

# Public Retirees Contribute to the New York Economy

## Retirees Build a Strong New York

As baby-boomers hit retirement age, a growing segment of our population is giving back to our state: public service retirees. Retirees are our neighbors, our friends and members of our family, and the pension money paid to retired state and local employees flows directly back into our communities, stimulating and growing our local economies.

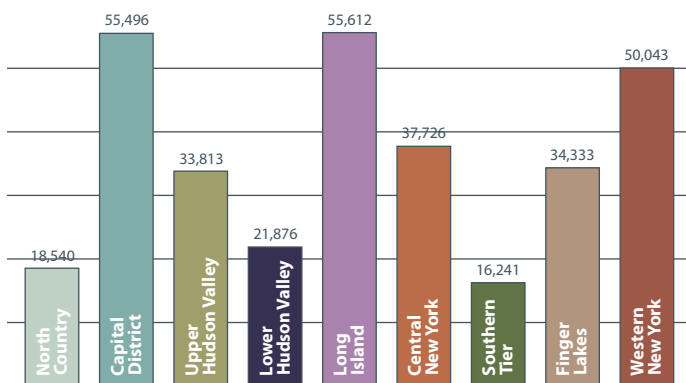
During 2015, retirees of the New York State and Local Retirement System (NYSLRS) were responsible for **\$11.7 billion in economic activity** in New York State. The goods and services retirees use create opportunities for new businesses in New York, help grow existing companies and create jobs. Public service retirees are particularly important to merchants because their retirement income provides a stable foundation of customers for local businesses.

After a career working for the people of New York, public service retirees continue to contribute — not just as engaged citizens, but as individuals who bring value to the communities where they live.

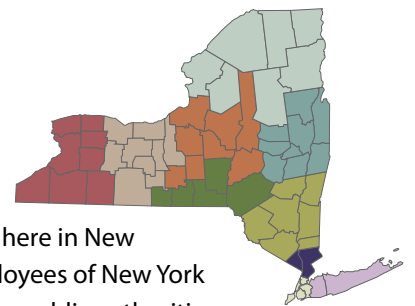


75 percent of the cost of pension benefits comes from investment earnings of the Common Retirement Fund rather than the contributions of taxpayers.

## Retirees Live in New York State



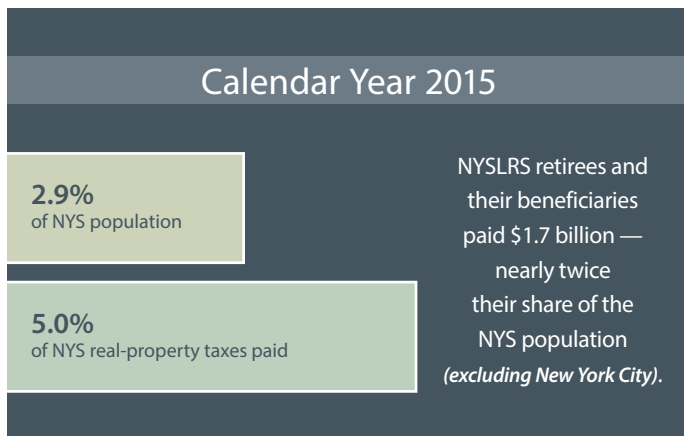
In 2015, approximately 324,000 NYSLRS retirees and beneficiaries lived in New York State (outside NYC).



As of March 2016, there were 440,943 NYSLRS retirees — 78 percent of whom have chosen to live here in New York. They are former employees of New York State, the university system, public authorities, local governments, and schools, and many of them give back to their community as volunteers and supporters of charitable causes.

NYSLRS retirees are widely distributed across different regions of New York. They make up 2.9 percent of the general population, but in some areas of the state, they account for more than 5 percent of the residents.

# Retirees Pay Taxes in New York



Schools, roads, and government services of every sort — they all have something in common: public service retirees help make them possible.

**In 2015, retirees paid \$1.7 billion in real property taxes** — that's 5.0 percent of the total collected in New York. In some areas of the state this figure is even higher. In the North Country, retirees pay 6.8 percent; in the Capital District, 8.7 percent of the property taxes collected.

Additionally, NYSLRS retirees paid an estimated \$550 million in state and local sales tax in 2015.

## Retirees Create Jobs

Business sectors that cater to the needs of retired consumers are booming. In the coming decades, industries such as health care, restaurants, and entertainment are predicted to be areas primed for growth — and retired public employees will be an important part of its customer base.

NYSLRS retirees spend a larger than average share of their income on industries that benefit local businesses and they are responsible for an estimated 66,100 jobs as a result of this spending.

Spending by NYSLRS retirees and their beneficiaries generated an estimated \$550 million in state and local sales tax in 2015.



## The Foundation of a Strong New York



The pensions earned by public service retirees are a sound investment in New York's future. These funds don't just benefit those who receive them, but pay dividends to local businesses, build strong communities, and create jobs. As the number of retired public service employees in our state grows, we can look forward to their help in building a stronger New York.

NYSLRS retirees and their beneficiaries spent \$9.9 billion within New York State in 2015.