



WHO IS OPERS?

We hope that you have become accustomed to receiving your OPERSource on a regular basis and have used it as the source for OPERS-related information. It occurred to us that you may not know exactly who makes up OPERS members and retirees.

Quite simply, OPERS is people – members, employers and benefit recipients. OPERS members are mechanics, bridge designers, social workers, investment officers, plant utility workers and judges, just to name a few of the hundreds of jobs that are covered by OPERS. OPERS is made up of public employers all the way from Henry County to Hamilton County and Ashtabula County to Adams County, and every county in Ohio. OPERS is also made up of benefit recipients (i.e., our retirees and their dependents) living in places from Geneva-on-the-Lake to Bryan, to Ironton, and everywhere in between.

OPERS is more than 970,000 past and present Ohio workers, including 356,734 active (working) members, 179,565 benefit recipients and 438,434 former public workers who maintain an account with the system. For more information, please take a

look at our publication, I am OPERS, available on our website: www.opers.org/about/government/I.Am.OPERS.pdf.

Retirement security for public workers

Because OPERS predates the creation of the federal Social Security program, we serve as the de facto retirement program for many of Ohio's public employees. Most of our members have never paid into Social Security, and will not receive any retirement income apart from the pension benefits OPERS provides. Additionally, OPERS is one of the few public retirement systems in the country offering pre-funded health care coverage to its members.

Economic impact on Ohio

Each year, OPERS pays out more than \$5.5 billion in pension and health care benefits. And, because 90% of our retirees remain in Ohio, a significant portion of that money flows back into the State and local economies. OPERS retirees use their benefits to purchase goods and services throughout Ohio, benefitting local businesses, helping to create jobs and sustain our economy.

WHO IS THE AVERAGE OPERS ACTIVE MEMBER?

- Average plan entry age 32
- Average age of an active member 43
- Average current service credit balance 10
- Average annual wage \$35,848
- Average FAS (Final Average Salary) \$34,603

WHO IS THE AVERAGE OPERS RETIREE?

- Average plan entry age 35
- Average attained age at retirement 57.3
- Average service credit at retirement 22
- Average annual pension benefit \$22,078
- Projected monthly pension benefit \$1,840

Source: 2010 OPERS data

Transportation services keep commerce humming and help Ohioans get to work, school and play on a daily basis. Ohio has more than 125,000 miles of roads, one of the largest systems in the nation. How do those roads stay in top-notch condition? Through the efforts of the township, city, county, and state employees, OPERS members, who provide repair and weather-treatment services.



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Ohio has 251 Public Library systems with 481 Branch locations.



Public libraries provide critical educational, business and recreational services free of charge. Librarians and administrators, OPERS members, are the people who keep these massive systems updated, available and accessible to everyone in the state.

Contributing to the health and longevity of Ohioans are the many public employees who provide important health-oriented services such as disease control, infant wellness care, school nurse services, and some of the life-saving research at Ohio's universities. Collectively, these OPERS members help boost the possibility of every Ohio resident living a full, safe, and productive life.



Maintaining personal privacy

OPERS agrees that public entities should be as transparent as possible under the law. The general public has a right to know that contributions made to public retirement systems are managed and invested wisely. Each year, OPERS issues a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) to provide details on financial matters. A copy of the most recent CAFR can be found here: www.opers.org/investments/cafr.shtml.

However, Ohio law requires us to balance the public's need for transparency with our members' right to privacy. At times, maintaining this balance requires us to deny requests for private or personal member information if the information requested is covered under Ohio law.

Ohio law (ORC 145.27) provides that certain records are prohibited from being released to the public without our members' written authorization, including:

- An individual's statement of previous service
- The amount of a monthly benefit
- An individual's personal history record

The law also defines an individual's personal history record as:

- Addresses
- Telephone numbers
- Social Security numbers
- Contribution records
- Correspondence with the system
- Other information as defined by Ohio Administrative Code 145-1-61, including individual case information, account numbers and e-mail addresses

OPERS is committed to maintaining the integrity of our members' retirement and health care funds. To the extent that we can, we will fulfill requests for information regarding our system. Please remember however, OPERS is charged by Ohio law with the protection of our members' and retirees' personal information, which is a responsibility we take very seriously. The General Assembly recognized, when it passed these laws, that member information contains sensitive financial and medical information that should not be disclosed to others without the member's consent.

OPERS Government Relations Team

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The Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) is the largest public pension fund in Ohio and the 11th largest public pension fund in the U.S. In operation since 1935, OPERS serves nearly 954,000 members, including more than 176,000 retirees and beneficiaries.