

# PUBLIC PENSION ADMINISTRATION BENCHMARKING ANALYSIS

SUMMARY OF FISCAL YEAR 2012  
TO THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS' AND FIRE  
FIGHTERS' (LEOFF) PLAN 2 RETIREMENT BOARD  
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# INTRODUCTION

## ◎ CEM Benchmarking

- ◎ Founded in 1991 in Toronto, Ontario
- ◎ Started with investment management in Canada and US
- ◎ Currently serve over 350 blue chip corporate and government clients worldwide



## ◎ There are four components to the pension administration service:

- ◎ A comprehensive survey and benchmarking report
- ◎ A targeted best practice analysis
- ◎ Access to a peer network
- ◎ An annual peer conference

What gets measured  
gets managed



# PARTICIPANTS

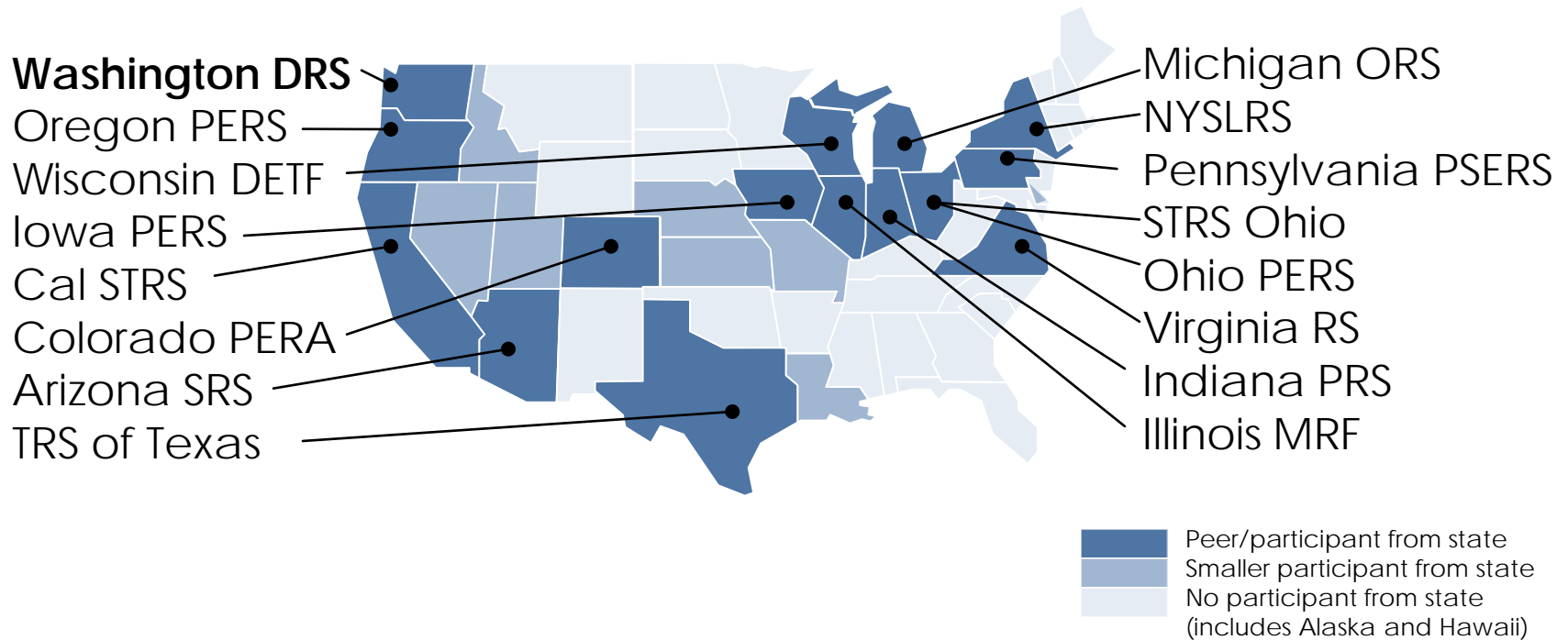
- ◎ 61 pension systems participated in FY 12
  - ◎ **28 from the United States**
  - ◎ 13 from Canada
  - ◎ 10 from the Netherlands
  - ◎ 1 from Denmark
  - ◎ 1 from the United Arab Emirates
  - ◎ 8 from the United Kingdom\*



\*Systems from the UK complete a separate benchmarking survey so they are not reflected in the report but they are accessible via the peer network and in best practice analyses

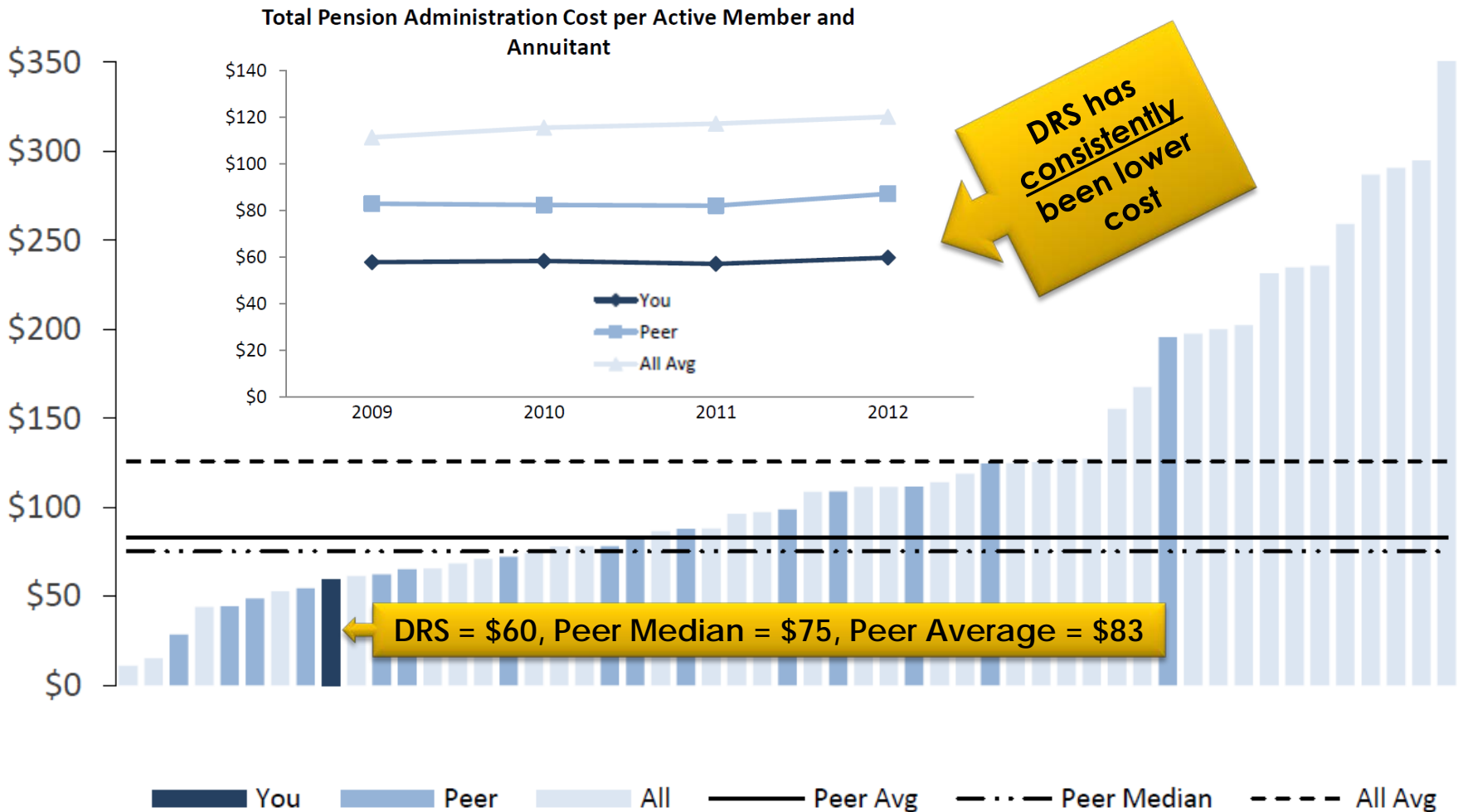
# DRS' PEER GROUP

- ◎ DRS' peers are the larger US systems
- ◎ A few larger US systems don't participate
- ◎ DRS is close to the median in size



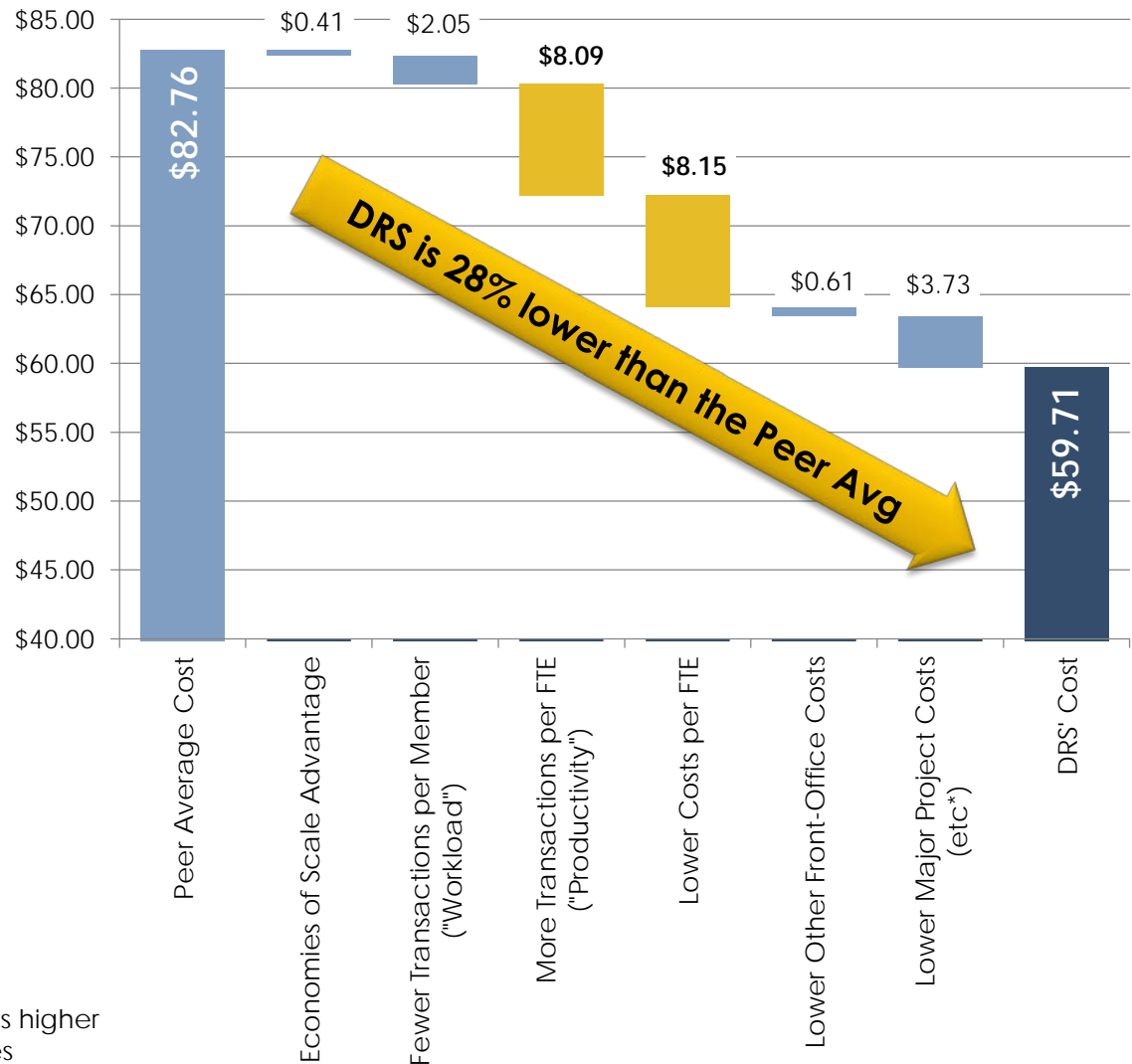
# TOTAL COST

## Pension Administration Cost Per Active Member and Annuitant



# EXPLAINING DRS' LOW COST

- ◎ CEM analyzes six reasons for the differences in total cost
  - Low Cost per FTE was the largest for DRS
  - High Productivity was a close second
  - Low Major Project Costs was third

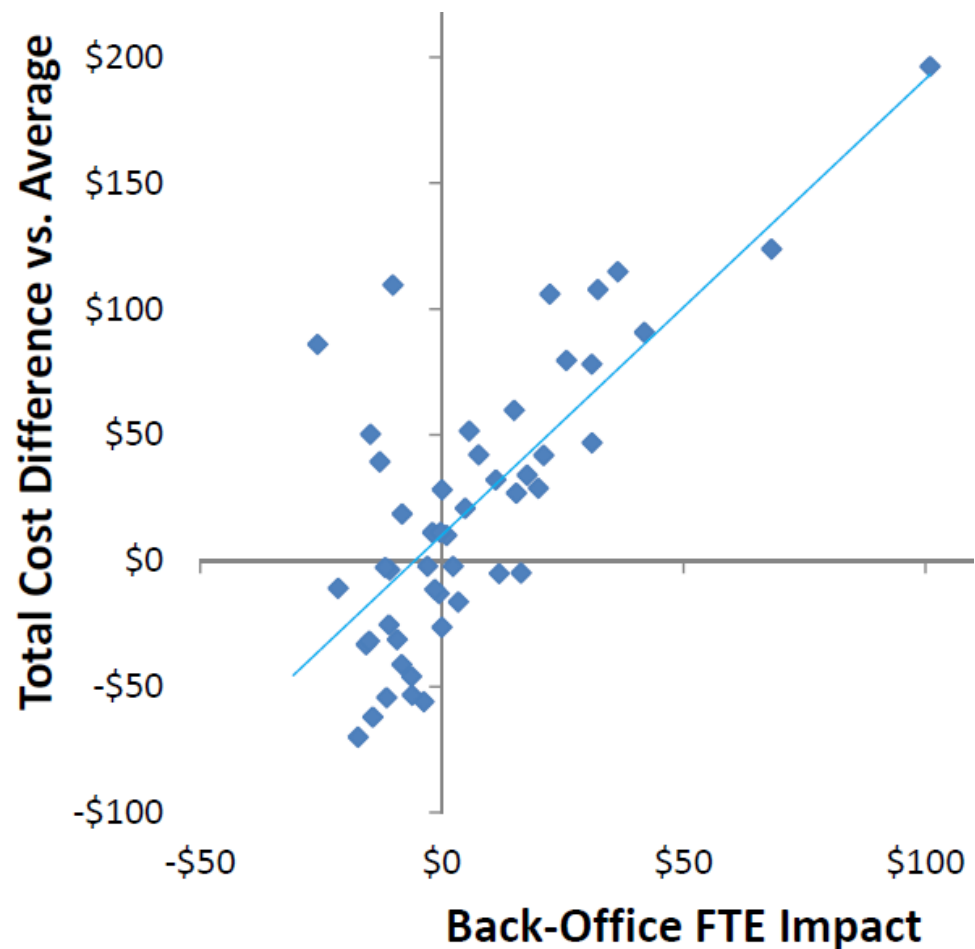


\*The Major Project category includes higher costs for Legal and Actuarial services

# FURTHER RESEARCH ON COST

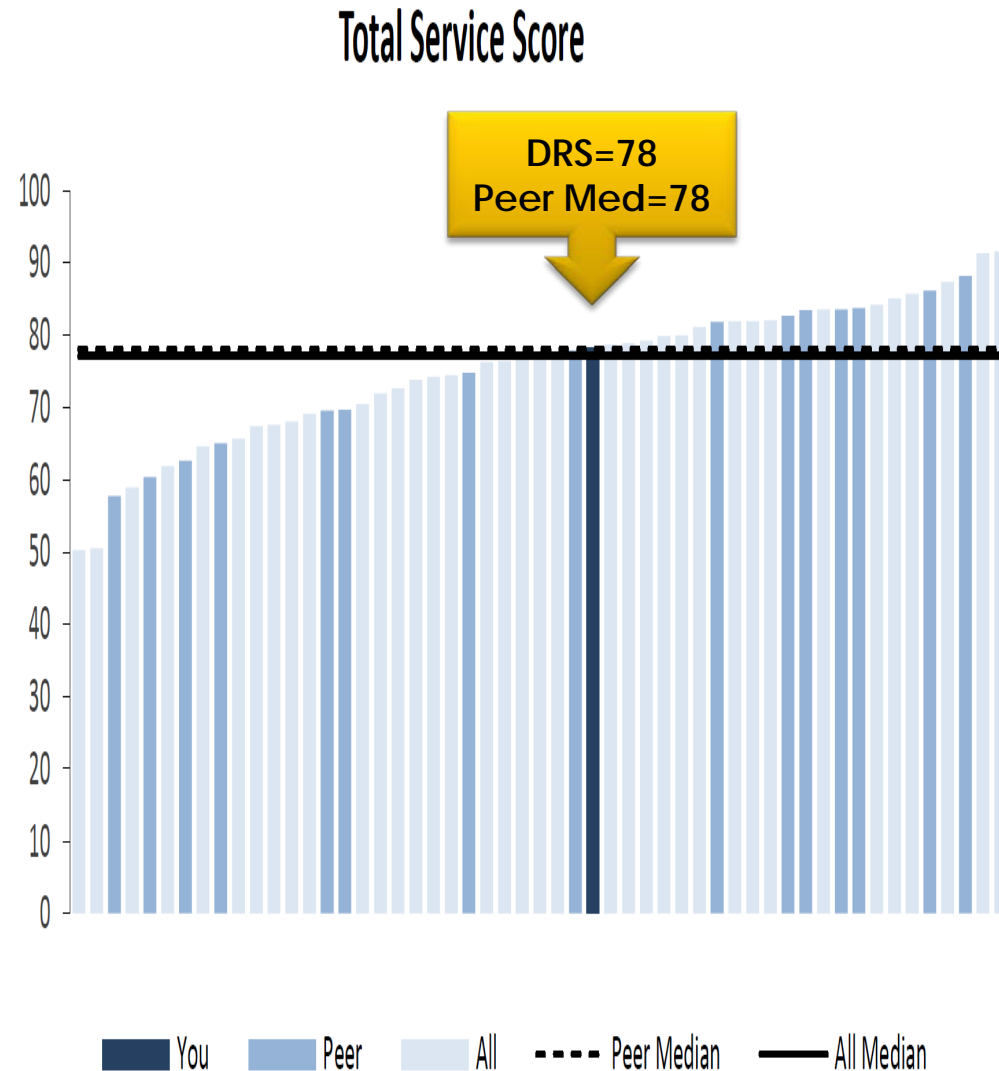
- ⊙ It's easier to be high cost than low cost
- ⊙ Lower cost systems tend to be slightly low everywhere
- ⊙ High cost systems are more likely to have something DRS doesn't: more back-office FTEs per member

Higher back-office FTE per member is the strongest predictor of high cost.



# SERVICE

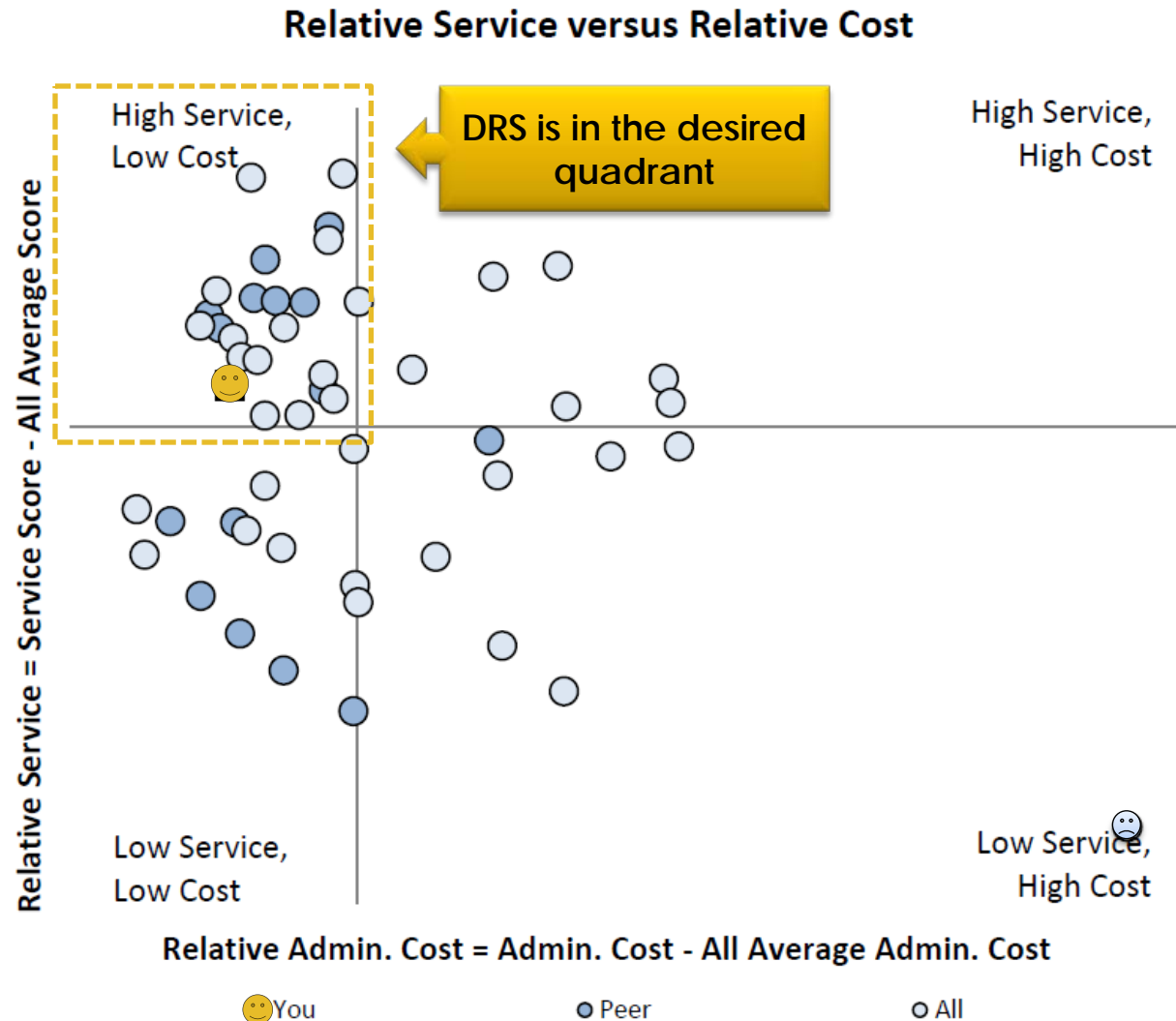
- ◎ DRS' total service score\* is equal to the peer median (\*doesn't include DRS' high score for service to employers)
- ◎ DRS scores higher than the Peer Median in 10 of the 15 activity level measures
  - ◎ Many of these include direct member transactions (aka, "responsiveness")
  - ◎ The others include high touch, high cost elements (e.g., direct mailings, field counseling, comprehensive statements)





# SERVICE AND COST

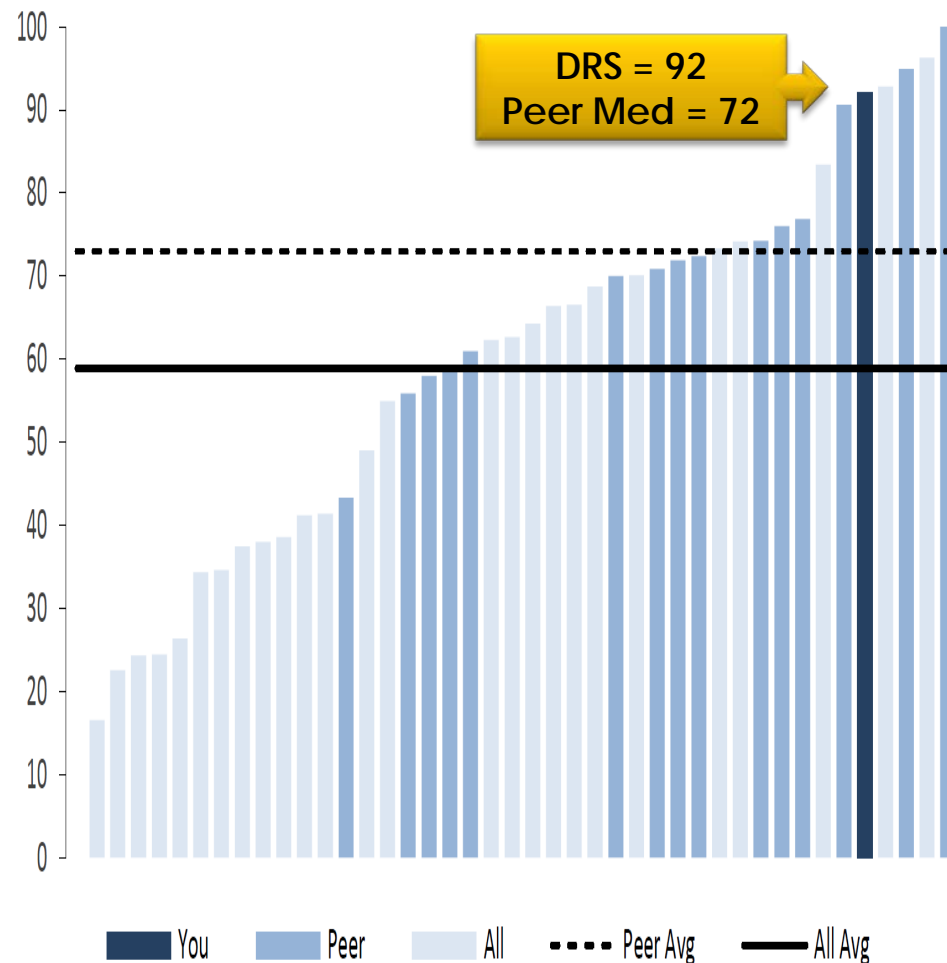
- ⊙ Service is not a good predictor of cost because:
  - ⊙ Costs are driven more by the volume of transactions than by their timeliness, availability or quality, and
  - ⊙ Service is partly a function of historic investment in IT which don't always appear in current costs.



# COMPLEXITY

- ⊙ We continue to administer one of the most complex systems (although some are gaining ground as they implement plan changes)
- ⊙ We're higher than the Peer Average in 12 of 15 causes. In the other 3, some:
  - ⊙ Allow employers to change the benefit structure
  - ⊙ Provide more disbursement options
  - ⊙ Publish materials in multiple languages

## Total Relative Complexity



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

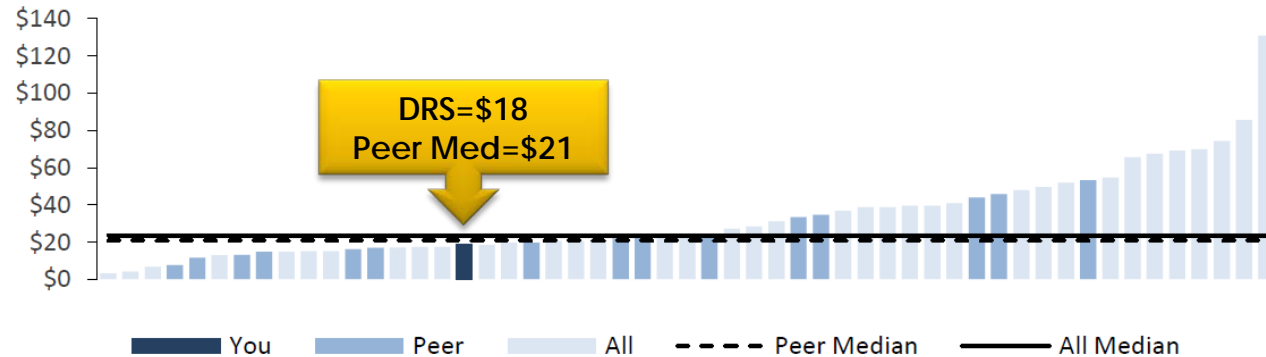
⊙ We spend 16% less on IT than the peer median

⊙ Consider where we're at in the IT investment cycle

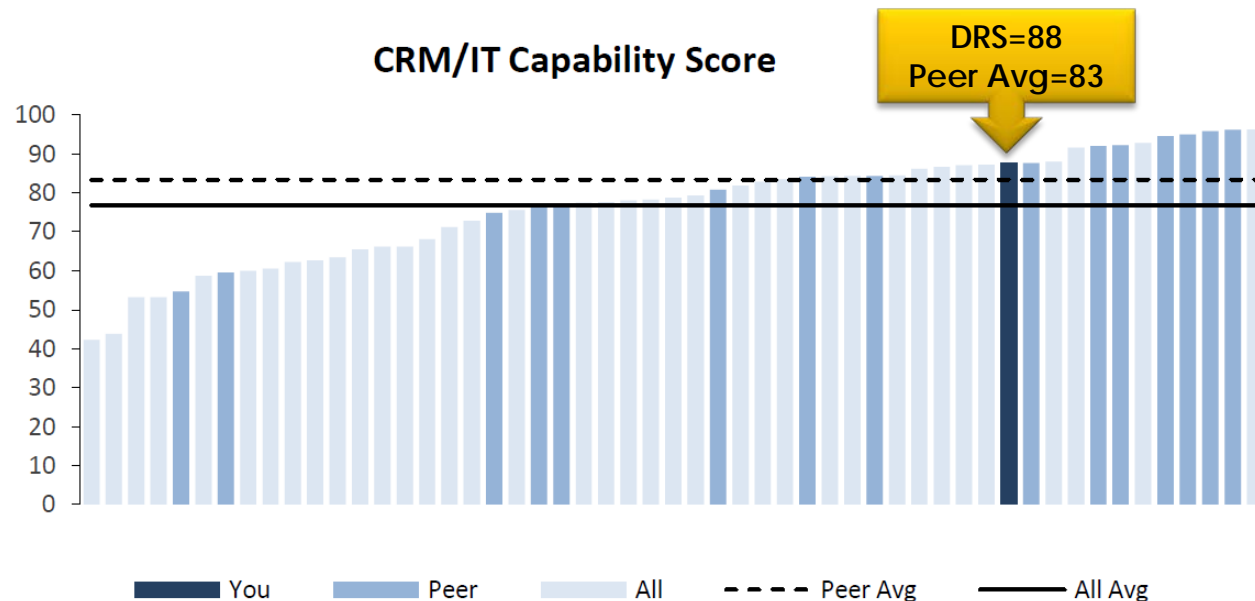
⊙ It's more expensive to develop and maintain IT systems for plans with complex rule sets

⊙ Yet our systems score as more "capable" than the peer average

**Total Pension IT/IS Cost**  
per active member and annuitant

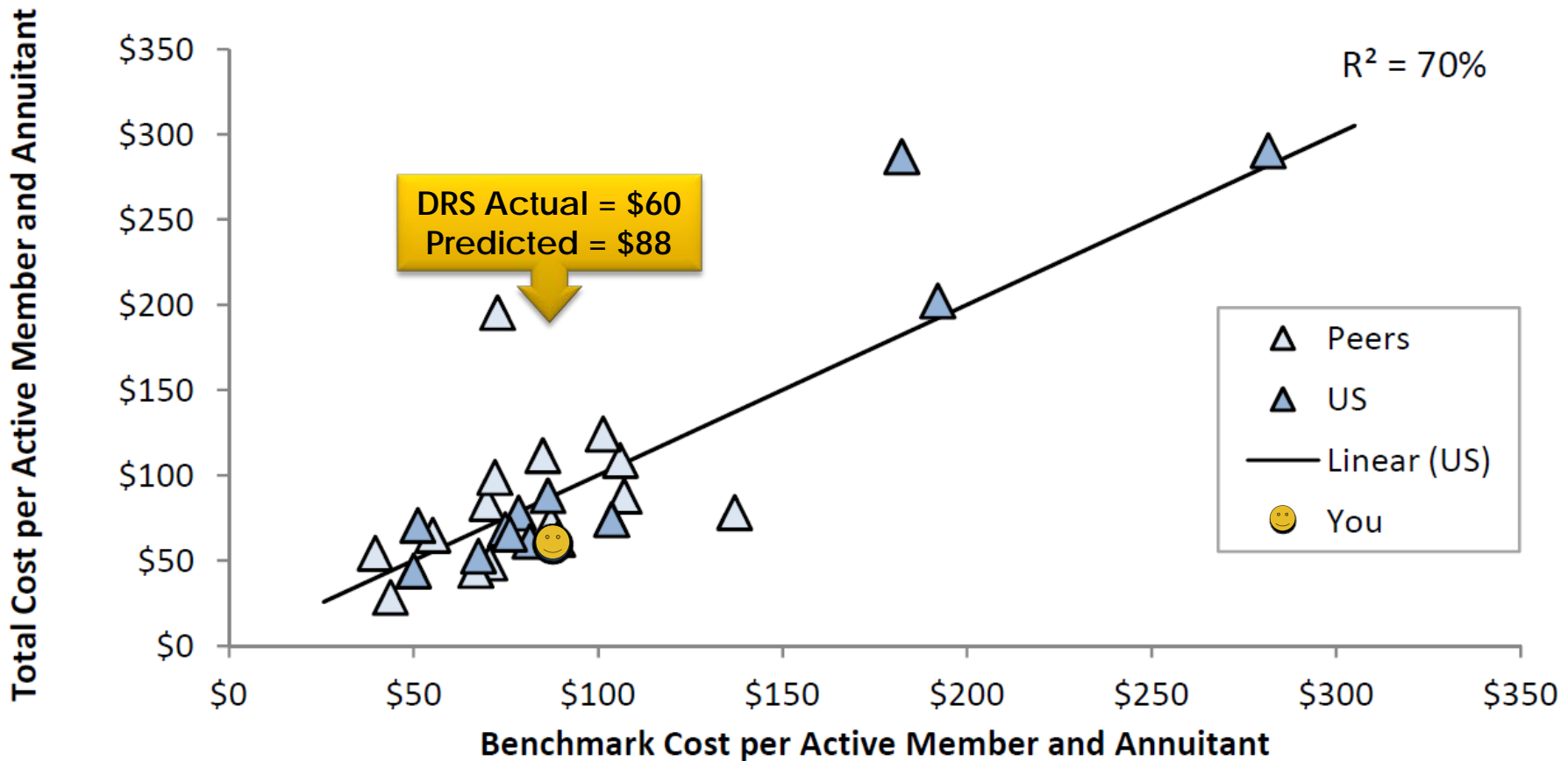


**CRM/IT Capability Score**



# PREDICTED COST

## Total Cost per Active Member and Annuitant versus Benchmark Cost



Equation factors in: economies of scale, transaction volumes, complexity and cost environment.

# WHY DRS PARTICIPATES

- ◎ On top of the independent analysis and data-driven comparisons to a true peer group, there's a willingness to share anything/everything to improve operations.
- ◎ The 2013 conference included information on:
  - ◎ Disaster recovery lessons from New York and Louisiana
  - ◎ Strategies to increase communication effectiveness to younger members
  - ◎ Trends in becoming paperless
  - ◎ Controlled organizational change, and
  - ◎ Our own co-presentation on transforming organizational performance

# SUMMARY

- ◎ Comprehensive benchmarking shows that DRS is a larger US administrator who:
  - ◎ Is low cost (in total and in most components of cost)
  - ◎ Provides solid service (and is very responsive to customers)
  - ◎ Has a relatively complex group of public pension systems
  - ◎ Has cost-effective automated systems
  - ◎ Is lower cost than its benchmark (“predicted”) cost
- ◎ DRS uses this data with customer feedback to identify lean and continuous improvement efforts

**Any questions?**