## **CalPERS**

# CEM Benchmarking

Benchmarking results:
Transparency
Pension administration
Investments
Global leaders

September 20, 2022

## CEM works with 500+ plans, including 150 of the world's 300 largest

#### Fund Types

• DC & DB funds; Sovereign Wealth Funds; Foundations, Endowments; Other asset owners

#### Clients

 Fiduciaries; Management, Strategy, and Finance teams

#### Geography

• Funds from 25 countries

#### Funds

• Data on 500+ funds annually representing 1+ billion members,

#### Participating Assets

• \$12 trillion



## CEM offers 5 benchmarking subscriptions. CalPERS was a founding participant in 4 of them.

	1 Transparency Benchmarking (TB)	2 Pension Administration Benchmarking Subscription (PABS)	3 Investment Benchmarking Subscription (IBS)	4 Global Leaders (GL)	5 Defined Contribution (DC) Benchmarking
Subscription Overview	Comparison of <b>disclosure</b> against 75 funds across 15 geographies	Comparison of <b>member experience</b> and <b>costs</b> against curated peers	Comparison of <b>costs</b> and <b>investment</b> performance against curated peers	Knowledge and best practices forum for most sophisticated global funds	Comparison of <b>costs</b> and <b>investment option</b> performance for U.S. 401(k)/DC plans
Benchmarking Specifics	Review of <b>governance</b> , <b>performance, cost,</b> and <b>RI</b> disclosures	Benchmarking of costs and service levels for key activities	Benchmarking is at total fund, asset class, and mandate levels	Includes <b>20+</b> of the world's largest and leading pension plans	Benchmarking is at plan and investment option levels
Subscription Inclusions	<ul> <li>Electronic Report</li> <li>Live Presentation</li> <li>Ongoing best- practices sharing</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Electronic Report</li> <li>Live Presentation</li> <li>Conference Invitations</li> <li>Peer Intelligence Network (PIN) access</li> <li>Original Research</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Staffing (FTE) Analysis</li> <li>IBS Dashboard</li> <li>Electronic Report</li> <li>Live Presentation</li> <li>Original Research</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Annual deep-dive custom research determined by the participants</li> <li>Annual peer conference</li> <li>Webinars led by peers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>DC Dashboard</li> <li>Electronic Report</li> <li>Live Presentation</li> <li>Staffing (FTE) Analysis</li> <li>Original Research</li> </ul>
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## Key takeaways from each of CalPERS' four benchmarking subscriptions

#### Transparency benchmarking (review Oct 2021)

- CalPERS ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the USA and 9<sup>th</sup> globally (vs. 11<sup>th</sup> the year before).
- CalPERS would have ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> globally if things it already discloses on its website were easier to find.

#### 2 Pension administration benchmarking (to June 2021)

- CalPERS had the highest plan design complexity in CEM's global database. Complexity negatively impacts service and increases costs.
- CalPERS' service score of 76 was equal to the peer median. CalPERS' score increased from 72 to 76 between 2014 and 2021.
- CalPERS' cost of \$202 per active member and annuitant was \$58 above the peer average of \$144.CalPERS' cost declined from \$285 per member in 2014.

#### Investment benchmarking (to Dec 2020)

- CalPERS' cost, excluding private asset performance fees and transaction costs, was 20.2 bps. This was 14.3 bps below the peer benchmark of 34.4 bps. CalPERS was low cost because it had a lower cost implementation style and it paid less than its peers for similar services.
- CalPERS' 5-year net total return of 9.7% was above the U.S. public median of 9.5%.
- CalPERS was in the desirable low-cost, high-value added quadrant of the cost effectiveness chart for the 5-year period ending 2020.

#### Global Leaders research (to Jan 2022)

- Size is beneficial. Larger funds added more net value added with less risk than smaller funds.
- Costs matter for active management. Lower cost implementation styles had higher net value added than higher cost implementation styles.
- Private equity co-investment has outperformed other implementation styles. CalPERS uses less co-investment than its Global Leader peers.
- Most private equity and infrastructure benchmarks create more noise than information about performance. Better benchmarks based on investable alternatives can be created for these asset classes.

## Transparency - CalPERS ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the USA and 9<sup>th</sup> globally



#### CalPERS global rank improved from 11<sup>th</sup> last year to 9<sup>th</sup>.

- 75 funds were ranked . They were the 5 largest funds from 15 different countries.
  - U.S. funds were CalPERS, CalSTRS, Federal Thrift, NY City Pension, NY State Retirement.
- The overall ranking reflects 4 equally weighted sub-scores :
  - o Performance 46 measures
  - o Governance 35 measures
  - o Cost 55 measures
  - o Responsible Investing 54 measures
- Rankings were done during the period from Sep – Nov 2021 by searching for each of the 190 measures in annual reports and the website.
- CalPERS was cited for best practices:
  - Total fund and asset class returns for multiple time periods.
  - o Fees paid to consultants

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## CalPERS would have ranked 2nd globally if things it already discloses on its website were easier to find.



- CalPERS has an overwhelming amount of information contained in hundreds of documents. Many things were not discovered in our initial review process.
  - For example, our initial review missed disclosures in CalPERS Trust Level Review & Annual Program Reviews which forms part of your September board materials. It was hard to find because it was buried in board materials, and the document's name was not immediately suggestive of asset class costs or performance. If it had been easier to find it would have resulted in the biggest improvement in your score.
- Some of the other global funds do a much better job producing summaries aimed directly at stakeholders that tell the complete story on a subject

### Pension Administration - 70 leading global pension systems participate

#### Participants

Arizona SRS
CalPERS
CalSTRS
Colorado PERA
Delaware PERS
Florida RS
Idaho PERS
Illinois MRF
Indiana PRS
Iowa PERS
KPERS
LACERA
Michigan ORS
Minnesota State RS
Nevada PERS
NYC TRS
NYSLRS
Ohio PERS
Oregon PERS
Pennsylvania PSERS
PSRS PEERS of Missouri
South Dakota RS

STRS Ohio Texas County and District RS TRS Illinois TRS of Texas Utah RS Virginia RS Washington State DRS

#### <u>Canada</u>

Alberta Pension Services Alberta Teachers BC Pension Corporation Canadian Forces PP Federal Public Service PP HOOPP LAPP of Alberta Municipal Pension Plan of BC OMERS Ontario Pension Board Ontario Teachers OPTrust RCMP Saskatchewan HEPP The Netherlands\* ABN Amro PF ABP bpfBOUW Metaal en Techniek PF PWRI PF Vervoer PFZW Rabobank PF Denmark

#### ATP

Merseyside PF Pension Protection Fund Principal Civil Service Railpen Pension Scheme Rolls Royce Pension Fund Royal Mail Pensions Teachers' Pensions Tyne & Wear PF

United Kingdom\*

**BSA NHS Pensions** 

**BT** Pension Scheme

Lothian PF

Greater Manchester PF

Armed Forces Pension Scheme

Irish Construction Workers' PS

Local Pensions Partnership

Universities Superannuation West Midlands Metro West Yorkshire PF

\* Systems in the UK and most systems in the Netherlands complete different benchmarking surveys and hence your analysis does not include their results.

## CalPERS' custom peer group is comprised of 8 of the largest systems

Custom Peer G	iroup for CalP	ERS	
	Me	mbership (in 000	's)
	Active		
Peers (sorted by size)	Members	Annuitants	Total
CalPERS	864	753	1,617
TRS of Texas	919	458	1,377
NYSLRS	502	497	999
CalSTRS	449	318	767
BC Pension Corporation	356	215	571
Michigan ORS	178	283	461
OMERS	289	162	451
Ontario Teachers	183	148	331
Peer Median	403	301	669
Peer Average	467	354	822

### CalPERS had the highest plan design complexity in CEM's global database.



- Complexity negatively impacts service and increases costs.
- Reasons why CalPERS had the most complex plan design include more:
  - Plan customization choices for employers
  - Pension payment options
  - o Plan types
  - o COLA rule sets.

### CalPERS' service score of 76 was equal to the peer median.



## Total Service Score

- CalPERS' score increased from 72 to 76 between 2014 and 2021.
- Service is defined from a member's perspective. Higher service means more channels, faster turnaround times, more availability, more choice, better content and higher quality.
- Higher service is not always cost effective. For example, the ability to reach a service representative instantly 24 hours a day is higher service, but not cost effective.

## CalPERS' cost of \$202 per active member and annuitant was \$58 above the peer average of \$144.



• CalPERS' cost declined from \$285 per member in 2014 to \$202 in fy 2020/21.

 CalPERS cost per member was the lowest of a subset of 8 of the 9\* California systems benchmarked over the past several years. The comparison is not entirely fair because CalPERS has a substantial scale-advantage relative to most.



\* A subset of the 9 CA systems benchmarked was used to enhance confidentiality. One system was randomly excluded.

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## Investment benchmarking - 321 funds representing \$11.5 trillion in assets participate.



- Returns and NVA are compared primarily to the U.S. public universe.
- The most valuable comparisons for cost comparisons is to CalPERS' custom peer group because size impacts cost.



## Benchmark cost analysis suggests that CalPERS is low cost by 14.3 bps or \$593 million.

#### Your cost versus benchmark

	\$000s	basis points
CalPERS total investment cost $^{st}$	837,956	20.2 bp
CalPERS benchmark cost	1,430,545	34.4 bp
CalPERS excess cost	(592,588)	(14.3) bp

\* Excludes transaction costs and private asset performance fees

- CalPERS benchmark cost is an estimate of what its cost would be given its actual asset mix and the median costs that its peers pay for similar services.
- The reasons why CalPERS was low cost are:
  - It had a low-cost implementation style (6.7 bps savings). For example, it was 57% indexed vs. a peer average of 33%.
  - It paid less than peers for similar implementation styles and services (7.6 bps savings).

# CalPERS was in the desirable low-cost, high-value added quadrant of the cost effectiveness chart for the 5-year period ending 2020 when compared on a like for like basis (pink triangle).



- Your net value added for the 5-year ending December 2020 was -31 bps using your private equity benchmark instead of a benchmark based on lagged, investable public market indices\* (green triangle).
- For the 5-years ending December 2021, your net value added was +9 bps using your private equity benchmark

\* To enable fairer comparisons, the policy returns of all participants except your fund were adjusted to reflect private equity benchmarks based on lagged, investable, public-market indices. If CEM used this same adjustment for your fund, your 5-year policy return would be 9.5%, 0.5% lower than your actual 5-year policy return of 10.0%. Mirroring this, your 5-year total fund net value added would be 0.5% higher. \*\* Your 5-year savings of 5.2 basis points is the average of your savings for the

5-year 2020 2019 2018 2017 2016 Excess cost/(Savings) (5.2) bp (14.3) bp (1.1) bp (1.7) bp (5.8) bp (3.3) bp

## Global Leaders – Past research topics

- Infrastructure Programs (2022)
- Optimizing Real Estate Performance (2021)
- Private equity programs Structure, Process, Staffing, Benchmarking and Performance
- Responsible Investing Comparison of cost and performance between PRI and Non-PRI signatories
- Review of Financial Reporting and Public Disclosures
- Governance
- Leverage

- Transaction costs
- Investment Operations
- Hedge funds Programs, performance and benchmarks
- Data and Systems
- Performance targets
- Risk How funds manage risk
- Organization design
- Full time equivalent staff benchmarking

## Size is beneficial. Larger funds added more net value added with less risk than smaller funds.



## Costs matter for active management. Lower cost implementation styles had higher net value added (NVA) than higher cost implementation styles.







+Value added is calculated using a standardized listed infrastructure benchmark (S&P Global infrastructure) to neutralize for differences in investor benchmarking methodology.

‡ Average cost here is expressed as a percentage of net asset value.

1. Net value added of direct investments, evergreen funds, LP funds, and fund of funds is inferred from regression analysis on portfolios extrapolated to have 100% of each investment style.

2. Direct investments includes internal direct, joint ventures and some SMAs with investor discretion.

### Private equity co-investment has outperformed other implementation styles. CalPERS uses less co-investment than its Global Leader peers.

• Co-investment has outperformed other implementation styles. But to date it is only indicative, it is not yet statistically robust.



• CalPERS uses less private equity co-investment than its Global Leader peers. Its 6.8% of LPs compares to a peer average of 22.3%

Private equity - % by implementation styles

Asset class	You	1.000	U.S. Public avg.	U.S. avg.	Global avg.
Internal	0.0%	22.7%	0.1%	0.5%	4.6%
Co-Investment	5.9%	12.7%	4.5%	2.7%	4.3%
LP	87.2%	56.9%	76.8%	79.3%	69.7%
Fund of Funds	6.9%	7.7%	18.5%	17.4%	21.4%
Co-Invest as a % of LPs	6.8%	22.3%	5.9%	3.5%	6.1%

### Most private equity and infrastructure benchmarks create more noise than information about performance. Better benchmarks based on investable alternatives can be created for these asset classes.

## Infrastructure benchmarks used by the CEM universe (2020) had low correlations with performance

				Avera	ge
Use		Туре	Example	Correlation	NVA
	36%	Inflation rate	CPI + 4%	14%	3.0%
	15%	Listed infra	S&P Global Infra.	67%	0.4%
	13%	Custom	Blend w/ 90 day lag + 3%	40%	1.9%
	13%	Absolute	Flat 6%	30%	2.4%
	8%	Listed equity	MSCI AC World	10%	-1.5%
	7%	Actual	Real asset portfolio return	n/a	n/a
	4%	Bond	3 month U.S. T-Bills + 3%	-3%	-0.3%
	3%	Interest rate	LIBOR + 3.5%	2%	5.2%
	1%	Peer-based	Cambridge Assoc. Infra.	11%	-0.1%

## Higher correlations on average are available from an infrastructure benchmark based on listed alternatives

		CEM Universe			
Statistic	You	10 <sup>th</sup> %'ile	50 <sup>th</sup> %'ile	90 <sup>th</sup> %'ile	Avg.
Correlation	70.2%	63.4%	86.8%	99.4%	84.1%
Beta	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Alpha	4.6%	-8.4%	-0.3%	4.8%	-1.7%
Net Value Added	4.6%	-8.4%	-0.3%	4.8%	-1.7%

For example, a customized listed infrastructure benchmark for CalPERS was created from: (i) an unhedged 91/9 blend of DJ Brookfield global listed infrastructure and A-grade global corporate bonds, (ii) a moderate amount of smoothing (parameter of 0.8), and (iii) a lag of 130 trading days, or about 6 months. CalPERS' NVA and risk adjusted excess return, alpha, are among the highest in the CEM universe.