

Nebraska Investment Council Capital Market Assumptions

September 2021

Capital Market Assumptions

- What are they?
 - Aon's asset class return, volatility and correlation assumptions
 - Long-term; based on 10-year and 30-year projection periods
 - Forward looking assumptions
 - Best estimate assumptions (50/50 better or worse)
 - Market returns; i.e., no manager alpha (other than hedge funds and private equity which are entirely actively managed)
 - Global geographic coverage
 - Updated quarterly

Current Assumptions (10-Year): Expected Returns and Volatility (as of June 30, 2021)

Asset Class	Expected Nominal Return	Expected Risk (Volatility)
U.S. Equity	5.9%	17.4%
Global Equity (Developed & Emerging)	6.5	18.5
International Equity (Developed)	6.7	20.0
Emerging Markets Equity	6.9	27.0
TIPS	1.3	3.5
Core Fixed Income (Market Duration)	1.9	4.0
High Yield Bonds	3.3	12.0
Bank Loans	4.2	7.0
Non-US Developed Bonds (Unhedged)	1.2	10.0
Emerging Market Bonds (USD)	3.9	13.0
Hedge Funds (FoF)	3.2	9.0
Real Estate (Total Market)	6.1	17.4
Private Equity	8.2	25.0
U.S. Inflation (CPI)	2.2	--

Current Assumptions (30-Year): Expected Returns and Volatility (as of June 30, 2021)

Asset Class	Expected Nominal Return	Expected Risk (Volatility)
U.S. Equity	6.4%	17.9%
Global Equity (Developed & Emerging)	7.0	19.0
International Equity (Developed)	7.0	20.5
Emerging Markets Equity	7.5	27.5
TIPS	1.8	3.5
Core Fixed Income (Market Duration)	2.5	4.5
High Yield Bonds	4.5	13.0
Bank Loans	5.0	7.5
Non-US Developed Bonds (Unhedged)	1.8	10.5
Emerging Market Bonds (USD)	4.3	14.5
Hedge Funds (FoF)	3.6	10.5
Real Estate (Total Market)	6.0	17.9
Private Equity	8.7	25.5
U.S. Inflation (CPI)	2.1	--

DB Plans -- Projected Returns

	Long-Term Policy Allocation	Annualized Return (10 Year Forecast)	Standard Deviation (10 Year Forecast)	Annualized Return (30 Year Forecast)	Standard Deviation (30 Year Forecast)
U.S. Equity	27.0%	5.9%	17.4%	6.4%	17.9%
Non-U.S. Equity	11.5	7.0	20.6	7.4	21.0
Global Equity	19.0	6.5	18.5	7.0	19.0
Fixed Income*	30.0	2.5	4.2	3.2	4.6
Private Equity	5.0	8.2	25.0	8.7	25.5
Real Estate	7.5	6.1	17.4	6.0	17.9
Total Fund	100.0%	5.7%	12.3%	6.2%	12.7%

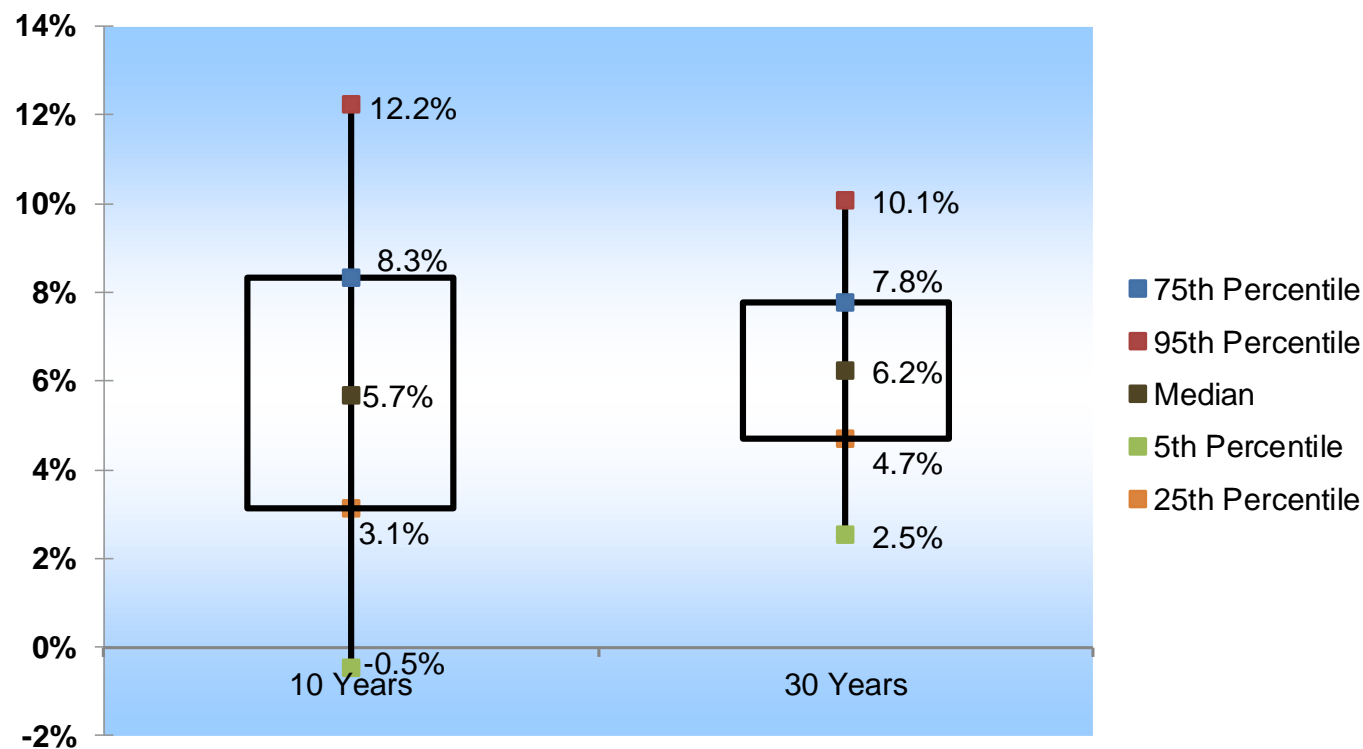
- Current assumed rate for the Nebraska DB Plans and CBB Plans = 7.3%
 - Assumed rate will step down as follows in the coming years:
 - 2022 = 7.2%
 - 2023 = 7.1%
 - 2024 = 7.0%
- Current assumed rate for OSERS = 7.5%

*Modeled as 20% core bonds, 1.5% international bonds, 3.5% high yield bonds, and 5% bank loans

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DB Plan -- Projected Returns (cont'd)



- Based on our capital market assumptions and the defined benefit plans' asset allocation targets, the NPERS defined benefit / cash balance benefit plans have a roughly 1 in 3 chance of meeting or exceeding the assumed rate of return of 7.3% over the next 10-to-30 years
- OSERS' chances of meeting or exceeding its assumed rate of 7.5% are slightly lower

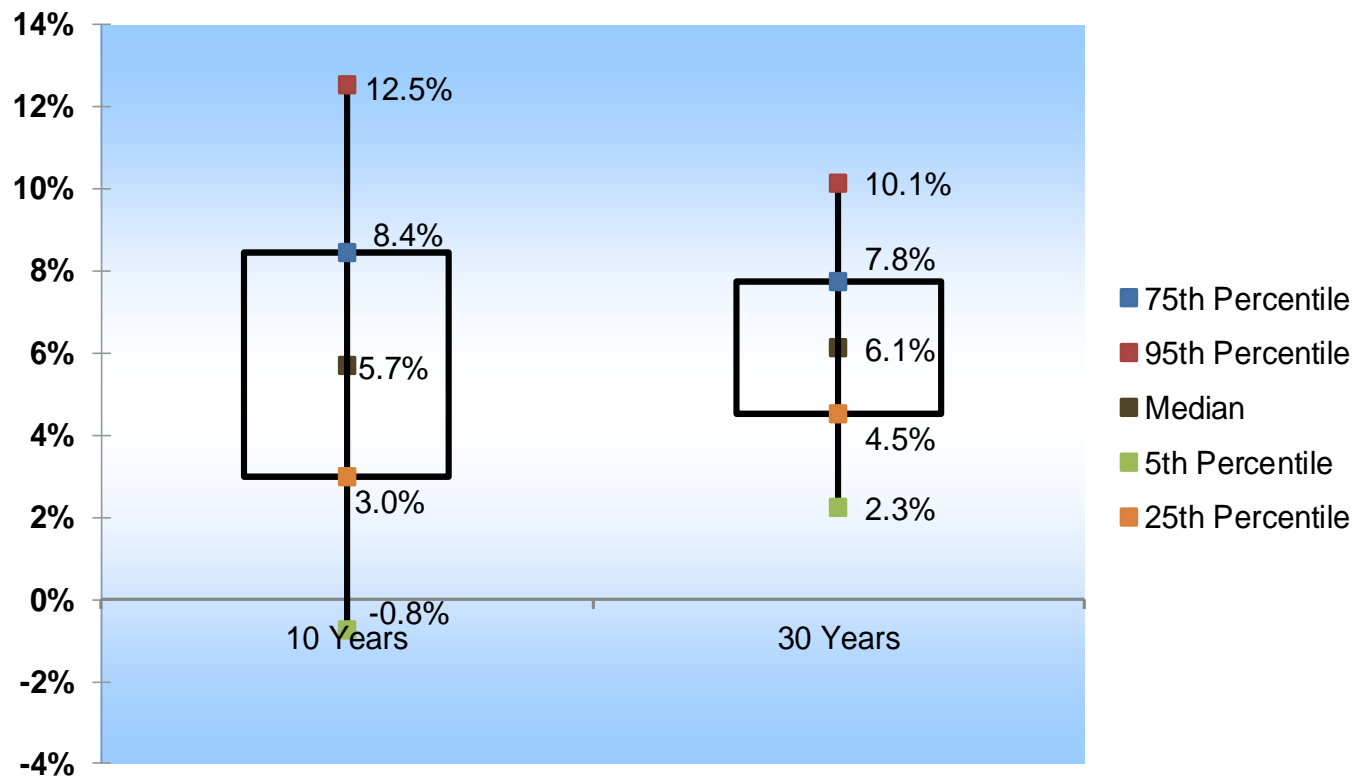
Health Care Endowment -- Projected Returns

	Long-Term Policy Allocation	Annualized Return (10 Year Forecast)	Standard Deviation (10 Year Forecast)	Annualized Return (30 Year Forecast)	Standard Deviation (30 Year Forecast)
U.S. Equity	30.5%	5.9%	17.4%	6.4%	17.9%
Non-U.S. Equity	13.0	7.0	20.6	7.4	21.0
Global Equity	21.5	6.5	18.5	7.0	19.0
Fixed Income*	25.0	1.7	2.8	2.2	3.4
Private Equity	5.0	8.2	25.0	8.7	25.5
Real Estate	5.0	6.1	17.4	6.0	17.9
Total Fund	100.0%	5.7%	12.9%	6.1%	13.3%

- The table above presents our median return and volatility forecasts for the Health Care Endowment over 10- and 30-year periods

*Modeled as 22.5% Intermediate G/C Bonds, 2.5% Cash

Health Care Endowment -- Projected Returns (cont'd)



- The chart above presents a forecasted distribution of outcomes for the Health Care Endowment over 10- and 30-year periods

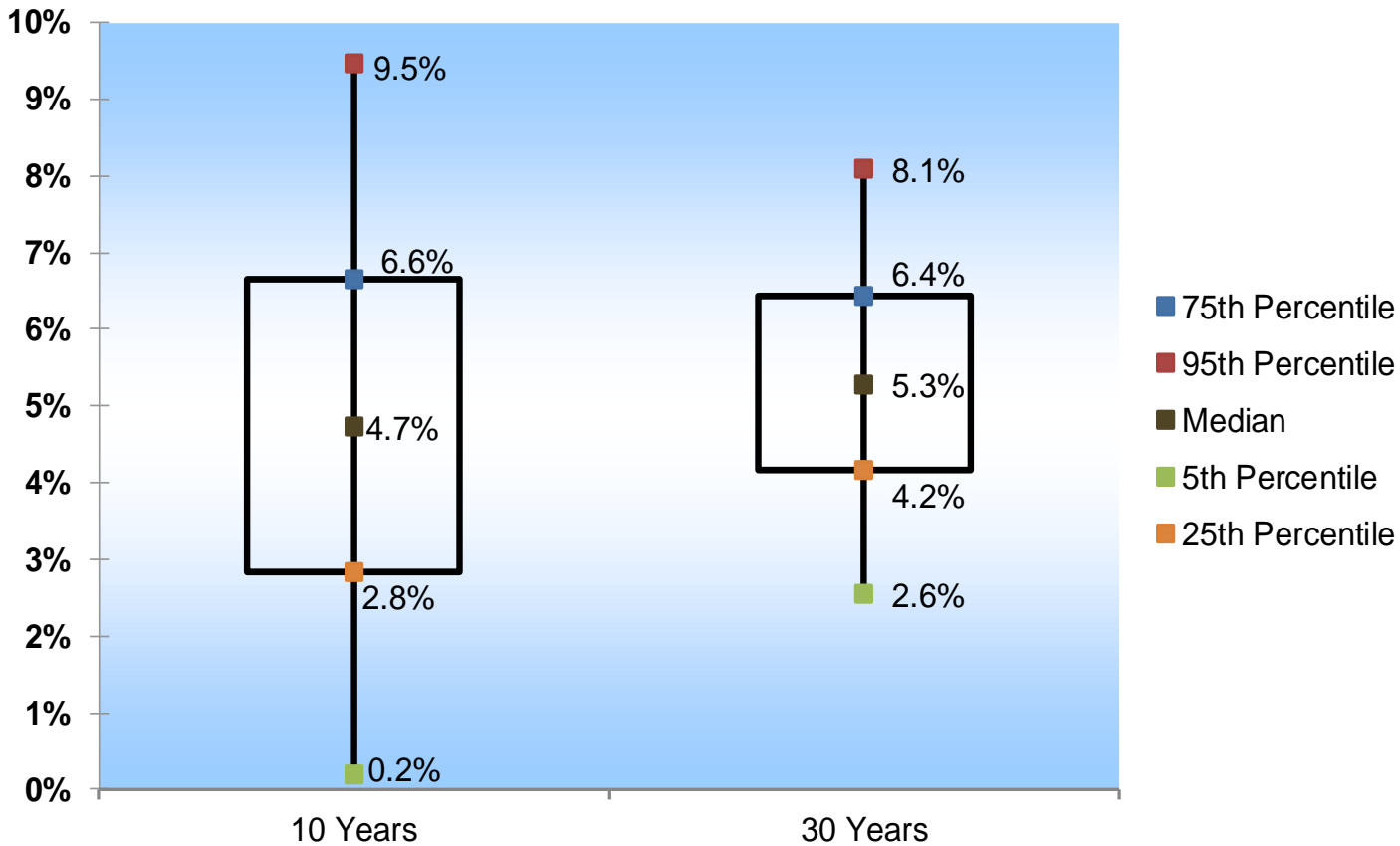
50/50 Endowments -- Projected Returns

	Long-Term Policy Allocation	Annualized Return (10 Year Forecast)	Standard Deviation (10 Year Forecast)	Annualized Return (30 Year Forecast)	Standard Deviation (30 Year Forecast)
U.S. Equity	19.0%	5.9%	17.4%	6.4%	17.9%
Non-U.S. Equity	8.0	7.0	20.6	7.4	21.0
Global Equity	13.0	6.5	18.5	7.0	19.0
Fixed Income*	50.0	2.0	4.0	2.7	4.5
Private Equity	5.0	8.2	25.0	8.7	25.5
Real Estate	5.0	6.1	17.4	6.0	17.9
Total Fund	100.0%	4.7%	9.0%	5.3%	9.3%

- The table above presents our median return and volatility forecasts for the 50/50 Endowments over 10- and 30-year periods

*Modeled as 47% Core U.S. Fixed Income, 3% HY Bonds

50/50 Endowments -- Projected Returns (cont'd)



- The chart above presents a forecasted distribution of outcomes for the 50/50 Endowments over 10- and 30-year periods

Aon 10-Year Assumptions: How Expected Returns Have Evolved Over the Past Decade

Asset Class	Expected Nominal Return										
	6/30/21	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Large Cap U.S. Equity	5.8%	5.7%	6.2%	6.2%	6.3%	6.2%	6.6	6.7%	7.1%	7.5%	8.0%
Small Cap U.S. Equity	6.0	5.9	6.4	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.8	6.9	7.3	7.7	8.2
Global Equity	6.5	6.5	7.0	7.2	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.5	8.3	8.9
International Equity (Developed)	6.7	6.8	7.0	7.3	7.2	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.3	8.4	9.1
Emerging Markets Equity	6.9	6.9	7.9	8.1	7.6	7.4	8.4	8.4	8.9	9.4	9.8
Cash (Gov't)	1.5	0.9	1.4	2.8	2.0	1.3	1.8	2.2	2.5	1.3	1.5
Core Fixed Income (Market Duration)	1.9	1.4	2.2	3.5	2.7	2.1	2.7	2.9	3.3	1.9	2.6
High Yield Bonds	3.3	2.8	3.6	4.0	3.6	4.1	5.9	4.2	4.6	3.9	5.9
Hedge Funds Universe ¹	3.2	2.8	3.3	4.2	3.7	3.4	3.8	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.7
Real Estate (Broad Market)	6.1	6.1	6.1	5.9	6.0	5.4	6.6	7.0	7.2	7.4	7.3
Private Equity	8.2	8.0	8.6	8.2	8.7	8.2	9.0	9.0	9.3	9.7	9.8
Inflation	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.1	2.3	2.1

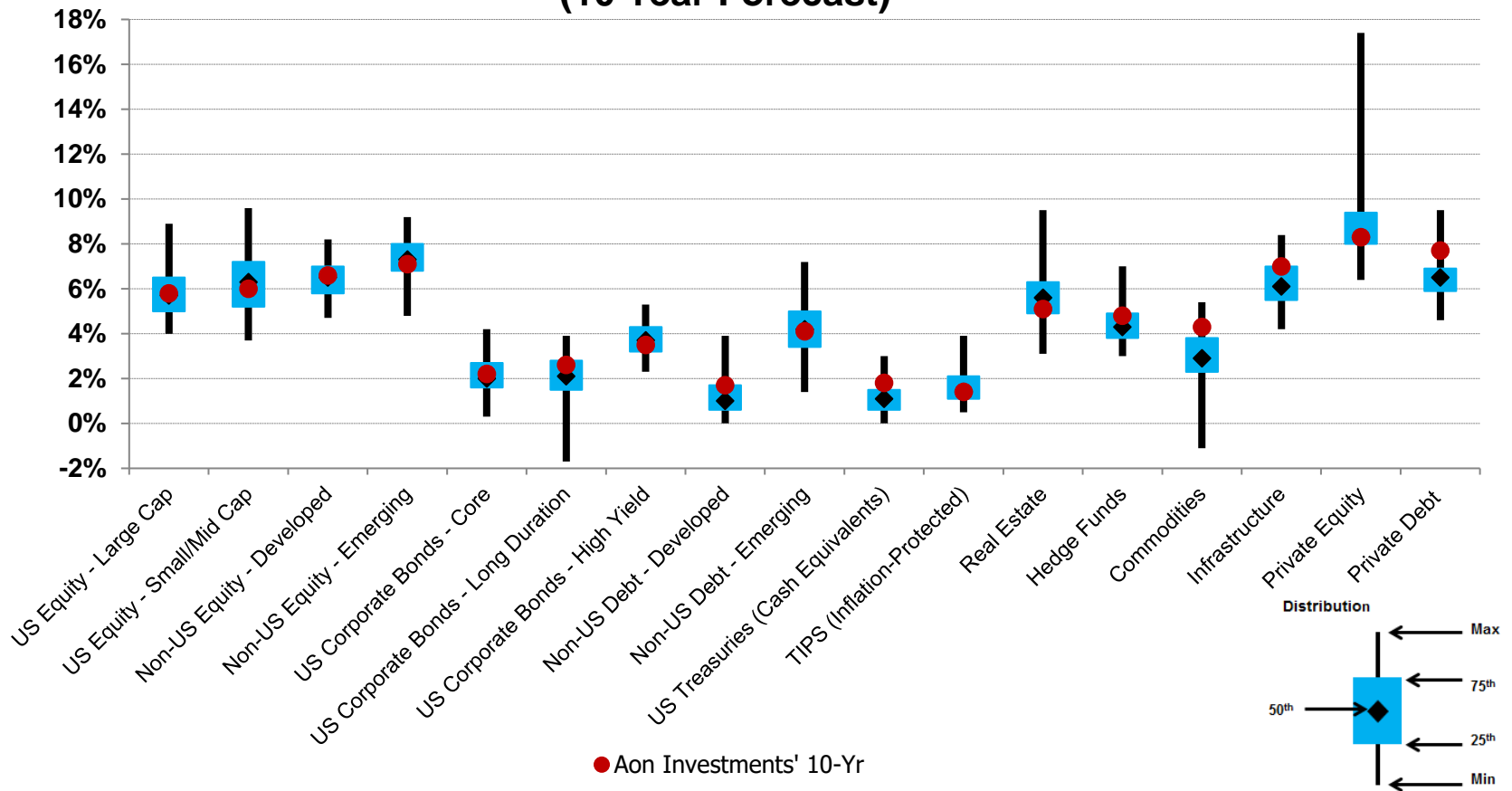
¹ Hedge Fund Universe assumptions are capital market assumptions for fund of hedge funds

- Our return expectations have decreased over the past several years

Color Key
Increased from 2011
No Change from 2011
Decreased from 2011

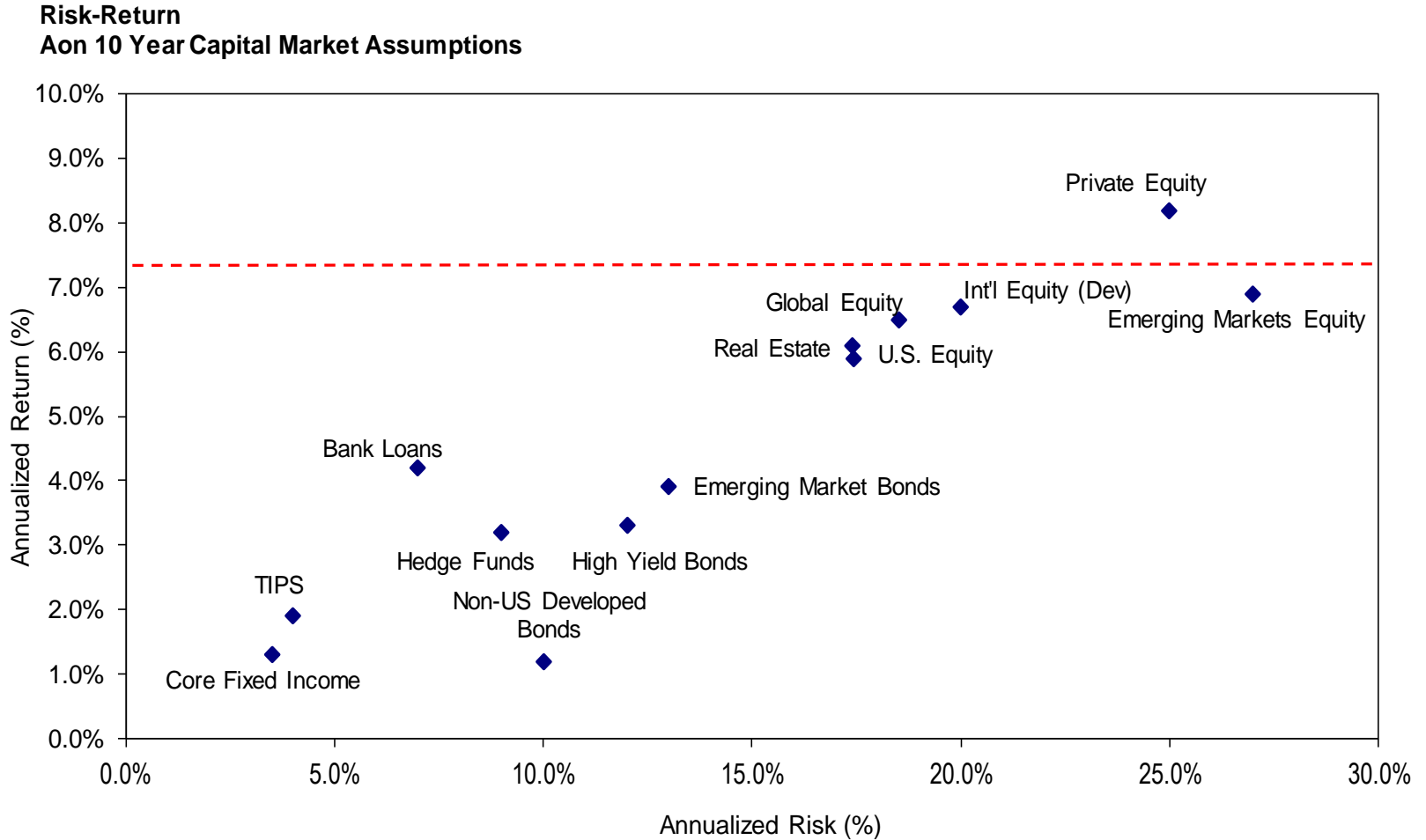
Appendix I: Aon Investments' Capital Market Assumptions vs. Horizon Survey

Expected Geometric Returns of 39 Investment Advisors (10 Year Forecast)

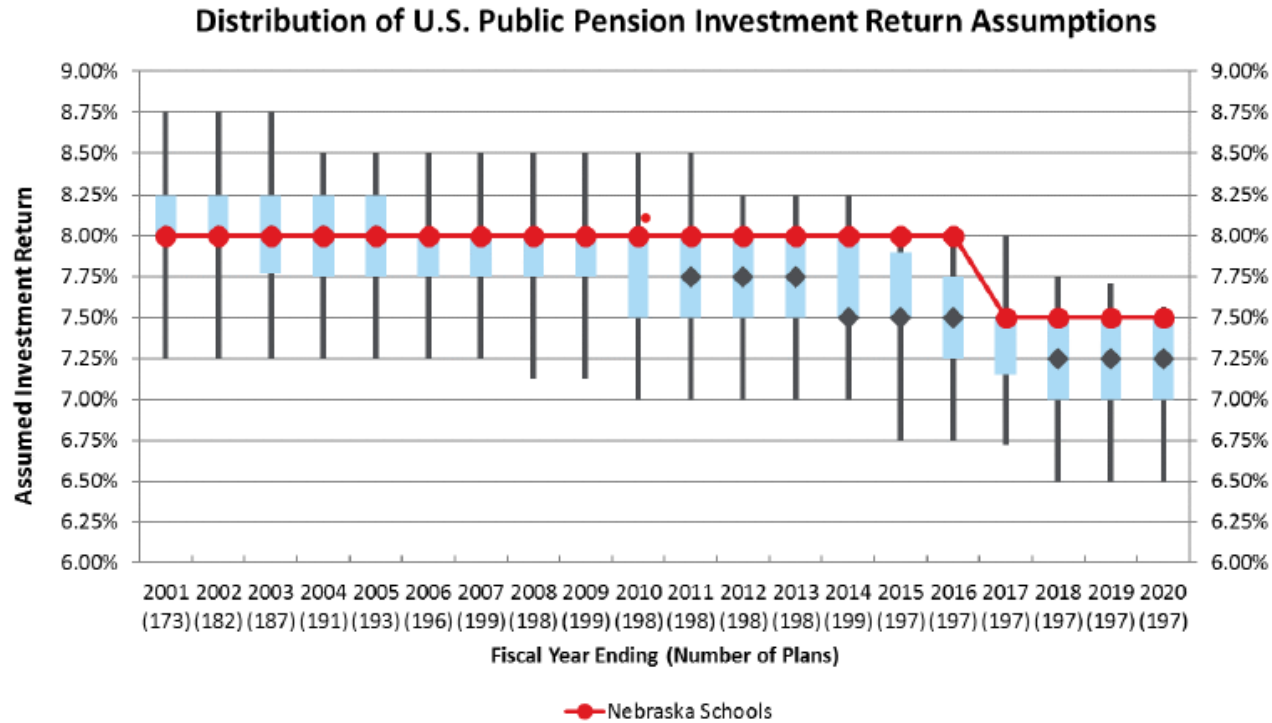


SOURCE: Horizon Actuarial Solutions, LLC survey of 2021 capital market assumptions from 39 independent investment advisors. Expected returns of the survey are annualized over 10-years (geometric). Aon Investments' expected returns are annualized over 10-years as of 2Q 2021 (3/31/2021)

Appendix II: Aon Forward Looking Return Expectations by Asset Class

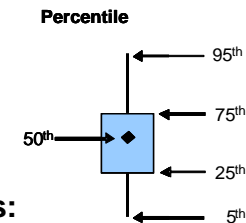


Appendix III: Peer Public Fund Assumed Rates¹



Key Takeaways:

- The public pension peer median actuarial assumption for investment return has declined from 8.00% from 2001-2010 to 7.25% based on the latest survey data
- NPERS' assumption for FYE 2019 (7.50%) fell at the 75th percentile relative to its peers
- If NPERS exceeds (or falls short of) the actuarial return assumption, lower (or higher) funding will be needed in future years



Note: All NPERS Pension Plans will be reducing their expected return assumptions in future years: 7.50% (for 2020), 7.30% (2021), 7.20% (2022), 7.10% (2023), and 7.00% (2024+)

Source: Public Plans Data (publicplansdata.org) as of July 2020; Expected Returns are the assumptions made by the plans included in the data set.

¹ Peers defined as public funds published within publicplansdata.org as of July 2020; Number of plans per year are shown in parentheses

Appendix IV: Endowment -- Estimated Yields*

Health Care Endowments		
	Policy Target	Yield*
U.S. Equity	30.5%	1.3%
Non-U.S. Equity	13.0%	2.1%
Global Equity	21.5%	1.7%
Fixed Income	25.0%	1.8%
Real Estate	5.0%	3.9%
Private Equity	5.0%	0.0%
Total Fund	100.0%	1.7%
50/50 Endowments		
	Policy Target	Yield*
U.S. Equity	19.0%	1.3%
Non-U.S. Equity	8.0%	2.1%
Global Equity	13.0%	1.7%
Fixed Income	50.0%	2.9%
Real Estate	5.0%	3.9%
Private Equity	5.0%	0.0%
Total Fund	100.0%	2.3%

*Based on Index yields at 6/30/2021. Estimates utilize dividend yield for stock indices, wtd. avg. coupon for bond indices, income component of real estate index.

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