

COLA increase to be 3% for most retirees

The Board of Retirement has approved a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for most *SamCERA* retirees and beneficiaries of 3%. The increase will be effective with April 2009 payments.

The COLA amount is based on California law, which requires that the amount be based on the change in the Consumer Price Index for the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area as calculated by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The law also requires that the amount be rounded to the nearest one-half of one percent.

This year the Consumer Price Increase as calculated by *SamCERA*'s actuarial firm, Milliman, Inc., showed a 3.11% increase. Per law this number was rounded to 3%.

Some members who retired on or before April 1, 1974 will receive higher amounts. See the chart below for COLA amounts based on date of retirement, Tier and employment category.

Cost of Living Percentages By Plan

Plan One. Each retiree and beneficiary who retired on or before April 1, 2009, will receive a Cost of Living Adjustment in accordance with the following:

Date of Retirement	General	Safety	Probation
On or before 4/1/1972	5.0%	5.0%	3.0%
4/2/1972 to 4/1/1973	4.0%	4.0%	3.0%
4/2/1973 to 4/1/1974	3.5%	3.5%	3.0%
On or after 4/2/1974	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%

Plan Two. Tier Two benefits are eligible for no more than a 3% COLA each year. Each retiree and beneficiary who retired on or before April 1, 2009, will receive a Cost of Living Adjustment of 3.0%.

Plan Three. Tier Three members are not eligible for Cost of Living Adjustments.

Plan Four. Tier Four benefits are eligible for no more than a 2% COLA each year. Each retiree and beneficiary who retired on or before April 1, 2008, will receive a Cost of Living Adjustment of 2.0%.