Defined benefit pensions are the most reliable path to a secure retirement for working families. They are also powerful economic engines for local communities. The spending of pension benefits by retirees supports local businesses through purchases of food, medicine, gas, and other staple items.

In 2016, the spending of pension benefits in Texas:
- Generated $29.4 billion in economic activity
- Supported 185,087 jobs that paid nearly $9.7 billion in income

Each dollar paid out in pension benefits creates $1.83 in total economic output in Texas.

Public pensions are a great investment for taxpayers. Each dollar invested by Texas taxpayers in public pensions supports $9.10 in economic activity.

Public pension plans earn the majority of their revenue from investment earnings:
- Employer Contributions 20.09%
- Employee Contributions 16.33%
- Investment Earnings 63.58%

Public pension plans create more tax revenue than what is contributed to the plan by the taxpayer. Nationally in 2016, taxpayers saw $277.6 billion in state and local tax revenue because of pension asset investment and the spending of pension benefits. Since taxpayers only contributed $140.3 billion into these funds, taxpayers saw a return of $137.3 billion. In Texas, public pension plans create $9.3 billion more in tax revenue than what is contributed to the plan by the taxpayer.

Information provided by NIRS. For full reports, go to protectpensions.org/pensionsonmainstreet.