FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 24, 2025

Oregon PERS releases latest Economic Impact Study

Pension payments generate billions in economic activity and support thousands of Oregon jobs

TIGARD, Ore. – The Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) has released its *Economic Impact Study* for calendar year 2024, detailing the significant role pension payments play in supporting Oregon's economy. The study shows that in 2024 alone, the $4.88 billion in pension benefits paid to PERS retirees in the state generated $5.5 billion in total economic activity and supported more than 32,000 jobs across Oregon.

The full study is available online at: www.oregon.gov/pers/Documents/General-Information/Economic-Impact-Study.pdf

More than 80% of PERS retirees live in Oregon, and the benefits they receive are largely spent locally — contributing to everything from groceries and utilities to health care and housing. The ripple effect of these dollars strengthens communities statewide and supports both small businesses and public services.

"Oregon's public pensions don't just benefit individual retirees, they contribute to economic stability in every corner of the state," said Kevin Olineck, Director of Oregon PERS. "This report underscores the long-term value that retirement benefits provide to our communities and local economies."

Additional findings from the study include:

- PERS pension payments contributed more than $302 million in state and local tax revenue in 2024.
- Pension benefit payouts added an additional $1.6 billion in wages to Oregon's economy through the wage support of more than 30,000 jobs.
- There are 131,775 PERS retirees in Oregon, who received $4.88 billion in pension benefits.

"These figures help put into perspective just how important pension dollars are to Oregon's overall economic health," Olineck added. "These aren't just numbers in a ledger, they represent real people, real businesses, and real communities across the state."

For more information, visit www.oregon.gov/PERS.

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The Oregon Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) serves the people of Oregon by administering public employee benefit trusts to pay the right person, the right benefit, at the right time. PERS, the agency, administers the retirement system in partnership with more than 900 Oregon public employers, including school districts, special districts, cities, counties, community colleges, universities, and state agencies. PERS engages with more than 415,000 current and former Oregon public employees or their beneficiaries; it also administers a health insurance program for retirees (PERS Health Insurance Program) and a 457(b) voluntary deferred compensation program (Oregon Savings Growth Plan).