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***NEBRASKA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES
RETIREMENT SYSTEMS***

2018

**STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

**Actuarial Valuation Results
as of January 1, 2018
for State Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020**





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May 15, 2018

Public Employees Retirement Board
Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System
Post Office Box 94816
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Members of the Board:

At your request, we performed an actuarial valuation of the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund as of January 1, 2018 for the purpose of determining the actuarial required contribution rate for the 2018 plan year. It is our understanding that any additional required State contributions for this plan year will be made on July 1, 2019 (State fiscal year end 2020). The major findings of the valuation are contained in this report, which reflects the benefit provisions in place on January 1, 2018. At their meeting on October 17, 2016, the Board adopted a new set of actuarial assumptions, based on recommendations in the experience study. Although adopted late in 2016, this is the first valuation report that utilizes the new set of assumptions. In addition to the assumption changes, the 2017 Nebraska Legislature passed Legislative Bill 415 (LB 415), which grants the Board authority to determine the actuarial basis used to calculate annuity rates (which impact monthly benefit amounts) for members hired on or after January 1, 2018. Due to the valuation date, there are no members in this valuation who are affected and, therefore, this change had no impact on the current valuation results.

In preparing our report, we relied, without audit, on information (some oral and some in writing) supplied by the System's staff. This information includes, but is not limited to, statutory provisions, member data and financial information. Active member data was provided to us by Ameritus, the recordkeeper for the Plan. We found this information to be reasonably consistent and comparable with information used in the prior report. The valuation results depend on the integrity of this information. If any of this information is inaccurate or incomplete, our results may be different and our calculations may need to be revised.

We further certify that all costs, liabilities, rates of interest and other factors for the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund have been determined on the basis of actuarial assumptions and methods which are individually reasonable (taking into account the experience of the Fund and reasonable expectations); and which, in combination, offer the best estimate of anticipated experience affecting the Fund. Nevertheless, the emerging costs will vary from those presented in this report to the extent actual experience differs from that projected by the actuarial assumptions. The Public Employees Retirement Board has the final decision regarding the appropriateness of the assumptions and adopted them as indicated in Appendix C.



Future actuarial measurements may differ significantly from the current measurements presented in this report due to such factors as the following: plan experience differing from that anticipated by the economic or demographic assumptions; changes in economic or demographic assumptions; increases or decreases expected as part of the natural operation of the methodology used for these measurements (such as the end of an amortization period or additional cost or contribution requirements based on the plan's funded status); and changes in plan provisions or applicable law. Due to the limited scope of our assignment, we did not perform an analysis of the potential range of future measurements.

Actuarial computations presented in this report are for purposes of determining the actuarial contribution rates for funding the System. The calculations in the enclosed report have been made on a basis consistent with our understanding of the System's funding requirements and goals. Determinations for purposes other than meeting these requirements may be significantly different from the results contained in this report. Accordingly, additional determinations may be needed for other purposes. For example, actuarial computations for purposes of fulfilling financial accounting requirements for the System under Governmental Accounting Standards No. 67 and No. 68 are provided in separate reports.

The consultants who worked on this assignment are pension actuaries. CMC's advice is not intended to be a substitute for qualified legal or accounting counsel.

On the basis of the foregoing, we hereby certify that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, this report is complete and accurate and has been prepared in accordance with generally recognized and accepted actuarial principles and practices. We are members of the American Academy of Actuaries and meet the Qualification Standards to render the actuarial opinion contained herein. We are available to answer any questions on the material contained in the report or to provide explanations or further details as may be appropriate.

We respectfully submit the following report and look forward to discussing it with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrice Beckham".

Patrice A. Beckham, FSA, EA, FCA, MAAA
Principal and Consulting Actuary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brent A. Banister".

Brent A. Banister Ph.D., FSA, EA, FCA, MAAA
Chief Actuary



SECTION 1 – BOARD SUMMARY

This report presents the results of the January 1, 2018 actuarial valuation of the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund (Plan). The primary purposes of performing the actuarial valuation are to:

- Determine if member contributions and State contributions, as defined in statute, are sufficient to meet the funding policy defined under Nebraska state statutes for the plan year ending December 31, 2018 and, if not, the additional State contribution needed.
- Disclose asset and liability measurements as well as the current funded status of the State Cash Balance Benefit Fund on the valuation date.
- Compare actual and expected experience under the State Cash Balance Benefit Fund during the plan year beginning January 1, 2017 and ended December 31, 2017.
- Analyze and report on trends in State Cash Balance Benefit Fund contributions, assets and liabilities over the past several years.
- Quantify the contribution rate available for benefit improvements, if any.

At their meeting on October 17, 2016, the Board adopted a new set of actuarial assumption, as recommended by the actuary in the experience study. Although adopted in 2016, this is the first valuation report that utilizes the new assumptions. Below is a summary of the key assumption changes:

- Investment return assumption was lowered from 7.75% to 7.50%.
- Price inflation assumption was lowered from 3.25% to 2.75%.
- General wage growth was lowered from 4.00% to 3.50%.
- Covered payroll growth assumption decreased from 4.00% to 3.50%.
- Individual salary increase assumption was lowered by 0.50% in order to remain consistent with the general wage growth assumption.
- Assumed cash balance interest crediting rate was lowered from 6.75% to 6.25%.
- Mortality assumption was changed to the RP-2014 While Collar Mortality Table, with adjustments made to better reflect observed experience. Generational mortality improvements are modeled using a System-specific projection scale.
- Retirement rates were adjusted to better reflect observed experience.
- Termination rates were changed to a service-based assumption.

The change in the actuarial assumptions increased the actuarial accrued liability by \$42.8 million and the total actuarial required contribution rate by 0.33% of pay. The impact of the assumption changes on the January 1, 2018 valuation results is summarized in the following table (in millions):

	Old Assumptions	New Assumptions	Difference
Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL)	\$1,459.0	\$1,501.9	\$42.8
Actuarial Value of Assets (AVA)	<u>1,565.5</u>	<u>1,565.5</u>	<u>0.0</u>
Unfunded AAL (UAAL)	\$ (106.5)	\$ (63.6)	\$42.8
Funded Ratio	107.30%	104.24%	(3.06%)
Normal Cost Rate	10.80%	10.52%	(0.28%)
UAAL Amortization Rate	<u>(1.53%)</u>	<u>(0.92%)</u>	<u>0.61%</u>
Total Required Contribution Rate	9.27%	9.60%	0.33%
Contribution Shortfall/(Margin)	(3.02%)	(2.69%)	0.33%
Additional State Contribution Amount	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$0

Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.



SECTION 1 – BOARD SUMMARY

In addition to the assumption changes, the 2017 Nebraska Legislature passed Legislative Bill 415 (LB 415), which changes the actuarial basis used to calculate annuity rates for cash balance members hired on or after January 1, 2018. This change does not affect any members in the current valuation and, therefore, has no impact on the current valuation results.

The Nebraska statutes require the State to make an additional contribution if the regular, payroll-related contributions by members (4.80% of pay) and the State (156% of member contributions) are insufficient to meet the actuarial required contribution for the plan year. Based on the results of the January 1, 2018 actuarial valuation, the contributions defined by statute are more than sufficient to meet the actuarially required contribution. **Therefore, there is no additional State contribution for this plan year (due in the State fiscal year ending June 30, 2020).**

State statutes provide that the Board may grant a dividend if the unfunded actuarial accrued liability is less than zero and the dividend granted would not increase the actuarial contribution rate above ninety percent of the actual contribution rate. The PERB also has a policy that sets out additional criteria for granting a dividend which requires the Plan be at least 100% funded on both a Funded Basis and a Current Value Basis before and after the dividend is granted. **For the 2018 Plan year, the criteria have been met and a dividend may be granted.** The maximum dividend payable on the December 31, 2017 account balances is 5.46% (see Table 14). However, based on the Board's policy, the dividend plus the annual interest credit for the year cannot exceed 8.00% unless a majority of the Board agrees. The annual interest credit for 2017 was 5.00%, so a dividend in excess of 3.00% would exceed 8.00% and require a majority vote by the Board.

The actuarial valuation results, which do not reflect the impact of any dividend granted by the Board in 2018, provide a “snapshot” view of the State Cash Balance Benefit Fund's financial condition on January 1, 2018. The excess of actuarial assets over the actuarial accrued liability decreased from \$73.1 million last year to \$63.6 million this year and the funded ratio decreased from 105.33% to 104.24%. Despite the decline in funded status, the actuarial required contribution rate decreased from 9.73% of pay in last year's valuation to 9.60% of pay in the current valuation. Several factors impacted the January 1, 2018 actuarial valuation results, including:

- Changes to the actuarial assumptions resulted in a \$42.8 million increase in the AAL and a decrease in the normal cost rate of 0.28%.
- Actual experience on Plan assets. The rate of return on the market value of assets was 16.8%, but due to the impact of asset smoothing, the rate of return on the actuarial value of assets was 9.6%. This exceeded the assumed rate of return for 2017 (7.75%). As a result, there was an experience gain on assets of \$26.9 million.
- Actual demographic experience on Plan liabilities. The single largest source of liability experience was a gain due to a lower interest credit in 2017 than assumed (5.00% actual vs. 6.75% assumed). There was also a gain due to a larger number of terminations during 2017 than were expected based on the actuarial assumptions. The net impact of all experience was a gain of \$18.9 million.

Due to favorable investment experience in 2017, the net deferred (unrecognized) investment loss of \$27.5 million in last year's valuation (difference between the market and actuarial values of assets) is now a net deferred gain of \$70.4 million in this year's valuation. The deferred experience will be recognized in the



SECTION 1 – BOARD SUMMARY

asset smoothing method over the next four years. Unless there is unfavorable experience to offset the deferred investment gain, the Plan’s funded status is expected to improve as the investment experience is recognized.

A summary of the key results from the January 1, 2018 actuarial valuation is shown in the following table. As it indicates, the statutory contribution rates are sufficient to meet the actuarial required contribution rate and no additional State contribution is required. Further detail on the valuation results can be found in the following sections of this Board Summary.

	January 1, 2018 Valuation Results	January 1, 2017 Valuation Results
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability/(Surplus)	(\$63,632,381)	(\$73,105,776)
Funded Ratio using Actuarial Assets	104.24%	105.33%
Normal Cost Rate	10.52%	10.80%
UAAL Amortization Rate	(0.92%)	(1.07%)
Total Actuarial Required Contribution	9.60%	9.73%
Member Contribution Rate	(4.80%)	(4.80%)
Employer Contribution Rate	(7.49%)	(7.49%)
Total Contribution Rate	(12.29%)	(12.29%)
Contribution Shortfall/(Margin)	(2.69%)	(2.56%)
Additional State Contribution Amount	\$0	\$0

EXPERIENCE FOR THE 2017 PLAN YEAR

Numerous factors contributed to the change in the Plan’s assets, liabilities, and the actuarial contribution rate between January 1, 2017 and January 1, 2018. The components are examined in the following discussion.

MEMBERSHIP

In total, the number of members (both active and inactive) increased about 3%, from 21,556 to 22,275. However, the number of active members declined from 13,226 in the 2017 valuation to 12,836 in the 2018 valuation, a decrease of about 3%.

The number of members receiving benefit payments increased from 1,615 to 1,814. This increase of more than 12% reflects the election of 152 active members who retired during 2017 to receive at least part of their benefit as monthly income, along with 51 inactive vested members. In addition, there were 19 members in the Defined Contribution Plan that elected to receive part/all of their benefit as monthly income. The Cash Balance Plan is relatively young, having been implemented in 2003 for new hires and existing active members who elected to change coverage. As a result, the number of retirees is still fairly low in comparison to a mature retirement plan. Therefore, the number of new retirees is high, as a percentage, and is likely to continue in the foreseeable future until the size of the retiree group increases



SECTION 1 – BOARD SUMMARY

and stabilizes. The ability for active members who retire to elect to receive the full value of their benefit as a lump sum also creates variability in the number of new retirees each year.

ASSETS

As of December 31, 2017, the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund had net assets of \$1.64 billion, when measured on a market value basis. This was an increase of \$220 million from the prior year. The market value of assets is not used directly in the calculation of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability or the actuarial required contribution rate. An asset valuation method, which smoothes the effect of market fluctuations, is used to determine the value of assets used in the valuation. The resulting amount is called the actuarial value of assets. In this year's valuation, the actuarial value of assets is \$1.57 billion, an increase of \$122 million from the prior year. The components of change in the asset values are shown in the following table:

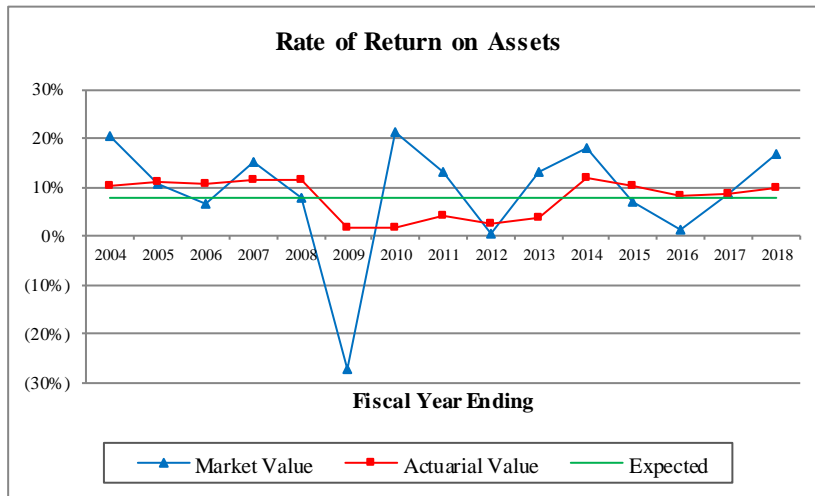
	Market Value (\$M)	Actuarial Value (\$M)
Net Assets, December 31, 2016	\$ 1,416.09	\$ 1,443.56
- Employer and Member Contributions	+ 74.57	+ 74.57
- Benefit Payments	- 94.36	- 94.36
- Administrative Expenses	- 1.29	- 1.29
- Transfers	+ 3.59	+ 3.59
- Net Investment Income	+ 237.27	+ 139.42
Net Assets, December 31, 2017	\$ 1,635.87	\$ 1,565.49
Estimated Rate of Return	16.8%	9.6%

The rate of return on the actuarial value of assets was 9.6%, which exceeds the assumed rate of return for 2017 of 7.75% (the new assumption of 7.50% applies prospectively beginning in 2018). As a result, there was an experience gain on assets of \$26.9 million. The difference between the market and actuarial value of assets of \$70.4 million will be reflected over the next four years through the asset smoothing method if there are no offsetting losses from unfavorable investment experience.

Please see Section 3 of this report for more detailed information on the market and actuarial value of assets.



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The rate of return of the actuarial value of assets has been less volatile than the market value return, illustrating the benefit of using an asset smoothing method.

LIABILITIES

The actuarial accrued liability (AAL) is that portion of the present value of future benefits that will not be paid by future normal costs. The difference between this liability and the actuarial value of assets as of the valuation date is called the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL). The dollar amount of the UAAL is reduced if the contributions to the State Cash Balance Benefit Fund exceed the normal cost for the year plus interest on the prior year's UAAL.

The unfunded actuarial accrued liability is shown as of January 1, 2018 in the following table:

	Actuarial Value of Assets	Market Value of Assets
Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$1,501,862,294	\$1,501,862,294
Value of Assets	<u>1,565,494,675</u>	<u>1,635,873,881</u>
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability/(Surplus)	\$ (63,632,381)	\$ (134,011,587)
Funded Ratio	104.24%	108.92%

Note that the funded ratio does not indicate whether or not the Plan has sufficient funds to settle all current obligations, nor is it necessarily indicative of the need for future funding.

See Section 4 of the report for the detailed development of the UAAL.



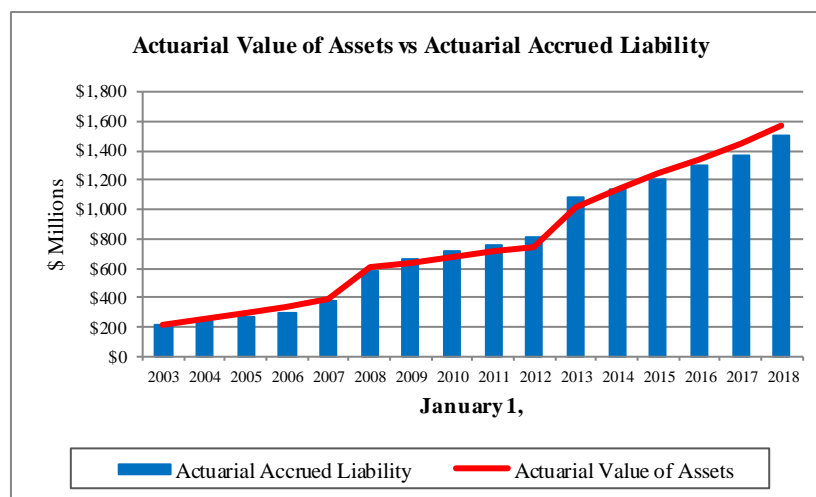
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The net increase in the UAAL from January 1, 2017 to January 1, 2018 was \$9.5 million. The components of this net change are shown in the following table (in millions):

	(\$ Millions)
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability, January 1, 2017	(\$73.1)
- Expected change from amortization method	1.0
- Actual versus required contributions	(16.0)
- Investment experience	(26.9)
- Liability experience	(18.9)
- Dividend granted in 2017	31.5
- Impact of assumption changes	42.8
- Other experience	(4.0)
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability, January 1, 2018	(\$63.6)

As shown above, various components impacted the UAAL. Actuarial losses (gains), which result from actual experience that is less (more) favorable than anticipated based on the actuarial assumptions, are reflected in the UAAL and are measured as the difference between the expected UAAL and the actual UAAL, taking into account any changes due to actuarial assumptions and methods, or benefit changes including dividends. As discussed earlier, the Plan experienced an actuarial gain on both assets and liabilities. The largest single source of liability gain was from the actual interest credit of 5.00% for 2017 compared to the assumed rate of 6.75% for the 2017 plan year. In total, the Plan experienced an actuarial gain of \$45.8 million.

As shown in the following graph, the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund liabilities have increased significantly along with the assets over the last 15 years. The large increases observed in 2008 and 2013 reflect the transfer of members from the Defined Contribution Plan to the Cash Balance Plan due to new election periods provided by the legislature.



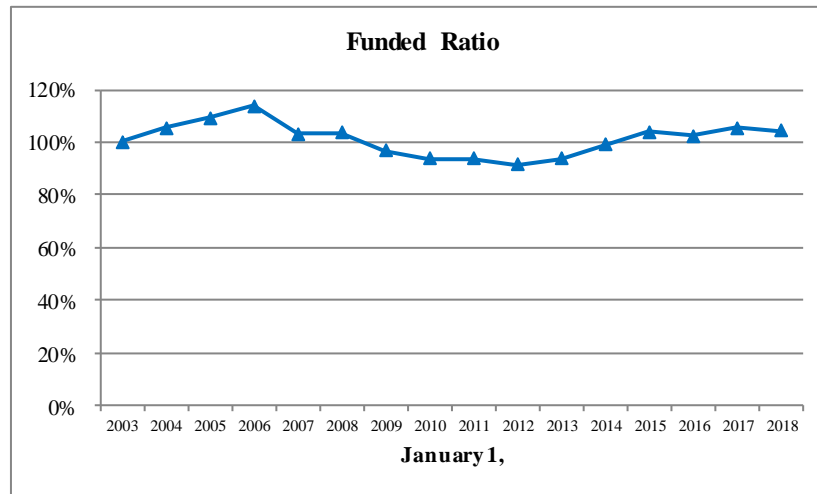


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An evaluation of the UAAL on a pure dollar basis may not provide a complete analysis since only the difference between the assets and liabilities (which are both very large numbers) is reflected. Another way to evaluate the UAAL and the progress made in its funding is to track the funded ratio, the ratio of the actuarial value of assets to the actuarial accrued liability. The funded status information is shown below (in millions).

	1/1/2014	1/1/2015	1/1/2016	1/1/2017	1/1/2018
Funded Ratio using Actuarial Assets	99.2%	103.9%	102.5%	105.3%	104.2%
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (\$M)	\$9.6	(\$46.2)	(\$32.9)	(\$73.1)	(\$63.6)

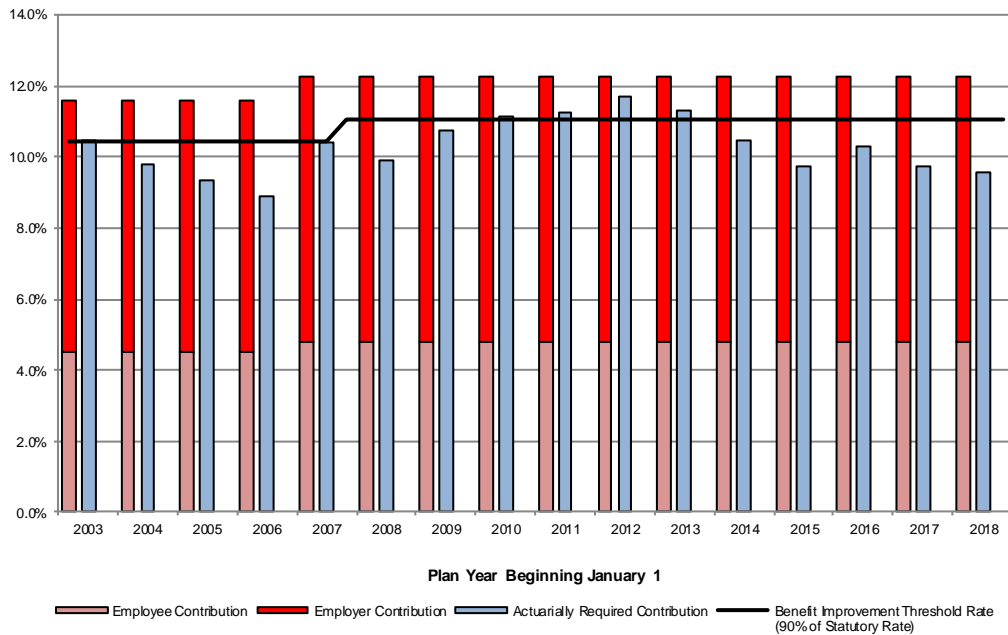
The funded ratio over a longer period of years is shown in the following graph:



As a result of being 100% funded at the creation of the Plan in 2003 and contributing more than the actuarial required contribution in subsequent years (see the following graph), the funded ratio of the Plan has remained very strong during the entire period despite investment returns that were less than assumed in some years. Interest credits below the assumed rate during much of this period resulted in lower liabilities, thereby improving the funded ratio.



SECTION 1 – BOARD SUMMARY



DIVIDEND DETERMINATION

Each year after the annual actuarial valuation results are received, the Board determines, based on the recommendation of the actuary, if a dividend can be paid. The amount of dividend, if any, is based on the criteria in the Board policy.

One of the criteria for granting a dividend is based on the Accumulated Benefit Obligation, a liability measurement based on the account balances for those not in pay status and the present value of future benefits as of the valuation date for those receiving benefits. This measure is intended to provide information regarding the Cash Balance Plan’s funded status on an immediate, current-value basis and to provide comparability to individual account plans. This liability measure is not used in developing the funding numbers for the Plan, but it is used in determining the amount of dividend as well as whether a dividend can be granted. The Current Value funded ratio for the current and prior year is shown in the following table:



SECTION 1 – BOARD SUMMARY

Funded Status	January 1, 2018	January 1, 2017
1. Cash Balance Accounts		
(a) Actives	\$ 917,663,513	\$ 910,391,193
(b) Inactives	247,306,580	203,429,155
(c) Total	\$ 1,164,970,093	\$ 1,113,820,348
2. Present Value of Benefits for Retirees and Beneficiaries	322,124,392	268,028,666
3. Total Accumulated Benefit Obligation	\$ 1,487,094,485	\$ 1,381,849,014
4. Market Value of Assets	1,635,873,881	1,416,086,648
5. Deficit/(Reserve) [3 - 4]	\$ (148,779,396)	\$ (34,237,634)
6. Funded Percentage on Market Value of Assets [4 / 3]	110.0%	102.5%

The criteria used to determine the amount of any dividend that can be granted includes:

- A. The plan must maintain the 90% Benefit Threshold Rate after granting any dividend.
- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Statutory Contribution Rate (Total) | 12.29% |
| 2. Required Threshold for Benefit Improvement (90% of (1)) | 11.06% |
| 3. Actuarial Required Contribution | 9.60% |
| 4. Rate Sufficiency/(Deficiency) [2 - 3] | 1.46% |
- B. There must be a minimum 100% Funded Ratio on both the Funded Basis and the Current Value Basis, both before and after the dividend is granted.

January 1, 2018 Valuation Results Before Dividend:

	<u>Funded Basis</u>	<u>Current Value Basis</u>
(a) Liability	\$1,501,862,294	\$1,487,094,485
(b) Assets	1,565,494,675	1,635,873,881
(c) (Deficit)/Reserve [(b) - (a)]	\$63,632,381	\$148,779,396
(d) Funded Ratio [(b) / (a)]	104.2%	110.0%

- C. No dividend will be granted for a year where the annual interest credit rate exceeds the actuarial valuation rate.
- D. The dividend plus the annual interest credit during the year cannot exceed 8.0% unless a majority of the PERB agrees.



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State statutes provide that the Board may grant a dividend if the UAAL is less than zero (actuarial assets exceed actuarial liability) and the dividend granted would not increase the actuarial contribution rate above 90% of the statutory contribution rate. The actuarial required contribution rate of 9.60% of pay is less than 90% of the statutory contribution rate of 12.29%, or 11.06%. This difference of 1.46% of pay is potentially available for benefit improvements under state statutes, if the Plan’s funded ratio exceeds 100%. In addition to the contribution rate requirement, the PERB’s dividend policy also requires the funded ratio to exceed 100% on both the Funded Basis (actuarial accrued liability less actuarial assets) and a Current Value Basis (total accumulated benefit obligation less market value of assets). The January 1, 2018 actuarial valuation indicates that the funded ratios are 104.2% and 110.0%, respectively. **Therefore, the Plan has met all of the requirements in the current valuation and a dividend may be granted in 2018.** See Table 14 for more detail on the criteria for granting a dividend.

ACTUARIAL REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION RATE

The State Employees’ Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund is funded by statutory contribution rates for members (4.80% of pay) and the State (156% of the member rate). State statutes require the State to make an additional contribution if the regular, payroll-related contributions by employees and the State are insufficient to meet the actuarial required contribution for the plan year. The State contributions for the plan year, if any, are made on the July 1 following the plan year-end. Based on the results of the January 1, 2018 actuarial valuation, no additional State contribution is necessary for the current plan year.

Under the Entry Age Normal cost method, the actuarial contribution rate consists of two components:

- A “normal cost” for the portion of projected liabilities allocated by the actuarial cost method to service of members during the year following the valuation date.
- An “unfunded actuarial accrued liability contribution” for the excess of the portion of projected liabilities allocated to service to date over the actuarial value of assets.

The actuarial required contribution is equal to the normal cost rate plus an amortization payment on the UAAL. The amortization payment is the sum of the payments for each amortization base with payments over a 25-year period beginning on the date the base was established. If the UAAL is below zero, as is the case on January 1, 2018, all prior bases are considered to be fully funded and, therefore, are eliminated. See Section 5 of the report for the detailed development of the actuarial contribution rate, which is summarized in the following table:

Contribution Rates	January 1, 2018	January 1, 2017
Normal Cost Rate	10.52%	10.80%
UAAL Amortization Rate	(0.92%)	(1.07%)
Total Actuarial Required Contribution	9.60%	9.73%
Member Contribution Rate	(4.80%)	(4.80%)
Employer Contribution Rate	(7.49%)	(7.49%)
Total Contribution Rate	(12.29%)	(12.29%)
Contribution Shortfall/(Margin)	(2.69%)	(2.56%)



SECTION 1 – BOARD SUMMARY

The actuarial required contribution rate for the current plan year is 9.60%. The member contribution rate of 4.80% and the State contribution rate of 7.49% (156% of 4.8%) result in a total statutory contribution rate of 12.29% of pay. As a result, a contribution margin of 2.69% exists for the 2018 plan year.

A history of actuarial required contribution rates and any resulting additional required State contributions, whether or not actually contributed, is shown in the following table.

Plan Year	History of Expected State Contributions		
	State Contribution	Additional Contributions	Total
2004	\$ 12,112,627	\$ 0	\$ 12,112,627
2005	13,618,155	0	13,618,155
2006	16,912,304	0	16,912,304
2007	24,266,326	0	24,266,326
2008	28,814,683	0	28,814,683
2009	32,461,469	0	32,461,469
2010	34,062,751	0	34,062,751
2011	33,645,530	0	33,645,530
2012	34,366,120	0	34,366,120
2013	37,486,962	0	37,486,962
2014	40,100,198	0	40,100,198
2015	41,715,205	0	41,715,205
2016	43,534,137	0	43,534,137
2017	45,159,444	0	45,159,444
2018	44,843,269	0	44,843,269

Note: Information prior to Plan Year 2014 was produced by the prior actuary.

The actuarial required contribution rate, which is determined based on the snapshot of the Plan taken on the valuation date, will change each year as the deferred investment experience is recognized and other experience (both investment and demographic) impacts the Plan. While there is a contribution margin for the current plan year, this should not be viewed as an unnecessary or excess contribution. In order for the financing of the Fund on a fixed contribution rate basis to succeed, contributions above the actuarial required contribution rate must be made to offset years where the fixed contribution rate may be below the actuarial required contribution rate.



SECTION 1 – BOARD SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL RESULTS

	1/1/2018 Valuation	1/1/2017 Valuation	% Change
1. PARTICIPANT DATA			
Number of:			
Active Members	12,836	13,226	(2.95%)
Retired Members and Beneficiaries	1,814	1,615	12.32%
Disabled Members	0	0	N/A
Inactive Members	7,625	6,715	13.55%
Total Members	22,275	21,556	3.34%
Projected Annual Salaries of Active Members	\$ 598,868,441	\$ 603,090,871	(0.70%)
Annual Retirement Payments for Retired Members and Beneficiaries	\$ 33,149,488	\$ 28,883,396	14.77%
2. ASSETS AND LIABILITIES			
a. Market Value of Assets	\$ 1,635,873,881	\$ 1,416,086,648	15.52%
b. Actuarial Value of Assets	1,565,494,675	1,443,560,434	8.45%
c. Total Actuarial Accrued Liability	1,501,862,294	1,370,454,658	9.59%
d. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability/(Surplus) [c - b]	\$ (63,632,381)	\$ (73,105,776)	(12.96%)
e. Funded Ratio (Actuarial Value of Assets) [b / c]	104.24%	105.33%	(1.03%)
f. Funded Ratio (Market Value of Assets) [a / c]	108.92%	103.33%	5.41%
3. CONTRIBUTION RATES AS A PERCENT OF PAYROLL			
Normal Cost	10.52%	10.80%	(2.59%)
Amortization of Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	(0.92%)	(1.07%)	(14.02%)
Actuarial Required Contribution Rate	9.60%	9.73%	(1.34%)
Member Contribution Rate	(4.80%)	(4.80%)	0.00%
Employer Contribution Rate*	(7.49%)	(7.49%)	0.00%
Contribution Shortfall/(Margin)	(2.69%)	(2.56%)	5.08%
Additional State Contribution Amount	\$ 0	\$ 0	N/A

* 156% of member contribution rate



SECTION 2 – SCOPE OF THE REPORT

This report presents the actuarial valuation results of the State Employees’ Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund as of January 1, 2018. This valuation was prepared at the request of the Public Employees Retirement Board of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System.

Please pay particular attention to our actuarial certification letter, where the guidelines employed in the preparation of this report are outlined. We also comment on the sources and reliability of both the data and the actuarial assumptions upon which our findings are based. Those comments are the basis for our certification that this report is complete and accurate to the best of our knowledge and belief.

A summary of the findings which result from this valuation is presented in the previous section. Section 3 describes the assets and investment experience of the State Employees’ Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund. Sections 4 and 5 describe how the obligations of the Plan are to be met under the actuarial cost method in use. Section 6 includes other information for financial reporting.

This report includes several appendices:

- Appendix A Schedules of valuation data classified by various categories of members.
- Appendix B A summary of the current benefit structure, as determined by the provisions of governing law on January 1, 2018.
- Appendix C A summary of the actuarial methods and assumptions used to estimate liabilities and determine contribution rates.
- Appendix D A glossary of actuarial terms.



SECTION 3 – ASSETS

In many respects, an actuarial valuation can be thought of as an inventory process. The inventory is taken as of the actuarial valuation date, which for this valuation is January 1, 2018. On that date, the assets available for the payment of benefits are appraised. The assets are compared with the liabilities of the Plan, which are generally in excess of assets. The actuarial process then leads to a method of determining the contributions needed by members and the employer in the future to balance the Fund assets and liabilities.

Market Value of Assets

The current market value represents the "snapshot" or "cash-out" value of the Plan assets as of the valuation date. In addition, the market value of assets provides a basis for measuring investment performance from time to time. Table 1 is a comparison of Plan assets at market value as of December 31, 2017 and December 31, 2016, in total and by investment category. Table 2 summarizes the change in the market value of assets from December 31, 2016 to December 31, 2017.

Actuarial Value of Assets

Neither the market value of assets, representing a "cash-out" value of State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund assets, nor the book values of assets, representing the cost of investments, may be the best measure of the Plan's ongoing ability to meet its obligations.

To arrive at a suitable value of assets for the actuarial valuation, a technique for determining the actuarial value of assets is used which dampens swings in the market value while still indirectly recognizing market values. Under the asset smoothing methodology, the difference between the actual and assumed investment return on the market value of assets is recognized evenly over a five-year period.

Table 3 shows the development of the actuarial value of assets (AVA) as of the valuation date.



SECTION 3 – ASSETS

TABLE 1

**STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

**MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS
by Investment Category**

	<u>December 31, 2017</u>	<u>December 31, 2016</u>
1. Cash and Equivalents	\$ 187,659	\$ 177,151
2. Investments	1,681,212,716	1,478,069,027
3. Receivables and Prepaids	158,263,170	66,358,893
4. Accounts Payable	<u>(203,789,664)</u>	<u>(128,518,423)</u>
5. Net Assets Available for Pension Benefits [1 + 2 + 3 + 4]	\$ 1,635,873,881	\$ 1,416,086,648

**SECTION 3 – ASSETS**

TABLE 2
STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND
CHANGE IN MARKET VALUE OF ASSETS

	<u>December 31, 2017</u>	<u>December 31, 2016</u>
1. Beginning Market Value of Assets	\$ 1,416,086,648	\$ 1,310,451,038
2. Contributions		
(a) Member (includes purchased service)	\$ 29,127,571	\$ 28,775,358
(b) Employer	45,437,713	44,894,300
(c) State appropriations	0	0
(d) Total	\$ <u>74,565,284</u>	\$ <u>73,669,658</u>
3. Transfers Between Plans		
(a) From Defined Contribution Plans	\$ 3,591,366	\$ 5,115,400
(b) Between Cash Balance Plans	0	0
(c) Net Transfers	\$ <u>3,591,366</u>	\$ <u>5,115,400</u>
4. Receivable Transfer from Defined Contribution Benefit Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
5. Expenditures		
(a) Benefit payments and refunds	\$ 94,358,979	\$ 84,773,402
(b) Administrative expenses	1,293,454	1,134,239
(c) Total	\$ <u>95,652,433</u>	\$ <u>85,907,641</u>
6. Net Investment Income	\$ 237,283,016	\$ 112,758,193
7. Ending Market Value of Assets [1 + 2(d) + 3(c) + 4 - 5(c) + 6]	\$ 1,635,873,881	\$ 1,416,086,648
8. Rate of Return on Market Value of Assets	16.8%	8.5%



SECTION 3 – ASSETS

TABLE 3

**STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

DEVELOPMENT OF ACTUARIAL VALUE OF ASSETS

	Year End			
	12/31/2014	12/31/2015	12/31/2016	12/31/2017
1. Actuarial Value of Assets, Beginning of Year	\$ 1,130,203,298	\$ 1,246,042,982	\$ 1,337,161,184	\$ 1,443,560,434
2. Unrecognized Return Beginning of Year	\$ 93,491,553	\$ 58,993,426	\$ (26,710,146)	\$ (27,473,786)
3. Contributions During Year				
(a) Member	\$ 26,603,709	\$ 27,798,721	\$ 28,775,358	\$ 29,127,571
(b) Employer	41,455,919	43,339,706	44,894,300	45,437,713
(c) State appropriations	0	0	0	0
(d) Total	<u>\$ 68,059,628</u>	<u>\$ 71,138,427</u>	<u>\$ 73,669,658</u>	<u>\$ 74,565,284</u>
4. Net Transfers	\$ 4,195,885	\$ 5,849,328	\$ 5,115,400	\$ 3,591,366
5. Receivable Transfer from Defined Contribution Benefit Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
6. Benefit Payments During Year	\$ 73,527,209	\$ 85,278,057	\$ 84,773,402	\$ 94,358,979
7. Expected Investment Income on (1), (2), (3), (4) and (6) at 7.75%	\$ 94,787,992	\$ 100,825,067	\$ 101,332,237	\$ 109,130,590
8. Actual Return on Market Value, Net of All Expenses	\$ 82,613,253	\$ 13,704,932	\$ 111,623,954	\$ 235,989,562
9. Return to be Spread, End of Year [8 - 7]	\$ (12,174,739)	\$ (87,120,135)	\$ 10,291,717	\$ 126,858,972



SECTION 3 – ASSETS

**TABLE 3
(continued)**

**STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

8. Return to be Spread

<u>Year</u>	<u>Return to be Spread</u>	<u>Unrecognized Percent</u>	<u>Unrecognized Return</u>
2017	\$126,858,972	80%	\$101,487,178
2016	10,291,717	60%	6,175,030
2015	(87,120,135)	40%	(34,848,054)
2014	(12,174,739)	20%	(2,434,948)
			<hr/> \$70,379,206

9. Total Market Value of Assets as of January 1, 2018 \$1,635,873,881

10. Total Actuarial Value of Assets as of January 1, 2018 \$1,565,494,675
[9 - 8]

11. Asset Ratios

(a) Actuarial Value to Market Value [10 / 9]	95.70%
(b) Market Value to Actuarial Value [9 / 10]	104.50%



SECTION 4 – SYSTEM LIABILITIES

In the previous section, an actuarial valuation was compared with an inventory process, and an analysis was given of the inventory of assets of the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund as of the valuation date, January 1, 2018. In this section, the discussion will focus on the commitments (future benefit payments) of the Plan, which are referred to as its liabilities.

Table 4 contains an analysis of the actuarial present value of all future benefits (PVFB) for contributing members, inactive members, retirees and their beneficiaries.

The liabilities summarized in Table 4 include the actuarial present value of all future benefits expected to be paid with respect to each member. For an active member, this value includes the measurement of both benefits already earned and future benefits to be earned. For all members, active and retired, the value extends over benefits earnable and payable for the rest of their lives and for the lives of the surviving beneficiaries.

All liabilities reflect the benefit provisions in place as of January 1, 2018.

Actuarial Accrued Liability

A fundamental principle in financing the liabilities of a retirement program is that the cost of its benefits should be related to the period in which benefits are earned, rather than to the period of benefit distribution. An actuarial cost method is a mathematical technique that allocates the present value of future benefits into annual costs. In order to do this allocation, it is necessary for the funding method to "breakdown" the present value of future benefits into two components:

- (1) that which is attributable to the past and
- (2) that which is attributable to the future.

Actuarial terminology calls the part attributable to the past the "past service liability" or the "actuarial accrued liability." The portion allocated to the future is known as the present value of future normal costs, with the specific piece of it allocated to the current year being called the "normal cost." Table 5 contains the calculation of actuarial accrued liability for the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund. By statute, the Entry Age Normal actuarial cost method is used to develop the actuarial accrued liability.



SECTION 4 – SYSTEM LIABILITIES

TABLE 4

**STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

**PRESENT VALUE OF FUTURE BENEFITS (PVFB)
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018**

1. Active Employees	
(a) Retirement	\$ 1,136,330,058
(b) Withdrawal	204,900,627
(c) Death	24,140,409
(d) Total	<u>\$ 1,365,371,094</u>
2. Inactive Vested Members	239,020,929
3. Inactive Nonvested Members	8,285,651
4. Disabled Members	0
5. Retirees	310,769,897
6. Beneficiaries	<u>11,354,495</u>
7. Total Present Value of Future Benefits [1(d) + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6]	\$ 1,934,802,066



SECTION 4 – SYSTEM LIABILITIES

TABLE 5

**STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

**ACTUARIAL ACCRUED LIABILITY
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018**

1. Present Value of Future Benefits for Active Members	\$ 1,365,371,094
2. Present Value of Future Normal Costs for Active Members	\$ 432,939,772
3. Actuarial Accrued Liability for Active Members [1 - 2]	\$ 932,431,322
4. Actuarial Accrued Liability for Inactive Members	\$ 569,430,972
5. Total Actuarial Accrued Liability [3 + 4]	\$ 1,501,862,294
6. Actuarial Value of Assets	\$ 1,565,494,675
7. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability/(Surplus) [5- 6]	\$ (63,632,381)



SECTION 4 – SYSTEM LIABILITIES

TABLE 6

**STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND
ACTUARIAL BALANCE SHEET**

ASSETS

Actuarial Value of Assets	\$	1,565,494,675
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability/(Surplus)		(63,632,381)
Present Value of Future Normal Costs	\$	<u>432,939,772</u>
Total Assets	\$	1,934,802,066

LIABILITIES

Present Value of Future Benefits			
Active members			
Retirement	\$	1,136,330,058	
Withdrawal		204,900,627	
Death		<u>24,140,409</u>	
Total	\$	1,365,371,094	
Inactive members		247,306,580	
Retirees, disabilities and beneficiaries		<u>322,124,392</u>	
Total Liabilities	\$	1,934,802,066	



SECTION 4 – SYSTEM LIABILITIES

TABLE 7

**STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

ACTUARIAL GAIN/(LOSS)

Liabilities

1. Actuarial Accrued Liability as of January 1, 2017	\$ 1,370,454,658
2. Normal Cost During 2017	59,443,789
3. Benefit Payments During Plan Year Ending December 31, 2017	(94,358,979)
4. Transfers from Defined Contribution Plan	3,591,366
5. Interest on Items 1 - 4 at 7.75%	107,365,512
6. Dividend Granted in 2017	31,484,516
7. Assumption Changes	<u>42,820,238</u>
8. Expected Actuarial Accrued Liability as of January 1, 2018	\$ 1,520,801,100
9. Actuarial Accrued Liability as of January 1, 2018	\$ 1,501,862,294

Assets

10. Actuarial Value of Assets as of January 1, 2017	\$ 1,443,560,434
11. Contributions During Plan Year Ending December 31, 2017	74,565,284
12. Benefit Payments During Plan Year Ending December 31, 2017	(94,358,979)
13. Transfers from Defined Contribution Plan	3,591,366
14. Interest at 7.75%	<u>111,259,808</u>
15. Expected Actuarial Value of Assets as of January 1, 2018	\$ 1,538,617,913
16. Actuarial Value of Assets as of January 1, 2018	\$ 1,565,494,675

Gain / (Loss)

17. Actuarial Gain / (Loss) on Liabilities [8 - 9]	\$ 18,938,806
18. Actuarial Gain / (Loss) on Assets [16 - 15]	\$ 26,876,762
19. Total Actuarial Gain / (Loss) for Plan Year Ending December 31, 2017 [17 + 18]	\$ 45,815,568



SECTION 4 – SYSTEM LIABILITIES

TABLE 8

**STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

GAIN/(LOSS) ANALYSIS BY SOURCE

Liability Sources	Gain/(Loss)
Retirement	\$ 188,000
Termination	3,693,000
Disability	0
Mortality	(527,000)
Salary	(29,000)
New Entrants/Rehires	(5,133,000)
Interest Credit	18,207,000
DC Transfers Upon Retirement	1,342,000
Miscellaneous	1,198,000
Total Liability Gain/(Loss)	\$ 18,939,000
Asset Gain/(Loss)	\$ 26,877,000
Net Actuarial Gain/(Loss)	\$ 45,816,000



SECTION 4 – SYSTEM LIABILITIES

TABLE 9
STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND
PROJECTED BENEFIT PAYMENTS
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018

Plan Year Ending December 31,	Active Employees	Retired and Disabled Members and Beneficiaries	Total
2018	\$ 72,619,000	\$ 33,081,000	\$ 105,700,000
2019	78,482,000	32,742,000	111,224,000
2020	83,894,000	32,338,000	116,232,000
2021	87,276,000	31,849,000	119,125,000
2022	90,194,000	31,348,000	121,542,000
2023	92,693,000	30,891,000	123,584,000
2024	95,063,000	30,616,000	125,679,000
2025	96,262,000	29,849,000	126,111,000
2026	97,817,000	29,151,000	126,968,000
2027	99,789,000	28,532,000	128,321,000
2028	100,902,000	27,654,000	128,556,000
2029	102,043,000	26,907,000	128,950,000
2030	103,228,000	25,892,000	129,120,000
2031	104,172,000	24,814,000	128,986,000
2032	105,706,000	23,523,000	129,229,000
2033	107,005,000	22,134,000	129,139,000
2034	108,946,000	20,884,000	129,830,000
2035	110,986,000	19,241,000	130,227,000
2036	113,327,000	17,774,000	131,101,000
2037	114,992,000	16,541,000	131,533,000
2038	116,541,000	15,017,000	131,558,000
2039	118,580,000	13,889,000	132,469,000
2040	120,681,000	12,725,000	133,406,000
2041	122,895,000	11,542,000	134,437,000
2042	125,557,000	10,356,000	135,913,000
2043	128,381,000	9,186,000	137,567,000
2044	130,913,000	8,051,000	138,964,000
2045	133,337,000	6,968,000	140,305,000
2046	135,388,000	5,952,000	141,340,000
2047	137,549,000	5,014,000	142,563,000

Note: Cash flows are the expected future non-discounted payments to current members. These amounts assume members terminating before retirement eligibility will elect a lump sum distribution of their cash balance account. 50% of members eligible for retirement will elect a monthly annuity, payable for life with 5 years certain, and 50% will elect a lump sum distribution of their cash balance account. These numbers exclude refund payouts to any current vested or nonvested inactive.



SECTION 5 – EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

The previous two sections were devoted to a discussion of the assets and liabilities of the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund. A comparison of Tables 3 and 4 indicates that current assets fall short of meeting the present value of future benefits (total liability). This is expected in all but a completely closed fund, where no further contributions are anticipated. In an active system, there will almost always be a difference between the actuarial value of assets and total liabilities. This deficiency has to be made up by future contributions and investment returns. An actuarial valuation sets out a schedule of future contributions that will deal with this deficiency in an orderly fashion.

The method used to determine the incidence of the contributions in various years is called the actuarial cost method. Under an actuarial cost method, the contributions required to meet the difference between current assets and current liabilities are allocated each year between two elements: (1) the normal cost rate and (2) the unfunded actuarial accrued liability contribution rate.

The term "fully funded" is often applied to a system in which contributions at the normal cost rate are sufficient to pay for the benefits of existing employees as well as for those of new employees. More often than not, systems are not fully funded, either because of past benefit improvements that have not been completely funded or because of actuarial deficiencies that have occurred because experience has not been as favorable as anticipated by the actuarial assumptions. Under these circumstances, an unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) exists. Likewise, when the actuarial value of assets is greater than the actuarial accrued liability, a surplus exists.

Description of Contribution Rate Components

The Entry Age Normal (EAN) actuarial cost method is used for the valuation. Under that method, the normal cost for each year from entry age to assumed exit age is a constant percentage of the member's year by year projected compensation. The portion of the present value of future benefits not provided by the present value of future normal costs is the actuarial accrued liability. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability/(surplus) represents the difference between the actuarial accrued liability and the actuarial value of assets as of the valuation date. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability is calculated each year and reflects experience gains and losses.

In general, contributions are computed in accordance with a level percent-of-payroll funding objective. The contribution rate based on the January 1, 2018 actuarial valuation will be used to determine the actuarial required employer contribution rate to the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund for the plan year ending December 31, 2018. Any additional State contributions are expected to be deposited on July 1, 2019 (State fiscal year 2020). In this context, the term "contribution rate" means the percentage, which is applied to a particular active member payroll to determine the actual employer contribution amount (i.e., in dollars) for the group.

Contribution Rate Summary

In Table 10, the amortization payment related to the unfunded actuarial accrued liability/(surplus), as of January 1, 2018, is developed. Table 11 develops the actuarial required contribution rate for the State Employees' Retirement System Cash Balance Benefit Fund and the amount of any additional required State contributions.

The contribution rates shown in this report are based on the actuarial assumptions and cost methods described in Appendix C.



SECTION 5 – EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

TABLE 10

**STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

SCHEDULE OF AMORTIZATION BASES

Amortization Bases	Original Amount	January 1, 2018 Remaining Payments	Date of Last Payment	Outstanding Balance as of January 1, 2018	Annual Contribution*
2018 Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability Base	(63,632,381)	25	1/1/2043	(63,632,381)	(5,505,770)
Total				\$ (63,632,381)	\$ (5,505,770)

* Contribution amount reflects mid-year timing.

1. Total UAAL Amortization Payments	\$ (5,505,770)
2. Projected Payroll for 2018 Plan Year	\$ 598,868,441
3. UAAL Amortization Payment Rate	(0.92%)

Per State Statute Sect. 84-1319 (4)(b), because the UAAL as of January 1, 2018 is zero or less than zero, all prior amortization bases are considered fully funded and the UAAL is reinitialized.



SECTION 5 – EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

TABLE 11

**STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

**ACTUARIAL REQUIRED CONTRIBUTION RATE
and
DEVELOPMENT OF ADDITIONAL STATE CONTRIBUTION**

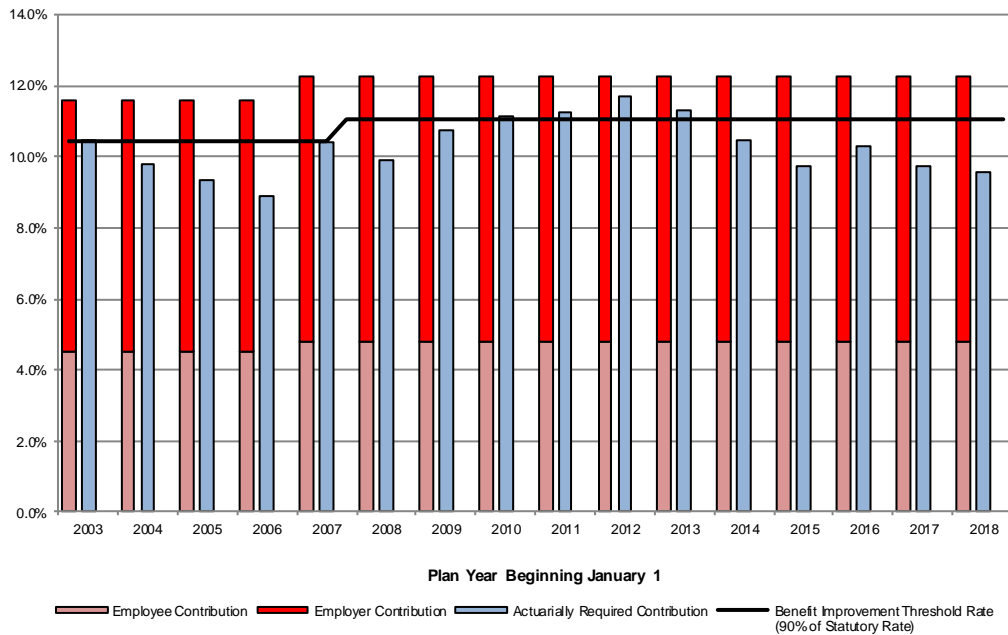
1. Normal Cost		
(a) Amount	\$	56,801,033
(b) Expected pay for current actives		540,160,292
(c) Normal Cost Rate as % of pay		10.52%
2. Amortization Cost		
(a) Amount		(5,505,770)
(b) Expected pay for all actives		598,868,441
(c) Amortization Rate as % of pay		(0.92%)
3. Total Actuarial Required Contribution Rate [1(c) + 2(c)]		9.60%
4. Statutory Contribution Rates		
(a) Member		4.80%
(b) Employer (156% of Member)		7.49%
(c) Total		<u>12.29%</u>
5. Additional Required State Contribution [3 - 4(c), not less than 0.00%]		0.00%
6. Expected pay for all actives during 2018		598,868,441
7. Additional Required State Contribution for FYE 2020 [5 * 6 * 1.075 ⁻⁵ , but not less than 0]	\$	0



SECTION 5 – EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

TABLE 12
STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND
HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTION RATES

Plan Year	Statutory Contribution Rate			Actuarial Rate	Margin/ (Shortfall)
	Employee	Employer	Total		
2003	4.54%	7.08%	11.62%	10.47%	1.15%
2004	4.53%	7.07%	11.60%	9.78%	1.82%
2005	4.53%	7.07%	11.60%	9.37%	2.23%
2006	4.54%	7.08%	11.62%	8.92%	2.70%
2007	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	10.40%	1.89%
2008	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	9.92%	2.37%
2009	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	10.77%	1.52%
2010	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	11.17%	1.12%
2011	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	11.28%	1.01%
2012	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	11.70%	0.59%
2013	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	11.32%	0.97%
2014	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	10.45%	1.84%
2015	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	9.72%	2.57%
2016	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	10.30%	1.99%
2017	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	9.73%	2.56%
2018	4.80%	7.49%	12.29%	9.60%	2.69%





SECTION 5 – EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

TABLE 13

**STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

**FUNDING EXCESS AVAILABLE FOR
BENEFIT IMPROVEMENT**

1. Total Statutory Contribution Rate	12.29%
2. Benefit Improvement Threshold Rate (90% of (1))	11.06%
3. Actuarially Required Contribution Rate	9.60%
4. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$ (63,632,381)
5. Requirements for Using Excess for Benefit Improvements	
a. Rate Sufficiency: (3) < (2)	Yes
b. No UAAL: (4) < 0	Yes
6. Funding Excess Available for Benefit Improvements	
As a rate of Pay: (2) - (3), not less than 0%	1.46%



SECTION 5 – EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

TABLE 14

**STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

DIVIDEND DETERMINATION

Each year after the annual actuarial valuation results are received, the Board determines, based on the recommendation of the actuary, if a benefit improvement can be made. If it is determined that the benefit improvement should be a dividend payment to individual member Cash Balance accounts and that sufficient reserves exist, the dividend granted must meet the following criteria:

- A. The plan must maintain the 90% Benefit Threshold Rate after granting any dividend.
- B. There must be a minimum 100% Funded Ratio on both the Funded Basis and the Current Value Basis, both before and after the dividend is granted.
- C. No dividend will be granted for a year where the annual interest credit rate exceeds the actuarial valuation interest rate.
- D. The dividend plus the annual interest credit during the year cannot exceed 8.0% unless a majority of the PERB agrees.

1. January 1, 2018 Valuation Results Before Dividend:

	<u>Funded Basis</u>	<u>Current Value Basis</u>
(a) Liability	\$1,501,862,294	\$1,487,094,485
(b) Assets	1,565,494,675	1,635,873,881
(c) (Deficit)/Reserve [(b) - (a)]	<u>\$63,632,381</u>	<u>\$148,779,396</u>

2. Amount Available for Dividend \$63,632,381
(Lesser of 1(c) on Funded Basis or Current Value Basis)

3. Account Balances as of December 31, 2017 \$1,164,970,093

4. Maximum Dividend [2 / 3] 5.46%

5. Annual Interest Credit for 2017 5.00%

6. 2017 Interest Credit Plus Maximum Dividend [4 + 5] 10.46%

7. January 1, 2018 Valuation Results After Maximum Dividend:

(a) Actuarial Contribution Rate	10.52%
(b) Benefit Improvement Threshold Rate	11.06%
(c) Is (a) < (b)? [Criteria A]	Yes
(d) Funded Ratio on a Funded Basis	100.0%
(e) Funded Ratio on a Current Value Basis	105.5%
(f) Are (d) and (e) both at least 100%? [Criteria B]	Yes

8. Is (5) < actuarial assumed interest rate (7.50%)? [**Criteria C**] **Yes**

9. Is (6) greater than 8.00%? [**Criteria D**] **Yes**

- Any dividend over 3.00% can only be granted if the majority of the PERB agrees.



SECTION 6 – OTHER INFORMATION

The actuarial accrued liability is a measure intended to help the reader assess (i) a retirement system's funded status on a going concern basis and (ii) progress being made toward accumulating the assets needed to pay benefits as due. Allocation of the actuarial present value of projected benefits between past and future service was based on service using the Entry Age Normal actuarial cost method. Entry age was established by subtracting credited service from current age on the valuation date. The Entry Age Normal actuarial accrued liability was determined as part of an actuarial valuation of the plan as of January 1, 2018. The actuarial assumptions used in determining the actuarial accrued liability can be found in Appendix C.

The Schedule of Funding Progress provides information about whether the financial strength of the Plan is improving or deteriorating over time.

The Schedule of Contributions from Employers and Other Contributing Entities provides historical information about the actuarial required contribution and the percentage of the actuarial required contribution that was actually contributed.



SECTION 6 – OTHER INFORMATION

TABLE 15

**STATE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) (b)	Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) (b - a)	Funded Ratio (a / b)	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a % of Covered Payroll [(b - a) / c]
January 1, 2018	\$1,565,494,675	\$1,501,862,294	(\$63,632,381)	104.2%	\$598,868,441	(10.6%)
January 1, 2017	1,443,560,434	1,370,454,658	(73,105,776)	105.3%	603,090,871	(12.1%)
January 1, 2016	1,337,161,184	1,304,297,557	(32,863,627)	102.5%	581,385,381	(5.7%)
January 1, 2015	1,246,042,982	1,199,841,066	(46,201,916)	103.9%	557,094,081	(8.3%)
January 1, 2014	1,130,203,298	1,139,772,796	9,569,498	99.2%	535,526,147	1.8%
January 1, 2013	1,009,414,476	1,077,957,772	68,543,296	93.6%	500,493,490	13.7%
January 1, 2012	743,970,954	813,285,510	69,314,556	91.5%	458,826,702	15.1%
January 1, 2011	714,131,805	762,680,399	48,548,594	93.6%	449,206,006	10.8%
January 1, 2010	670,591,669	714,408,952	43,817,283	93.9%	454,776,381	9.6%
January 1, 2009	637,539,094	658,249,398	20,710,304	96.9%	433,397,447	4.8%

Note: Information before January 1, 2014 was produced by the prior actuary.



SECTION 6 – OTHER INFORMATION

TABLE 16

**STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CASH BALANCE BENEFIT FUND**

**SCHEDULE OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM EMPLOYERS
AND OTHER CONTRIBUTING ENTITIES**

Plan Year Ending	Actuarial Required Contributions			Percent Contributed
	State	State Additional	Total	
December 31, 2017	\$29,732,380	\$0	\$29,732,380	153%
December 31, 2016	31,976,196	0	31,976,196	140%
December 31, 2015	27,409,029	0	27,409,029	158%
December 31, 2014	30,257,227	0	30,257,227	137%
December 31, 2013	32,632,176	0	32,632,176	120%
December 31, 2012	32,096,097	0	32,096,097	100%
December 31, 2011	31,088,483	0	31,088,483	100%
December 31, 2010	30,679,003	0	30,679,003	100%
December 31, 2009	30,321,032	0	30,321,032	100%
December 31, 2008	29,208,772	0	29,208,772	100%

Note: Information prior to December 31, 2013 was produced by the prior actuary.



APPENDIX A – MEMBERSHIP DATA

RECORD RECONCILIATION

	Active Members*	Inactive Members*	Retirees, Beneficiaries, and Disableds	Total
Total Number of Data Records Submitted by NPERS	15,252	9,970	2,461	27,683
Number of County records removed	0	0	(637)	(637)
a) DC Participant	(2,344)	(1,424)	0	(3,768)
b) Death	0	0	0	0
c) Assumed Inactive				
- Benefits due	(117)	117	0	0
- Cashed out	0	0	0	0
d) Null Balance	0	(805)	0	(805)
e) Termination Date after Valuation Date	45	(45)	0	0
f) Also Listed as Retired	0	(188)	0	(188)
g) Benefits Expired	0	0	(12)	(12)
h) QDRO spouse	0	0	0	0
i) Beneficiaries Due a Refund	0	0	0	0
j) Member Death - Certain Period Not Expired	0	0	2	2
k) Date of Death after Valuation Date	0	0	0	0
Net Change	(2,416)	(2,345)	(647)	(5,408)
Number of Members Included in the Valuation as of January 1, 2018	12,836	7,625	1,814	22,275

* Based on data file received from Ameritas.



APPENDIX A – MEMBERSHIP DATA

MEMBER DATA RECONCILIATION

	Active Members	Inactive Vested	Inactive Non-vested	Retirees and Beneficiaries	Total
As of January 1, 2017	13,226	2,548	4,167	1,615	21,556
Changes in status					
a) Retirement	(152)	(51)	0	203	0
b) Death	(3)	0	0	(21)	(24)
c) Non-vested terminations	(677)	0	677	0	0
d) Vested terminations	(751)	751	0	0	0
e) Contribution refund	(766)	(317)	(518)	0	(1,601)
f) Beneficiaries in receipt	0	0	0	24	24
g) Disability retirements	0	0	0	0	0
h) Return to active service	127	(58)	(69)	0	0
i) Expired benefits	0	0	0	(26)	(26)
j) Data adjustments	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total changes in status	(2,222)	325	90	180	(1,627)
Transferred from DC Plan	0	0	0	19	19
New entrants	1,832	82	413	0	2,327
Net change	(390)	407	503	199	719
As of January 1, 2018	12,836	2,955	4,670	1,814	22,275



APPENDIX A – MEMBERSHIP DATA

SUMMARY OF MEMBERSHIP DATA

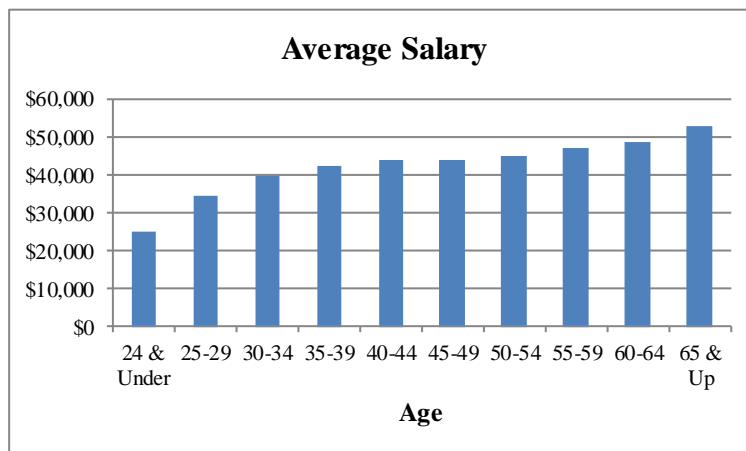
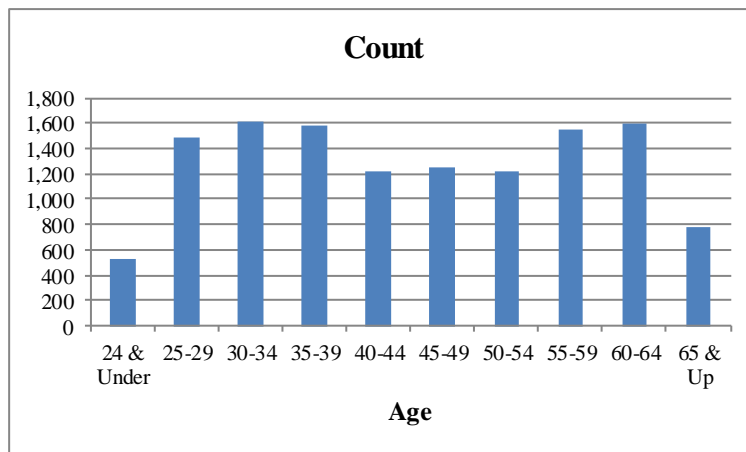
A. ACTIVE MEMBERS	January 1, 2018	January 1, 2017	% Change
1. Number of Active Members	12,836	13,226	(2.9%)
2. Reported Salary	\$ 550,155,075	\$ 553,013,224	(0.5%)
3. Accumulated Contributions			
(a) Employee Cash Balance Account	\$ 354,896,362	\$ 351,835,446	0.9%
(b) Employer Cash Balance Account	562,767,151	558,555,747	0.8%
(c) Total Cash Balance Account	\$ 917,663,513	\$ 910,391,193	0.8%
4. Active Member Averages			
(a) Age	44.9	44.8	0.2%
(b) Service	9.1	9.1	0.0%
(c) Compensation	\$ 42,860	\$ 41,813	2.5%
(d) Cash Balance Account	\$ 71,491	\$ 68,833	3.9%
B. INACTIVE MEMBERS			
1. Number of Inactive Members			
(a) System vested	2,955	2,548	16.0%
(b) System nonvested (refund only)	4,670	4,167	12.1%
(c) Total	7,625	6,715	13.6%
2. Total Vested Cash Balance Account	\$ 239,020,929	\$ 196,515,440	21.6%
3. Inactive Members Averages			
(a) Age (vesteds only)	50.5	51.0	(1.0%)
(b) Vested Cash Balance Account	\$ 80,887	\$ 77,125	4.9%
C. RETIREES, DISABLEDS, AND BENEFICIARIES			
1. Number of Members Receiving Benefits			
(a) Retired	1,694	1,511	12.1%
(b) Disabled	0	0	0.0%
(c) Beneficiaries	120	104	15.4%
(d) Total	1,814	1,615	12.3%
2. Total Annual Benefit Payments			
(a) Retired	\$ 31,567,120	\$ 27,480,965	14.9%
(b) Disabled	0	0	0.0%
(c) Beneficiaries	1,582,368	1,402,431	12.8%
(d) Total	\$ 33,149,488	\$ 28,883,396	14.8%



APPENDIX A – MEMBERSHIP DATA

**ACTIVE MEMBERS
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018**

<u>Age</u>	<u>Count of Members</u>			<u>Prior Year Reported Salary</u>		
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
24 & Under	269	265	534	\$ 7,851,397	\$ 5,539,295	\$ 13,390,692
25-29	663	817	1,480	24,609,480	26,420,140	51,029,620
30-34	733	884	1,617	31,543,044	32,807,227	64,350,271
35-39	651	934	1,585	29,121,342	37,557,512	66,678,854
40-44	515	700	1,215	24,496,817	28,574,298	53,071,115
45-49	543	706	1,249	25,021,394	29,626,256	54,647,650
50-54	501	724	1,225	24,457,404	30,432,154	54,889,558
55-59	593	957	1,550	31,101,932	41,712,868	72,814,800
60-64	658	936	1,594	35,364,204	42,261,255	77,625,459
65 & Up	<u>370</u>	<u>417</u>	<u>787</u>	<u>22,640,389</u>	<u>19,016,667</u>	<u>41,657,056</u>
Total	5,496	7,340	12,836	\$ 256,207,403	\$ 293,947,672	\$ 550,155,075





APPENDIX A – MEMBERSHIP DATA

**AGE AND SERVICE DISTRIBUTION
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018**

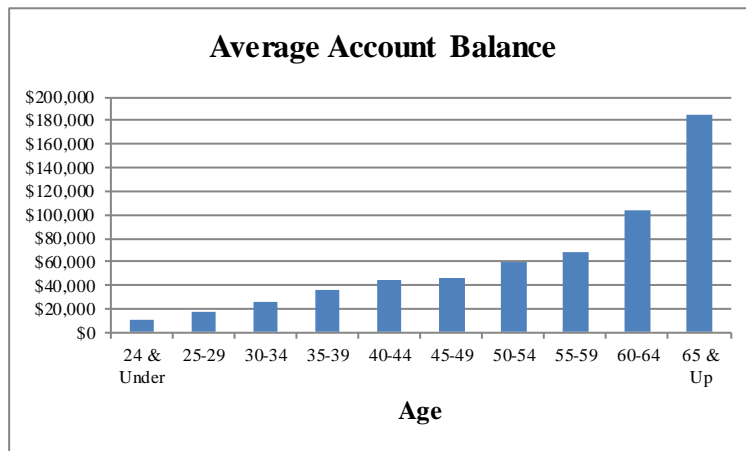
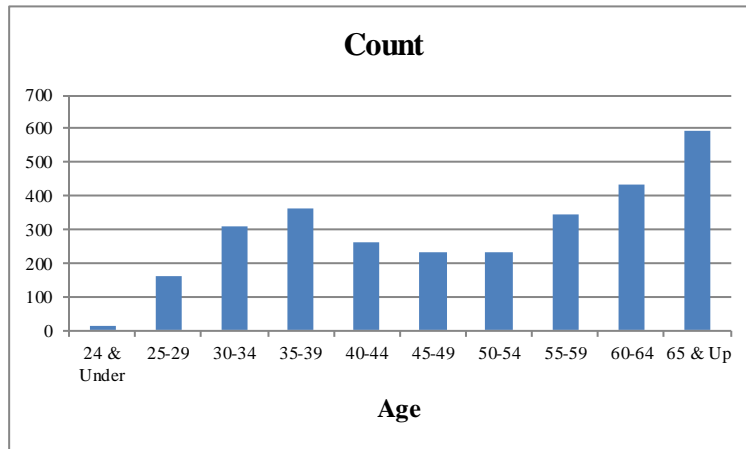
Age		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	Over 34	Total
24 & Under	Number	533	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	534
	Reported Salary	\$ 13,389,702	\$ 990	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 13,390,692
	Average Sal.	\$ 25,121	\$ 990	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 25,076
25-29	Number	1,290	185	5	0	0	0	0	0	1,480
	Reported Salary	\$ 43,295,643	\$ 7,509,021	\$ 224,956	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 51,029,620
	Average Sal.	\$ 33,563	\$ 40,589	\$ 44,991	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 34,479
30-34	Number	968	529	120	0	0	0	0	0	1,617
	Reported Salary	\$ 34,336,698	\$ 24,398,947	\$ 5,614,626	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 64,350,271
	Average Sal.	\$ 35,472	\$ 46,123	\$ 46,789	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 39,796
35-39	Number	788	444	334	19	0	0	0	0	1,585
	Reported Salary	\$ 28,775,830	\$ 20,285,684	\$ 16,658,789	\$ 958,551	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 66,678,854
	Average Sal.	\$ 36,518	\$ 45,688	\$ 49,877	\$ 50,450	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 42,069
40-44	Number	533	266	326	85	5	0	0	0	1,215
	Reported Salary	\$ 19,744,029	\$ 12,211,504	\$ 16,325,300	\$ 4,496,564	\$ 293,718	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 53,071,115
	Average Sal.	\$ 37,043	\$ 45,908	\$ 50,078	\$ 52,901	\$ 58,744	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 43,680
45-49	Number	510	274	277	136	49	3	0	0	1,249
	Reported Salary	\$ 18,817,921	\$ 12,263,377	\$ 13,953,373	\$ 7,034,145	\$ 2,433,014	\$ 145,820	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 54,647,650
	Average Sal.	\$ 36,898	\$ 44,757	\$ 50,373	\$ 51,722	\$ 49,653	\$ 48,607	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 43,753
50-54	Number	449	251	228	105	117	74	1	0	1,225
	Reported Salary	\$ 16,857,486	\$ 11,156,017	\$ 10,588,956	\$ 5,484,678	\$ 6,312,335	\$ 4,431,237	\$ 58,849	\$ 0	\$ 54,889,558
	Average Sal.	\$ 37,545	\$ 44,446	\$ 46,443	\$ 52,235	\$ 53,952	\$ 59,882	\$ 58,849	\$ 0	\$ 44,808
55-59	Number	444	260	247	138	115	247	94	5	1,550
	Reported Salary	\$ 17,064,000	\$ 10,521,037	\$ 11,648,561	\$ 7,243,075	\$ 6,072,509	\$ 13,998,208	\$ 6,016,992	\$ 250,418	\$ 72,814,800
	Average Sal.	\$ 38,432	\$ 40,466	\$ 47,160	\$ 52,486	\$ 52,804	\$ 56,673	\$ 64,011	\$ 50,084	\$ 46,977
60-64	Number	286	237	252	150	103	178	375	13	1,594
	Reported Salary	\$ 10,796,667	\$ 10,571,043	\$ 11,106,374	\$ 6,925,055	\$ 5,271,749	\$ 9,594,094	\$ 22,685,579	\$ 674,898	\$ 77,625,459
	Average Sal.	\$ 37,751	\$ 44,604	\$ 44,073	\$ 46,167	\$ 51,182	\$ 53,899	\$ 60,495	\$ 51,915	\$ 48,699
65 & Up	Number	91	132	118	76	53	74	92	151	787
	Reported Salary	\$ 4,192,634	\$ 5,595,946	\$ 4,985,875	\$ 3,345,484	\$ 2,811,882	\$ 3,933,573	\$ 6,175,530	\$ 10,616,132	\$ 41,657,056
	Average Sal.	\$ 46,073	\$ 42,394	\$ 42,253	\$ 44,020	\$ 53,054	\$ 53,156	\$ 67,125	\$ 70,306	\$ 52,931
Total	Number	5,892	2,579	1,907	709	442	576	562	169	12,836
	Reported Salary	\$ 207,270,610	\$ 114,513,566	\$ 91,106,810	\$ 35,487,552	\$ 23,195,207	\$ 32,102,932	\$ 34,936,950	\$ 11,541,448	\$ 550,155,075
	Average Sal.	\$ 35,178	\$ 44,402	\$ 47,775	\$ 50,053	\$ 52,478	\$ 55,734	\$ 62,165	\$ 68,293	\$ 42,860



APPENDIX A – MEMBERSHIP DATA

**INACTIVE VESTED MEMBERS
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018**

Age	Count of Members			Account Balances		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
24 & Under	5	11	16	\$ 82,229	\$ 93,358	\$ 175,587
25-29	69	93	162	1,408,242	1,474,342	2,882,584
30-34	123	189	312	3,233,677	4,782,177	8,015,854
35-39	162	199	361	5,950,310	7,173,164	13,123,474
40-44	103	157	260	5,141,399	6,481,343	11,622,742
45-49	86	148	234	4,766,793	6,105,725	10,872,518
50-54	90	144	234	6,097,867	7,896,233	13,994,100
55-59	125	223	348	10,883,803	12,921,005	23,804,808
60-64	175	261	436	19,235,591	25,922,357	45,157,948
65 & Up	<u>283</u>	<u>309</u>	<u>592</u>	<u>65,789,786</u>	<u>43,581,528</u>	<u>109,371,314</u>
Total	1,221	1,734	2,955	\$122,589,697	\$ 116,431,232	\$ 239,020,929

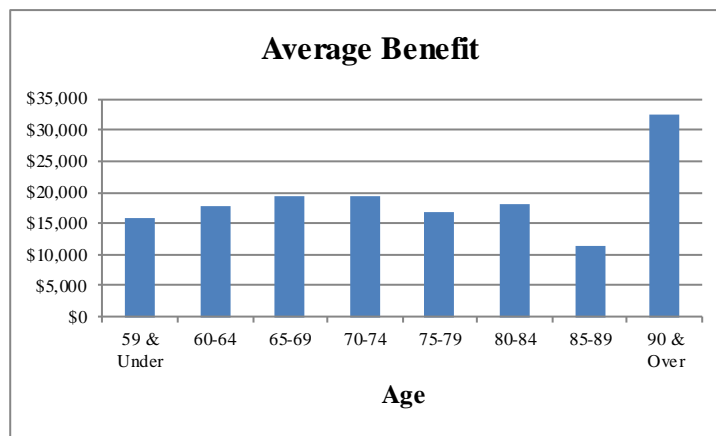
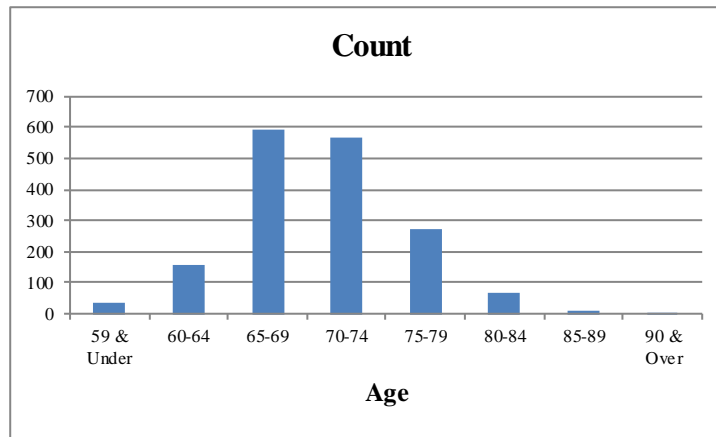




APPENDIX A – MEMBERSHIP DATA

**RETIRED MEMBERS
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018**

Age	Count of Members			Annual Benefits		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
59 & Under	15	19	34	\$ 232,775	\$ 307,650	\$ 540,425
60-64	58	97	155	1,106,065	1,658,505	2,764,570
65-69	252	337	589	5,526,675	5,874,117	11,400,792
70-74	288	275	563	6,714,400	4,136,868	10,851,268
75-79	136	139	275	2,806,837	1,830,550	4,637,387
80-84	26	40	66	661,811	531,833	1,193,644
85-89	2	8	10	37,850	76,294	114,144
90 & Over	0	2	2	0	64,890	64,890
Total	777	917	1,694	\$ 17,086,413	\$ 14,480,707	\$ 31,567,120

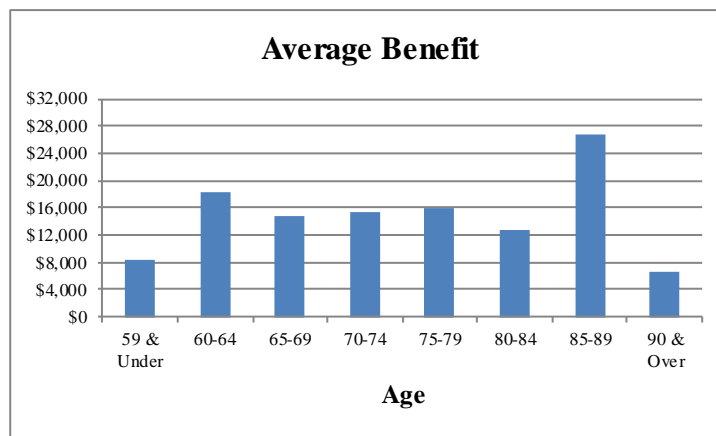
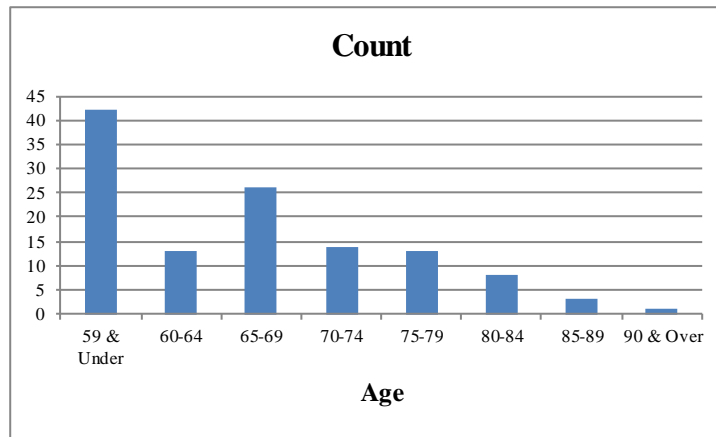




APPENDIX A – MEMBERSHIP DATA

**BENEFICIARIES RECEIVING BENEFITS
AS OF JANUARY 1, 2018**

Age	Count of Members			Annual Benefits		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
59 & Under	17	25	42	\$ 148,680	\$ 199,806	\$ 348,486
60-64	5	8	13	48,222	188,227	236,449
65-69	4	22	26	44,276	342,752	387,028
70-74	5	9	14	69,378	145,560	214,938
75-79	3	10	13	32,009	174,379	206,388
80-84	1	7	8	16,637	85,844	102,481
85-89	2	1	3	56,525	23,559	80,084
90 & Over	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6,514</u>	<u>6,514</u>
Total	37	83	120	\$ 415,727	\$ 1,166,641	\$ 1,582,368





APPENDIX B – SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS

Membership

All permanent, full-time employees of the State who work one-half or more of the regularly scheduled hours during each pay period shall begin immediate participation in the State Employees' Retirement System as of January 1, 2007 or date of hire, if later. All permanent, part-time employees who have attained the age of eighteen may exercise the option to begin immediate participation in the State Employees' Retirement System.

Existing members of the State Employees' Retirement System could have elected, during the period beginning September 1, 2012 and ending October 31, 2012 to participate in the Cash Balance benefit. If no election was made by October 31, 2012, the member was treated as though he or she elected to continue participating in the Defined Contribution benefit as provided in the State Employees' Retirement Act.

Existing members of the State Employees' Retirement System could have elected, during the period beginning November 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2007 to participate in the Cash Balance Benefit Fund. If no election was made by December 31, 2007, the member was treated as though he or she elected to continue participating in the Defined Contribution Plan as provided in the State Employees' Retirement Act.

Existing members of the State Employees' Retirement System could have elected, during the period beginning October 1, 2002, and ending December 31, 2002, to participate in the Cash Balance Benefit Fund. If no election was made by January 1, 2003, the member was treated as though he or she elected to continue participating in the Defined Contribution Plan as provided in the State Employees' Retirement Act. For a member who first participates in the retirement system on or after January 1, 2003, he or she shall automatically participate in the Cash Balance Benefit Fund subject to plan eligibility requirements.

Compensation Considered

Compensation means gross wages or salaries payable to the member for personal services performed during the plan year, overtime pay, member retirement contributions, and amounts contributed by the member to plans under sections 125, 403(b) and 457 of the Internal Revenue Code or any other section of the code which defers or excludes such amounts from income.

Member Contributions

Members of the State Employees' Retirement System shall contribute an amount equal to four and eight-tenths percent (4.8%) of annual compensation to the fund. The member contribution shall be credited to the employee cash balance account.

Employer Contributions

The State shall contribute at a rate of 156% of the members' contributions to the fund. The State contribution shall be credited to the employer cash balance account.

Interest Credit Rate

Interest credit rate means the greater of (a) five percent or (b) the applicable federal mid-term rate as published by the Internal Revenue Service as of the first day of the calendar quarter for which interest credits are credited, plus one and one-half percent, such rate to be compounded annually.



APPENDIX B – SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS

Interest Credits

Interest credits means the amount credited to the employee cash balance account and the employer cash balance account daily. Such interest credit for each account shall be determined by applying the daily portion of the interest credit rate to the account balance at the end of the previous day.

Retirement Age

A member is eligible for retirement after attaining age 55.

Service

Service is defined to mean the actual total length of employment with the State and is not interrupted by a) temporary or seasonal suspension of service that does not terminate the member's employment, b) leave of absence authorized by the State for no longer than twelve months, c) leave of absence due to disability or d) leave due to military service.

Retirement Allowance

Upon attainment of age 55, regardless of service, the retirement allowance shall be equal to the accumulated employee and employer cash balance accounts including interest credit, annuitized for payment in the normal form. Also available are additional forms of payment allowed under the plan which are actuarially equivalent to the normal form including the option of a full lump sum or partial lump sum.

Normal Form of Payment

The normal form of payment under the Cash Balance Benefit Fund is a single life annuity with five-year certain, payable monthly. Members will have the option to convert their cash balance account to a monthly annuity with built in cost-of-living adjustments of 2.5% annually. This monthly benefit and all other options allowed under the Plan will be of actuarial equivalence to the accumulated employee and employer cash balance accounts including interest credits.

Optional Form of Payment

Optional forms of payment include a lump sum and the following annuities (with or without a 2.5% COLA): life annuity, modified cash refund, certain and life annuity (5, 10 or 15 years), certain only annuity (5, 10, 15 or 20 years) and joint and survivor annuity (50%, 75% or 100%).

Deferred Vested Allowance

A member who terminates with at least 3 years of participation in the system, including eligibility and vesting credit, may choose to leave his employee and employer cash balance accounts in the Plan and be eligible to receive a vested monthly allowance at retirement age or request a distribution of his employee and employer cash balance accounts plus interest credit, with no future benefit payable from the plan.

Severance Benefits

A member who terminates with less than 3 years of participation in the system, including eligibility and vesting credit, may elect to receive a distribution of his/her employee cash balance account including interest credit, with no future benefit payable from the plan.

Disability Allowance

If a member becomes disabled prior to retirement, the member shall receive the total amount of his/her accumulated employee and employer cash balance accounts including interest credits, as a lump sum or converted into a monthly annuity, as defined under the retirement allowance.



APPENDIX B – SUMMARY OF PLAN PROVISIONS

Pre-retirement Death Allowance

If a member dies prior to retirement, the surviving spouse, designated beneficiary (if different), or estate shall receive the total amount of his/her accumulated employee and employer cash balance accounts including interest credit, as a lump sum or converted into a monthly annuity, as defined under the retirement allowance.

Defined Contribution Transfers at Retirement

Upon retirement, members participating in the Defined Contribution Benefit Fund may elect to annuitize their accumulated account balance and receive a monthly benefit payment from the Cash Balance Benefit Fund. The accumulated account balance is transferred from the Defined Contribution Plan to the Cash Balance Benefit Fund upon the retirement of a Defined Contribution member electing an annuity. The actuarial assumptions used to convert the accumulated account balance to monthly income are (i) the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table with a 50% male / 50% female mix, and (ii) the interest rate in accordance with Nebraska State Statute 84-1319.

Benefit Improvements

In accordance with Section 84-1319 of the Nebraska State Statutes, the Public Employees' Retirement Board may grant benefit improvements if the unfunded actuarial accrued liability is less than zero, but in no event will such improvement result in an actuarially required contribution rate in excess of 90% of the total statutory contribution rate.

Dividend Policy

Under Nebraska Statutes, the Board may grant a dividend in addition to the regular interest credit if the UAAL is less than \$0 (i.e. a surplus exists) and the actuarial contribution after the extra dividend is no more than 90% of the scheduled contribution rate. Additionally, the Board has adopted a policy that also requires that the Accumulated Benefit Obligation be completely funded.

Year Issued	Dividend %	For Time Period
2017	3.070%	1/1/2016 – 12/31/2016
2016	0.000%	1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015
2015	4.530%	1/1/2014 – 12/31/2014
2014	0.000%	1/1/2013 – 12/31/2013
2013	0.000%	1/1/2012 – 12/31/2012
2012	0.000%	1/1/2011 – 12/31/2011
2011	0.000%	1/1/2010 – 12/31/2010
2010	0.000%	1/1/2009 – 12/31/2009
2009	0.000%	1/1/2008 – 12/31/2008
2008	5.180%	1/1/2007 – 12/31/2007
2007	2.730%	1/1/2006 – 12/31/2006
2006	13.500%	1/1/2005 – 12/31/2005
2005	2.800%	1/1/2004 – 12/31/2004
2004	3.088%	1/1/2003 – 12/31/2003

Changes in Plan Provisions Since the Prior Year

The 2017 Nebraska State Legislature passed Legislative Bill 415 (LB 415), which changes the actuarial basis used to calculate annuity rates for cash balance members hired on or after January 1, 2018. This change had no impact on the current valuation results.



APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

A. ACTUARIAL METHODS

- 1. Calculation of Normal Cost and Actuarial Accrued Liability:** The method used to determine the normal cost and actuarial accrued liability was the Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method described below.

Entry Age Actuarial Cost Method

Projected pension benefits were determined for all active members under age 80. Cost factors designed to produce annual costs as a constant percentage of each member's expected compensation in each year from the assumed entry age to the assumed retirement age were applied to the projected benefits to determine the normal cost (the portion of the total cost of the plan allocated to the current year under the method). The normal cost is determined by summing intermediate results for active members under age 90 and determining an average normal cost rate which is related to the total payroll of active members under age 90. The actuarial assumptions shown in this section were used in determining the projected benefits and cost factors. The actuarial accrued liability for active members (the portion of the total cost of the plan allocated to prior years under the method) was determined as the excess of the actuarial present value of projected benefits over the actuarial present value of future normal costs.

The actuarial accrued liability for retired members and their beneficiaries currently receiving benefits, active members age 80 and over, terminated vested members and disabled members not yet receiving benefits was determined as the actuarial present value of the benefits expected to be paid. No normal costs are now payable for these members.

The actuarial accrued liability under this method at any point in time is the theoretical amount of the fund that would have been accumulated had annual contributions equal to the normal cost been made in prior years (it does not represent the liability for benefit accrued to the valuation date). The unfunded actuarial accrued liability is the excess of the actuarial accrued liability over the actuarial value of plan assets measured on the valuation date. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability is funded with a level dollar payment amount over 25 years from January 1, 2009 and subsequent changes in the unfunded actuarial accrued liability are funded with a closed level dollar payment over 25 years from the date established. If the unfunded actuarial accrued liability becomes negative, prior changes to the unfunded liability are eliminated and the current unfunded actuarial accrued liability is amortized with a closed level dollar payment over 25 years.

Under this method, experience gains or losses, i.e., decreases or increases in accrued liabilities attributable to deviations in experience from the actuarial assumptions, adjust the unfunded actuarial accrued liability.



APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

- 2. Calculation of the Actuarial Value of Assets:** Effective January 1, 2003, the actuarial value of assets was initiated at Market Value and equals the sum of the employee and employer cash balance accounts. In future years, the actuarial value of assets will be based on a five-year smoothing method with phase-in and is determined by spreading the effect of each year's investment return in excess of or below the expected return. The Market Value of assets at the valuation date is reduced by the sum of the following, each determined after January 1, 2003:
- (i) 80% of the return to be spread during the first year preceding the valuation date.
 - (ii) 60% of the return to be spread during the second year preceding the valuation date.
 - (iii) 40% of the return to be spread during the third year preceding the valuation date.
 - (iv) 20% of the return to be spread during the fourth year preceding the valuation date.

The return to be spread is the difference between (1) the actual investment return on Market Value and (2) the expected return on Actuarial Value. The expected return on Actuarial Value includes interest on the previous year's unrecognized return.

B. VALUATION PROCEDURES

No actuarial liability is included for participants who terminated without being vested prior to the valuation date, except those due a refund of the employee cash balance account.

The compensation amounts used in the projection of benefits and liabilities for active members were prior plan year compensations.

Projected benefits were limited by the dollar limitation required by the Internal Revenue Code Section 415 as it applies to governmental plans and compensation limited by Section 401(a)(17).

Changes in Methods and Procedures Since the Prior Year

There have been no changes in the actuarial methods or procedures since the prior valuation.



APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

ECONOMIC ASSUMPTIONS

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Investment Return | 7.50% per annum, compounded annually, net of expenses. |
| 2. Inflation | 2.75% per annum, compounded annually. |
| 3. Interest Crediting Rate on Cash Balance Accounts | 6.25% per annum, compounded annually. |
| 4. Annuitization Rate of Member & Employer Accumulated Balances | 7.75% per annum, compounded annually, for members hired before January 1, 2018 (set statutorily). |

5. Salary Scale

Service	Annual Increase
0	4.93%
1	4.80
2	4.60
3	4.29
4	4.06
5	3.98
6	3.94
7	3.93
8	3.88
9	3.85
10	3.81
11	3.80
12	3.76
13	3.72
14	3.70
15	3.67
16	3.63
17	3.60
18	3.59
19	3.56
20+	3.50

DEMOGRAPHIC ASSUMPTIONS

1. Mortality

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. Healthy lives - Active members | RP-2014 White Collar Table for Employees (100% of male rates for males, 55% of female rates for females), projected generationally with MP-2015. |
| b. Healthy lives – Retired members and beneficiaries | RP-2014 White Collar Table for Employees, set back two years, scaled (males: under 80, 1.008; over 80, 1.449; females: under 85, .924; over 85, 1.5855; geometrically blended), projected generationally from 2013 with a SOA projection scale tool using a 0.5% ultimate 2035 rate in 2035. |



APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

c. Disabled lives Not applicable

d. Healthy mortality rates and projection scale are shown below at sample ages:

Pre-retirement Mortality		
Sample Age	Mortality Rate	
	Males	Females
20	0.03%	0.01%
30	0.03	0.01
40	0.04	0.02
50	0.12	0.05
60	0.33	0.11

Post-retirement Mortality		
Sample Age	Mortality Rate	
	Males	Females
50	0.23%	0.17%
60	0.47	0.31
70	1.03	0.82
80	3.65	2.28
90	14.57	12.63

Projection Scale – Post-retirement Mortality						
Sample Age	Scale (2020)		Scale (2030)		Scale (2040)	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
50	0.0252	0.0144	0.0080	0.0052	0.0050	0.0050
60	0.0083	0.0051	0.0066	0.0059	0.0050	0.0050
70	0.0088	0.0121	0.0061	0.0057	0.0050	0.0050
80	0.0114	0.0104	0.0057	0.0058	0.0050	0.0050
90	0.0109	0.0104	0.0057	0.0057	0.0046	0.0046

e. Mortality for Annuitization of Employee and Employer Cash Balance Accounts 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Table, with 50 % Male, 50% Female blending for members hired before January 1, 2018 (set statutorily).

Sample Age	Mortality Rate	Life Expectancy (Years)
55	0.34%	28.0
60	0.62	23.5
65	1.16	19.4
70	1.87	15.7
75	2.99	12.2
80	5.07	9.3



APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

2. Retirement

Graduated rates by retirement age after 5 years of service.

Age	Annual Rates
55-60	5.0%
61	8.0
62	12.0
63	12.0
64	15.0
65	30.0
66	30.0
67-79	25.0
80	100.0

3. Termination

Graduated rates by age and service.

Service	Rate
<1	30.0%
1	22.0
5	14.0
10	7.0
15	3.5
20	3.0
25+	2.0

4. Disability

None.



APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

OTHER ASSUMPTIONS

1. Payment Assumptions

As shown in the table below, 50% of all members eligible for retirement are assumed to be paid in the form of an annuity and the other 50% in the form of a lump sum, and 100% of members eligible for all other types of benefits are assumed to be paid in the form of a lump sum. Deferred vested and non-vested members are assumed to take a refund of their account balance as of the valuation date.

Benefit	Assumed Form of Payment
Retirement	50% Lump Sum / 50% Annuity*
Vested	Lump Sum
Non-vested	Lump Sum
Disability	Lump Sum
Death	Lump Sum

*Five-year certain and life annuity.

2. Cost of Living Adjustment

None assumed, except 2.5% per year is used for retirees electing annuity payments with a COLA feature.

Changes in Assumptions Since the Prior Year

At their meeting on October 17, 2016, the Board adopted a new set of actuarial assumptions, as recommended in the experience study. Although adopted in 2016, this is the first valuation report that utilizes the new set of assumptions. Below is a summary of the key assumption changes:

- Investment return assumption was lowered from 7.75% to 7.50%.
- Price inflation assumption was lowered from 3.25% to 2.75%.
- General wage growth was lowered from 4.00% to 3.50%.
- Covered payroll growth assumption decreased from 4.00% to 3.50%.
- Individual salary increase assumption was lowered by 0.50% in order to remain consistent with the general wage growth assumption.
- Assumed cash balance interest crediting rate was lowered from 6.75% to 6.25%.
- Mortality assumption was changed to the RP-2014 While Collar Mortality Table, with adjustments made to better reflect observed experience. Generational mortality improvements are modeled using a System-specific projection scale.
- Retirement rates were adjusted to better reflect observed experience.
- Termination rates were changed to a service-based assumption.



APPENDIX D – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Actuarial Accrued Liability	The difference between the actuarial present value of system benefits and the actuarial value of future normal costs. Also referred to as “accrued liability” or “actuarial liability”.
Actuarial Assumptions	Estimates of future experience with respect to rates of mortality, disability, turnover, retirement, rate or rates of investment income and salary increases. Decrement assumptions (rates of mortality, disability, turnover and retirement) are generally based on past experience, often modified for projected changes in conditions. Economic assumptions (salary increases and investment income) consist of an underlying rate in an inflation-free environment plus a provision for a long-term average rate of inflation.
Accrued Service	Service credited under the system which was rendered before the date of the actuarial valuation.
Actuarial Equivalent	A single amount or series of amounts of equal actuarial value to another single amount or series of amounts, computed on the basis of appropriate assumptions.
Actuarial Cost Method	A mathematical budgeting procedure for allocating the dollar amount of the actuarial present value of retirement system benefit between future normal cost and actuarial accrued liability. Sometimes referred to as the “actuarial funding method”.
Experience Gain (Loss)	The difference between actual experience and actuarial assumptions anticipated experience during the period between two actuarial valuation dates.
Actuarial Present Value	The amount of funds currently required to provide a payment or series of payments in the future. It is determined by discounting future payments at predetermined rates of interest and by probabilities of payment.
Amortization	Paying off an interest-discounted amount with periodic payments of interest and principal, as opposed to paying off with lump sum payment.
Normal Cost	The actuarial present value of retirement system benefits allocated to the current year by the actuarial cost method.
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	The difference between actuarial accrued liability and the valuation assets. Sometimes referred to as “unfunded actuarial liability” or “unfunded accrued liability”.