

Release of Work After Retirement Data: Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What data was released and who made the request for the data?

The Oregonian newspaper made a public records request for information on Tier One, Tier Two, and Oregon Public Service Retirement Plan (OPSRP) Pension Program retired members who worked for PERS employers after retirement during any of the past three years.

The Oregonian's request was for:

- the retired member's name,
- that member's monthly PERS benefit amount as of October 1, 2011,
- the number of hours that member was reported to have worked for a PERS-covered employer in 2009, 2010, and 2011, and
- a list of all employers for which the retired member worked in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

Q2. How does PERS know the number of hours worked by a retiree for a PERS-covered employer?

PERS employers report that data to PERS. Some data entries reported to PERS show as little as 0.01 hour worked. Obviously, no one worked that short of a period, but the records we produced for the public records request accurately showed the information in the PERS database. Employers sometimes place a number in the "hours worked" field as a workaround that allows other records to post in the system.

Q3. How many hours can a retired Tier One or Tier Two member work annually for a PERS-covered employer?

Statute allows Tier One/Tier Two retired members to work up to 1,040 hours annually for a PERS-covered employer without affecting their status as a retired member. There are some exceptions in statute that allow those members to exceed the 1,040-hour limit without affecting their status ([view a list of the exceptions](#)). Also, a Tier One or Tier Two retired member who has reached full retirement age under Social Security can work unlimited hours without affecting their retired member status. That age varies depending on the member's date of birth.

Q4. Who determines if a rehired Tier One or Tier Two retired member is working under an exception?

The employer is responsible for determining the status of a rehired retiree.

Q5. What happens if a Tier One or Tier Two retired member exceeds the annual limit of hours that can be worked for a PERS-covered employer?

If a Tier One or Tier Two retired member exceeds the limit of hours (and is not working under an exception), the benefit stops and the member must repay any benefit amount received in the month(s) after the member exceeded the hour limit.

Q6. How many hours can a retired OPSRP Pension Program member work annually for a PERS-covered employer?

OPSRP Pension Program benefit recipients can work up to 600 hours annually for a PERS-covered employer without affecting their benefit.

Q7. What happens if a retired OPSRP Pension Program member exceeds the annual limit of hours that can be worked for a PERS-covered employer?

The member's benefit stops and the member must repay any benefit amount received in the month(s) after the member exceeded the hour limit.

Q8. Does PERS communicate the annual hourly work limits to retired members who have been rehired by a PERS-covered employer?

Yes, when a PERS retired member is rehired into a PERS-covered position and is reported to PERS by the employer, we send a letter to the member with information regarding the hour limits and rules.