



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Local Government Pension Scheme Funds: 2015-16 England (revised)

- Total Local Government Pension Scheme expenditure in England in 2015-16 was £10.0 billion. On a like-for-like basis the increase was £0.6 billion or 6.1%
- Total Local Government Pension Scheme income in England in 2015-16 was £12.4 billion. On a like-for-like basis the decrease was £0.2 billion or 1.4%.
- Employers' contributions to the Local Government Pension Scheme in 2015-16 amounted to £6.6 billion and employees' contributions to the scheme were £2.0 billion.
- The market value of the Local Government Pension Scheme funds in England at the end of March 2016 was just over £200 billion.
- The Local Government Pension Scheme in England encompasses more than 5.06 million people. Of this number, 1.8 million are employees who are still contributing to the scheme, 1.5 million are pensioners and 1.8 million are former employees who are entitled to a pension at some time in the future.

Local Government Finance
Statistical Release

08 December 2016

Introduction	2
Expenditure 2011-12 to 2015-16	3
Income 2011-12 to 2015-16	4
Income and Expenditure	7
Membership and employers	8
Retirements from the Local Government Pension Scheme	10
Definitions	12
Technical notes	14
Enquiries	17

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Introduction

This release has been compiled by the Department for Communities and Local Government and provides information on Local Government Pension Scheme funds in England that was gathered on the SF3 (Pensions) 2015-16 forms that were submitted by all 81 Administering Authorities in England. The form collects information on Local Government Pension Scheme funds' income, expenditure, membership, retirements and other activities. It also shows other associated information for the financial year 2015-16 and changes over previous years.

NB In this release,

- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 are referred to as the 2007 regulations;
- the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 are referred to as the 2008 regulations; and
- the Local Government Pension Scheme is referred to as the LGPS.

When looking at the figures in this release it should be remembered that throughout the year there are always staff transferring their pensions into, and out of, the LGPS because they either commence work for an employer who is a member of the LGPS and bring their accrued pension with them, or they move to another employer and take their pension pot with them. In addition, there will be occasions where staff transfer between LGPS schemes and so there will also be transfers between funds within the LGPS.

Special factors affecting 2014-15

During 2014-15, responsibility for the pensions of approximately 46,000 probation service members of the LGPS were transferred from 34 different pension administering bodies in England and Wales to one, the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. This included both current employees, former employees who will receive a pension in the future and pensioners. This resulted in large increases in the Transfer Values shown in both **Table 1** and **Table 2** below. The scale of this change makes direct comparisons to 2014-15 misleading and so like-for-like comparisons have been made (ie without the transfer).

Further details are provided in **Section 7 Technical Notes** below.

1. Expenditure: 2011-12 to 2015-16

Table 1 and **Chart A** provide figures of the expenditure of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) in England from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

- Total LGPS expenditure in 2015-16 was £10.0 billion. Removing the effect of the transfer of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ)/ Probation Service staff to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (£2.6 billion) in 2014-15, the like-for-like increase was £0.6 billion or 6.1%.
- The expenditure on benefits in 2015-16 was £8.6 billion, an increase of £0.4 billion or 4.5% on 2014-15. Of this, expenditure on pensions and annuities was £7.0 billion, an increase of £0.3 billion (4.1%) and expenditure on lump sums paid on retirement was £1.4 billion, an increase of £98 million (7.5%) on 2014-15.
- Disposal of Liabilities was £477 million in 2015-16. Excluding the £2.6 billion MoJ / Probation Service staff transfer in 2014-15, this was an increase of £125 million in 2015-16.
- Costs charged to the funds increased by £79 million, or 9.8%, in 2015-16 to £890 million.

Table 1: Local Government Pension Scheme expenditure 2011-12 to 2015-16

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	£ million 2015-16
Total expenditure on benefits	7,534	7,504	7,848	8,269	8,642
<i>of which:</i>					
<i>Pensions or annuities</i>	5,503	5,998	6,323	6,691	6,962
<i>Lump sums paid on retirement</i>	1,706	1,241	1,242	1,295	1,392
<i>Lump sums paid on death</i>	164	163	168	172	189
<i>Optional lump sum</i>	161	98	115	110	96
<i>Other benefits</i>	1	4	1	1	3
Disposal of Liabilities	551	476	472	2,952	477
<i>of which:</i>					
<i>Transfer values ^(a)</i>	551	476	471	2,950	472
<i>Pensions Act premiums</i>	0	0	0	2	4
<i>Refunds of contributions</i>	0	0	0	0	0
Total Management expenses charged to the fund	468	492	572	810	890
<i>of which:</i> ^(c)					
<i>Fund Management costs ^(b)</i>	353	374	449	689	-
<i>Administration costs</i>	118	119	123	121	-
<i>Investment management expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	741 (R)
<i>Administrative expenses</i>	-	-	-	-	101 (R)
<i>Governance and oversight costs</i>	-	-	-	-	48 (R)
Other expenditure	38	17	15	22	19
Total expenditure	8,592	8,490	8,907	12,054	10,027

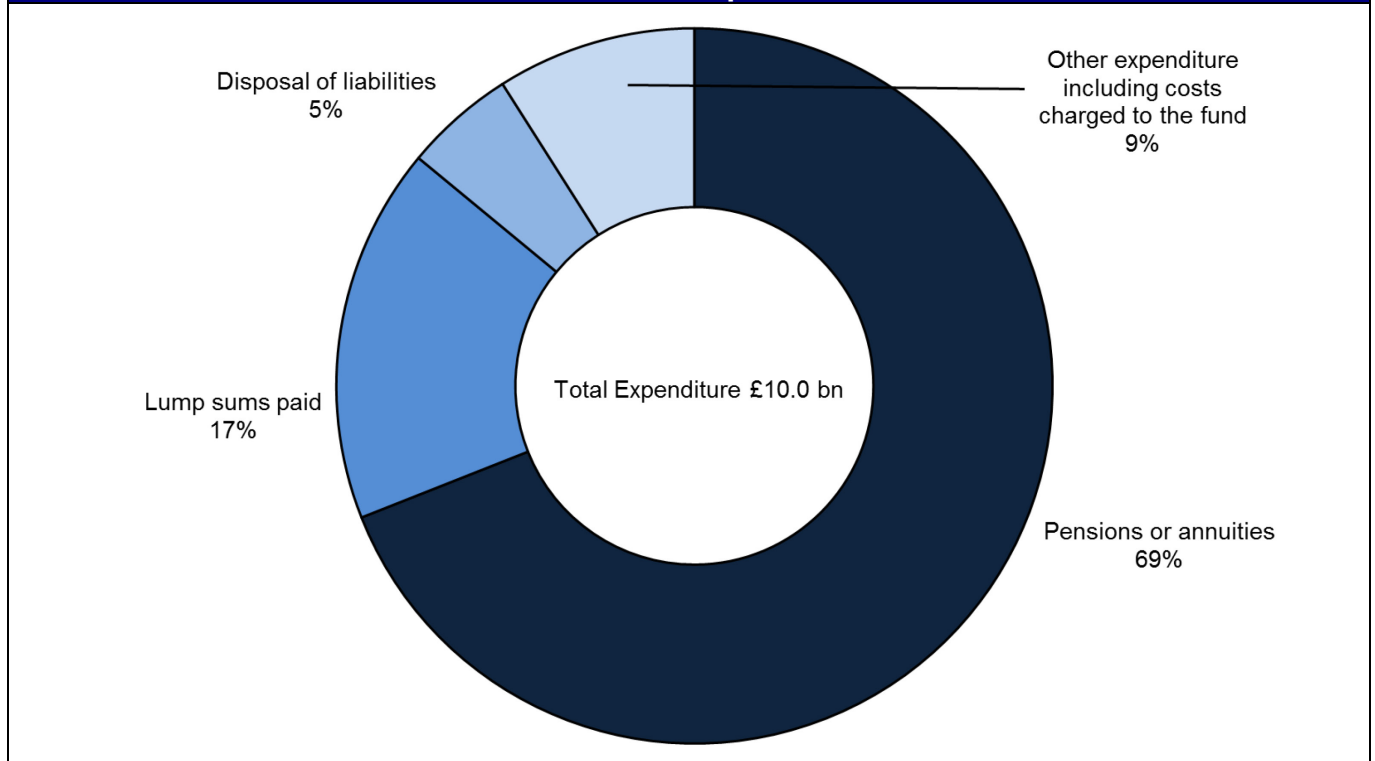
(a) Transfer values for 2014-15 includes an exceptional transfer of £2.6 billion from a number of LGPS funds to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund in respect of MoJ/Probation Service staff who were transferred to that fund during 2014-15. See also Table 2.

(b) The way Fund Management costs are reported was changed during 2014-15 following revised guidance from CIPFA.

(c) Recording of Management expenses in SF3 2015-16 was changed in line with CIPFA guidance.

(R) Revised following correction of data transpositions by 8 authorities.

Chart A: Local Government Pension Scheme expenditure in 2015-16



2. Income: 2011-12 to 2015-16

Table 2 and **Charts B** and **C** provide figures of the income to the LGPS in England and the market value of the scheme from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

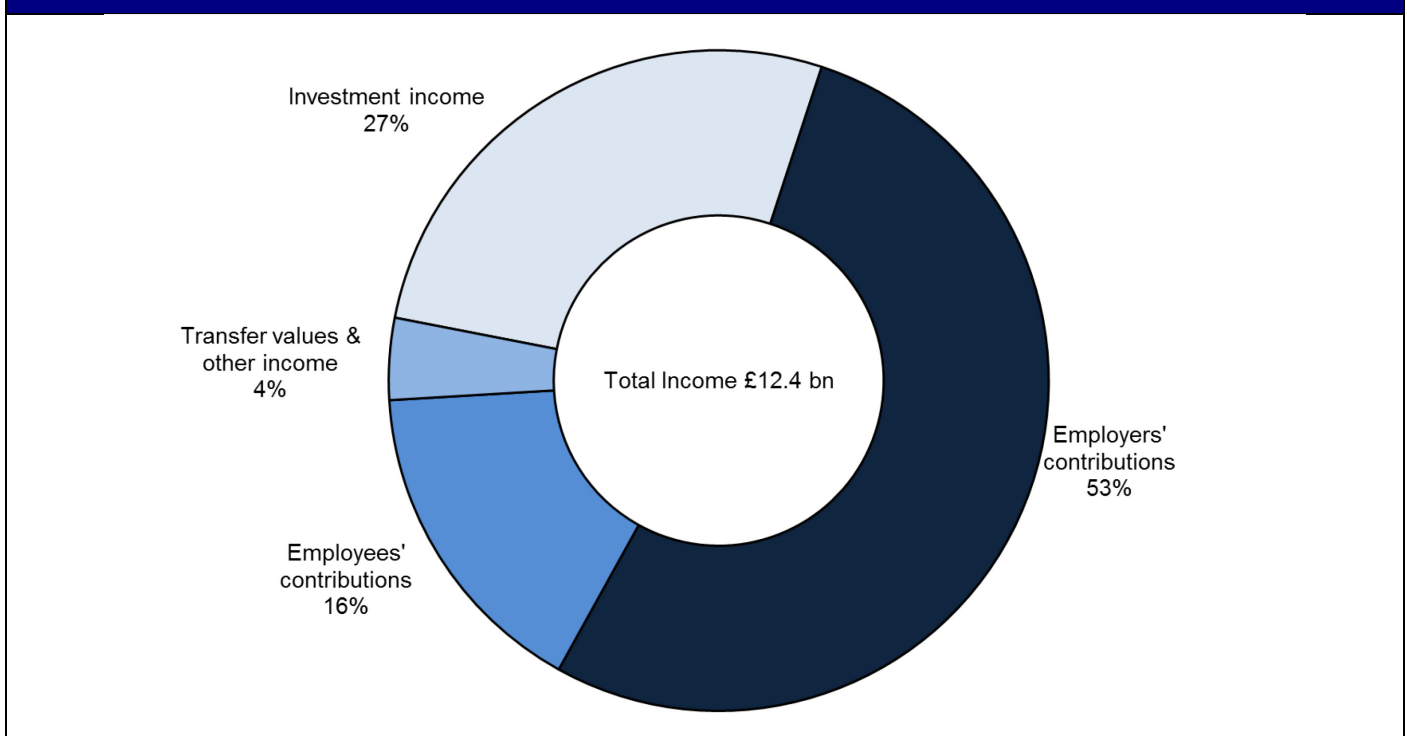
- The total income of the LGPS in 2015-16 was £12.4 billion. Removing the effect of the transfer of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ)/Probation Service staff to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (£2.6 billion) in 2014-15, the like-for-like decrease was £0.2 billion or 1.4%.
- Employers' contributions to the LGPS in 2015-16 amounted to £6.6 billion, a decrease of £0.2 billion or 3.4% on 2014-15; employees' contributions to the scheme increased in the same period by £27 million or 1.4% to £2.0 billion.
- The market value of LGPS funds at end of March 2016 was just over £200 billion.

Table 2: Local Government Pension Scheme income and market value of funds 2011-12 to 2015-16

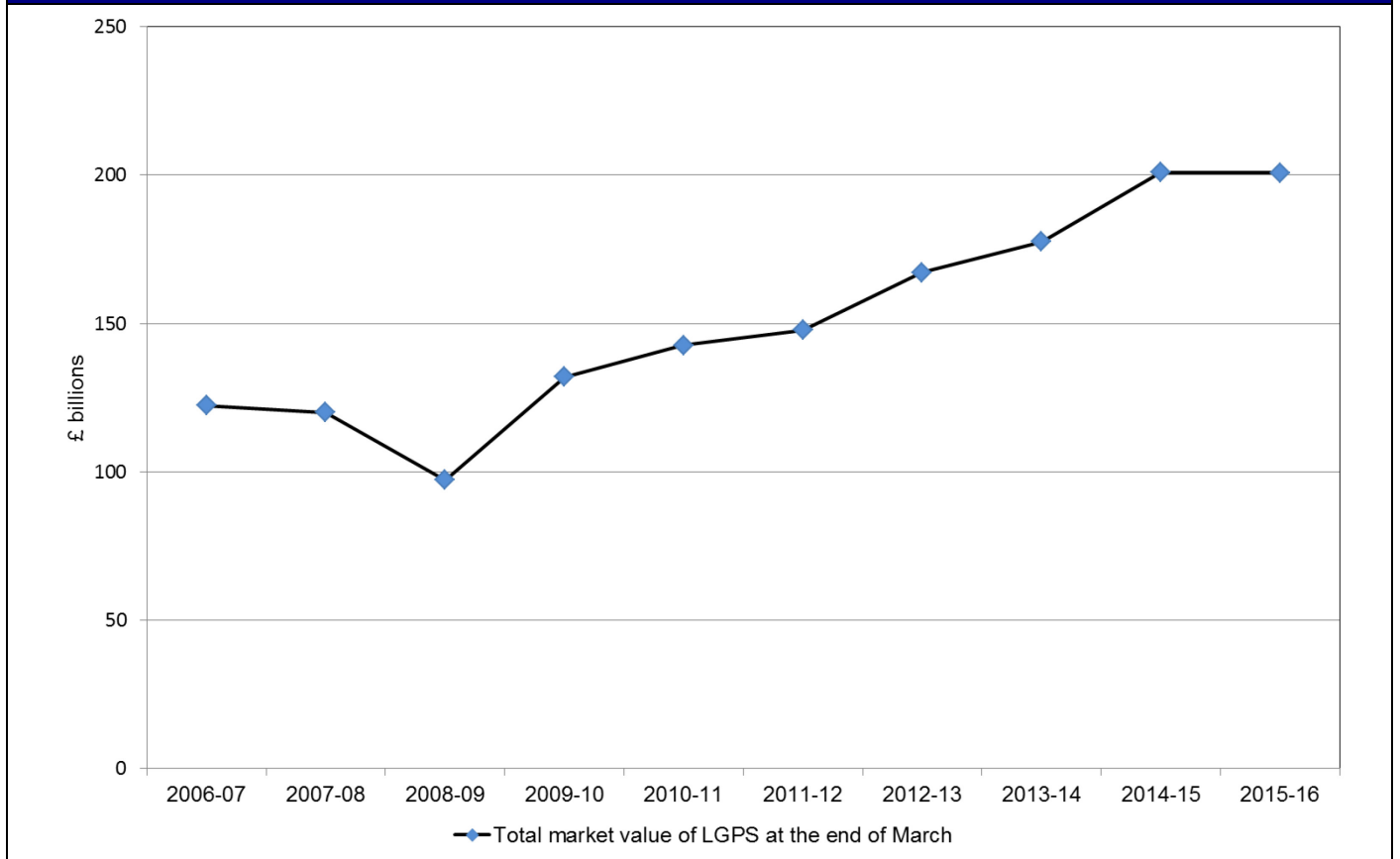
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	£ million 2015-16
Contributions (including those from admitted authorities)						
Employees	1,966	1,839	1,785	1,827	1,934	1,961
Employers ^{(a)(b)}	5,947	5,920	5,732	6,030	6,837	6,604
Investment income (gross)	2,696	3,045	2,983	3,164	3,338	3,413
of which:						
Dividends receivable	1,708	2,071	2,015	2,161	2,160	2,231
Interest receivable	383	370	345	361	347	320
Income from property	345	387	395	423	450	489
Other investment income ^(c)	259	217	227	218	380	373
Transfer values ^(d)	791	662	519	559	3,036	399
Other income	96	82	79	53	58	51
Total income	11,496	11,547	11,098	11,632	15,204	12,428
Market value of funds at end of year	142,716	147,719	167,171	177,620	200,849	£ million 200,817

(a) Includes employers' secondary contributions
(b) Employers contribution for 2011-12 includes a one-off exceptional item of £65m due to transfer of responsibility of scheme
(c) Other investment income includes a one-off exceptional item of £120m due to the transfer to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund of MoJ/Probation Service staff from other LGPS schemes during 2014-15.
(d) Transfer values for 2014-15 includes an exceptional transfer of £2.6 billion to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund from other LGPS funds in respect of MoJ/Probation Service staff who were transferred to that fund during 2014-15. See also Table 1.

Chart B: Local Government Pension Scheme income in 2015-16



**Chart C: Market value at the end of the year of the Local Government Pension Scheme
2006-07 to 2015-16**



3. Income and Expenditure

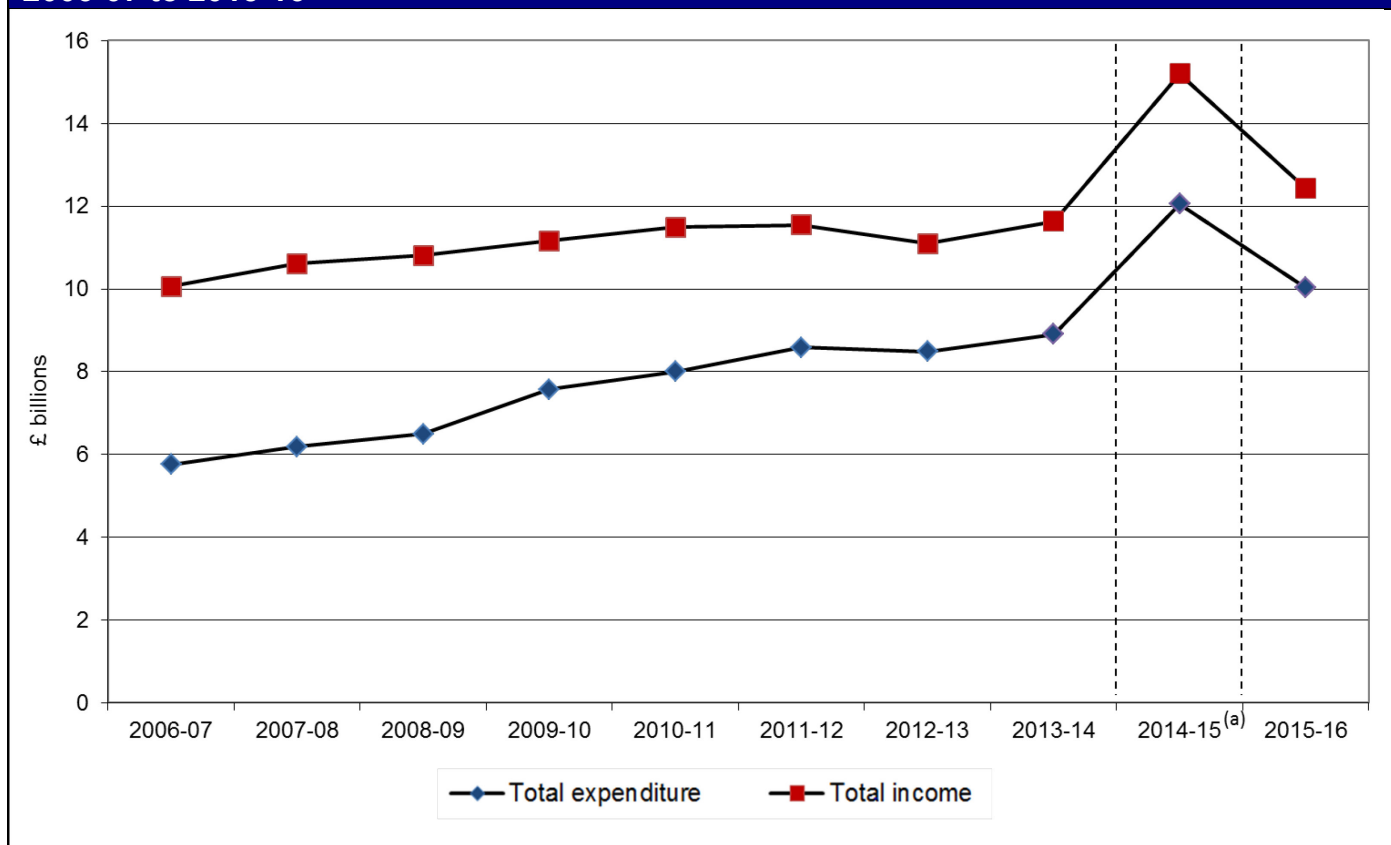
Table 3 and Chart D provides a comparison of total LGPS expenditure and income in England from 2006-07 to 2015-16.

- In 2015-16, total expenditure was 81% of LGPS income.

Table 3: Local Government Pension Scheme total expenditures and income 2011-12 to 2015-16

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	£ million
Total expenditure (from Table 1)	8,592	8,490	8,907	12,054	10,027	
Total income (from Table 2)	11,547	11,098	11,632	15,204	12,428	
Expenditure as a % of income	74%	77%	77%	79%	81%	

Chart D: Local Government Pension Scheme total expenditure and income 2006-07 to 2015-16



(a) In 2014-15, £2.6 billion of transfers were made from 34 different pension administering bodies in England and Wales to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund in relation to Probation Service staff. This makes direct comparisons to 2014-15 misleading. See 'Technical Notes' for further information.

4. Membership and employers

Membership

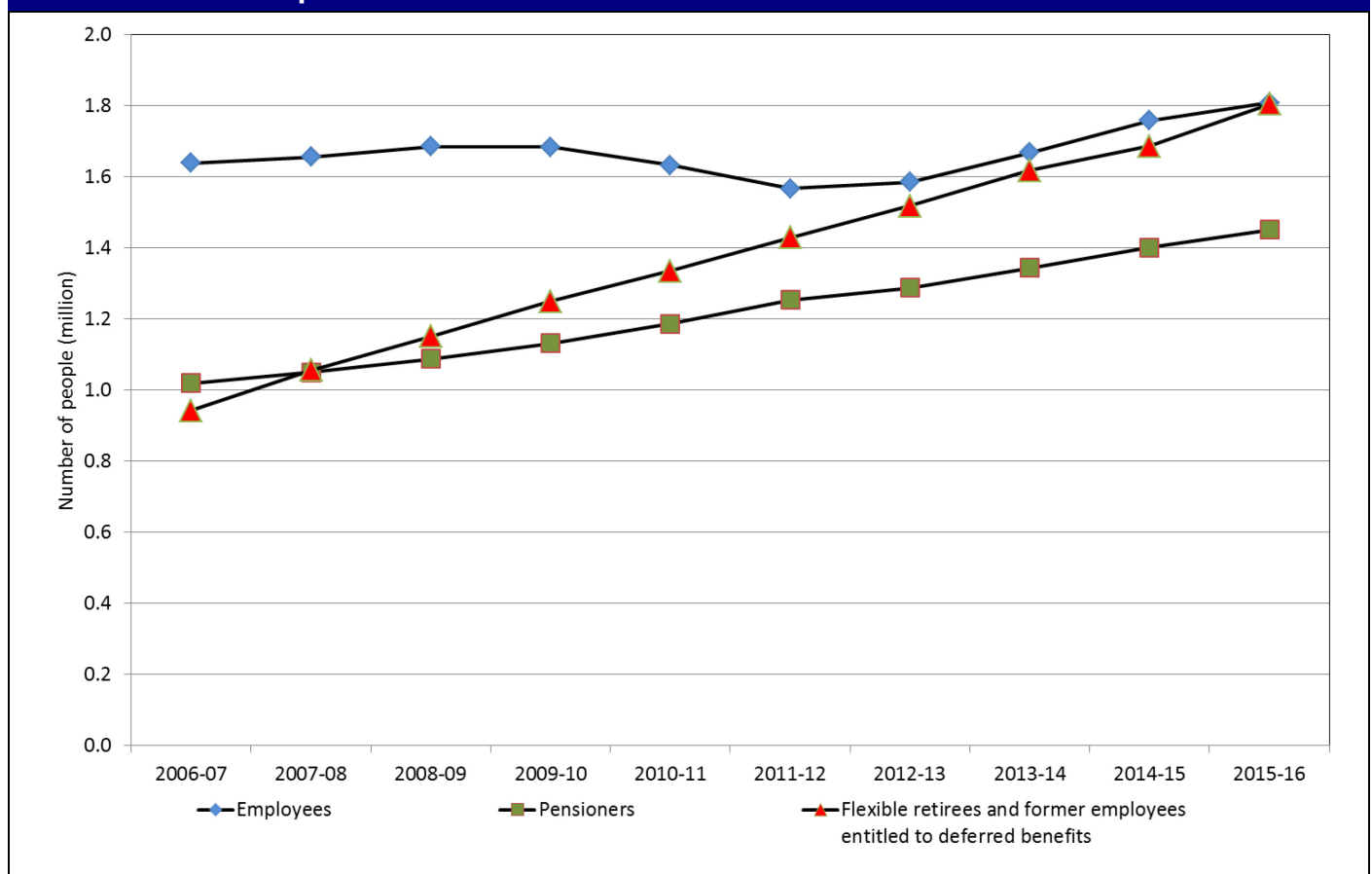
Tables 4 and Chart E provide figures of the membership of the LGPS in England.

- At the end of March 2016 the total membership of the LGPS was 5.06 million, an increase of 218,000 or 4.5% on March 2015.
- Of this increase, employees in the LGPS increased by 50,000 or 2.8%, the number of pensioners increased by 50,000 or 3.6% and the number of flexible retirees or former employees entitled to deferred benefits increased by 118,000 or 7.0%.

Table 4: Number of Local Government Pension Scheme members at the end of each year 2011-12 to 2015-16

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Thousand 2015-16
Employees	1,567	1,586	1,668	1,758	1,808
Pensioners	1,253	1,288	1,344	1,401	1,451
Former employees entitled to deferred benefits	1,420	1,508	1,608	1,678	1,795
Former members to whom Regulation 18 of the 2007 Benefit Regulations (flexible retirees) applies	9	10	10	9	10
Total membership of LGPS	4,248	4,391	4,630	4,845	5,064

Chart E: Membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme 2006-07 to 2015-16



Employers

In 2015-16¹, data were collected for the second time on the type of employer involved in the LGPS. Employers were categorised into one of four groups:

- Local authorities and connected bodies – e.g. a county council, district council
- Centrally funded public sector bodies – e.g. an academy, further education corporation, sixth form college or higher education corporation
- Other public sector bodies – e.g. a National Park Authority
- Private sector, voluntary sector and other bodies – e.g. a passenger transport executive, an urban development corporation, (and private/voluntary sector organisations).

Table 5 shows the number of employers (which includes admitted bodies) in England in each of the four groups. It also shows the number of employees, pensioners etc. that are part of the LGPS, by the type of employer.

- 78% of all the members of the LGPS are covered by local authorities and other connected bodies, even though local authorities and connected bodies represent only 22% of employers.
- Private sector, voluntary sector and other bodies account for nearly one-third of all employers but are responsible for only 6% of LGPS members.

Table 5: Number of Local Government Pension Scheme members at the end of 2015-16 by type of employer

	Local authorities and connected bodies	Centrally funded public sector bodies	Other public sector bodies	Private sector, voluntary sector and other bodies	Total
Total number of employers ^{(a)(R)}	3,031	4,899	1,521	4,505	13,956
					Thousand
Employees	1,302	327	72	107	1,808
Pensioners	1,220	91	46	95	1,451
Former employees entitled to deferred benefits	1,443	197	56	98	1,795
Former members to whom Regulation 18 of the 2007 Benefit Regulations (flexible retirees) applies	8	1	0	1	10
Total covered by Local Government Pension Scheme	3,973	616	175	301	5,064

(R) Revised following late submission of data from one authority

¹ The data reported in Table 5 are as reported by pension authorities. They have been collected for the second time in 2015-16 and therefore they should be interpreted with caution.

5. Retirements from the Local Government Pension Scheme

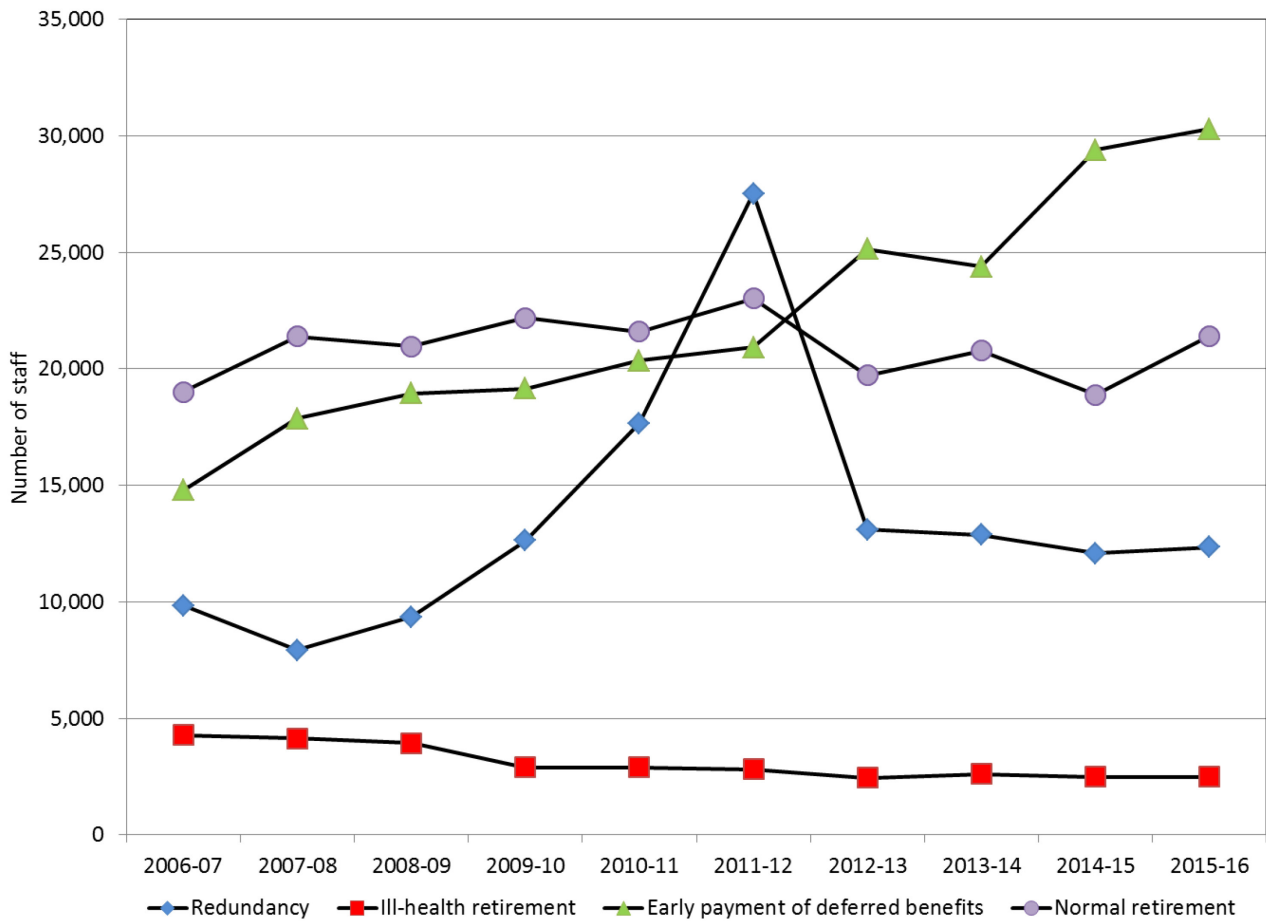
Table 6 and **Charts F** and **G** provide figures of the type of retirement from the LGPS in England from 2011-12 to 2015-16.

- There were 66,533 retirements from the LGPS in 2015-16, an increase of 3,694 compared with 2014-15.
- The number of employees having their deferred benefits paid early rose by 3% on 2014-15 and account for nearly half of the number of employees retiring.
- The number of people leaving the LGPS in 2015-16 due to redundancy increased by 2.3% from 2014-15 to 12,346.
- The number of people leaving the LGPS in 2015-16 due to normal retirement increased by 13% over 2014-15.

Table 6: Type of retirements from the Local Government Pension Scheme 2011-12 to 2015-16

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Redundancy	27,525	13,110	12,876	12,074	12,346
Tier 1,2 & 3 ill health retirement awards under LGPS	2,820	2,441	2,621	2,480	2,487
Early payment of deferred benefits	20,923	25,139	24,392	29,402	30,296
Normal retirements	23,016	19,717	20,779	18,883	21,404
Total retirements	74,284	60,407	60,668	62,839	66,533

**Chart F: Type of retirement from the Local Government Pension Scheme
2006-07 to 2015-16**



6. Definitions

A list of terms relating to local government finance is given in the glossary at Annex G (page 214) of *Local Government Financial Statistics England No24 2014*. This can be found at www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-government-finance-statistics-england. The most relevant terms for this release are explained below.

Administering authority

A body responsible for administering a Local Government Pension Scheme fund on behalf of its members who may be drawn from a number of local authorities and other public service employers

Admitted bodies

When an employer participating in the LGPS enters into an outsourcing contract with a private contractor, the contractor must either provide transferring public sector staff with future pension arrangements which are “broadly comparable” to the LGPS or allow transferring staff to continue as active members of the LGPS.

If the contractor wants to allow transferring staff to continue as active members of the LGPS, it must apply to become an “admitted body” i.e. a participating employer in the LGPS. It does this by entering into a legally binding contract (an “admission agreement”) with the administering authority and, if different, the local authority which is awarding the contract. The admission agreement sets out the terms on which the private contractor may participate in the LGPS and which employees may become members of the LGPS.

Contributions

The level of contributions paid by scheme members is determined by the band of pensionable pay specified in Scheme regulations. The rate paid by individual participating employers is determined by local fund actuaries at each Scheme valuation and set for the subsequent triennium period. Where appropriate, these rates may be phased in over the three year period. Scheme regulations do allow for these rates to be revised between triennial valuations in prescribed circumstances.

Flexible retirement

This applies to a member who had attained the age of 55 and who, with his employer’s consent, had reduced their hours of work (or the grade in which they were employed) and was permitted by that employer to receive all or part of their benefits under Regulation 18 of the 2007 Regulations.

Former employees entitled to deferred benefits

Members who leave the scheme having completed the minimum period of service but who are not entitled to the immediate payment of a pension benefit, are awarded a deferred benefit which, under normal circumstances, becomes payable when the person reaches their normal retirement age. Early payment of these benefits is allowed from age 55, and this is when employees ask their former Scheme employer’s consent for their deferred pension to be brought into payment, albeit actuarially reduced.

III-Health retirement

Under the 2007 and 2008 regulations, which came into effect on 1 April 2008, there are now three

levels of ill-health retirement pension payable. These levels depend on the extent to which the incapacitating condition which gave rise to the termination of employment in local government prevents the scheme member from obtaining gainful employment in the general workforce.

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Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS)

The pension funds in the Local Government Pension Scheme operate under regulations made under the Superannuation Act 1972. Schedules to the regulations list the scheme employers, see section 4 of the release to see the make-up of the employers covered by the LGPS. In England there are 81 pension funds in the Local Government Pension Scheme, each administered by an administering authority.

The assets of the pension funds are for meeting the future pension liabilities of the funds, and are part of the financial corporations sector in the National Accounts, not part of the local government sector. Pensions paid out under the scheme are therefore part of the expenditure of the pension funds, not of the local authorities that administer them. Employers' and employees' contributions, part of the income of the funds, are recorded as expenditure by local authorities in their revenue accounts, either directly or indirectly under employees' expenses.

On 1 April 2008, the Local Government Pension Scheme (Benefits, Membership and Contributions) Regulations 2007 and the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administration) Regulations 2008 came into effect. This Scheme includes some new and different provisions which may affect comparison with previous data sets.

Lump sum on retirement

Prior to 1 April 2006-07, scheme members on retirement became entitled to both an annual pension based on $1/80^{\text{th}}$ of pensionable pay for each year of membership and a lump sum of three times that amount. Under the current regulations, entitlement is to a pension only based on a higher accrual rate of $1/60^{\text{th}}$ but with the option to commute pension into lump sum.

Lump sum payable on death

This is payable at the discretion of the administering authority to either nominated individuals or dependants of a scheme member who dies in service. Prior to 1 April 2008 this was 2 times final pay. When the 2007 and 2008 regulations came into effect on 1 April 2008, this increased to 3 times final pay.

Pension arrangements for fire fighters, police and teachers

Separate arrangements apply for the pensions of the police, fire fighters and teachers. The police and fire fighters' pensions are provided through unfunded schemes administered locally, and the cost of police and fire fighters' pensions are therefore included in local authority expenditure. Teachers' pensions are provided through a notionally funded scheme administered by the Department for Education (DfE). There is no fund of assets, and teachers' pensions are paid by

the DfE. Employers' and employees' contributions are paid by local authorities to the DfE and are recorded as expenditure in their revenue accounts.

It should be noted that non-operational staff in the police, fire and rescue service support staff, and non-teaching staff in the education sector are covered by the Local Government Pension Scheme.

Refunds of contributions

Contributions refunded when a person leaves a pension scheme before completing a minimum period of service. Under earlier schemes, a refund of contributions could be paid to those leaving the scheme with less than 2 years' service. Under the 2008 scheme, a refund of contributions can only be made to a person who has been a member of the scheme for less than 3 months.

Transfer Values

A cash value assigned to a person's pension pot that is transferred with them when they move from one pension fund to another.

7. Technical Notes

Symbols and conventions

...	= not available
0	= zero or negligible
-	= not relevant
	= discontinuity in data

Rounding

Where figures have been rounded, there may be a slight discrepancy between the total and the sum of constituent parts.

Survey design for collecting SF3(Pensions) data for 2015-16

During July and August 2016, all 81 Local Government Pension Scheme administering authorities in England were asked to complete the SF3(Pensions) form to show scheme income, expenditure, membership, retirements and other scheme activities.

Special factors affecting 2014-15

Offender management, or probation, services were reformed from 1 April 2014 and their services are now delivered through commercial rehabilitation companies. This had the effect of closing all Probation Trusts, who were participating employers in the LGPS, on 31 March 2014. Staff transferred to the Ministry of Justice and became Civil Servants. Transferring staff remained eligible for the LGPS despite being Civil Servants and the Scheme regulations were amended to provide for that and to include the Secretary of State for Justice as a participating employer in the Scheme. The Scheme regulations were also amended to transfer all Probation Trust membership to the Secretary of State for Justice who became the new employer until the rehabilitation companies were set up.

Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council, in their capacity as the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF), became the Scheme administering authority for both the Justice Secretary and the commercial rehabilitation companies. The GMPF received the assets and liabilities in respect of all Probation Trust membership from a number of other administering authorities which amounted to assets of over £2bn and liabilities in the region of £1.3bn.

As a result of these changes, approximately 46,000 members of the LGPS, both employees and pensioners, were transferred from 34 pension authorities to the GMPF which resulted in a large increase in the “Transfers out” in Table 1 above – Expenditure and a counter balancing “Transfers in” in Table 2 – Income.

In 2014-15 CIPFA issued revised guidance about how pension authorities should report their fund management costs. Not all authorities reported their costs on the new basis in 2014-15 and despite efforts to reconcile the differences it was not possible to produce a set of data that were consistent for all authorities. Changes were made to the 2015-16 SF3 form to account for this change.

Data quality

This Statistical Release contains Official Statistics and as such has been produced to the high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. Official Statistics products undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer demands.

The information for 2015-16 in this release is derived from Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) SF3(Pension) forms and is based on valid returns from all 81 LGPS administering authorities in England. The forms should be completed in accordance with the guidance provided, however this guidance is open to interpretation by local authorities when they complete the forms.

Figures are subjected to rigorous pre-defined validation tests both within the form itself, while the form is being completed by the authority and also by DCLG as the data are received and stored. When necessary DCLG have made manual changes to the data to ensure data integrity.

Finally, the release document, once prepared, is also subject to intensive peer review before being cleared as fit for the purposes of publication.

Employer data

The data are as reported by pension authorities. They have been collected for the second time in 2015-16 and therefore they should be interpreted with caution.

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy). There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

Scheduled Revisions

At time of publication there are no scheduled revisions for this series.

Uses made of the data

The data in this statistical release are essential for a number of different purposes. A central and immediate purpose is to provide Ministers with information about the LGPS. The data are also used by local authorities, their associations and regional bodies. In addition, the data provides a benchmark on the administration and fund management of the LGPS. The data are also used in compiling the National Accounts and to show the role of pension funds in the economy.

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide comments and feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and should be sent to: sf3.statistics@communities.gsi.gov.uk

DCLG are interesting in understanding more about how the Local Government Finance statistics and data are used and the decisions they inform. This is important for us so we can provide a high quality service which meets users' needs. We would be extremely grateful if you could spend a couple of minutes completing this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/LGFuserengagement> or contact us at LGFstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Background notes

This Statistical Release can be found at the following web address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-government-pension-scheme>

Timings of future releases are regularly placed on the Gov.UK website,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements> .

For a fuller picture of recent trends in local government finance, readers are directed to the latest edition of *Local Government Finance Statistics England*, which is available electronically from the Department for Communities and Local Government website:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-government-finance-statistics-england .

Devolved administration statistics

In addition to data for England, DCLG also collect data for 8 administering authorities in Wales. Data for 2015-16 and comparisons with previous years can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/local-government-pension-scheme

The Scottish Government also collect local government pension fund data. Their information can be found at the following website:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Local-Government-Finance/PubScottishLGFStats>

Firefighters' statistics

The Home Office also collect and publish data on the Firefighters' pension scheme. This information can be found at the following website:

www.gov.uk/government/collections/firefighters-pension-scheme-statistics

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Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/browse-by-theme/index.html

Information about statistics at DCLG is available via the Department's website:

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

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