

January 1, 2025

Actuarial Valuation Report

Gardner Retirement System



stoneconsulting,inc

5 West Mill Street, Suite 4
Medfield, Massachusetts 02052
T: 508.359.9600 • F: 508.359.0190
Jmoreau@stoneconsult.com
Cedgar@stoneconsult.com



August 29, 2025

Gardner Contributory Retirement System
City Hall, Room 17
95 Pleasant Street
Gardner, MA 01440

To the Gardner Retirement Board:

Stone Consulting, Inc. has performed a January 1, 2025 actuarial valuation of the Gardner Retirement System. The valuation and report were prepared using generally accepted actuarial principles and practices. To the best of our knowledge, this report is complete and accurate, and the assumptions used represent a reasonable estimate of anticipated experience of the system unless noted in the text.

Stone Consulting, Inc. is completely independent of the City of Gardner and the Gardner Retirement System. This includes any of its officers and key personnel. Neither we or anyone else closely associated with us has any relationship with the City of Gardner or the Gardner Retirement System that would impair our independence, other than this or related assignments.

We are pleased to present the results of this valuation. If the Retirement Board has any questions on the content of this report, we would be glad to respond. Please note that this report is meant to be used in its entirety. Use of excerpts of this report may result in inaccurate or misleading understanding of the results. The use of these results may not be appropriate for all circumstances.

Colin Edgar is a consultant for Stone Consulting, Inc., a member of the American Academy of Actuaries, and meets the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinion contained herein.

Respectfully submitted,
STONE CONSULTING, INC.
Actuaries for the Plan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CE", is written over a horizontal line.

Colin Edgar
Member, American Academy of Actuaries

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

Certification Letter

Report Summary	1
Format of the Report	1
Development of Funding Schedule	2
Funding Schedule	3
History of Funding Effort	4
Components of Funding Appropriation	5
Net 3(8)(c) Payments	5
Development of Actuarial Results	6
Net Normal Cost	7
Unfunded Liability	8
Demographic Results	10
History of Demographic Statistics	10
Distribution of Plan Members	11
Assets	13
Actuarial Value of Assets	13
Funding Ratio	14
Risk	14
Maturity	15
Historical Experience	16
History of Assets and Unfunded Liability	16
History of Unfunded Liability and Covered Payroll	16
Comparative Results	17
APPENDICES	18
Appendix A – Actuarial Methods and Assumptions	18
Appendix B – Summary of Principal Provisions	23
Appendix C – Glossary of Terms	27
PERAC Information Disclosure	28
ASOP 4 Disclosures	29

Report Summary

This report presents the results of the actuarial valuation of the Gardner Retirement System as of January 1, 2025. The valuation was performed at the request of the Retirement Board for the purpose of determining the contribution requirements for Fiscal Year 2027 and beyond.

Summary of Results and Experience

- Experience and Funding Schedule

The contribution is set to increase by 7.25% annually, with the exception of the final year, when it decreases by 16.85%. The contribution is equal to the projected FY2027 contribution from the prior valuation. The funding schedule finishes in FY2032, consistent with the planned funding schedule from the 2024 valuation.

The funding ratio based on Actuarial Value of Assets increased from 66% to 70%; Gardner uses Market Value of Assets, adjusted for payables and receivables.

- Assumptions/methodology:

The assumptions used in the 2025 valuation included an update of the salary assumption, which increased the liability by \$49 thousand. Assumptions and valuation methodology are discussed in Appendix A, on page 18.

Contribution requirements are based on the financial condition of the system as of December 31, 2024, as well as actuarial liability results, which are based on:

- The benefit provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 32 and related statutes;
- The demographics of members in the system (i.e., active and inactive participants, retirees and beneficiaries as of January 1, 2025);
- Economic assumptions regarding salary increases and investment earnings; and
- Other actuarial assumptions (e.g., withdrawals, retirement, death, etc.)

Format of the Report

- The funding schedule is shown on page 3, followed by an explanation of the actuarial results, funding schedule components, and a history of the funding schedules used by the Retirement System.
- Full actuarial valuation results are shown on page 17, with prior results included for comparison. The Gardner Retirement Board conducted their previous actuarial valuation effective January 1, 2024.

Development of Funding Schedule

The funding contribution consists of three parts:

- Net Normal Cost: this is the amount of liability generated by active employees earning another year of service, and includes administrative expense.
- Amortization: this is the amount of the Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (Unfunded Liability, or UAAL) that will be paid off by this contribution.
- Net 3(8)(c) Payments: these are benefit payments made to other systems for service earned as a member of the Gardner Retirement System.

The appropriation for Fiscal 2027 is as follows:

Net Employer Normal Cost for Fiscal 2027 (including admin. expenses)	\$	1,220,263
Net 3(8)(c) Payments		191,633
Amortization		5,643,874
Timing Adjustment*		<u>0</u>
Total Appropriation required for Fiscal 2027	\$	7,055,771

* Contributions are assumed to be made at the beginning of the fiscal year.

NOTE: for all tables in this report, totals may not sum due to rounding.

- The schedule's length is six (6) years which is consistent with the 6 years remaining from the 7-year schedule from the January 1, 2024 valuation. The maximum funding schedule length allowed by Section 22D of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws is four years to Fiscal 2030.
- Gardner's funding schedule was developed by setting the contribution to increase by 7.25% annually, with the exception of the final year, when it decreases by 16.85%.

The schedule is shown on the following page.

GARDNER CONTRIBUTORY RETIREMENT SYSTEM FUNDING SCHEDULE

Fiscal Year	Normal Cost	Unfunded Liability	Funding Amortization of UAAL	Net 3(8)(c) Payments	Schedule Contribution*	% Change
2027	1,220,263	33,253,171	5,643,874	191,633	7,055,771	7.25%
2028	1,262,972	29,541,947	6,112,708	191,633	7,567,314	7.25%
2029	1,307,176	25,069,286	6,617,135	191,633	8,115,944	7.25%
2030	1,352,927	19,743,802	7,159,789	191,633	8,704,350	7.25%
2031	1,400,280	13,464,893	7,743,502	191,633	9,335,416	7.25%
2032	1,449,290	6,121,888	6,121,888	191,633	7,762,811	-16.85%
2033	1,500,015	-	-	191,633	1,691,648	-78.21%

Amortization of Unfunded Liability as of July 1, 2026

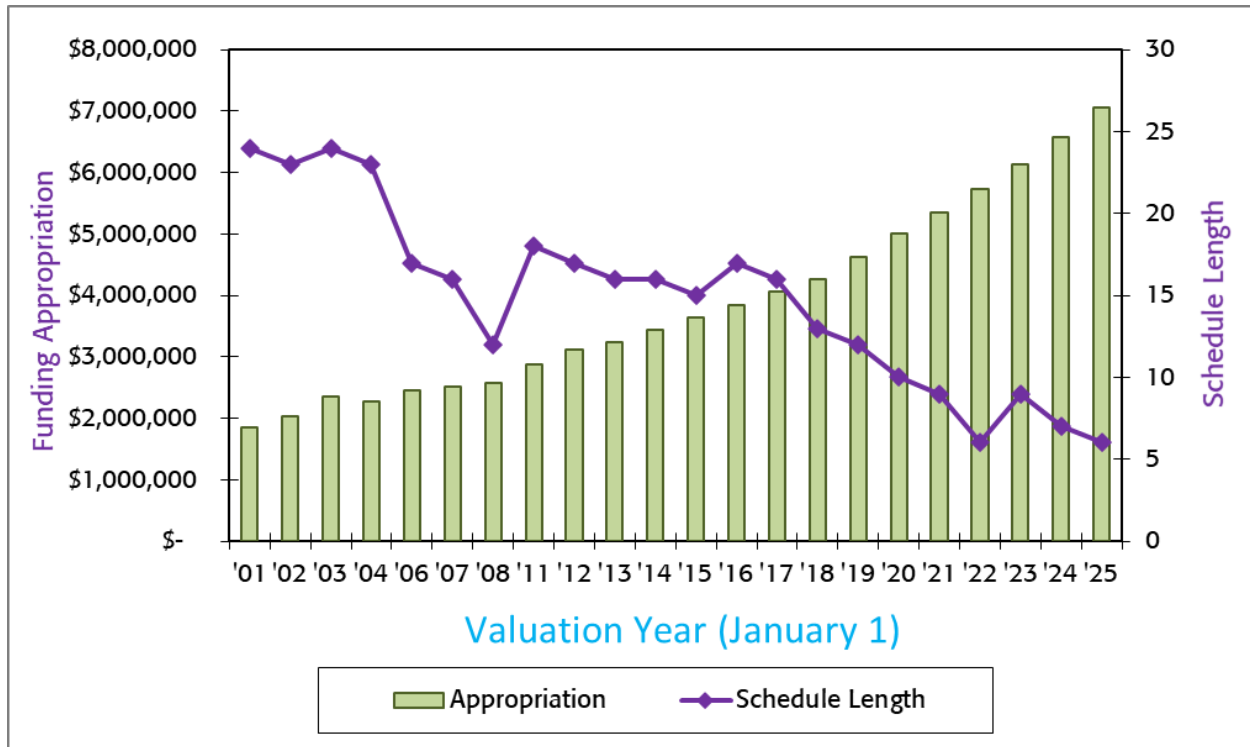
* Contributions are set to be the amount resulting from a 7.25% increase on the prior year's contribution.
The contribution in FY2032 decreases by -16.85%.

Bases in the funding schedule:

- Amortization of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability: 6 years.

History of Funding Effort

Below is a history of the length of funding schedule used by the Gardner Retirement System, and the amount of the initial contribution for each funding schedule.

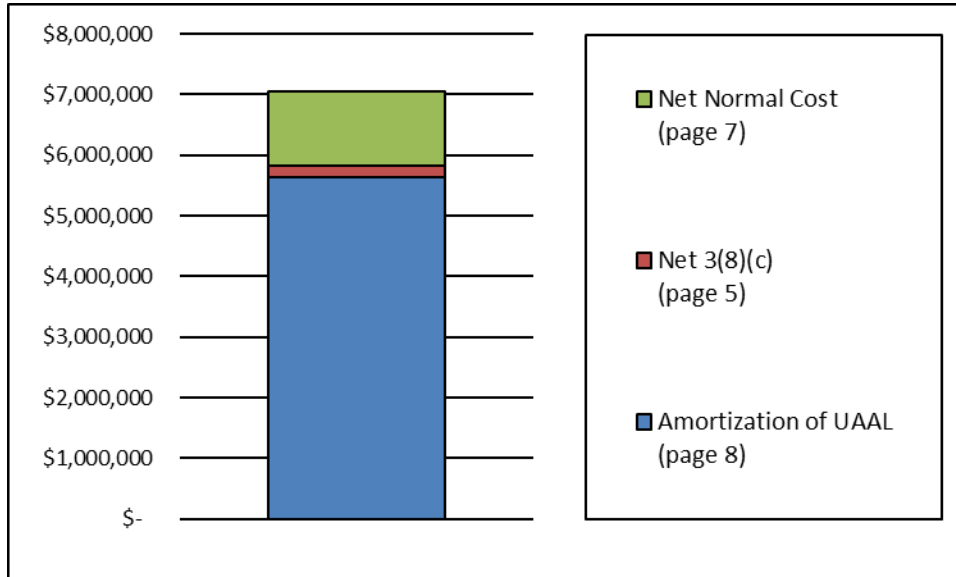


The funding objective of the plan is to fully fund the system while attempting to maintain a stable contribution amount for the upcoming fiscal year that is consistent with prior funding schedules or if employer finances allow it, to increase the contribution amount. This funding objective is being met.

The following pages discuss the components that make up the contribution, and how they are calculated from the actuarial results.

Components of Funding Appropriation

Components of the funding contribution are compared below, and discussed on the following pages.



Net 3(8)(c) Payments

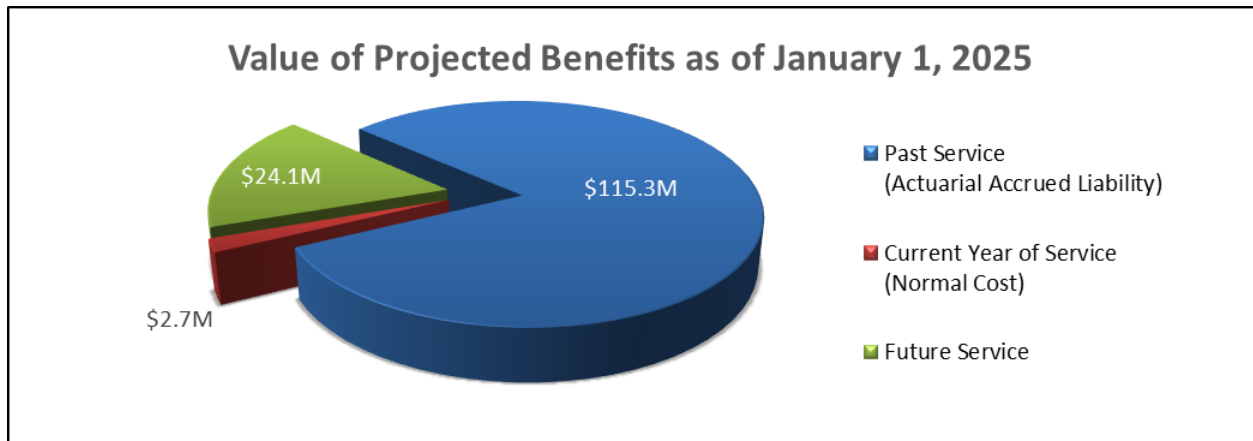
- 3(8)(c) payments are benefits which the Gardner Retirement System pays to or receives from other retirement boards for service that a retiree had with a different retirement system.
- The net amount is equal to what Gardner pays out, less what Gardner receives from other systems, based on the most recent PERAC annual statement:

3(8)(c) payments made to other systems	\$	337,376
3(8)(c) payments received from other systems		<u>(145,743)</u>
Net payments in funding schedule	\$	191,633

- For the funding schedule, the amount of net payments is assumed to remain level in future years.

Development of Actuarial Results

Actuarial liabilities are calculated based on benefits that members are projected to receive in the future. The value of projected benefits is divided between past service, future service, and the current year of service. Note that the amounts below do not include inactive, for whom this concept does not apply.



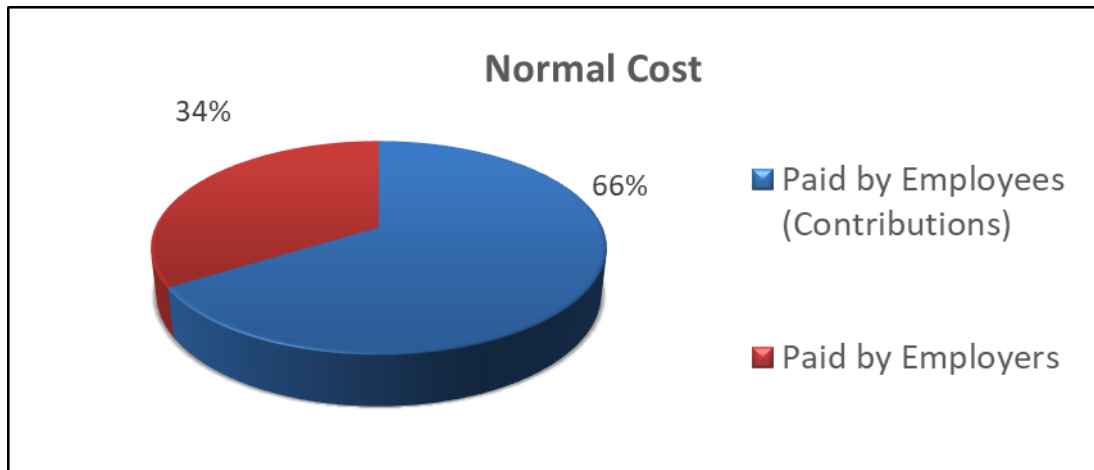
The actuarial funding method (in this case, entry age normal), assigns values to each of these periods of service.

- **Past service:** The Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL), is the portion of the benefit value that is associated with past service; this can be thought of as the “price” of benefits already earned by members of the system.
- **Current year:** The “price” of benefits being earned during the current year is referred to as the Normal Cost (NC). This includes only the actives, as neither inactive nor retirees are earning any additional service.
- **Future service:** The amount for future service is not included in the liability, as those years of service have not yet been earned.

For retirees, the “past service” amount accounts for the entire value of their benefits; they have completed their careers, and will earn no more service during the current year or any future years.

Net Normal Cost

The Normal Cost is not borne solely by the System; a significant portion is paid by employee contributions. The portion of the Normal Cost not covered by employee contributions is the amount that must be paid through funding appropriations; this is the Net Normal Cost.



The Net Normal Cost as seen in the funding schedule is calculated by adjusting for timing, and adding in the administrative expense. The calculation is shown below, and compared to the covered payroll:

	January 1, 2025	% of Payroll*
Gross Normal Cost (GNC)	\$ 2,691,599	14.7%
Employees Contribution	<u>1,780,379</u>	9.7%
Net Normal Cost (NNC)	\$ 911,220	5.0%
Adjustment to beginning of Fiscal Year 2027**	48,255	
Administrative Expense	<u>260,788</u>	1.4%
Adjusted Net Normal Cost With Admin. Expense	\$ 1,220,263	

* Payroll paid in 2024 for employees as of January 1, 2025 is \$18,333,741. Payroll for new hires in 2024 was annualized.

** The NNC is adjusted from January 1, 2025 to Fiscal 2027 by rolling it forward with a salary increase factor of 3.50%.

Unfunded Liability

The Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) is the portion of the AAL that is not covered by the value of the plan assets.

This is adjusted from the date of the valuation to the date of the contribution (July 1, 2026) to produce the Unfunded Liability seen in Fiscal Year 2027 in the funding schedule.

The liability results were as follows:

	January 1, 2025
Actuarial Accrued Liability	
a. Active Members	\$ 37,609,620
b. Inactive Members	1,989,430
c. Retired Members and Beneficiaries	<u>77,686,957</u>
d. Total	\$ 117,286,007
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	
a. Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$ 117,286,007
b. Less Actuarial Value of Assets	<u>82,422,383</u>
c. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$ 34,863,625
d. Adjustment to FY2027	<u>(1,610,454)</u>
e. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability as of FY2027	\$ 33,253,171

The UAAL and funding ratio are measures of the plan's funded status, which reflect the plan's position as of January 1, 2025. We believe these measures, by themselves, are not appropriate for assessing the sufficiency of plan assets to cover the estimated cost of settling the plan's benefit obligations. However, we believe these measures, in conjunction with the plan's funding schedule and demographics, are appropriate for assessing the amount of future contributions.

Active Liability by Decrement

An active member can incur liabilities for the Retirement System in one of four ways:

- They can retire (if eligible),
- They can become disabled and collect a disability benefit,
- They can die, or
- They can terminate service and withdraw their ASF balance or receive a deferred retirement benefit

Active members have a portion of their liability associated with each of these four outcomes. The Accrued Liability for active members is divided as follows:

Active Actuarial Accrued Liability	
Superannuation Retirement	\$ 33,427,087
Death	887,656
Disability	2,410,310
Withdrawal	<u>884,567</u>
TOTAL	\$ 37,609,620

Demographic Results

Actives	
a. Number	330
b. Annual Compensation	\$18,333,741
c. Average Annual Compensation	\$55,557
d. Average Attained Age	43.1
e. Average Past Service	8.2
Retired, Disabled and Beneficiaries	
a. Number	268
b. Total Benefits (excluding State COLA)	\$7,675,256
c. Average Benefits	\$28,639
d. Average Age	73.5
Inactives	
a. Number	181

- Total compensation changed by 6.7% over the prior valuation
 - Average annual compensation changed by 5.4%
 - Salary loss of \$60 thousand compared to projected experience

History of Demographic Statistics

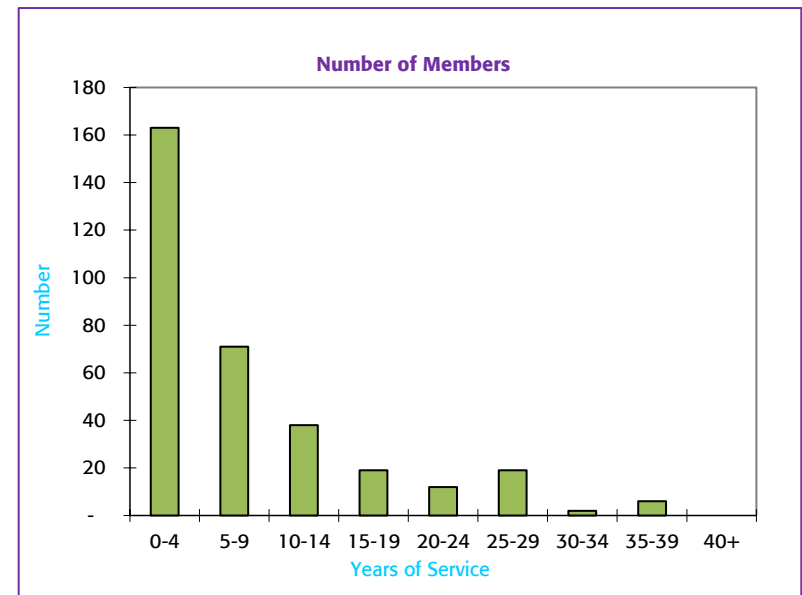
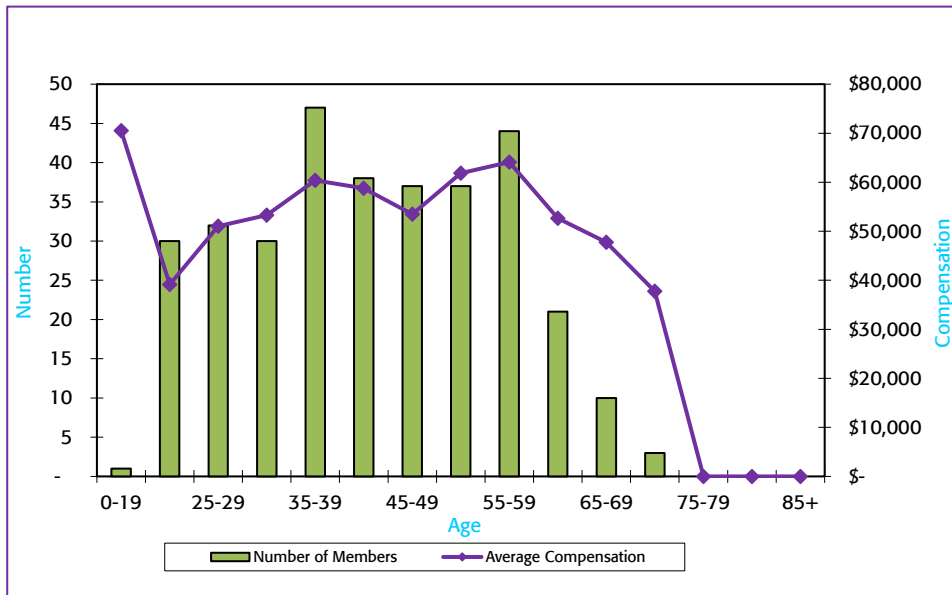
Valuation Year	Actives	Average Age	Average Past Service	Average Ann l Pay
2025	330	43.1	8.2	\$55,557
2024	326	43.7	8.3	\$52,695
2023	323	43.2	8.1	\$49,390
2022	313	43.6	8.9	\$49,450
2021	313	44.6	9.6	\$48,131
2020	308	45.2	10.3	\$46,615
2019	296	46.0	10.9	\$45,087
2018	286	46.5	11.5	\$43,678
2017	281	47.3	12.1	\$43,559
2016	276	47.8	12.6	\$42,769
2015	268	47.5	12.9	\$42,436
2014	261	47.7	13.3	\$40,942
2013	262	47.7	13.2	\$40,251
2011	254	48.2	13.4	\$40,164
2008	291	48.0	13.0	\$35,884
2007	296	47.3	12.3	\$34,028
2006	284	47.0	12.3	\$33,532
2005	296	46.7	11.7	\$30,087

- Average annual compensation has grown by 85% (3.1% annually) over the past twenty years.

Distribution of Plan Members as of January 1, 2025

ACTIVE MEMBERS

AGE	0 4 Years	5 9 Years	10 14 Years	15 19 Years	20 24 Years	25 29 Years	30 34 Years	35 39 Years	40 + Years	Total	Total Compensation	Average Compensation
0-19	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	\$ 70,529	\$ 70,529
20-24	30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	\$ 1,174,687	\$ 39,156
25-29	29	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	\$ 1,633,790	\$ 51,056
30-34	18	11	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	\$ 1,599,072	\$ 53,302
35-39	25	13	8	1	-	-	-	-	-	47	\$ 2,837,767	\$ 60,378
40-44	19	8	6	5	-	-	-	-	-	38	\$ 2,233,842	\$ 58,785
45-49	18	7	8	-	3	1	-	-	-	37	\$ 1,979,534	\$ 53,501
50-54	9	10	2	4	5	6	1	-	-	37	\$ 2,288,694	\$ 61,857
55-59	5	12	6	6	2	7	-	6	-	44	\$ 2,819,977	\$ 64,090
60-64	4	5	5	2	2	2	1	-	-	21	\$ 1,105,145	\$ 52,626
65-69	2	2	2	1	-	3	-	-	-	10	\$ 477,421	\$ 47,742
70-74	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	\$ 113,284	\$ 37,761
75-79	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -
80-84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -
85+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL	163	71	38	19	12	19	2	6	-	330	\$ 18,333,741	\$ 55,557



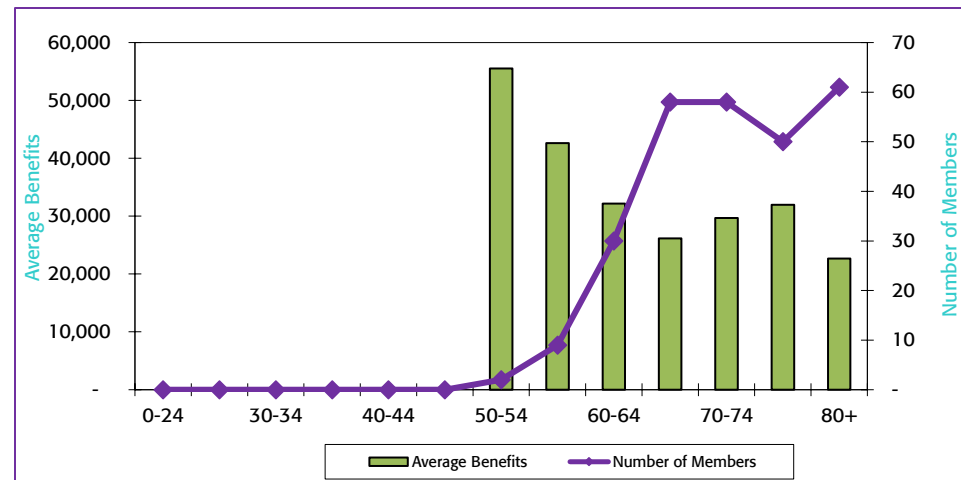
Distribution of Plan Members as of January 1, 2025

RETIRED MEMBERS

Retired Members and Beneficiaries			
Age	Number	Average Benefit	Total Benefit
0-24	-	-	-
25-29	-	-	-
30-34	-	-	-
35-39	-	-	-
40-44	-	-	-
45-49	-	-	-
50-54	1	44,973	44,973
55-59	7	41,291	289,034
60-64	26	31,451	817,727
65-69	55	25,384	1,396,136
70-74	55	29,531	1,624,207
75-79	44	31,043	1,365,871
80+	56	22,110	1,238,161
TOTAL	244	\$ 27,771	\$ 6,776,109

Disabled Members			
Age	Number	Average Benefit	Total Benefit
0-24	-	-	-
25-29	-	-	-
30-34	-	-	-
35-39	-	-	-
40-44	-	-	-
45-49	-	-	-
50-54	1	66,033	66,033
55-59	2	47,276	94,552
60-64	4	36,807	147,230
65-69	3	39,963	119,890
70-74	3	32,069	96,208
75-79	6	38,558	231,350
80+	5	28,777	143,885
TOTAL	24	\$ 37,464	\$ 899,147

Total			
Age	Number	Average Benefit	Total Benefit
0-24	-	-	-
25-29	-	-	-
30-34	-	-	-
35-39	-	-	-
40-44	-	-	-
45-49	-	-	-
50-54	2	55,503	111,005
55-59	9	42,621	383,586
60-64	30	32,165	964,957
65-69	58	26,138	1,516,026
70-74	58	29,662	1,720,415
75-79	50	31,944	1,597,221
80+	61	22,656	1,382,046
TOTAL	268	\$ 28,639	\$ 7,675,256



Benefits shown are net of State reimbursed COLA.

Assets

	PRIT Cash	\$	8,518.04
	PRIT FUND		<u>82,398,282.60</u>
A	Sub-Total:	\$	82,406,800.64
	Prepaid Expenses	\$	30,247.00
	Accounts Receivable		424,885.45
	Accounts Payable		<u>(439,550.54)</u>
B	Sub-Total:	\$	15,581.91
	Market Value of Assets [(A) + (B)]	\$	82,422,382.55

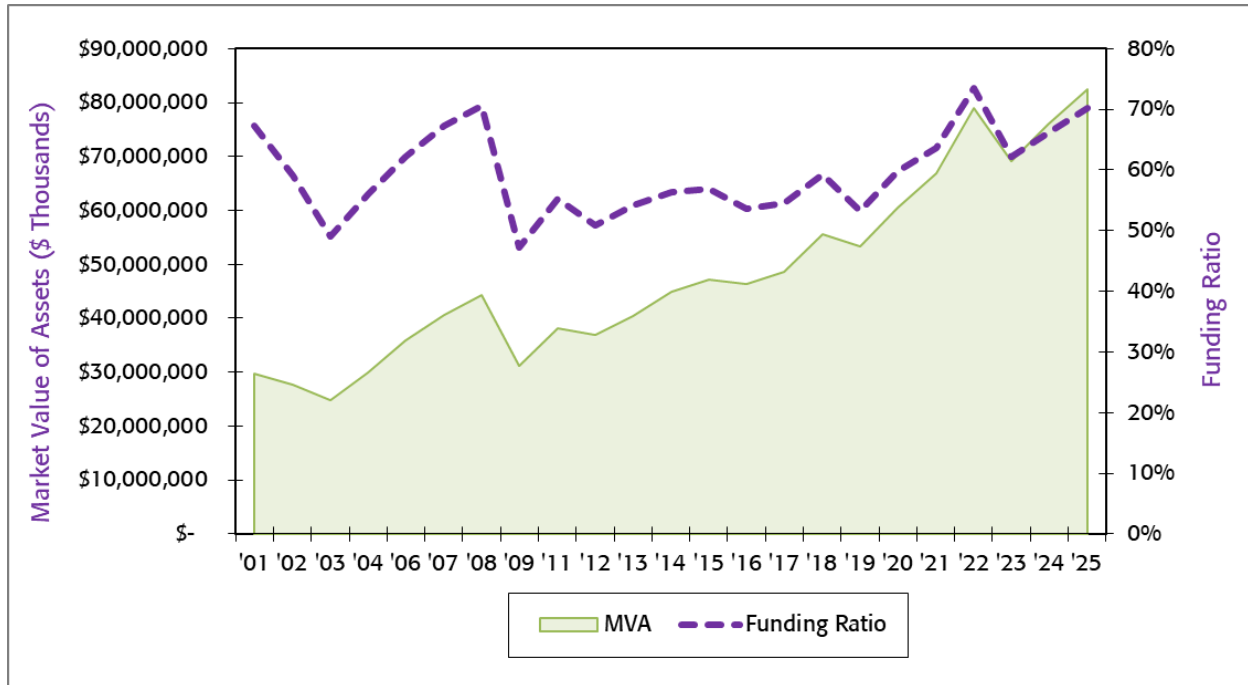
- The asset allocation is approximately 20% fixed income, cash, receivables and payables and 80% equities, alternative investments, hedge funds and similar types of investments.
- Annual return in calendar 2024: 8.9% vs. a 7.00% assumption.
 - \$1,471,156 net actuarial asset gain in Calendar Year 2024

Actuarial Value of Assets

For its Actuarial Value of Assets (AVA), the Gardner Retirement System uses Market Value of Assets, adjusted for payables and receivables.

Funding Ratio

The following displays the history of the funding ratio for the past twenty-three valuations, based on Market Value of Assets. The Market Value for each year is shown to accompany the funding ratio. We show the market value of assets as that is the amount of assets actually available to pay for benefits.



The funding ratio for 1/1/2025 is 70.3%.

Risk

Future actuarial measurements may differ significantly from the current measurements presented in this report due to such factors as:

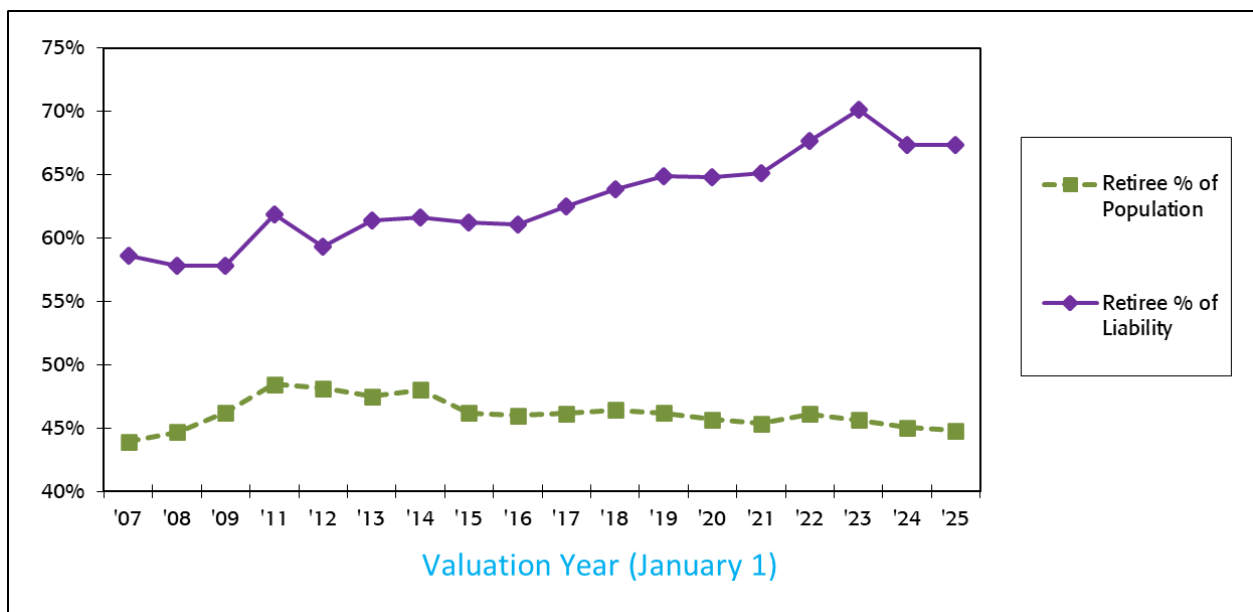
- Plan experience differing from that anticipated by the economic or demographic assumptions,
- Changes in economic or demographic assumptions,
- Increases or decreases expected as part of natural operation of the methodology used for these measurements such as additional contribution requirements based on the plan's funded status,
- Changes in plan provisions or applicable law.

As part of the valuation, we have not performed an analysis of the potential range of future measurements. GASB Statement 67 and 68 reports for the Gardner Retirement System contain alternate results to measure the impact of increases or decreases in the discount rate.

Maturity

One important concern is the maturity of the system. Systems with a greater portion of their liability stemming from current retirees whose benefits already being paid are likely to experience greater impact from short-term asset experience, as high payouts in the near future leave less of the current assets available to benefit from investment returns in the future.

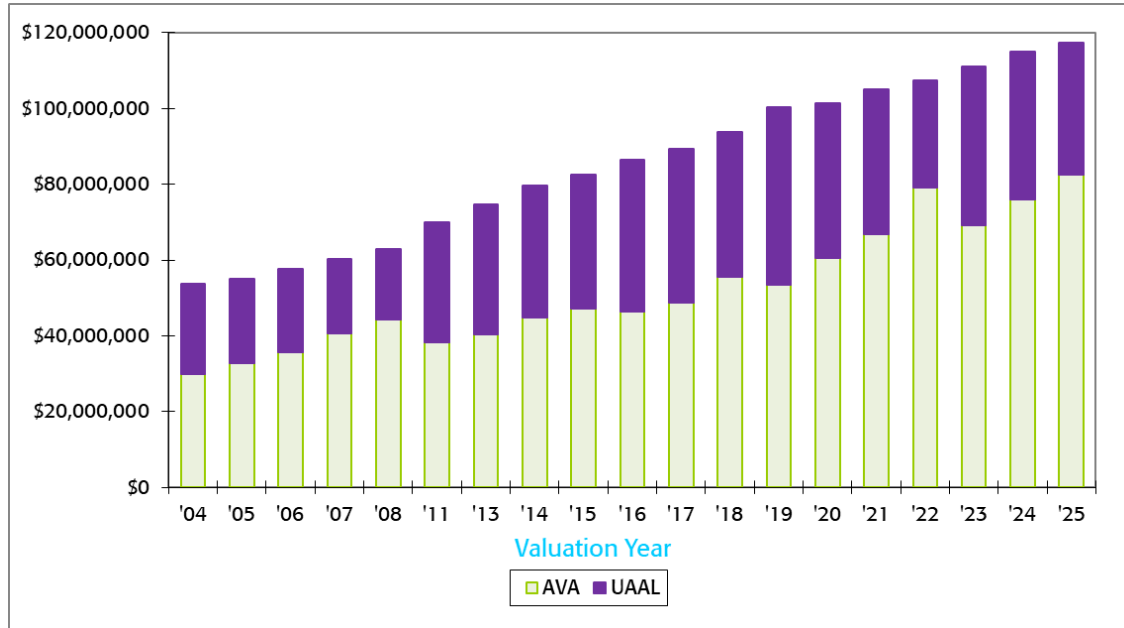
Below is a history of the retiree's percentage of the covered population and liability. The retiree share of the population has gradually decreased over the past decade, while retiree share of the liability has increased.



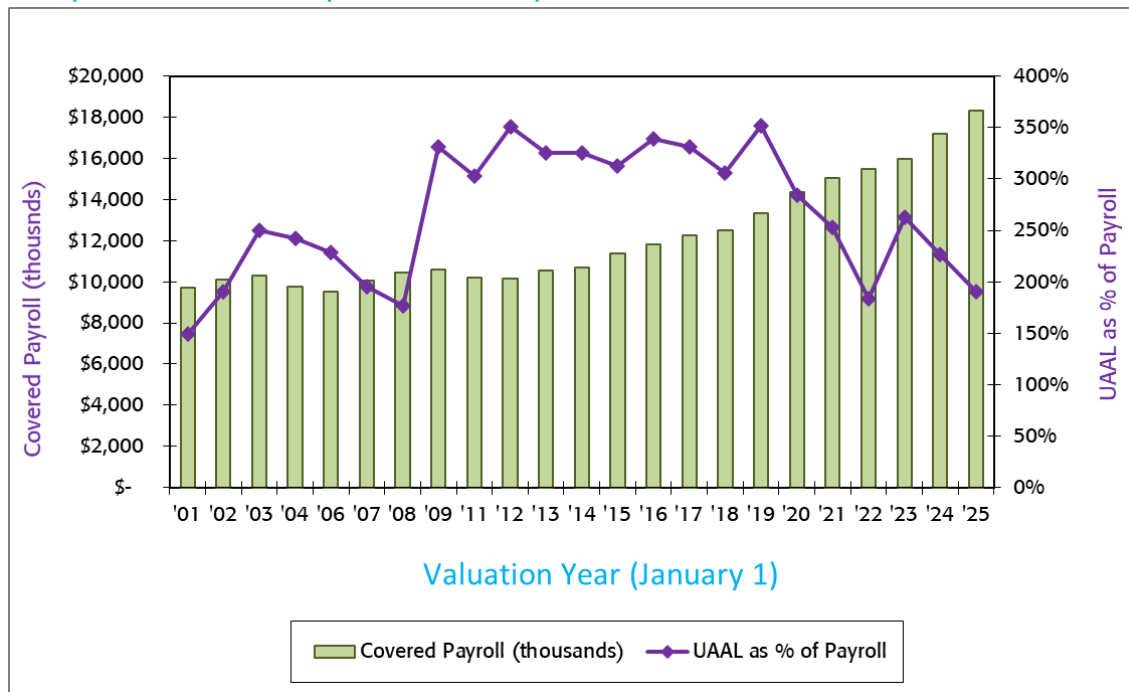
Historical Experience

The following charts display Gardner's history of Actuarial Assets and Unfunded Liability; the second chart compares the unfunded liability to covered payroll.

History of Assets and Unfunded Liability



History of Unfunded Liability and Covered Payroll



Comparative Results

	January 1, 2025	January 1, 2024	Percentage Change
Funding			
Contribution for Fiscal 2027	\$7,055,771	\$7,055,771	0.0%
Members			
■ Actives			
a. Number	330	326	1.2%
b. Annual Compensation	\$18,333,741	\$17,178,472	6.7%
c. Average Annual Compensation	\$55,557	\$52,695	5.4%
d. Average Attained Age	43.1	43.7	-1.3%
e. Average Past Service	8.2	8.3	-1.1%
■ Retired, Disabled and Beneficiaries			
a. Number	268	267	0.4%
b. Total Benefits*	\$7,675,256	\$7,436,884	3.2%
c. Average Benefits*	\$28,639	\$27,853	2.8%
d. Average Age	73.5	73.1	0.5%
■ Inactives			
a. Number	181	177	2.3%
Normal Cost			
a. Total Normal Cost as of January 1, 2025	\$2,691,599	\$2,579,362	4.4%
b. Less Expected Members' Contributions	<u>1,780,379</u>	<u>1,665,433</u>	6.9%
c. Normal Cost to be funded by the Municipality	\$911,220	\$913,929	-0.3%
d. Adjustment to July 1, 2026	48,255	48,399	-0.3%
e. Administrative Expense Assumption	<u>260,788</u>	<u>195,008</u>	33.7%
f. Normal Cost Adjusted to July 1, 2026	\$1,220,263	\$1,157,335	5.4%
Actuarial Accrued Liability			
a. Active Members	\$37,609,620	\$36,909,657	1.9%
b. Inactive Members	1,989,430	1,822,117	9.2%
c. Retired Members and Beneficiaries	<u>77,686,957</u>	<u>76,195,611</u>	2.0%
d. Total	\$117,286,007	\$114,927,385	2.1%
Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability			
a. Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$117,286,007	\$114,927,385	2.1%
b. Less Actuarial Value of Assets	<u>82,422,383</u>	<u>76,065,255</u>	8.4%
c. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$34,863,625	\$38,862,130	-10.3%
d. Adjustment to FY2027	<u>(1,610,454)</u>	<u>(704,808)</u>	
e. Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability as of FY2027	\$33,253,171	\$38,157,322	

* Excluding State reimbursed COLA

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

All assumptions and methodologies were either set by statute or selected by the Gardner Retirement Board in conjunction with guidance provided by Stone Consulting, Inc.

Stone Consulting, Inc. was furnished member and financial data by the Gardner Retirement System's administrative staff. Although examined under broad parameters for reasonableness, the data was not audited by the actuary. With the assistance of the staff of the Gardner Retirement Board, we were able to develop a database sufficient for valuation purposes.

ASSUMPTION AND METHODOLOGY CHANGES SINCE PRIOR VALUATION

- Salary increase assumption: revision of rates for years 1-2 for members of group 4.

ACTUARIAL METHODS

Actuarial Cost Method

The Entry Age Normal Actuarial Cost Method has been used in this valuation. Under this method, the normal cost is the amount calculated as the level percentage of compensation necessary to fully fund the prospective benefits from each member's entry age to retirement age.

The actuarial accrued liability represents the theoretical accumulation of all prior years' normal costs for the plan members as if the program had always been in effect. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability is the excess of the actuarial accrued liability over plan assets. The use of the Entry Age Normal actuarial funding method is consistent with the requirements of Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Asset Valuation Method

Market Value of Assets, adjusted for payables and receivables.

Fiscal Year Adjustment

The actuarial results are adjusted by the valuation interest rate and salary scale to the beginning of Fiscal Year 2027. The unfunded actuarial accrued liability is rolled forward with normal cost and further adjusted by anticipated contributions and interest.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions (Continued)

ACTUARIAL ASSUMPTIONS

Valuation Date

January 1, 2025.

Investment Return (Discount Rate)

7.00% per year net of investment expenses. The investment return assumption is a long-term assumption and is based on capital market expectations by asset class, historical returns, and professional judgement.

Regular Interest Rate Credited to Annuity Savings Account

2% per year.

Cost-of-Living Increases

A 3% COLA on the first \$14,000 of a member's retirement allowance is assumed to be granted every year.

Salary Increases

Select and Ultimate assumption by group and years of service:

Group 1 and 2: 12.75% increase in year one, 9.00% in year 2, 6.25% in years 5, 10, 15, and 20. 3.25% in all other years.

Police: 11.25% in year one, 25.25% in year two, 8.25% in years 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25, 3.25% in all other years.

Fire: Same as police, except for an 11.25% increase in year two.

The prior year assumption was the same except for group 4, who all had an 11.45% increase in year one, 25.55% in year 2, 8.25% in years 5, 10, 15, 20, and 25. 3.25% in all other years.

The salary increase assumption reflects prior experience including PERAC's 2002 local experience study, current expectations and contracts, and professional judgement.

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions (Continued)

Credited Service

All service is assumed to be due to employment with the municipality.

Family Composition

Members assumed married with 2 dependent children – one male and one female both age 15; age difference between member and spouse assumed to be 3 years (the male being the older).

Administrative Expenses

Estimated budgeted amount of \$260,788 for the Fiscal Year 2027 is added to the Normal Cost. The administrative expense does not include investment manager and custodial fees. These fees are considered part of the discount rate assumption that is net of fees.

Net 3(8)(c)

Net 3(8)(c) payments are assumed to be the same level as the past calendar year for all future years.

Contribution Timing

Contributions are assumed to be made at the beginning of the fiscal year.

In-Service Disability and Death

Both Disability and In-Service Death are assumed to be 45% ordinary and 55% accidental for Group 1 and 2, and 10% ordinary and 90% accidental for Group 4.

Withdrawal Prior to Retirement

The rates shown at the following sample ages illustrate the withdrawal assumption. Withdrawal rates are set to zero if the retirement rate at that age is nonzero.

Rate of Withdrawal		
Service	Group 1 and 2	Group 4
0	15%	1.5%
1	12%	1.5%
2	10%	1.5%
3	9%	1.5%
4	8%	1.5%
5	7.6%	1.5%
10	5.4%	1.5%
15	3.3%	0.0%
20	2.0%	0.0%
25	1.0%	0.0%
30+	0.0%	0.0%

Disability Prior to Retirement

The rates shown at the following sample ages illustrate the assumption regarding the incidence of disability:

Rate of Disability		
Age	Group 1 and 2	Group 4
20	0.01%	0.10%
25	0.02%	0.20%
30	0.03%	0.30%
35	0.06%	0.30%
40	0.10%	0.30%
45	0.15%	1.00%
50	0.19%	1.25%
55	0.24%	1.20%
60	0.28%	0.85%

Actuarial Methods and Assumptions (Continued)

Rates of Retirement

The rates shown at the following ages illustrate the assumption regarding the incidence of retirement, once the member has achieved 10 years of service:

				Hired after 4/1/2012		
Age	Group 1 & 2 Male	Group 1 & 2 Female	Group 4	Group 1 & 2 Male	Group 1 & 2 Female	Group 4
50	1%	1.5%	2%	0%	0%	0%
51	1%	1.5%	2%	0%	0%	0%
52	1%	2.0%	2%	0%	0%	0%
53	1%	2.5%	2%	0%	0%	0%
54	2%	2.5%	7.5%	0%	0%	0%
55	2%	5.5%	15%	0%	0%	10%
56	2.5%	6.5%	10%	0%	0%	7%
57	2.5%	6.5%	10%	0%	0%	20%
58	5%	6.5%	10%	0%	0%	10%
59	6.5%	6.5%	15%	0%	0%	15%
60	12%	5%	20%	25%	30%	20%
61	20%	13%	20%	20%	13%	20%
62	30%	15%	25%	30%	15%	25%
63	25%	12.5%	25%	25%	12.5%	25%
64	22%	18%	30%	22%	18%	30%
65	40%	15%	100%	40%	15%	100%
66	25%	20%	N/A	25%	20%	N/A
67	25%	20%	N/A	25%	20%	N/A
68	30%	25%	N/A	30%	25%	N/A
69	30%	20%	N/A	30%	20%	N/A
70	100%	100%	N/A	100%	100%	N/A

Mortality

RP-2014 table adjusted to 2006 and projected generationally with MP-2021 (sex-distinct). During employment the healthy employee mortality table is used. Post-employment the healthy annuitant table is used.

Mortality for disabled retirees follows the same table as non-disabled retirees, set forward 2 years. Death is assumed to be due to the same cause as the disability 40% of the time.

Appendix B – Summary of Principal Provisions

1. PARTICIPANT

Participation is mandatory for all full-time employees whose employment commences before age 65. There are three classes of members in the retirement system:

- **Group 1:** general employees
- **Group 2:** employees in specified hazardous occupations (e.g., electricians)
- **Group 4:** police and firefighters

2. MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Member contributions vary depending upon date hired as follows:

Date of Hire	Member Contribution Rate
Prior to 1975	5% of Pay
1975 – 1983	7% of Pay
1984 – June 30, 1996	8% of Pay
After June 30, 1996	9% of Pay

Members hired after 1978 contribute an additional 2% of pay over \$30,000.

3. PAY

a. Pay

Gross regular compensation excluding bonuses, overtime, severance pay, unused sick pay, and other similar compensation.

b. Average Pay

The average of pay during the three consecutive years that produce the highest average or, if greater, during the last three years (whether or not consecutive) preceding retirement. For members hired after April 1, 2012, five-year averages will be used.

4. CREDITED SERVICE

Period during which an employee contributes to the retirement system plus certain periods of military service and “purchased” service.

Summary of Principal Provisions (Continued)

5. SERVICE RETIREMENT

a. Eligibility

Hired prior to April 2, 2012:

- Attainment of age 55 and completion of ten years of credited service,
- or at any age with completion of 20 years of service.
- If hired prior to 1978 or a member of Group 4, the completion of ten years of service is not required.

Hired after April 1, 2012:

- Group 1 – Age 60 and Completion of 10 years of credited service;
- Group 2 – Age 55 and completion of 10 years of service;
- Group 4 – Age 55.

b. Retirement Allowance

Determined as the product of the member's benefit percentage, average pay and credited service, where the benefit percentage is shown below (maximum allowance of 80% of average pay):

Benefit Percentage	Group 1	Group 2	Group 4
2.5%	65+	60+	55+
2.4	64	59	54
2.3	63	58	53
2.2	62	57	52
2.1	61	56	51
2.0	60	55	50
1.9	59	N/A	49
1.8	58	N/A	48
1.7	57	N/A	47
1.6	56	N/A	46
1.5	55	N/A	45
Hired after April 1, 2012*			
2.5%	67+	62+	57+
2.35	66	61	56
2.20	65	60	55
2.05	64	59	54
1.90	63	58	53
1.75	62	57	52
1.60	61	56	51
1.45	60	55	50

*Reduction is .125% for each year early instead of .15% per year for employees with over 30 years of service.

In addition, veterans receive an additional \$15 per year for each year of credited service up to 20 years

Summary of Principal Provisions (Continued)

6. DEFERRED VESTED RETIREMENT

a. Eligibility

Completion of 10 years of credited service (for elected and appointed members, 6 years in the event of involuntary termination).

b. Retirement Allowance

Determined in the same manner as "Service Retirement" section above with the member eligible to start collecting a benefit at age 55, (or age 57 for post-April 1, 2012 hires) or defer until later at his or her discretion. If a member chooses, his or her contributions with interest may be withdrawn. The amount of interest he or she will receive depends on length of service and whether or not the termination of employment was voluntary.

7. ORDINARY DISABILITY RETIREMENT

a. Eligibility

Non-job related disability after completion of 10 years of credited service.

b. Retirement Allowance

Determined in the same manner as "Service Retirement" section and calculated as if the member had attained age 55 (or age 60 for group 1 hired after April 1, 2012), if younger. Veterans receive 50% of pay (during final year) plus an annuity based on accumulated member contributions with interest.

8. ACCIDENTAL DISABILITY RETIREMENT

a. Eligibility

Disabled as a result of an accident in the performance of duties. No age or service requirement.

b. Retirement Allowance

72% of pay plus an annuity based on accumulated member contributions with interest. Also, a dependent's allowance per year for each child. Total allowance not to exceed 100% of pay (75% for members hired after 1987).

Summary of Principal Provisions (Continued)

9. NON-OCCUPATIONAL DEATH

a. Eligibility

Dies while in active service, but not due to occupational injury. 2 years of service.

b. Retirement Allowance

Benefit as if Option C had been elected (see below) and member had attained age 55 (or age 57 for those hired after April 1, 2012) if younger.

Minimum monthly benefits provided as follows:

- spouse - \$500,
- first child - \$120,
- each additional child - \$90

10. OCCUPATIONAL DEATH

a. Eligibility

Dies as a result of an occupational injury.

b. Benefit Amount

72% of pay plus refund of annuity savings fund balance. In the case of an accidental disability retiree who dies of the same cause, the beneficiary receives 72% of the last 12 months salary or the current pension amount, whichever is greater.

11. COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES

An increase of up to 3% applied to the first \$14,000 of annual benefit. Funded by the Employer from Fiscal Year 1999. Percentage increase is voted on each year by the Retirement Board. Cost-of-living increases granted during Fiscal Year 1982 through Fiscal 1998 are reimbursed by the Commonwealth.

12. OPTIONAL FORMS OF PAYMENT

- Option A: Allowance payable monthly for the life of the member.
- Option B: Allowance payable monthly for the life of the member with a guarantee of remaining member contributions with interest.
- Option C: Allowance payable monthly for the life of the member with 66-2/3% continuing to the member's beneficiary upon the member's death. If the beneficiary predeceases the member, the allowance amount "pops up" to the non-reduced amount.

Appendix C – Glossary of Terms

- **Actuarial Accrued Liability**
The portion of the Present Value of Benefits that is attributable to past service.
- **Actuarial Value of Assets**
The value of assets based on the asset valuation method shown in the Actuarial Methods and Assumptions section of this report.
- **Actuarial Assumptions**
Estimates are made as to the occurrence of certain events that determine the level of benefits to be paid and how long they will be provided. The more important actuarial assumptions include the investment return on assets, salary increases and the rates of turnover, disability, retirement and mortality.
- **Actuarial Cost Method**
The procedure that is used to allocate the present value of benefits between the liability that is attributable to past service (Actuarial Accrued Liability) and that attributable to future service.
- **Funding Ratio**
The percentage of the accrued liability that is covered by the Actuarial Value of Assets.
- **GASB**
Government Accounting Standards Board (issues guidance for disclosure of retirement system liabilities).
- **Normal Cost**
The portion of the Present Value of Benefits that is attributable to benefits to be earned in the coming year.
- **PERAC**
Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission, a division of the State government which has regulatory authority over the administration of the retirement system.
- **Present Value of Benefits**
Represents the dollar value today of all benefits expected to be earned by current members if all actuarial assumptions are exactly realized.
- **PRIT**
Pension Reserves Investment Trust Fund is the state controlled and administered fund for the investment of assets for members of the retirement system.
- **Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability**
That portion of the Actuarial Accrued Liability not covered by System Assets.

■ Gardner Retirement Board
Actuarial Valuation as of January 1, 2025

PERAC Information Disclosure

The most recent actuarial valuation of the System was prepared by Stone Consulting, Inc. as of January 1, 2025

The normal cost for employees on that date was:	\$1,780,379	9.7% of payroll
The normal cost for the employer was:	\$911,220	5.0% of payroll

The actuarial liability for active members was:	\$37,609,620
The actuarial liability for retired members was (includes inactives):	\$79,676,387
Total actuarial accrued liability:	\$117,286,007
System assets as of that date (\$82,422,382.55 Market Value):	\$82,422,383
Unfunded actuarial accrued liability:	\$34,863,625

The ratio of system's assets to total actuarial liability was:	70%
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As of that date the total covered employee payroll was:	\$18,333,741
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The principal actuarial assumptions used in the valuation are as follows:

Investment Return:	7.00% per annum
Rate of Salary Increase:	Select and Ultimate (3.25% ultimate rate)

SCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESS (Dollars in \$000's)

Actuarial Valuation Date	Actuarial Value of Assets (a)	Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) (b)	Unfunded AAL (UAAL) (b a)	Funded Ratio (a/b)	Covered Payroll (c)	UAAL as a % of Covered Payroll ((b a)/c)
1/1/2025	\$82,422	\$117,286	\$34,864	70%	\$18,334	190%
1/1/2024	\$76,065	\$114,927	\$38,862	66%	\$17,178	226%
1/1/2023	\$69,183	\$111,140	\$41,956	62%	\$15,953	263%
1/1/2022	\$79,057	\$107,491	\$28,434	74%	\$15,478	184%
1/1/2021	\$66,939	\$105,102	\$38,163	64%	\$15,065	253%

ASOP 4 Disclosures

LDROM

In compliance with ASOP 4 Section 3.11, we have calculated a Low Default Risk Obligation Measure (LDROM) for projected benefits. These benefits were discounted using the FTSE Pension Liability Index, which includes yields from hypothetical AA zero coupon bonds with maturities from 6 months to 30 years. This calculation yielded a single equivalent discount rate of 5.53%.

Based on this discount rate, the LDROM of the Entry Age Actuarial Accrued Liability is \$136,433,120. All other assumptions and methods used in calculating the LDROM are consistent with those applied in this valuation.

Based on the assumptions and methods used, the LDROM reflects the liability that would have to be funded if the Trust were invested entirely in assets corresponding to the FTSE Index. The difference between the two measures reflects the anticipated value of taking on investment risk by investing in securities which have historically experienced both greater returns and greater volatility than the assets represented by the FTSE rates. The use of a higher discount rate for pension funding to reflect higher projected returns results in a reduction in the required funding levels for the Plan, but this being realized is contingent on future asset performance; lower than expected returns will result in increased required contributions, while higher than expected returns could produce surpluses that reduce future contribution requirements.

RADC

In accordance with ASOP 4 Section 3.21, pension obligation valuations must include a "reasonable" Actuarially Determined Contribution (ADC). An ADC is deemed reasonable if it either funds accrued liabilities within an acceptable time frame or annually reduces the unfunded liability by a reasonable amount.

The funding schedule in this valuation meets these criteria by aiming to accumulate assets adequate to make benefit payments when due. The funding contribution for FY2027 aligns with these standards and qualifies as a reasonable Actuarially Determined Contribution.