How much am I required to contribute?

You are required to contribute a set percentage of your salary through regular payroll deductions.

Your contribution rate is established by the Commonwealth's retirement law (Chapter 32 of the Massachusetts General Laws) and is determined by the date on which you most recently became eligible for membership in a Massachusetts contributory retirement system and from which you continuously maintained your funds on account. Most of our members will establish membership in a contributory retirement system on the date they start working as a public employee in Massachusetts.

If membership in the MTRS is required, your employer will deduct the mandated percentage from your regular compensation and forward your contributions to the MTRS for deposit in your annuity savings account, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 32.

MTRS member contribution rates		
Date you established your current "effective membership date"	**Not** participating in RetirementPlus*	Participating in RetirementPlus*
April 2, 2012 and after	9% plus 2% on earnings over $30,000/year; with 30 years of creditable service, contribution rate decreased to 6% plus 2% on earnings over $30,000/year	11%; with 30 years of creditable service, contribution rate decreased to flat 8%, and no additional 2%
July 1, 2001 through April 1, 2012	9% plus 2% on earnings over $30,000/year	11%
July 1, 1996 through June 30, 2001	9% plus 2% on earnings over $30,000/year	

MTRS member contribution rates		
January 1, 1984 through June 30, 1996	8% plus 2% on earnings over $30,000/year	
January 1, 1979 through December 31, 1983	7% plus 2% on earnings over $30,000/year	
January 1, 1975 through December 31, 1978	7%	
Before January 1, 1975	5%	

*The enhanced benefit plan known as RetirementPlus became effective on July 1, 2001. Depending on your membership history with the MTRS and other Massachusetts public retirement systems, you may have *either* had a one-time opportunity to elect whether or not you wanted to participate in RetirementPlus, *or* been required ("mandated") to participate.
If you established your current "effective membership date" with your membership in...

- **another Massachusetts contributory retirement system** and transfer into the MTRS on or after July 1, 2022 with service rendered with the previous system prior to July 1, 2022, you will have a one-time RetirementPlus election period that is 180 days from the date of your transfer into the MTRS. You can choose to opt-out of RetirementPlus, continuing with the contribution rate of your previous system, if you either opt-in to participate in RetirementPlus, or do not return your form by the deadline, your contribution will be raised to the RetirementPlus rate of 11%.

MTRS member contribution rates

- **another Massachusetts contributory retirement system** and transfer into the MTRS on or after July 1, 2022 with service rendered with the previous system on or after July 1, 2022, by law, you are required ("mandated") to participate in RetirementPlus, and your contribution rate is 11%.

- **the MTRS...**
    - on or before June 30, 2001, your one-time RetirementPlus election period was March-June 2001, when we mailed an election form to you.

    - on or after July 1, 2001, by law, you are required ("mandated") to participate in RetirementPlus, and your contribution rate is 11%.

How can I check my contribution rate?

Look at your pay stub. Divide the amount of your retirement withholding by your gross income, and then refer to the contribution chart. For example, if your enrollment date is January 2, 1979 and your salary is $35,000, your total contribution would be 7% of $35,000 plus 2% of $5,000. The 2% contribution does not apply to RetirementPlus participants.

If your contribution rate is not correct, confirm your calculation with your payroll office and then contact the MTRS. Note: If the 2% contribution also applies, be sure it appears on your pay stub.

For more info, watch this section of our RetirementPlus special election seminar, recorded on 02/23/2023 (link will open in YouTube).