

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND  
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**



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**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
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## INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

Honorable Retirement Board  
Worcester Regional Retirement System  
Auburn, Massachusetts

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Worcester Regional Retirement System (the System), as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the System's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the fiduciary net position of the System as of December 31, 2021, and the changes in fiduciary net position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the System and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the System's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the System's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the System's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

***Required Supplementary Information***

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis, schedule of changes in employer net pension liability and related ratios, schedule of employer contributions and schedule of investment returns be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with GAAS, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

***Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated October 31, 2022 on our consideration of the System's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the System's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the System's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



**CliftonLarsonAllen LLP**

Boston, Massachusetts  
October 31, 2022

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

As management of the Worcester Regional Retirement System (the System), we offer readers of these financial statements this narrative overview and analysis of the System's financial activities for the year ended December 31, 2021.

The management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) is presented in the following sections:

1. Financial Highlights
2. Overview of the Financial Statements
3. Financial Statement Analysis

Please refer to the audited *Financial Statements* when reading the MD&A.

***Financial Highlights***

Fiduciary net position increased by \$181,156,227 or 20.2%, when compared to the prior year's fiduciary net position. Fiduciary net position is the residual of the System's assets in excess of the System's liabilities, as reported in the statement of fiduciary net position, as of the statement date. The System's assets are held in trust to meet future benefit payments.

***Overview of the Financial Statements***

The financial statements are comprised of a statement of fiduciary net position, statement of changes in fiduciary net position, notes to financial statements, and required supplementary information.

The **statement of fiduciary net position** presents information on the System's assets and liabilities and the resulting net position restricted for pensions. This is calculated using the following formula: Assets – Liabilities = Net Position restricted for pensions. This statement reflects the System's investments at fair value, as well as cash, receivables and other assets and liabilities. The statement of fiduciary net position reports the financial position of the System at December 31, 2021. Over time, the increase or decrease in fiduciary net position serves as a useful indicator of the System's financial health.

The **statement of changes in fiduciary net position** presents information showing how the System's fiduciary net position changed during the year ended December 31, 2021. It reflects contributions by its individual members and participating employers along with deductions for retirement benefits, refunds, withdrawals, and administrative expenses. Investment income during the period is also presented showing income from investing activities.

The **notes to financial statements** provide additional information that is essential for the reader to gain a full understanding of the data provided in the financial statements.

The **required supplementary information** includes schedules of changes in employers' net pension liability and related ratios, schedule of employer contributions and schedule of investment returns.

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

***Financial Statement Analysis***

The System's total assets as of December 31, 2021 were \$1,093,567,401 and were comprised of cash and cash equivalents, investments and receivables.

Total liabilities as of December 31, 2021 were \$13,752,408 and represent amounts owed for accounts payable and reimbursements and transfers to other systems.

The following tables present current and prior year data on the System's financial statements.

**Fiduciary Net Position**

As noted earlier, fiduciary net position may serve over time as a useful indicator of the System's financial position. The System's assets exceeded liabilities by \$1,079,814,993 at the close of the year and are summarized as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 3,913,792	\$ 4,386,752
Investments	1,082,709,374	900,424,773
Receivables	6,944,235	5,656,730
Total Assets	<u>1,093,567,401</u>	<u>910,468,255</u>
 <b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts Payable	42,557	31,553
Reimbursements and Transfers to Other Systems	13,709,851	11,777,936
Total Liabilities	<u>13,752,408</u>	<u>11,809,489</u>
 <b>NET POSITION</b>		
Net Position Restricted for Pensions	<u>\$ 1,079,814,993</u>	<u>\$ 898,658,766</u>

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Changes in Fiduciary Net Position

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the System's total fiduciary net position increased by \$181,156,227. In the prior year, fiduciary net position increased by \$97,919,491. These amounts are summarized as follows:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
<b>ADDITIONS</b>		
Contributions:		
Employers	\$ 73,946,616	\$ 67,269,029
Members	38,567,322	35,391,500
Net Investment Income:		
Net Increase in Fair Value of Investments	159,830,017	83,081,322
Interest and Dividends	23,036,905	18,332,087
Less: Management Fees	(4,905,831)	(3,916,405)
Other	2,539,700	2,861,284
Total Additions	<u>293,014,729</u>	<u>203,018,817</u>
<b>DEDUCTIONS</b>		
Retirement Benefits and Refunds	99,647,598	93,751,426
Reimbursements and Transfers to Other Systems	11,085,675	10,302,370
Administration	1,125,229	1,045,530
Total Deductions	<u>111,858,502</u>	<u>105,099,326</u>
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET POSITION</b>	181,156,227	97,919,491
Net Position Restricted for Pensions - Beginning of Year	<u>898,658,766</u>	<u>800,739,275</u>
<b>NET POSITION RESTRICTED FOR PENSIONS - END OF YEAR</b>	<u><u>\$ 1,079,814,993</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 898,658,766</u></u>

**Additions to Fiduciary Net Position**

Total additions to net position for 2021 were \$293,014,729. Contributions increased by approximately \$6,700,000 in 2021 when compared to the prior year. The System had a net investment gain of approximately \$178,000,000 in 2021 compared to the gain of approximately \$97,000,000 in 2020 as a result of investment market conditions.

**Deductions from Fiduciary Net Position**

Total deductions from net position for 2021 were \$111,858,502. Retirement benefits and refunds increased by approximately \$6,000,000 in 2021 when compared to the prior year. Other deductions increased by approximately \$900,000 in 2021 when compared to the prior year.

**Overall Financial Position**

The System experienced a large increase in net position for the year ending December 31, 2021, due to investment performance. Management believes the System is in a solid financial position and will be able to meet its obligations in the future.

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**Requests for Information**

This financial report is designed to provide the board, our membership, taxpayers, investors, and creditors with a general overview of the System's financial results and to demonstrate the System's accountability for the funding it receives. If you have any questions about this report or need additional financial information, contact the Chief Executive Officer at 23 Midstate Drive, Suite 106, Auburn, Massachusetts 01501.

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
STATEMENT OF FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**ASSETS**

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$	3,913,792
Investments:		
External Investment Pools		1,082,662,154
Private Equity		47,220
Total Investments		1,082,709,374
Receivables:		
Employer Contributions		969,048
Member Contributions		3,534,619
Reimbursements and Transfers from Other Systems		2,440,568
Total Receivables		6,944,235
Total Assets		1,093,567,401

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable		42,557
Reimbursements and Transfers to Other Systems		13,709,851
Total Liabilities		13,752,408

**NET POSITION RESTRICTED FOR PENSIONS**

**\$ 1,079,814,993**

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FIDUCIARY NET POSITION  
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**ADDITIONS**

Contributions:		
Employers	\$	73,946,616
Members		<u>38,567,322</u>
Total Contributions		112,513,938
 Net Investment Income:		
Net Increase in Fair Value of Investments		159,830,017
Interest and Dividends		23,036,905
Less: Management Fees		<u>(4,905,831)</u>
Net Investment Income		177,961,091
 Other		<u>2,539,700</u>
 Total Additions		293,014,729

**DEDUCTIONS**

Retirement Benefits and Refunds		99,647,598
Reimbursements and Transfers to Other Systems		11,085,675
Administration		<u>1,125,229</u>
Total Deductions		<u>111,858,502</u>

**NET INCREASE IN NET POSITION**

181,156,227

**NET POSITION RESTRICTED FOR PENSIONS**

Beginning of Year		<u>898,658,766</u>
 End of Year		<u><u>\$ 1,079,814,993</u></u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements.

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**General**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (U.S. GAAP). The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles. The significant accounting policies are described herein.

**Reporting Entity**

The Worcester Regional Retirement System (the System) was established to provide retirement benefits to eligible employees of its member employers.

**Measurement Focus and Basis of Accounting**

The System's financial statements are presented using the flow of economic resources measurement focus and use the accrual basis of accounting.

**Cash and Investments**

Cash is considered to be cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments with an original maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition.

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is based on quotations from a national securities exchange except for pooled funds, alternative investments and real estate investments, for which fair value is estimated as follows:

**Pooled Funds**

The fair value of shares in managed investment pools is based on unit value reported by the funds.

**Private Equity**

The fair values of these types of investments have been determined by the third-party investment managers using the Net Asset Value (NAV) per share (or its equivalent) of the System's ownership interest in partner's capital.

**Basis of Investment Transactions**

Purchases and sales of investments are recorded on the trade date. Transactions remaining unsettled as of year-end are recorded as payables for securities purchased and as a receivable for securities sold.

**Revenue Recognition**

Contributions are recognized as additions in the period when they become due pursuant to formal commitments, statutory or contractual requirements. Investment income is recognized when earned.

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**NOTE 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**Benefits and Refunds**

Benefits and refunds are recognized as deductions when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the System.

**Administrative Expenses**

Administrative expenses are financed by contributions to the System.

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure for contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of the additions and deductions during the fiscal year. Actual results could vary from estimates that were used.

**NOTE 2 PLAN DESCRIPTION**

**General**

The System is a cost-sharing multiple-employer public employee retirement system established in 1937, under Massachusetts General Laws (MGL), Chapter 32, and is regulated by the Massachusetts Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC). The System is a defined benefit pension plan that covers eligible employees of its member employers.

All permanent full-time employees of the member units are required to become members of the System, except for school teachers and school administrators who participate in the Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System. The System considers an employee who is permanently employed at least 30 hours per week to be considered full-time. All other employees are considered part-time.

Effective July 1, 2021 employees who are permanently employed 20 or more hours per week in a single member unit are required to become members of the System. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no part-time employees shall be eligible for System membership until the employee has completed 15 consecutive months of employment (with certain exceptions for school employees).

Membership in the System as of December 31, 2021 was as follows:

Inactive Members (or Beneficiaries) Currently Receiving Benefits	4,112
Inactive Members Entitled to, but not Yet Receiving Benefits	2,714
Active Members	<u>7,121</u>
Total Members	<u><u>13,947</u></u>
Number of Member Employers	<u><u>99</u></u>

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**NOTE 2 PLAN DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)**

The System is governed by a five-member board comprised of the Chairman, who serves ex-officio and is appointed by the other members of the board; two members who are elected by the participants in or retired from the services of the System; a fourth member elected by and of the Advisory Council; and a fifth member appointed by the other members of the board.

**Significant Plan Provisions and Requirements**

Benefit provisions and state law establishes contribution requirements of the System. Members of the System become vested after 10 years of creditable service. Normal retirement occurs at age 65 (age 67 if hired on or after April 2, 2012), except for certain public safety employees and other special situations.

For employees hired prior to April 2, 2012, the annual amount of the retirement allowance is based on the member's final three-year average salary multiplied by (1) the number of years and full months of creditable service at the time of retirement and (2) a percentage based on age at retirement in accordance with a schedule provided by state law. Assuming normal retirement at age 65, this percentage is 2.5%, which is reduced for individuals who retire prior to age 65 to reflect the longer pay out period. A member's final three-year average salary is defined as the greater of the highest consecutive three-year average annual rate of regular compensation and the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the last three years of creditable service prior to retirement.

For employees hired on or after April 2, 2012, the annual amount of the retirement allowance is based on the member's final five-year average salary multiplied by (1) the number of years and full months of creditable service at the time of retirement and (2) a percentage based on age at retirement in accordance with a schedule provided by state law. Assuming normal retirement at age 67, this percentage is 2.5%. A member's final five-year average salary is defined as the greater of the highest consecutive five-year average annual rate of regular compensation and the average annual rate of regular compensation received during the last five years of creditable service prior to retirement.

Employees hired before April 2, 2012 may elect early retirement after 20 years of service or at any time after attaining age 55 with 10 years of eligible service. Plan members who become permanently and totally disabled may be eligible to receive a disability retirement allowance. The amount of benefits to be received depends on several factors, including the member's age, compensation, veteran status, years of service, and whether or not the disability is work-related. In addition, certain death benefits exist for beneficiaries of employees who die in active service.

Under MGL, c.32 Section 3(8)(c), members leaving a member employer to work for other Massachusetts governmental units requires the System transfer their accumulated account balances and creditable service to the retirement system of their new employer. Other such retirement systems are in turn required to make comparable transfers to the System for employees coming to work at a member employer of the System. Per statute, the PERAC actuary shall consider length of service as well as acceptance of military service credit and salary cap provisions if applicable in calculating the liability.

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**NOTE 3 DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS**

**Investment Policy**

Deposits and investments made by the System are governed by Chapter 32 of the MGL. The System has the ability to invest in equity securities, corporate bonds, annuities and other specified investments in accordance with state laws and regulations.

The System invests in the Pension Reserve Investment Trust (PRIT). PRIT meets the criteria of an external investment pool and operates in accordance with applicable state laws and regulations. The Treasurer of the Commonwealth serves as Trustee and provides regulatory oversight. The reported value of the pool is the same as the fair value of the System's position in pool shares.

The System's asset allocation policies are established by PRIT. System assets are managed on a total return basis with a long-term objective of achieving a fully funded status for the benefits provided through the System. The following was the asset allocation policy as of December 31, 2021:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Target</u>
Global Equity	38%
Fixed Income	15%
Value-Added Fixed Income	8%
Private Equity	15%
Real Estate	10%
Timber/Natural Resources	4%
Portfolio Completion Strategies	10%

**Rate of Return**

For the year ended December 31, 2021, the annual money-weighted rate of return on pension plan investments, net of pension plan investment expense, was 19.74%. The money-weighted rate of return expresses investment performance, net of investment expense, adjusted for the changing amounts actually invested.

**Deposits – Custodial Credit Risk**

Custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of a bank failure, the System's deposits may not be recovered. The System's policy for custodial credit risk of deposits is to rely on FDIC and DIF insurance coverage. As of December 31, 2021, the System's bank balance of \$5,736,941 was not exposed to custodial credit risk.

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**NOTE 3 DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**Investments Summary**

The System's investments at December 31, 2021 are presented below. All investments are presented by investment type, with debt securities presented by maturity.

Investment Type	Net Asset Value (NAV)	Investment Maturities (in Years) Less Than 1
<u>External Investment Pools:</u>		
Pension Reserve Investment Trust	\$ 1,082,662,154	<u>\$ 1,082,662,154</u>
<u>Other Investments:</u>		
Private Equity	47,220	
Total Investments	\$ 1,082,709,374	

**Investments – Interest Rate Risk of Debt Securities**

Interest rate risk for debt securities is the risk that changes in interest rates of debt securities will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The System's policy for interest rate risk of debt securities is to use diversification to minimize the exposure to interest rate risks in the aggregate investment portfolio.

**Investments – Custodial Credit Risk**

Custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the System will not be able to recover the value of its investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. The System's policy for custodial credit risk of investments intends that all investments are either insured and/or registered in the name of the System. As of December 31, 2021, the System was not exposed to custodial credit risk.

**Investments – Credit Risk of Debt Securities**

Credit risk for debt securities is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to a debt security will not fulfill its obligations. The System's policy for credit risk of debt securities is to use diversification to minimize the exposure to credit risks in the aggregate investment portfolio. As of December 31, 2021, the System's debt security investments were in external investment pools unrated by national credit rating organizations.

**Deposits and Investments – Foreign Currency Risk**

Foreign currency risk is the risk that fluctuations in exchange rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment or a deposit. The System's policy for foreign currency risk is to diversify the foreign countries and currencies within its international investment portfolio. As of December 31, 2021, the System was not exposed to foreign currency risk.

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**NOTE 3 DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**Investments – Concentration of Credit Risk**

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the System’s investment in a single issuer. The System’s policy for concentration of credit risk is to use extensive diversification to minimize exposure to company and industry specific risks in the aggregate investment portfolio. As of December 31, 2021, the System was not exposed to concentration of credit risk.

**Investments – Fair Value**

The System categorizes its fair value measurements within the fair value hierarchy established by U.S. GAAP. The hierarchy is based on the valuation inputs used to measure the fair value of the asset. Level 1 inputs are quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets; Level 2 inputs are significant other observable inputs; Level 3 inputs are significant unobservable inputs.

As of December 31, 2021, all of the System’s investments were measured at the Net Asset Value (NAV) or its equivalent as presented in the following table:

	Total Amount	Unfunded Commitments	Redemption Frequency	Redemption Notice Period
External Investment Pool (PRIT) (1)	\$ 1,082,662,154	\$ -	Monthly <sup>(1)</sup>	24 Hours <sup>(1)</sup>
Private Equity (2)	47,220	-	N/A <sup>(2)</sup>	N/A <sup>(2)</sup>
Total Investments Measured at the NAV	\$ 1,082,709,374			

(1) *External Investment Pool (PRIT)* – The System is a participating retirement system in the PRIT fund. The System owns units, or shares in the PRIT fund, which is a pooled investment trust. The fair values of the investments in this type have been determined using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) of the System’s ownership in the pool. Investments in the fund can be redeemed on a monthly basis with written notice submitted by the first business day of the month of redemption.

(2) *Private equity* – This investment type includes investments in 2 private equity funds that invest primarily in private domestic and international companies of diversified industries. The fair value measurements of this type have been determined using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) of the System’s ownership interest in partners’ capital. The investments can never be redeemed from the funds. Distributions from each fund will be received as the underlying investments of the funds are liquidated. It is expected that the underlying assets of the funds will be liquidated in 2022.

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**NOTE 4 FUNDING POLICY**

Chapter 32 of MGL governs the contributions of plan members and member employers. Depending on their employment date, active System members must contribute anywhere between 5%-9% of their gross regular compensation. Members hired after December 31, 1978 must contribute an additional 2% of regular compensation in excess of \$30,000. Employees in Group 1 hired on or after April 2, 2012 with 30 years of creditable service or greater will pay a base contribution rate of 6%. These deductions earn interest at a rate determined by PERAC that vests based upon years of service. Employers are required to pay into the System its share of the system-wide actuarial determined contribution, in accordance with Chapter 32, Section 22D of MGL, apportioned among the employers based on annual employer normal cost and amortization payments to pay the unfunded actuarial accrued liability. For the year ended December 31, 2021, active member contributions totaled \$38,567,322 and employer contributions totaled \$73,946,616.

Contributions are recognized as additions in the period when they become due pursuant to formal commitments, statutory or contractual requirements. Benefits and refunds are recognized as deductions when incurred and administrative expenses are funded through investment earnings.

Except for a portion of benefits owed due to cost-of-living adjustments (COLA's) granted through June 30, 1998, member employers are required to contribute the remaining amounts necessary to finance benefits. Member employer contributions are determined by actuarial valuations.

COLA's granted through June 30, 1998 are reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (the Commonwealth). COLA's granted subsequent to June 30, 1998 must be granted by the board and are the responsibility of the System. COLA may be approved in excess of the Consumer Price Index but not to exceed 3% of the base retirement allowance.

A COLA was granted to eligible retirees and survivors effective July 1, 2021. The 3% COLA was paid on a base of \$16,000 (maximum \$480).

**NOTE 5 NET PENSION LIABILITY**

The components of the net pension liability of the System at December 31, 2021, were as follows:

Total Pension Liability	\$1,921,828,296
Plan Fiduciary Net Position	<u>(1,079,814,993)</u>
Net Pension Liability	<u>\$ 842,013,303</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	56.2%

**WORCESTER REGIONAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
DECEMBER 31, 2021**

**NOTE 5 NET PENSION LIABILITY (CONTINUED)**

**Actuarial Assumptions**

The total pension liability was determined by an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 2020, using the following actuarial assumptions, applied to all periods included in the measurement that was updated to December 31, 2021:

Inflation:	2.4% per year
Salary increases:	Group 1: 6.00%-4.25%, based on service Group 4: 7.00%-4.75%, based on service
Investment rate of return:	7.25%, net of pension plan investment expense, including inflation
Mortality rates:	Mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table with full generational mortality improvement using Scale MP-2020. For disabled lives, the mortality rates were based on the RP-2014 Blue Collar Mortality Table set forward one year with full generational mortality improvement using Scale MP-2020.

The long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was determined using a building-block method in which best-estimate ranges of expected future rates of return (expected returns, net of pension plan investment expense and inflation) are developed for each major asset class. These ranges are combined to produce the long-term expected rate of return by weighting the expected future rates of return by the target asset allocation percentage and by adding expected inflation. Best estimates of arithmetic rates of return for each major asset class included in the pension plan's target asset allocation as of December 31, 2021 (see the discussion of the System's investment policy) are summarized in the following table:

<u>Asset Class</u>	<u>Long-Term Expected Rate of Return (%)</u>
Global Equity	4.22%
Fixed Income	0.70%
Private Equity	7.70%
Real Estate	3.60%
Timber/Natural Resources	4.20%
Portfolio Completion Strategies	3.00%

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**NOTE 5 NET PENSION LIABILITY (CONTINUED)**

**Discount Rate**

The discount rate used to measure the total pension liability was 7.25% (7.50% in the prior year). The projection of cash flows used to determine the discount rate assumed that plan member contributions will be made at the current contribution rates and that member employer contributions will be made in accordance with Sections 22D and 22F of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws. Based on those assumptions, the System's fiduciary net position was projected to be available to make all projected future benefit payments of current plan members. Therefore, the long-term expected rate of return on pension plan investments was applied to all periods of projected benefit payments to determine the total pension liability.

**Sensitivity of the Net Pension Liability to Changes in the Discount Rate**

The following presents the net pension liability of the System calculated using the discount rate of 7.25%, as well as what the System's net pension liability would be if it were calculated using a discount rate that is 1-percentage-point lower (6.25%) or 1-percentage-point higher (8.25%) than the current rate:

	1% Decrease 6.25%	Current Discount Rate 7.25%	1% Increase 8.25%
Net Pension Liability	\$ 1,062,136,523	\$ 842,013,303	\$ 656,014,261

**NOTE 6 CONTINGENCIES**

Approximately \$9,500,000 of the reimbursements and transfers to other systems liability reported in the financial statements represents amounts billed to the System by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Board of Retirement (the State Board) related to obligations pursuant to MGL, c.32 Section 3(8)(c). The System disputes the liability based on various considerations, such as inaccurate reimbursement calculations, reimbursements not attributable to the System and lack of documentation.

The System is in the process of attempting to revise the liability with the State Board. The outcome of this process is not presently determinable and the effect on the System's financial statements cannot be determined at this time.

The System is exposed to various legal actions and claims encountered in the normal course of operations. In the opinion of legal counsel and management, the resolution of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on the financial condition of the System.

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**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN EMPLOYERS' NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS (1)**

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
<u>Total Pension Liability</u>					
Service Cost	\$ 51,147,819	\$ 47,971,080	\$ 45,464,593	\$ 44,445,482	\$ 42,736,040
Interest	134,128,720	129,435,294	123,507,870	118,116,251	112,224,318
Changes of Benefit Terms	-	-	-	-	-
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	-	(23,171,133)	-	(8,110,737)	-
Changes of Assumptions	49,140,442	35,705,832	17,826,312	-	-
Benefit Payments, Including Refunds of Member Contributions	(99,647,598)	(93,751,426)	(88,229,714)	(83,571,930)	(77,717,794)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	134,769,383	96,189,647	98,569,061	70,879,066	77,242,564
Total Pension Liability - Beginning	1,787,058,913	1,690,869,266	1,592,300,205	1,521,421,139	1,444,178,575
Total Pension Liability - Ending (a)	<u>\$ 1,921,828,296</u>	<u>\$ 1,787,058,913</u>	<u>\$ 1,690,869,266</u>	<u>\$ 1,592,300,205</u>	<u>\$ 1,521,421,139</u>
<u>Plan Fiduciary Net Position</u>					
Contributions - Employers	\$ 73,946,616	\$ 67,269,029	\$ 60,887,972	\$ 55,674,504	\$ 50,599,326
Contributions - Members	38,567,322	35,391,500	35,087,583	33,362,836	31,592,837
Net Investment Income	177,961,091	97,497,004	110,458,217	(17,770,572)	103,123,070
Benefit Payments, Including Refunds of Member Contributions	(99,647,598)	(93,751,426)	(88,229,714)	(83,571,930)	(77,717,794)
Administrative Expense	(1,125,229)	(1,045,530)	(1,112,640)	(1,178,272)	(1,145,509)
Other	(8,545,975)	(7,441,086)	(1,890,156)	(6,971,840)	(7,043,455)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	181,156,227	97,919,491	115,201,262	(20,455,274)	99,408,475
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	898,658,766	800,739,275	685,538,013	705,993,287	606,584,812
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)	<u>\$ 1,079,814,993</u>	<u>\$ 898,658,766</u>	<u>\$ 800,739,275</u>	<u>\$ 685,538,013</u>	<u>\$ 705,993,287</u>
Net Pension Liability - Ending (a) - (b)	<u>\$ 842,013,303</u>	<u>\$ 888,400,147</u>	<u>\$ 890,129,991</u>	<u>\$ 906,762,192</u>	<u>\$ 815,427,852</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	56.19%	50.29%	47.36%	43.05%	46.40%
Covered Payroll	\$ 316,455,433	\$ 321,050,145	\$ 301,686,927	\$ 273,888,022	\$ 271,037,131
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	266.08%	276.72%	295.05%	331.07%	300.85%

(1) Data is being accumulated annually to present 10 years of the reported information.

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**SCHEDULE OF CHANGES IN EMPLOYERS' NET PENSION LIABILITY AND RELATED RATIOS  
(CONTINUED)**

	2016	2015	2014
<u>Total Pension Liability</u>			
Service Cost	\$ 35,984,130	\$ 31,996,981	\$ 31,996,981
Interest	99,124,367	91,276,045	84,568,061
Changes of Benefit Terms	-	49,721,211	-
Differences Between Expected and Actual Experience	8,235,183	-	-
Changes of Assumptions	94,194,565	31,534,870	-
Benefit Payments, Including Refunds of Member Contributions	(72,799,275)	(68,086,158)	(61,338,289)
Net Change in Total Pension Liability	164,738,970	136,442,949	55,226,753
Total Pension Liability - Beginning	1,279,439,605	1,142,996,656	1,087,769,903
Total Pension Liability - Ending (a)	<u>\$ 1,444,178,575</u>	<u>\$ 1,279,439,605</u>	<u>\$ 1,142,996,656</u>
<u>Plan Fiduciary Net Position</u>			
Contributions - Employers	\$ 48,574,831	\$ 44,986,040	\$ 39,519,038
Contributions - Members	29,032,767	52,111,046	27,066,085
Net Investment Income	40,509,286	1,177,960	40,135,521
Benefit Payments, Including Refunds of Member Contributions	(72,799,275)	(68,086,158)	(61,338,289)
Administrative Expense	(1,170,184)	(1,055,662)	(1,054,297)
Other	(7,195,247)	(7,429,438)	(3,178,354)
Net Change in Plan Fiduciary Net Position	36,952,178	21,703,788	41,149,704
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Beginning	569,632,634	547,928,846	506,779,142
Plan Fiduciary Net Position - Ending (b)	<u>\$ 606,584,812</u>	<u>\$ 569,632,634</u>	<u>\$ 547,928,846</u>
Net Pension Liability - Ending (a) - (b)	<u>\$ 837,593,763</u>	<u>\$ 709,806,971</u>	<u>\$ 595,067,810</u>
Plan Fiduciary Net Position as a Percentage of the Total Pension Liability	42.00%	44.52%	47.94%
Covered Payroll	\$ 282,918,805	\$ 269,899,678	\$ 252,829,591
Net Pension Liability as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	296.05%	262.99%	235.36%

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**SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS**

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Actuarially Determined Contribution	\$ 73,946,616	\$ 67,269,029	\$ 60,887,972	\$ 55,674,504	\$ 50,599,326
Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	<u>73,946,616</u>	<u>67,269,029</u>	<u>60,887,972</u>	<u>55,674,504</u>	<u>50,599,326</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>				
Covered Payroll	\$ 316,455,433	\$ 321,050,145	\$ 301,686,927	\$ 273,888,022	\$ 271,037,131
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	23.37%	20.95%	20.18%	20.33%	18.67%
					(Continued)
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Actuarially Determined Contribution	\$ 48,574,831	\$ 44,986,040	\$ 39,519,038	\$ 39,113,142	\$ 34,534,582
Contributions in Relation to the Actuarially Determined Contribution	<u>48,574,831</u>	<u>44,986,040</u>	<u>39,519,038</u>	<u>39,113,142</u>	<u>34,534,582</u>
Contribution Deficiency (Excess)	<u>\$ -</u>				
Covered Payroll	\$ 282,918,805	\$ 269,899,678	\$ 252,829,591	\$ 252,829,591	\$ 238,952,079
Contributions as a Percentage of Covered Payroll	17.17%	16.67%	15.63%	15.47%	14.45%
					(Concluded)

**SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENT RETURNS (1)**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Annual Money-Weighted Rate of Return, Net of Investment Expense	19.74%	12.03%	16.55%	-2.75%	16.71%	7.06%	0.05%	7.79%

(1) Data is being accumulated annually to present 10 years of the reported information.

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**NOTE 1 METHODS AND ASSUMPTIONS USED IN CALCULATIONS OF ACTUARIALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS**

The following were the actuarial methods and assumptions used to determine contribution rates reported in the schedule of employer contributions:

Actuarial cost method (2014-2021):	Entry age normal
Amortization method (2014-2021):	Payment increases 4.0% per year, except for Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) Programs for 2002 and 2003 (4.5%) and 2010 (level dollar). Increases in annual appropriations are limited to 9.95%.
Remaining amortization period (2014-2017):	19 years
Remaining amortization period (2018-2019):	17 years
Remaining amortization period (2020-2021):	16 years
Asset valuation method (2014-2021):	Market value adjusted to phase-in investment gains and losses over a 5-year period, further constrained to be within 20% of market value. Investment gains and losses are the excess or deficiency of the expected returns over the actual returns.
Inflation (2014-2015):	3.5%
Inflation (2016-2018):	3.0%
Inflation (2019):	2.4%
Inflation (2020-2021):	2.2%
Salary increases (2014-2015):	3.0%
Salary increases (2016-2021):	Group 1: 6.00%-4.25%, based on service; Group 4: 7.00%-4.75%, based on service
Investment rate of return (2014-2015):	8.00%
Investment rate of return (2016-2018):	7.75%
Investment rate of return (2019-2021):	7.65%