

PERSPECTIVES

Retired
Member
Edition

Cost-of-living adjustment

The 2014 annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), effective with the August 1, 2014 benefit payment, is 1.25% on the first \$60,000 of a yearly benefit payment and 0.15% on benefit portions above \$60,000.

Supplementary benefit payment

PERS benefit recipients who retired on or before July 1, 2014, will receive a supplementary payment that is slated for November 2014. The payment will be 0.25% of a yearly benefit, not to exceed \$150.

Those whose PERS benefit is \$20,000 per year or less will receive an additional supplementary payment of 0.25% of their yearly benefit.

These annual supplementary payments will not be compounded into the member's yearly benefit and will be in effect for six years (2014-2019). The payments will come from PERS' Contingency Reserve.

The supplementary payments were put in place by the 2013 legislature.

Giving back - opportunity for retirees

Retired, but still want to help charities?

If you're a PERS retiree, you can easily support your favorite local charities! Make a charitable donation to any of almost 900 Oregon charities using your credit card or an ACH (bank) transfer. It can be a one-time or recurring gift, and you can split your gift among a wide range of charities.

Visit www.ipledgeonline.org/_rpe online to give. It's easy, secure, and your gift will continue to have an impact!

Thank you for your service to our Oregon communities and for giving back.

Did you know?

- PERS Fund assets are held in trust for the exclusive benefit of members and their beneficiaries.
- No entity can borrow against the PERS Fund, including the state, school districts, or local governments.
- The PERS Fund is invested on behalf of members and their beneficiaries with oversight by the Oregon Investment Council and staffed by the State Treasury Investment Division.

PERS benefit payments help Oregon's economy

PERS benefits paid to Oregon retirees have a significant impact on Oregon's economy. Oregon PERS paid approximately \$3.2 billion in benefits to PERS retirees living in Oregon in 2013.

Funding for these benefits came mostly from investment earnings on contributions previously paid by members and public employers.

PERS retirees spent a significant portion of this money on goods and services in Oregon, which helped support local businesses. These businesses then purchased goods, in part, from other local vendors, adding to the Oregon workforce and economy.

The \$3.2 billion in annual benefit payments multiply to \$3.8 billion in economic value to Oregon when the full financial impact of these dollars spent in local communities is considered.

These benefit payments sustain an estimated 34,712 Oregon jobs, and add approximately \$1 billion in wages to Oregon's economy, which is included as a component of the \$3.8 billion in economic activity.

Additionally, the state of Oregon collected an estimated \$159 million in income taxes on PERS retiree benefits during 2013.

The information is based on economic multipliers provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

Online Member Services

Retired members can conduct self-service transactions on the PERS website (<http://oregon.gov/PERS>) in a secure environment using information from the PERS database.

After creating a personal account and logging in, PERS retirees can see benefit payment information, change their address, and review/request a 1099-R.

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PERS Health Insurance Plan and the “Four C’s”

The PERS Health Insurance Program (PHIP) offers health, dental, and long-term care insurance coverage for all eligible Oregon PERS retirees, their eligible spouses, and dependents. PHIP is an option for your retiree health coverage.

Your medical plan should meet both your financial and medical needs. When reviewing your options, consider the “Four C’s.”

Current plan: Many employers offer coverage for employees after retirement.

Cost: In addition to your monthly premiums, compare out-of-pocket costs.

Coverage: The plan’s service area may determine what services are available to you.

Compare what services are most important to you. Ask your provider what health plans he or she accepts.

Choices: Consider the type of a health system.

With a preferred provider organization (PPO) you can choose in-network or out-of-network doctors. Some plans use a health maintenance organization (HMO), which is a closed network. Point-of-service (POS) plans combine both the elements of a PPO and HMO.

Long-term care information meetings

Long-term care provides assistance with daily living activities, either at home or in a facility. This can be necessary due to an accident, an illness, or advancing age. The need for long-term care is not limited to the elderly. Anyone who cannot function independently may need the protection of long-term care insurance. Accidents and unexpected illness can happen at any time and at any age. These meetings explain the options available to PERS retirees and do not require pre-registration.

Perspectives is published by the Oregon Public Employees Retirement System for the benefit of members and employers.

Address all correspondence to **PERS, P.O. Box 23700, Tigard, OR 97281-3700**. PERS headquarters is located at **11410 SW 68th Parkway, Tigard, Oregon**.

Phone: 888-320-7377; TTY: 503-603-7766. Telephone hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. PERS’ Internet address is **<http://oregon.gov/PERS>**.

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Date	Location	Meeting Time
Aug 21	Lane Community College Room 225, Bldg. 19, 4000 E. 30th Ave., Eugene	9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Aug 21	Holiday Inn Express 20615 Grandview Dr., Bend	3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Sep 16	Gresham City Hall, Counsel Chambers 1333 NW Eastman Pkwy., Gresham	10:30 - noon
Sep 16	Beaverton Library (tentatively scheduled) Room B, 12375 SW 5th St., Beaverton	2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Oct 14	Courtyard Marriott 15686 SW Sequoia Pkwy, Tigard	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Nov 18	Rivershore - Best Western 1900 Clackamette Dr., Oregon City	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Dec 16	Keizer Civic Center 930 Chemawa Rd NE, Salem	10:30 - noon and 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Schedule to mail PERS benefit checks

2014 Paydate	Date checks mail from print shop in Salem
August 1	July 31 (Thursday)
September 1	August 28 (Thursday)
October 1	September 30 (Tuesday)
November 1	October 30 (Thursday)
December 1	November 28 (Friday)

PERS Survey

PERS wants to know if our customer service meets your expectations and how we can improve. You can take this short survey online at <http://oregon.gov/PERS> in the “What’s News” section of the PERS website or by filling out this page and mailing it to PERS by August 31, 2014. We will provide the results in a future issue of *Perspectives*. Thank you for your feedback!

Please mail your completed survey to: PERS
P.O. Box 23700
Tigard, OR 97281-3700

Customer Satisfaction Survey

Thank you for taking the time to fill out our Customer Satisfaction Survey. Your answers will help us provide excellent customer service to our members. Please use a separate sheet of paper for additional comments.

1. What is your membership status?

- Retired member
 Active member
 Inactive member (no longer working for a PERS-covered employer but not yet retired)

2. When was the last interaction you had with PERS?

- Within the last 30 days. Within the last year.
 Within the last 60 days. More than a year.
 Within the last six months.

3. Please answer the following questions about the services PERS provides to its members.

How do you rate...	Excellent (1)	Good (2)	Fair (3)	Poor (4)	Don't Know (5)
The timeliness of the services PERS provides?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
PERS' ability to provide services correctly the first time?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
PERS' helpfulness?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The knowledge and expertise of PERS employees?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The availability of information at PERS?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The overall quality of service PERS provides?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Our service in the past year compared to previous years?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The overall quality of PERS communications?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The PERS website?	<input type="checkbox"/>				

(Survey continues on page 4)

PERS Survey (continued from page 3)

4. If you rated PERS “Fair” or “Poor” in any part of question 3, please tell us why you did not rate us “Excellent” or “Good.”

5. If you would like to elaborate on any of your answers to questions 1-3, please comment here.

6. Are PERS forms easy to understand and use?

Yes

No

Have not used

If you would like to elaborate regarding PERS forms, please comment here.

7. If you have used the PERS website, please answer the following questions:

Yes No

a. Was the PERS website easy to navigate?

b. Did you find the information you wanted?

c. If not, what information were you looking for that you could not find?

8. Are there any changes you would make to the PERS website?

9. What type of device do you prefer to access websites?

Computer Tablet Mobile phone