

History of OCERS' Cost-of-Living Adjustments

OCERS annually adjusts the benefit allowances relative to the increase or decrease in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). * This adjustment, known as a Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA), is effective April 1st of each year. To determine the change in CPI, OCERS' actuary compares the Bureau of Labor Statistics' annual average CPI for all urban consumers for the Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County area for each of the past two years and derives the percentage change between the two. The increase or decrease in the CPI is rounded to the nearest one-half of one percent. The maximum COLA of 3% shall be granted on every retirement allowance, optional death allowance, or annual death allowance payable to or on account of any member of the system.

For years in which the CPI exceeds 3%, the excess amount is banked and drawn from for future years when the CPI is less than 3%.

Date Granted	Actual CPI Rate	CPI Rounded	Max COLA Rate	COLA Granted
4/1/2018	2.79	3	3	3
4/1/2017	1.89	2	3	2
4/1/2016	0.91	1	3	1
4/1/2015	1.35	1.5	3	1.5
4/1/2014	1.08	1	3	1
4/1/2013	2.04	2	3	2
4/1/2012	2.67	2.5	3	2.5
4/1/2011	1.20	1	3	1
4/1/2010	-0.80	-1	3	0/-1**
4/1/2009	3.53	3.5	3	3
4/1/2008	3.30	3.5	3	3
4/1/2007	4.26	4.5	3	3
4/1/2006	4.45	4.5	3	3
4/1/2005	3.31	3.5	3	3
4/1/2004	2.63	2.5	3	2.5
4/1/2003	2.76	3	3	3
4/1/2002	3.32	3.5	3	3
4/1/2001	3.31	3.5	3	3
4/1/2000	2.34	2.5	3	2.5
4/1/1999	1.44	1.5	3	1.5
4/1/1998	1.58	1.5	3	1.5

* Per Government Code Section 318780.1

** 2009 saw a unique scenario, a -1% CPI reflecting economic deflation in that year. New retirees as of April 1, 2010, received a 0% COLA. For longer retired members however, who had accumulated COLA or a COLA bank as of 2010, previously granted COLAs were reduced or the bank was reduced by a total of the -1%.