



# FACT SHEET

From the Office of New York State Comptroller  
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## THE NEW YORK STATE AND LOCAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

In 1921, legislation created the New York State Employees' Retirement System (ERS) to provide benefits for state civil service officers and employees. By 1923, several counties, cities, towns and villages became participating employers. Legislation in 1966 created the New York State Police and Fire Retirement System (PFRS), and membership of all police officers and firefighters was transferred from the ERS at that time. The two systems have separate retirement plans but are administered by the same staff. Today, they are collectively called the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS).

### Member Information (as of March 31, 2016)

- Overall membership in NYSLRS: 1,088,342
  - 647,399 employees, 81% of which are active (currently working for a participating employer). 612,294 (95%) are ERS; 35,105 (5%) are PFRS.
  - 403,802 retirees; 37,141 beneficiaries

### Average Salary and Pensions (as of March 31, 2016)

- Average salary for ERS member: \$50,536
- Average pension for all ERS retirees and beneficiaries: \$22,415
- Average pension for new ERS retirees: \$28,364
- Average salary for PFRS member: \$107,700
- Average pension for all PFRS retirees and beneficiaries: \$47,397
- Average pension for new PFRS retirees: \$71,603

### Tiers of ERS and PFRS Membership (percentages as of March 31, 2016)

- Tier 1 ERS members joined before July 1, 1973 (0.6% of members)
- Tier 2 ERS members joined between July 1, 1973 and July 26, 1976 (0.7% of members)
- Tier 3 ERS members joined between July 27, 1976 and August 31, 1983
- Tier 4 ERS members joined between September 1, 1983 and December 31, 2009
  - 68.9% of members are in Tiers 3 & 4
- Tier 5 ERS members joined between January 1, 2010 and March 31, 2012 (8.7% of members)
- Tier 6 ERS members joined on or after April 1, 2012 (21.1% of members)
- Tier 1 PFRS members joined before July 31, 1973 (0.2% of members)
- Tier 2 PFRS members joined between July 31, 1973 and June 30, 2009 (77.9% of members)
- Tier 3 PFRS members joined between July 1, 2009 and January 8, 2010 (0.6% of members)

- Tier 5 PFRS members joined between January 9, 2010 and March 31, 2012 (5.2% of members)
- Tier 6 PFRS members joined on or after April 1, 2012 (16.0% of members)

**Benefits Paid and Contributions (as of March 31, 2016)**

- \$10.91 billion in benefits paid
- Employer contributions totaled \$5.14 billion
- State government contributions totaled \$1.96 billion
- Local government contributions totaled \$3.18 billion
- Employee contributions totaled \$307 million

More than 3,000 employers participate in the NYSLRS. Of the total members, approximately 32% **are state employees**, 32% **are local government employees**, and 20% **are school district employees**. Employees of state and local public authorities and other governmental corporations make up the remaining members.

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