1% for death benefits	No
IL	Illinois Universities	8.0%; public safety personnel contribute 9.5%	No
IN	Indiana PERF and Indiana Teachers	3.0%, which is paid to employees' individual account in the DC component of the DB-DC hybrid plan	Yes
KS	Kansas PERS	6.0%; public safety employees contribute 7.15%	Yes, except some public safety employees do not participate
KY	Kentucky County	5.0%, and 8.0% for public safety workers; those hired since 9/1/08 must contribute an additional 1.0% for retiree health care	Yes
KY	Kentucky ERS		
KY	Kentucky Teachers	Non-university members contribute 9.105% and university members (participating in Social Security) contribute 5.41%, plus a contribution for retiree health care. Members hired on or after 1/1/22 participate in a hybrid plan with non-university members contributing 11.0% and university members (participating in Social Security) contributing 7.0%, plus a contribution for retiree health care.	No, except university members, who account for around five percent of all members.
LA	Louisiana Parochial Employees	9.5% for members not covered by Social Security; 3.0% for members covered by Social Security	No, for approximately 85% of members
LA	Louisiana SERS	8.0% for regular employees hired as of 7/1/06; hazardous duty members contribute 9.5%; different contribution rates apply for other specialty plans	No
LA	Louisiana Teachers	8.0%	No
MA	Massachusetts SERS	5% - 9% of annual compensation depending on date of membership. State police contribute 12%.	No
MA	Massachusetts Teachers	5% to 11%, depending on member's date of entry; those hired after 6/30/01 and participants in the Retirement Plus benefit tier pay 11.0%	No
MD	Maryland PERS	7.0%	Yes
MD	Maryland Teachers	7.0%	Yes
ME	Maine Local	4.1% to 9.7%, depending on employer election; contribution rates for employers and members of the	Yes, for approximately half of participants

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		Participating Local District (PLD) Consolidated Retirement Plan are determined by a methodology that shares risk between employers and members of the plan. Contribution rates are subject to change each year based on a 58%/42% employer/member split. The aggregate employer rate is capped at 12.5% and the aggregate member rate is capped at 9.0%.	
ME	Maine State and Teacher	7.65%; 8.65% for law enforcement officers	No
MI	Michigan Municipal	Required employee contributions vary by plan and employer (typically between 0% and 20%)	Both; varies by plan
		Active DB members hired prior to 7/1/10 contribute based on their designated plan type, ranging from zero to 7.0%. Employees hired from 7/1/10 until 1/31/18 choose between a hybrid plan with a graded contribution structure (3.0% of first \$5,000, 3.6% of next \$10,000, and 6.4% over \$15,000) for the DB component and a zero to 2.0% optional contribution to the DC component (employees may contribute more, but receive only a 1:2 employer match on the first 2%), or a DC plan with required employee contributions of 4.0% (with matching employer contributions up to another 3.0% of optional employee contributions, for a maximum employer contribution of 7.0%). New hires since 2/1/18 choose from either: a) a default defined contribution plan with required employer contributions of 4.0% (with matching employer contributions up to another 3.0% of optional employee contributions (for a maximum employer contribution of 7.0%); or b) a hybrid plan with required employee contributions equal to 50% of the total plan contribution rate. A contribution rate of 12.4% is shared equally by employees and employers.	
MI	Michigan Public Schools		Yes
		Employees hired since 3/1/97 are enrolled in a DC plan with an optional contribution rate of zero to 3.0%; (active DB plan members, who are those hired before 3/1/97, contribute 4.0%)	Yes
MI	Michigan SERS		
MN	Minnesota PERA	6.5%; 11.8% for police and fire; 5.83% for correctional officers.	Yes, except police and fire
MN	Minnesota State Employees	5.5% in FY 24 and FY 25, returning to 6.0% in FY 26; 15.4% for state patrol officers; 9.6% for correctional officers	Yes, except state patrol
MN	Minnesota Teachers	7.75%, increasing to 8.0% in FY 26	Yes
MO	Missouri DOT and Highway Patrol	4.0% for those hired after 12/31/10; non-contributory for those hired previously	Yes
MO	Missouri Local	Participating employers may elect to require employee contributions of 0%, 2%, 4%, or 6%; most plans do not require employees to contribute	Yes (with few exceptions, as elected by the employer)

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State	Plan	Employee Contribution Rate (Percent of Pay)	Social Security Coverage
MO	Missouri PEERS	6.86%	Yes
MO	Missouri State Employees	4.0% for those hired after 12/31/10; non-contributory for those hired previously	Yes
MO	Missouri Teachers	14.50%	No
MS	Mississippi PERS	9.0%; Highway Patrol Officers contribute 7.25%	Yes
MT	Montana PERS	7.90%; the rate will drop to 6.9% when the plan's amortization period falls below 25 years and is projected to remain below that threshold based on the lower rate	Yes
MT	Montana Teachers	8.15%, which can be increased by the board by up to 1.0% based on designated triggers	Yes
NC	North Carolina Local Government	6.0%	Yes
NC	North Carolina Teachers and State Employees	6.0%	Yes
ND	North Dakota PERS	7.0%; 5.5% for law enforcement	Yes
ND	North Dakota Teachers	11.75%; once the plan achieves full-funding status, the employee contribution rate will drop to 7.75%	Yes
NE	Nebraska County	4.5%	Yes
NE	Nebraska Schools	9.78%	Yes
NE	Nebraska State	4.8%	Yes
NH	New Hampshire Retirement System	7.0% for general employees and teachers; 11.8% for firefighters; 11.55% for police officers.	Yes, for general employees and teachers; No for public safety
NJ	New Jersey PERS	7.50%	Yes
NJ	New Jersey Police & Fire	10.0%	Yes
NJ	New Jersey Teachers	7.50%	Yes
NM	New Mexico PERA	11.92% for state general members with a salary above \$25,000. 7.42% for state general members with a salary below \$25,000. Rates vary for other employee groups. Legislation approved in 2020 increases employee and employer contribution rates by 2.0%, in increments of 0.5 percent over 4 years beginning 7/1/20 for state general members and 7/1/22 for all municipal employee groups. This legislation also establishes a mechanism for reducing employee contribution rates based on improvements to the plan's funding condition.	Yes

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State	Plan	Employee Contribution Rate (Percent of Pay)	Social Security Coverage
NM	New Mexico Teachers	7.9% for those with a salary of \$24,000 or less; 10.7% for those with a salary above \$24,000	Yes
NV	Nevada Police Officer and Firefighter	22.75%	No
NV	Nevada Regular Employees	15.50%	No
NY	New York State Teachers	Those hired before 1/1/10 contribute 3.0% if <10 years of service, 0% if 10+ years of service; those hired on or after 1/1/10 but before 4/1/12 contribute 3.5% throughout membership; those hired on or after 4/1/12 contribute 3.0% to 6.0% throughout their membership, depending on salary.	Yes
NY	New York State & Local ERS	Those hired before 1/1/10 contribute 3.0% if <10 years of service, 0% if 10+ years of service; Those hired on or after 1/1/10 but before 4/1/12 contribute 3.0%; Those hired on or after 4/1/12 contribute 3.0% to 6.0% depending on salary	Yes
NY	New York State & Local Police & Fire	Those hired between 7/1/09 through 1/8/10 contribute 3.0%; most participants hired since 1/9/10 contribute 3%-6% based on an annual salary sliding scale.	Yes
OH	Ohio PERS	10% for general members; public safety division members contribute 12% and law enforcement members contribute 13%; rates apply to all plan options: the DB, hybrid, and DC plans.	No
OH	Ohio Police & Fire	12.25%	No
OH	Ohio School Employees	10.0%	No
OH	Ohio Teachers	14.0%; rates apply to all plan options: the DB, hybrid, and DC plans.	No
OK	Oklahoma PERS	3.5% for state employees; 3.5% to 8.5% for employees of county and local agencies; hazardous duty members pay 8.0%. State employees hired since 1/1/15 participate only in a DC plan to which they are required to contribute a minimum of 4.5% and may contribute more to increase the employer matching contribution.	Yes
OK	Oklahoma Teachers	7.0%	Yes
OR	Oregon PERS	0.75% to the DB plan for those hired on or after 8/28/03 and whose monthly salary is at least \$3,333 in 2022, indexed for inflation (plus 5.25% to the DC plan). For those hired before 8/28/03, 2.5% to the DB plan and 3.5% to the DC plan. Contributions to the DB plan are in effect when the DB plan is less than 90% funded.	Yes (with a few exceptions as elected by the employer)
PA	Pennsylvania School Employees	Between 5.25% and 10.8%, depending on date of hire and plan selection. Rates for employees hired since 7/1/11 are subject to a limited graduating scale based on investment performance and the plan's funding	Yes

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PA	Pennsylvania State ERS	<p>level. New hires on or after 7/1/19 are required to select from one of three plan options: a) a default hybrid plan with employee contributions of 6.25% to the DB plan and 2.75% to the DC plan; an alternative hybrid plan with employee contributions of 5.25% to the DB plan and 3.0% to the DC plan; or a defined contribution plan with employee contributions of 7.5%. Hybrid plan members also are subject to a “shared-risk” or “shared-gain” provision to be calculated every 3 years comparing PSERS’ actual and assumed rate of return for the past 10 years. For each percentage point in earnings realized in excess of or below the assumed rate of return, the EE contribution rate will be increased or reduced by 0.75%, not to exceed a maximum of 3.0% above or below the basic contribution rate.</p> <p>Between 5.0% and 9.3%, depending on date of hire and plan selection. Rates for those hired since 1/1/11 are subject to a limited graduating scale based on investment performance and the plan’s funding level. New hires on or after 1/1/19 are required to select from one of three plan options: a) a default hybrid plan with employee contributions of 5.0% to the DB plan and 3.25% to the DC plan; b) an alternative hybrid plan with employee contributions of 4.0% to the DB plan and 3.5% to the DC plan; or c) a defined contribution plan with employee contributions of 7.5%. Hybrid plan members are subject to “shared-risk” or “shared-gain” provision to be calculated every 3 years comparing PennSERS’ actual and assumed rate of return for the past 10 years. For each percentage point in earnings realized above or below the assumed rate or return, the EE contribution rate will be increased or reduced by 0.75%, not to exceed a maximum of 3.0% above or below the basic contribution rate.</p>	Yes (except state police officers)
PR	Puerto Rico Government Employees	<p>Act 106-2017 closed participation in Puerto Rico’s defined benefit plans to new hires on or after 7/1/17, and moved prospective accruals for all current active members to a defined contribution plan with an 8.5% mandatory contribution rate for all public employees, with voluntary contributions up to 20.0%. Judges, teachers, and police officers participating in Social Security contribute 2.3% (with the difference of 6.2% directed to Social Security).</p>	Yes (except some police officers, judges, and teachers above age 45 who opted out)
RI	Rhode Island ERS	<p>State employees and teachers contribute 3.75% to the DB plan plus 5% to the DC plan; teachers who do not participate in Social Security contribute 7% to the DC plan (approximately one-half of teachers do not participate in Social Security)</p> <p>State employees with 20 or more years of service as of 6/30/12 contribute 11% to the DB plan only.</p>	Yes, but no for many teachers

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RI	Rhode Island Municipal	1.0% to 2.0% for general employees; 9.0% to 10.0% for public safety personnel; general employees contribute 5% to the DC plan if covered by Social Security, or 7% if not covered; public safety personnel who do not participate in Social Security contribute 3% to the DC plan. General employees with 20 or more years of service as of 6/30/12 contribute 8.25% to 9.25% to the DB plan only.	Mostly Yes
SC	South Carolina Police	9.75%	Yes
SC	South Carolina RS	9.0%	Yes
SD	South Dakota PERS	6.0%; public safety personnel contribute 8.0%; judicial members contribute 9%	Yes
TN	Tennessee Political Subdivisions	Participating employers may elect to require employee contributions of 0% or 5%; local government employees of employers that have selected the hybrid plan hired since 7/1/14 contribute 5% to the DB plan and 2% to the DC plan; participants may opt out of DC plan contributions.	Yes
TN	Tennessee State and Teachers	Non-contributory for most state and higher education employees; 5% for teachers. Employees hired since 7/1/14 participate in a hybrid plan with mandatory contribution rates of 5% to the DB plan and 2% to the DC plan; participants may opt out of DC plan contributions.	Yes
TX	Texas County & District	Employers set the employee contribution rate in a range from 4.0% to 7.0%	Both; varies by plan
TX	Texas ERS	9.5% for those hired before 9/1/22; those hired on or after 9/1/22 participate in a cash balance plan with required employee contributions of 6.0%.	Yes
TX	Texas LECOS	LECOS is a supplementary plan to the Texas ERS, for law enforcement and custodial officers; participants hired before 9/1/22 contribute 0.5% plus the ERS contribution. Those hired on and after 9/1/22 contribute 6.0% to their ERS cash balance plan account and an additional 2.0% to a LECOS cash balance plan account.	Yes
TX	Texas Municipal	5%, 6%, or 7%, depending on ER election	Both; varies by plan
TX	Texas Teachers	8.25%	No
UT	Utah Noncontributory	Non-contributory for employees hired before 7/1/11; employees hired after that date may elect to participate in a hybrid plan or a DC plan. Employee contributions in the hybrid plan are required when the costs of the DB portion of the plan exceed 10% (14% for public safety). DC plan contributions are optional. In 2024, employee	Yes

Appendix A: Employee pension contribution rates
(Unless otherwise specified, information reflects rates in effect as of November 2024)

State	Plan	Employee Contribution Rate (Percent of Pay)	Social Security Coverage
VA	Richmond Retirement System	<p>contribution rates are 0.70% for general employees and teachers and 4.73% for public safety officers.</p> <p>Most non-public safety hires may participate only in a DC plan, which is non-contributory for employees. Public safety DB plan participants contribute 1.5% and general employee DB plan participants (who are top management employees) contribute 1.0%. DB plan participants may elect the enhanced option, featuring a higher retirement multiplier; the employee contribution rate for the enhanced option is 3.57%.</p>	Yes
VA	Virginia Retirement System	<p>5.0% for participants hired prior to 1/1/14 and all participants with enhanced hazardous duty benefits; employees in non-hazardous duty positions hired since 1/1/14 participate in a hybrid plan with mandatory contributions of 4% to the DB plan and 1% to the DC plan.</p>	Yes
VT	Vermont State Employees and Teachers	<p>Pursuant to pension reform legislation approved in 2022, contribution rates for most state employees will increase gradually from 7.15% in FY 23 to 9.15% in FY 27. Contribution rates for most teachers will grow from 6.0% in FY 23 to a sliding scale based on salary, ranging from 6.15% for those earning less than \$40,000 annually to 7.35% in FY 25 for those earning more than \$100,000.</p>	Yes
WA	Washington LEOFF Plan 1	0%	Yes
WA	Washington LEOFF Plan 2	8.53%	Yes
WA	Washington PERS 1	6.0%	Yes
WA	Washington PERS 2/3	6.36% for Plan 2 members; Plan 3 members contribute only to their defined contribution plan at between 5% and 15%	Yes
WA	Washington School Employees Plan 2/3	7.76% for Plan 2 members; Plan 3 members contribute only to their defined contribution plan at between 5% and 15%	Yes
WA	Washington Teachers Plan 1	6.0%	Yes
WA	Washington Teachers Plan 2/3	8.06% for Plan 2 members; Plan 3 members contribute only to their defined contribution plan at between 5% and 15%	Yes
WA	Washington Public Safety Employees Plan	6.73%	Yes
WI	Wisconsin Retirement System	For all plan participants, including general employees, teachers, and public safety personnel: 6.90%.	Yes
WV	West Virginia PERS	4.5% for those hired before 7/1/15; 6.0% for those hired on or after 7/1/15	Yes

Appendix A: Employee pension contribution rates
(Unless otherwise specified, information reflects rates in effect as of November 2024)

State	Plan	Employee Contribution Rate (Percent of Pay)	Social Security Coverage
WV	West Virginia Teachers	6.0%	Yes
WY	Wyoming Public Employees	9.25%; law enforcement personnel contribute 9.50%	Yes