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deposits to receive credit for military service are based for these employees.

Normal cost percentage or *normal cost* means the entry-age normal cost of the provisions of FERS which relate to the Fund, computed by the Office in accordance with generally accepted actuarial practice and standards (using dynamic assumptions) and expressed as a level percentage of aggregate basic pay.

Service means all creditable service, including military service, rounded to the nearest number of years as of the beginning of the fiscal year.

Single agency rate means a normal cost percentage for one category of employees in one agency. A single agency rate is set under § 841.412 as a result of a successful appeal.

Voluntary retirement rates means the rate, based on the sex, age, and service of the employee, of regular longevity retirements.

Withdrawal rates means the rate at which employees leave FERS-covered service without retiring, including employees who are paid refunds and employees who take deferred retirement. These rates are of two types: "not offset for reentry" and "offset for reentry." These rates are by age and service.

§ 841.403 Categories of employees for computation of normal cost percentages.

Normal cost percentages will be determined for each of the following groups of employees:

- (a) Members;
- (b) Congressional employees;
- (c) Law enforcement officers, firefighters, and employees under section 302 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1964 for Certain Employees;
- (d) Air traffic controllers;
- (e) Military reserve technicians;
- (f) Employees under section 303 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1964 for Certain Employees when serving abroad;
- (g) All other employees.

[52 FR 25196, July 6, 1987]

§ 841.404 Demographic factors.

(a) The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) will consider the factors listed below in determining normal

cost percentages. To the extent data are available for the factor by specific category of employees, such data will be used. To the extent category specific data are not available, the most relevant available data will be used.

- (1) Distributions of new entrants by age, sex, and service;
 - (2) Withdrawal rates;
 - (3) Merit salary increases;
 - (4) Voluntary retirement rates;
 - (5) Involuntary retirement rates;
 - (6) Disability retirement rates;
 - (7) Employee death rates;
 - (8) Military service rates;
 - (9) Family characteristics for employees;
 - (10) Death rates for non-disability annuitants;
 - (11) Death and recovery rates for disability annuitants;
 - (12) Child survivor termination and death rates;
 - (13) Family characteristics for annuitants; and
 - (14) Administrative expenses.
- (b) Generally, each rate, ratio, or fraction must be separately considered to determine the rates for males and their survivors and the rates for females and their survivors, except those rates for child survivors and merit salary increases.

§ 841.405 Economic assumptions.

The determinations of the normal cost percentage will be based on the economic assumptions determined by the Board. When an agency's case is based in whole or in part on the pattern of merit salary increases specific to the agency or to a category of employees within the agency, the Board may require modification of the economic assumptions concerning salary and wage growth to take into account the combined effect of merit and general wage and salary increases.

§ 841.406 Determination of normal cost percentages.

(a) OPM will determine the Government-wide normal cost percentage for each category of employees. These normal cost percentages will be used by all agencies that have not been granted a single agency rate under § 841.412.

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(b) Each normal cost percentage will be rounded to the nearest one-tenth of a percent.

§ 841.407 Notice of normal cost percentage determinations.

(a) No later than 5 years after the publication of a current notice of normal cost percentages, OPM will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice that will contain updated normal cost percentages.

(b) The notice of normal cost percentage will include a statement of—

(1) The Government-wide normal cost percentage and any single agency rates for each category of employees;

(2) The effective date of any changes made by the notice;

(3) The address for obtaining information on the data and assumptions used in computing the normal cost percentages;

(4) The time limit for submission of appeals under § 841.409; and

(5) The address for filing an appeal under § 841.409.

§ 841.408 Effective date of normal cost percentages.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section and in § 841.412, normal cost percentages stated in a notice of normal cost percentages under § 841.407 will be effective at the beginning of the first full pay period of the first fiscal year that commences at least 3 months after the date of publication of the notice.

(b) The initial normal cost percentages will be effective at the beginning of the first pay period on or after January 1, 1987.

[51 FR 47187, Dec. 31, 1986, as amended at 58 FR 43493, Aug. 17, 1993]

§ 841.409 Agency appeal right.

(a)(1) An agency with at least 1,000 employees in the general category of employees or 500 employees in any of the special categories may appeal to the Board the normal cost percentage for that category as applied to that agency.

(2) The Secretary of the Treasury or the Postmaster General may request the Board to reconsider a determination of the amount of any supplemental liability due from the Treasury

of the United States or the United States Postal Service, respectively.

(b) No appeal will be considered by the Board unless the agency files, no later than 6 months after the date of publication of the notice of normal cost percentages under § 841.407, a petition for appeal that meets *all* the requirements of § 841.410.

(c) No request for reconsideration will be considered by the Board unless the Secretary of the Treasury or the Postmaster General files, no later than 6 months after the date of receipt of the notice of supplemental liability, a request for reconsideration supported by an actuarial report similar to the report described in § 841.410(c).

[52 FR 25196, July 6, 1987]

§ 841.410 Contents of petition for appeal.

(a) To file an appeal, an agency head must, before expiration of the time limit, file with OPM—

(1) A letter of appeal;

(2) An actuarial report; and

(3) A certificate of eligibility (described in paragraph (d) of this section).

(b)(1) The letter of appeal must be in writing and signed by the agency head. Delegation of signatory authority is not permitted.

(2) The letter of appeal may contain any argument the agency wishes to make or may simply submit the actuarial report for consideration.

(c) The actuarial report must contain a detailed actuarial analysis of the normal cost of FERS benefits as applied to the employees of that agency in the category of employees for which the agency is appealing the use of the Government-wide rate. The actuarial report must—

(1) Be signed by an actuary;

(2) Use the economic assumptions under § 841.405; and

(3) Specifically address and consider each of the demographic factors listed in § 841.404. The appealing agency is responsible for developing data relating to the first nine demographic factors as they relate to the category of agency employees for which the appeal is being filed. Government-wide demographic factors (available from OPM) will be presumed to be sufficient and