

<b>EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING ADMINISTRATION          ADVISORY SYSTEM          U. S. Department of Labor          Washington, D.C. 20210</b>	<b>CLASSIFICATION</b> UI
	<b>CORRESPONDENCE SYMBOL</b> OWS/DUIO
	January 6, 2009

**ADVISORY:** UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PROGRAM LETTER NO. 8-09

**TO:** STATE WORKFORCE AGENCIES

**FROM:** BRENT R. ORRELL /s/  
Deputy Assistant Secretary

**SUBJECT:** Increase in Social Security Annuities and Federal Civilian Pensions

1. Purpose. To ensure that State Workforce Agencies are aware of the increases in social security survivors and old age retirement annuities and Federal civilian pensions due to the annual cost of living adjustment (COLA).
2. Background. The 2008 COLA for social security survivors and old age retirement annuities and Federal civilian pensions was made effective December 1, 2008. The percent of increase will be included in the benefit payment beginning January 2, 2009. (See Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 211, October 30, 2008, Notices 64651-64657).

Federal civilian retirees who received benefits for at least one year under the Civil Service Retirement System (CSRS) and the Organization Retirement and Disability System (ORDS) will receive a 5.8 percent COLA increase, and Federal civilian retirees who received benefits for at least one year under the Federal Employees' Retirement System (FERS) will receive a COLA increase of 4.8 percent. Both CSRS and FERS COLA increases were effective December 1, 2008, and will be paid in the January 2, 2009, annuity check.

3. Action Required. States with laws that provide for reduction of the weekly unemployment insurance benefit amount by the prorated weekly amount of retirement pay and pensions should review claimant records to identify those who are affected by these COLA increases. States should take action to make the appropriate deductions as required by state law based on the increased retirement or annuities amount in accordance with their state law.

State Administrators should provide this information to appropriate staff.

4. Inquiries. Direct inquiries to the appropriate Regional Office.
5. Attachment. Cost of Living Annuity Adjustment Percentages Schedule.

<b>RESCISSIONS</b> None	<b>EXPIRATION DATE</b> January 6, 2010
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