

PERSPECTIVES

Retired
Member
Edition

Work after retirement rules

If you retire from PERS and return to employment with a private employer, your PERS retirement benefits will not be affected.

However, if you return to employment with a PERS-covered employer, Oregon statutes impose limitations. If you do not comply with these limitations, your retirement benefits may stop, and you may be required to pay back benefits received. **It is your responsibility to be aware of any limitations and track your hours to ensure compliance.**

Tier One/Tier Two (Hired before August 29, 2003)

Tier One and Tier Two retired members returning to work for a PERS-covered employer may continue to receive retirement benefits as long as the period (or periods) of employment with one or more public employers do not total 1,040 hours or more in a calendar year. Be sure your employer knows that you are a PERS retiree when you return, as the employer needs to report your return appropriately for you to continue receiving your retirement benefit.

Some exceptions allow retired Tier One/Tier Two members to exceed the yearly limit in specific positions. There is a full [list of exceptions](#) and [further details](#) on the PERS website. Tier One/Tier Two retired members who have reached full retirement age under Social Security may also work an unlimited number of hours. Remember that full retirement age under Social Security varies by birth date.

Different rules apply to members who retired due to disability, those who retired early, and OPSRP retired members.

OPSRP (Hired after August 28, 2003)

A retired OPSRP member can work less than 600 hours in a calendar year for a PERS-covered employer. [The limit](#) includes only the hours worked after retirement in the year the member retires. Also, there is no Social Security exception for OPSRP retirees that would allow a member to exceed the 600-hours standard.

PERS Fund posts 15.3 percent return for 2017

The following article was written by Oregon State Treasurer Tobias Read

First, I want to thank each of you for your hard work on behalf of Oregonians. Public employees are a vital part of our communities and our workforce, and your contributions—across a spectrum of professions and in every corner of our great state—make Oregon better and safer.

Second, I want to share some good news about the recent performance of your pension fund. The Oregon State Treasury is responsible for the investment management of the Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund, which is the formal name of the public trust fund that belongs to beneficiaries (all of you) and is managed to pay for contractual benefits under PERS.

The fund is where contributions are invested until they are needed to be paid out in benefits.

At Treasury, we manage the fund for sustainable, longer-term, positive risk-adjusted returns. Based on targets set by the Oregon Investment Council, the fund is diversified across a large number of asset types, including stocks, bonds, real estate, and alternatives like timberland and infrastructure.

How important are investment returns? Figures show that of every dollar paid in pension benefits—and billions of dollars are paid out each year—more than 73 cents of each dollar comes from investment gains. That’s money that doesn’t need to come from someplace else.

The bottom line: The long-term sustainability and performance of the Oregon investment portfolio matters to every Oregonian.

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Self-serve through online tools

The PERS call center received 197,783 calls in 2017, a 20,000-call increase from 2016. We recognize members' frustration with call wait times and want to make sure you are aware of some self-service options we provide. Also, don't forget that our Member Services team can answer most non-confidential questions [via email](#).

In [Online Member Services \(OMS\)](#) on the PERS website, you can:

- change your address,
- update your residency status (important for Tier One members with [tax remedy](#)),
- print copies of your pay stubs,
- print benefit confirmation letters,
- view your payment history,
- view tax information,
- view upcoming benefit payments, and
- request a duplicate 1099-R.

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

Address correspondence to:
PERS, P.O. Box 23700, Tigard, OR 97281-3700.

PERS' headquarters is located at:
11410 SW 68th Parkway, Tigard, Oregon, 97223.

Phone: 888-320-7377; TTY: 503-603-7766. Telephone hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Online: <http://oregon.gov/PERS>.
 Email PERS Member Services at Customer-Service.PERS@state.or.us.

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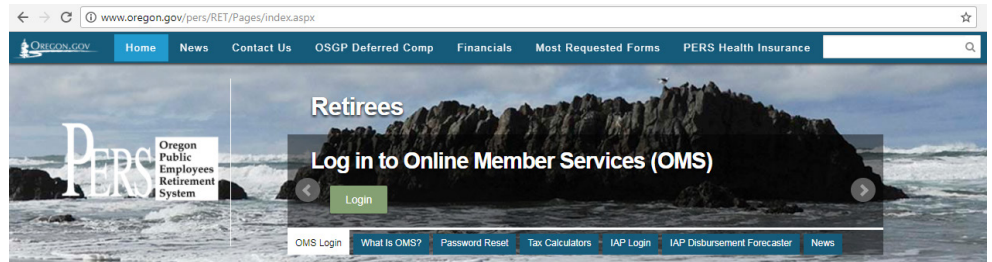
If you click the "[How Do I...](#)" link under Tier One/Tier Two or OPSRP in the [Retired Member Information section](#) of the PERS website, there are helpful reminders and some step-by-step instructions on how to use OMS self-service tools.

Remember, when setting up your OMS account you should use an email address you have access to so that form receipt confirmation

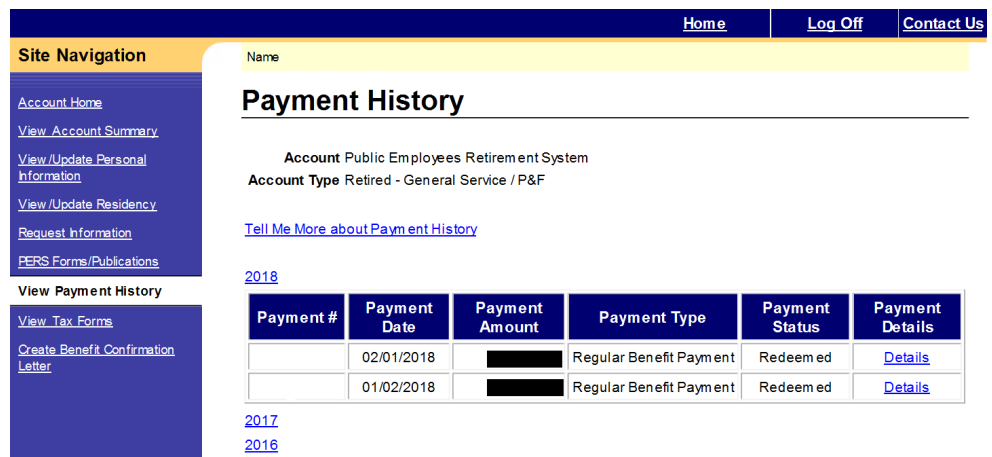
emails and other information is always secure.

Please be aware that OMS does have some limitations for certain account types. You can call or email Member Services and provide error messages you encounter. We do have long-term plans to modernize OMS.

We appreciate your patience and support as we work to mitigate the increase in call wait time.



You can access OMS from the PERS homepage, as well as from the Retired Member Information page, at <http://oregon.gov/PERS/RET>. Click on the green Login button.



A screenshot of OMS. You can review recent payment history and print pay stubs and benefit confirmations, among other self-service features, in OMS.

When will my benefit be paid in 2018?

2018 pay date	Checks mail from Salem	Direct deposit effective date
May 1	April 30 (Monday)	May 1 (Tuesday)
June 1	May 31 (Thursday)	June 1 (Friday)
July 1	June 28 (Thursday)	June 29 (Friday)
August 1	July 31 (Tuesday)	August 1 (Wednesday)
September 1	August 30 (Thursday)	August 31 (Friday)
October 1	September 28 (Friday)	October 1 (Monday)
November 1	October 31 (Wednesday)	November 1 (Thursday)
December 1	November 29 (Thursday)	November 30 (Friday)

PERS Fund returns (continued)

2017 was a strong year in the global financial markets, and the Oregon Public Employees Retirement Fund was buoyed by that growth. The fund posted a 15.3 percent gain for the 2017 calendar year and reached a record high year-end balance of \$77.2 billion in December.

As of December 31, the pension fund realized a 9.0 percent average annual return for the past five years and a 6.0 percent average annual return for the past 10 years, a decade that includes the severe bear market of 2008-09.

Treasury also is looking to the future and making changes to improve the long-term management of the portfolio, such as by reducing costs by managing investments ourselves, instead of hiring Wall Street managers to do it. We also are doing more to analyze and manage risks in an increasingly volatile global marketplace. For instance, this year we hired our first investment officer who will help to research risks connected to Environmental, Social, and Governance factors.

In the end these changes will serve every Oregonian well, by making the portfolio more sustainable over time, in every market cycle.

A final note: If you haven't seen it, and you'd like to stay up to date about how Treasury is managing the pension fund, which includes the Individual Account Program, please check out our investment-oriented newsletter "Invested For You" at www.oregon.gov/treasury/Newsroom/Pages/Invested-for-You-newsletter.aspx.

- Tobias Read, Oregon State Treasurer

PERS benefit payments and Oregon's economy

PERS conducts an annual economic impact study to show how benefit payments aid the state's economy. The study quantifies the total effect of these benefit payments on Oregon's economy based on the following measures:

- economic value of PERS benefits to Oregon,
- jobs created and related wages, and
- tax receipts.

Oregon PERS paid approximately \$3.66 billion* in benefits to retired members or their beneficiaries living in Oregon in 2016.

The \$3.66 billion in annual benefits multiply to \$3.92 billion in economic value to Oregon when the full financial impact of these dollars spent in local communities is considered. Find [full information](#) on the PERS website.

These benefit payments sustained an estimated 34,102 Oregon jobs, and added approximately \$1.17 billion** in wages to Oregon's economy.

Additionally, the state of Oregon collected an estimated \$201.4 million in income taxes on PERS retiree benefits during 2016.

*Additional benefit payments from the Individual Account Program (IAP) were not used in this study.

**The \$1.17 billion in wages is included as a component of the \$3.92 billion in economic activity.

Moving? Life changes?

It is important that you 1) keep your information up to date and 2) mail or fax (503-598-0561) forms to PERS in a timely manner.

Most [forms](#) can be found in the Retired Member Information section of the PERS website and under [Most Requested Forms](#).

Address changes: Remember to let PERS know if you change your address. You can update your address directly in [Online Member Services](#) on the PERS website. You can also submit an [Information Change Request](#) form.

Direct deposit: New [direct deposit](#) forms must be received and validated by the 15th of any month to impact your next payment.

Tax withholding: Updating your address or providing residency status certification **does not** automatically change your withholdings. You must submit a new [W-4P](#) form if you move into or out of Oregon or have other changes. Remember you may have withholding on both your PERS pension and IAP payments. Try to provide these by the beginning of the third week of any month.

Power of Attorney: Submit the [Special Power of Attorney](#) form.

Divorce: [Contact](#) PERS Member Services.

Death notices: Failure to [report](#) a death in a timely manner may result in overpayments and invoicing. PERS requires the date of death, city and state where the death occurred, a photocopy of the death certificate, and spouse or personal representative contact information.

Mail information to:

PERS, P.O. Box 23700
Tigard, OR 97281-3700

Will you soon be Medicare eligible? Learn about PERS Health

The PERS Health Insurance Program (PHIP) has scheduled new enrollment meetings throughout the year for retirees who will become Medicare eligible (due to turning 65 years of age or due to disability) within the next 12 months.

These meetings include an overview of the PHIP program, Medicare enrollment timelines, and an overview of PHIP medical and dental plan offerings. Meetings last approximately 1½ to two hours and are held around the state.

The [full schedule](http://www.pershealth.com) can be found online at www.pershealth.com. **Pre-registration is only required for meetings held at PERS headquarters.** Register for PERS HQ meetings at <http://oregon.gov/PERS>: click on [PERS Health Insurance](#) and then [PHIP Informational Meeting Schedule](#).

More information about PHIP can be found online at www.pershealth.com or by calling PHIP Customer Service toll free at 800-768-7377.



Upcoming meetings at PERS HQ Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

May 2	September 5
June 6	October 3
July 11	November 7
August 8	

11410 SW 68th Parkway,
Tigard, OR 97223

**Space is limited;
registration required**

*Doors unlock at 5:30 p.m. and
re-lock at 6:30 p.m.*

2018 COLA increase starts with August 1 payments

The [2018 cost-of-living adjustment \(COLA\)](#) for PERS benefit recipients receiving a monthly benefit will be effective July 1, 2018, and will be part of your August 1, 2018 benefit payment.

The COLA amount—up to 2 percent each year—is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the Portland area. The 2017 CPI was 4.17 percent.

Benefit recipients who retired before October 1, 2013, will receive a 2 percent COLA for 2018.

If you earned some service credit before October 1, 2013, and some after that date, you will have a “blended” COLA for 2018, including:

- 2 percent on service credit earned up to October 1, 2013; plus,
- 1.25 percent on service credit earned after October 1, 2013. If your annual benefit is more than \$60,000, the portion above \$60,000 receives a 0.15 percent COLA for service credit earned after October 1, 2013.

If you are an OPSRP member (hired after August 28, 2003) whose effective retirement date was on or after August 1, 2017, your COLA will be pro-rated based on the number of months you receive a benefit before July 1, 2018.

Help PERS improve our publications and website

PERS has a strategic goal to brand PERS as a retirement education resource, and as part of this effort, we would value member feedback so our website and member publications better reflect our membership.

Would you like your photo taken for use on the PERS website or other member publications? [Email us](#) and we'll follow up to get more information.

*Have feedback? Willing to
have your photo taken? Email
editor@pers.state.or.us.*

Do you have feedback to help improve the PERS website? Suggestions on what would make navigation easier or items you think are missing or unclear? We are starting to gather feedback to make eventual improvements. While we have long-term plans to update Online Member Services, we are only looking for feedback on the <http://oregon.gov/PERS> website at this time. Please email editor@pers.state.or.us. We may follow up for more in-depth information in the future. Thank you.