

LOOKING FORWARD



Executive Director's Column by Pat Robertson

PERS Board adopts new assumed rate of return on investments

Every year since PERS began investing in equity markets (August 1980), we have aimed for (and, largely, reached or surpassed) a target of 8 percent in investment returns. In fact, our annualized return since that time is 9.2 percent. However, with the continued volatility in the markets, predictions that the returns of the past will not be repeated, and in conjunction with our biennial experience study, PERS has reduced its assumed long-term rate of return to 7.75 percent.

What is a rate of return?

Rate of return measures investment performance. In other words, the gain or loss on an investment over a specified period, expressed as a percentage increase or decrease over the initial investment. As with the economy, the actual return on a year-to-year basis will fluctuate; therefore, we focus on how the plan is performing on a long-term basis rather than on a particular year.

PERS has experienced above-average returns in six of the past 10 fiscal years (see chart on page 3). Though our rate of return for FY 2015 is 3.4 percent, our five-year annualized return is 11.9 percent and our 30-year annualized return is 8.9 percent.

The *assumed rate of return* is the rate we anticipate we will earn on investments over time. This is one of the most significant assumptions in the annual actuarial valuation process, as it is used to discount the expected benefit payments for all active, inactive, and retired members. Minor changes in this assumption can have a major effect on valuation results. The investment return assumption reflects the expected return based on the asset allocation set by the PERS Board of Trustees.

Why the change in the assumed rate?

In conjunction with our biennial experience study in April 2015, the PERS Board approved the recommendation of our actuary,

Cavanaugh Macdonald Consulting, LLC, to lower our assumed rate of return to 7.75 percent, primarily as a result of a decrease in the inflation assumption from 3.5 to 3 percent.

This decision was made with caution and prudence. A recent issue brief titled *Public Pension Plan Investment Return Assumptions*, published by the National Association of State Retirement Administrators, shows that 7.69 percent is the average rate for this assumption among the nation's largest public retirement systems (PERS currently ranks as the 69th largest pension plan in the U.S.).

Also in conjunction with the experience study, changes were made to the demographic assumptions (i.e., withdrawals, mortality rates, disability rates, salary scales, etc.), and the

New Rate of Return continued on page 3

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Thinking of Retiring?

Planning for and, eventually, making the decision to retire is important. To help you navigate those waters, PERS provides two helpful guides for mid-career and retirement-eligible members. From timeliness to proper paperwork, the PERS Service Retirement Guide and Pre-Retirement Guide—offered online and in print—can give you the information you need for a seamless transition to retirement.



PERS Retirement Education offers opportunities for members ready to retire

Focus Sessions

Focus Sessions are free two-hour, small group sessions open to any member considering retirement. These sessions provide details on the retirement process, as well as individual estimates of potential benefits.

Sessions are offered each Tuesday (9:30 a.m.) and Thursday (2 p.m.) at PERS. Registration for a Focus Session is required and can be done online at www.pers.ms.gov or by phone at 800-444-7377 or 601-359-3589.

One-on-one benefits counseling also is available. Call 800-444-7377 to schedule an appointment.

Full-Day Sessions

Register online for Pre-Retirement Full-Day Seminars, which give general information on a range of topics including estate planning, Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan & Trust, Social Security benefits, and PERS benefits and options.

These free pre-scheduled seminars run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and require pre-registration for each PERS member and any accompanying guests.

To register, visit PERS online at www.pers.ms.gov or call 800-444-7377 or 601-359-3589.

Meridian - 1000 Highway 19 North - February 3

Booneville - 101 Cunningham Boulevard - February 10

Gulfport - 1890 Switzer Road - February 24

McComb - 1076 MDOT Drive - March 23

Mississippi State - 240 Wise Center Drive - April 6

Senatobia - 4975 Highway 51 North - April 13

Hattiesburg - 906 Sullivan Drive - April 20

Meridian - 1000 Highway 19 North - May 4

Greenville - 1134 Archer Range Road - May 11

McComb - 1076 MDOT Drive - May 25

Jackson - 3881 Eastwood Drive - June 8

Tupelo - 1918 Briar Ridge Road - June 15

Gulfport - 1890 Switzer Road - June 29

Pre-Retirement Full-Day Seminars do not provide individual counseling sessions.

Online self-service coming

PERS launched its new pension administration system in 2015, a tool that will, eventually, include online account access for members and retirees.

“We are pleased to be able to provide MyPERS, online account access, to those we serve,” said PERS Executive Director Pat Robertson. “While we will still be here for anyone needing to call or visit us, the online features will provide an additional level of service so that members and retirees can find answers even outside of our regular business hours.”

MyPERS, which is anticipated to launch in 2016, will include the following features:

Retirees

- Update federal tax withholding amount
- View benefit payment amount
- Sign up for direct deposit (a one-time only service for those retirees who receive paper checks)
- View IRS 1099-R form and, where applicable, Excess Benefit W2 form

Members

- View and update home address, phone number, e-mail address, and preferred contact method
- View beneficiaries, account balance, and statements
- Calculate benefits
- View, search, and enroll in training seminars
- Submit service requests to PERS

PERS has been collaborating with Sierra-Cedar, Inc. of Alpharetta, Georgia, since September 2010 to build and implement the new system using Oracle software.

Watch the PERS website for more details about when self-service will be available and how to access your PERS data.





POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

As of June 30, 2015

WORKING TOGETHER

Years of initiative. Decades of good stewardship.



*A Letter From
Executive Director
Pat Robertson
December 15, 2015*

Dear Members and Retirees:

It is my privilege to present the 2015 "Popular Annual Financial Report" of the Public Employees' Retirement System (System), and I am pleased to continue the tradition of years of initiative and decades of good stewardship provided to our participants. Since its inception in 1952, the System has pursued its mission to provide good stewardship of the public trust placed in us to

provide a secure retirement future for almost 300,000 members and nearly 100,000 retirees and beneficiaries across the state of Mississippi. Our accomplishments over the years are due to the competence and expertise of our employees, our initiatives to address the opportunities and challenges we face, and our continued commitment to quality customer service.

This report is a summary of our services, organization, financial results, and investments, which are reported in detail in the PERS Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for 2015. The CAFR is prepared and presented in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The Flexible Benefit Cafeteria Plan, an agency fund related to the System's employee

health benefits, has been omitted from our summary due to its immateriality. The summary report also contains abbreviated note disclosures.

Detailed information about the System can be found in the CAFR located at www.pers.ms.gov. For questions concerning any of the information presented in this report, contact the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi, 429 Mississippi Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39201-1005 or visit us online.

Sincerely,



MEMBERSHIP

The System administers four defined benefit retirement plans that guarantee a specified retirement payment beginning at a certain age and after a specified period of service according to each plan's provisions. The plans included in the System are the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi (PERS), the Mississippi Highway Safety Patrol Retirement System (MHSPRS), the Municipal Retirement Systems and Fire and Police Disability and Relief Funds (MRS), and the Supplemental Legislative Retirement Plan (SLRP). These plans serve members from state and local government, public schools, community and junior colleges, universities, and other governmental units across the state. The total number of active members has changed from 162,392 in fiscal year 2011 to a current count of 157,918 with a total of 887 participating employers.

The System is constantly seeking innovative ways to serve its members and receives high marks for its efforts to provide quality assistance to each member and employer.

We are proud of our contribution to helping provide retirement security for our retirees. Since 2011, the total number of inactive and retired members has grown from 215,490 to 236,232, with a current annual retirement benefit payroll of \$2.3 billion. A combination of advances in technology, staff training, and improved vehicles of communication enables the System to assure that its participants are well informed and well served. The charts on page 3 illustrate active members, retirees and beneficiaries, and inactive members participating in the plans. Total membership in the System is 394,150. This is a 4.3 percent increase since fiscal year 2011.

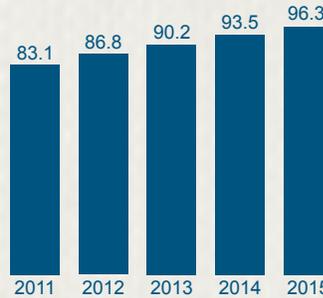
Currently eligible for retirement are an estimated 21,277 PERS, MHSPRS, and SLRP members.

Membership in the System is a condition of covered public employment in Mississippi. Membership in MRS was closed as of July 1, 1976. Two fire and police plans elected to extend the eligibility period for membership to July 1, 1987.

Employees hired after MRS closing periods automatically become members of PERS. SLRP is a supplemental plan to the provisions of PERS for members of the state Legislature. Those elected after July 1, 1989, automatically become members.

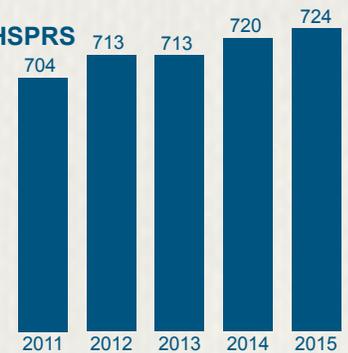
Retiree Growth by Plan - Fiscal Years Ending June 30

PERS*

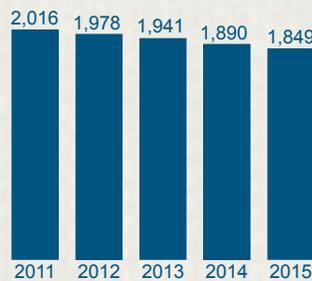


* Number of retirees in thousands

MHSPRS



MRS**



** As of September 30 for 2011-2012; June 30 for 2013 and forward

SLRP



PERS HONES POLICY AND STRUCTURE THROUGH TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES

Despite The Great Recession looming over the country from late-2007 to mid-2009, PERS stayed focused on keeping the plan strong. Efforts were made from 2005 to 2015 to strengthen board governance, policy, board regulations, and IRS compliance. In 2012, PERS revised its funding policy and set a goal to be at least 80 percent funded by 2042.



PAT ROBERTSON
(2005-PRESENT)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Active Members by Plan

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

PERS	99.55%	157,215
MHSPRS	0.33%	518
MRS	0.01%	11
SLRP	0.11%	174
Total	100.00%	157,918

Retired and Inactive Members by Plan

Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015

PERS	98.79%	233,364
MHSPRS	0.33%	783
MRS	0.78%	1,849
SLRP	0.10%	236
Total	100.00%	236,232

Participating Employers

Fiscal Years Ending June 30



Summary of Participating Members

Fiscal Years Ending June 30

PERS Members	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Active vested	111,395	104,319	96,321	89,256	83,583
Active nonvested	50,281	57,992	65,423	72,104	73,632
Sub-total	161,676	162,311	161,744	161,360	157,215
Retirees/beneficiaries	83,115	86,829	90,214	93,504	96,338
Inactive members	129,360	131,141	130,695	132,553	137,026
Sub-total	212,475	217,970	220,909	226,057	233,364
Total	374,151	380,281	382,653	387,417	390,579
MHSPRS Members	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Active vested	402	427	466	443	418
Active nonvested	113	120	54	52	100
Sub-total	515	547	520	495	518
Retirees/beneficiaries	704	713	713	720	724
Inactive members	46	54	54	58	59
Sub-total	750	767	767	778	783
Total	1,265	1,314	1,287	1,273	1,301
MRS Members*	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Active vested	27	25	16	14	11
Active nonvested	-	-	-	-	-
Sub-total	27	25	16	14	11
Retirees/beneficiaries	2,056	2,016	1,941	1,890	1,849
Inactive members	2	1	-	-	-
Sub-total	2,058	2,017	1,941	1,890	1,849
Total	2,085	2,042	1,957	1,904	1,860
SLRP Members	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Active vested	133	113	106	104	103
Active nonvested	41	62	69	71	71
Sub-total	174	175	175	175	174
Retirees/beneficiaries	147	173	188	187	185
Inactive members	60	71	61	56	51
Sub-total	207	244	249	243	236
Total	381	419	424	418	410

* As of September 30 for 2011-2012; June 30 for 2013 and forward.

FINANCIAL

The summaries of assets and liabilities show how much the System holds in resources and how much is owed. Total fiscal year 2015 Assets and Liabilities were \$30.2 billion and \$4.8 billion, respectively as displayed on page 5. Net position of the defined benefit pension plans for 2015 totaled \$25.4 billion while 2014 net position totaled \$25.4 billion. Investments make up the largest portion of net position restricted for pension benefits. Net position results from the difference between total assets and total liabilities. The chart below illustrates the overall trend in net position over a five-year period. Net position represents the net assets accumulated to pay the present and future benefits of members and retirees.

The three primary sources of System funding are employer contributions, member contributions, and net

investment income. Employer contributions totaled \$1.0 billion for fiscal year 2015, an increase of \$26.0 million from fiscal year 2014. Member contributions totaled \$560.1 million, an increase of \$8.3 million from fiscal year 2014. The System posted net investment income of \$844 million for 2015, compared to \$4.0 billion for 2014. The decrease was primarily due to volatile market conditions as evidenced by a point-in-time investment rate of return of 3.4 percent for fiscal year 2015 compared to an 18.6 percent rate of return for fiscal year 2014.

The System's primary expenses include benefit payments, refunds of contributions to former members, and the cost of administering the System. As shown on page 5 in the bottom table, the majority of 2015 expenses

were benefit payments, which totaled \$2.3 billion and were an increase of \$119.9 million from 2014 due primarily to an increase in benefit recipients. Contribution refunds were \$119.6 million for fiscal year 2015, compared to \$121.6 million for fiscal year 2014. The cost to administer the System for fiscal year 2015 was \$14.7 million, \$458 thousand more than fiscal year 2014. Expenses for administration of the System are funded from the trust.

The System adopted GASB Statement No. 67 for the year ending June 30, 2014. This statement requires presentation of components of the net pension liability of the employers to plan members for benefits provided through cost-sharing and single employers. GASB Statement 67 is an accounting measure of liability and does not correspond to funding measures.

PERS VALUES PUTTING THE CUSTOMER FIRST

Focusing on the service provided to members, retirees, and employers, PERS established the Call Center, the Retirement Education program, and a personal approach to serving the customer. PERS also implemented a two-phased retirement process to ensure members issued an estimate of benefits before selecting benefit options.

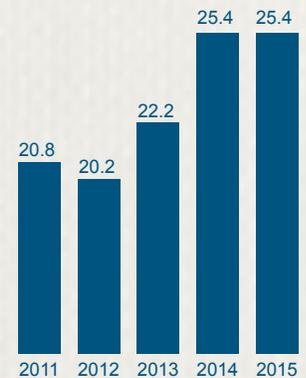


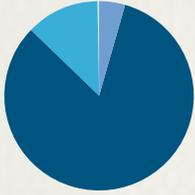
**FRANK
READY**
(1996 -2005)
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Net Pension Liability for Employers Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015 (in millions)

	PERS	MHSPRS	SLRP
Total Pension Liability	\$40,365	\$478	\$21
Fiduciary Net Position	(24,907)	(323)	(16)
Net Pension Liability	\$15,458	\$155	\$5

Net Position Fiscal Years Ending June 30 (in billions)





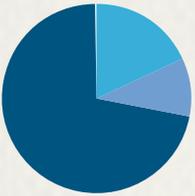
Assets - Fiscal Years Ending June 30
(in thousands)

	2015	2014	2013
■ Cash, cash equivalents & receivables 8.89%	\$2,685,369	\$1,337,794	\$1,194,201
■ Investments, fair value 81.87%	24,735,121	24,600,195	21,947,427
■ Securities lending * 9.13%	2,758,617	3,722,096	3,629,635
■ Capital assets 0.11%	32,292	30,321	27,419
Total	\$30,211,399	\$29,690,406	\$26,798,682



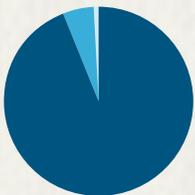
Liabilities - Fiscal Years Ending June 30
(in thousands)

	2015	2014	2013
■ Payables 42.46%	\$2,036,224	\$569,569	\$1,013,316
■ Securities lending liability* 57.54%	2,758,970	3,721,141	3,629,977
Total	\$4,795,194	\$4,290,710	\$4,643,293



Revenues - Fiscal Years Ending June 30
(in thousands)

	2015	2014	2013
■ Employers 42.30%	\$1,030,028	\$1,004,025	\$914,020
■ Members 23.00%	560,099	551,777	550,047
■ Investment income 34.69%	844,722	3,988,361	2,619,919
■ Other 0.01%	75	268	3,462
Total	\$2,434,924	\$5,544,431	\$4,087,448



Expenses - Fiscal Years Ending June 30
(in thousands)

	2015	2014	2013
■ Benefits 94.45%	\$2,284,168	\$2,164,293	\$2,029,121
■ Refunds 4.94%	119,557	121,599	108,536
■ Administrative 0.61%	14,690	14,232	14,878
Total	\$2,418,415	\$2,300,124	\$2,152,535

* PERS makes short-term loans of securities to broker-dealers to generate incremental revenues from its portfolios.

FUNDING

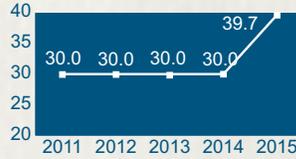
UAAL Period Graphs Fiscal Years Ending June 30

■ UAAL Period (in years)
■ Percent Funded

PERS



MHSPRS



MRS*



SLRP



* As of September 30 for 2011-2012; June 30 for 2013 and forward

Actuarial valuations are performed on an annual basis for all defined benefit plans administered by the System. Valuations are based on information as of June 30, 2015.

Funds are accumulated to meet future benefit payments to retirees and beneficiaries. This accumulated balance is referred to as the "net position restricted for pensions." The unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) amortization period graphs shown at left depict the anticipated UAAL period for each plan within the System. In general terms, the UAAL is the difference between benefit payments owed to current and future retirees and beneficiaries and the amount of assets held by the System. The UAAL amortization period is the number of years it would take to completely pay the System's projected benefit obligation. The funded ratio (as shown in the charts to the left) represents the amount of the System's actuarial accrued liability that is covered by the actuarial value of assets, expressed as a percentage.

The charts at left show the UAAL period and percent funded for the last five fiscal years for each plan. PERS experienced a decrease in the funded ratio while MHSPRS remained the same. The charts show increases for MRS and SLRP in the percent funded for 2015. Variations are primarily due to changes in the individual plan's actuarial assumptions, the most significant of which was the change in the assumed rate of return on investments from 8.0 percent to a more conservative 7.75 percent return. Variations are also affected by actuarial gains and losses from prior years. Investment gains and losses relative to the assumed rate of return of 8.0 percent are recognized, or smoothed, in equal increments in the current year and each of the succeeding four years. PERS investments are diversified to help mitigate the effects of a volatile financial market and a fragile economy.

Based on the Board's funding policy, employer contribution rates of 15.75 percent for PERS, 37.0 percent for MHSPRS, and 7.4 percent for SLRP continue in effect. In addition, the contribution of certain fees was increased toward employer contributions of the MHSPRS. Employee contributions remain constant at 9.0 percent for PERS, 7.25 percent for MHSPRS, and 3.0 percent for SLRP.

Member and employer contribution rates vary among the individual municipalities of MRS.

Employer Contribution Percentage Rates

Fiscal Year	2010	2011	2012*	2013	2014	2015
PERS	12.00	12.00	12.93	14.26	15.75	15.75
MHSPRS	30.30	30.30	35.21	37.00	37.00	37.00
SLRP	6.65	6.65	7.40	7.40	7.40	7.40

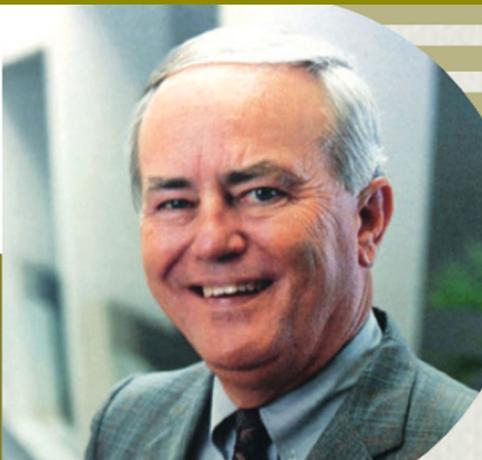
* Beginning January 1, 2012

PERS RESPONDS TO THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS

PERS began collecting and storing member addresses from employers electronically. This allowed the agency in 1990 to begin mailing annual members statements for the first time and sending newsletters directly to members' homes, instead of to their employers.

MILTON G. WALKER (1990-1995)

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



INVESTMENTS

The System manages investments with prudent care, constant attention, specialized expertise, and a concern for the financial security of its membership. By maintaining a broadly diversified portfolio designed to minimize risk and maximize return over the long term, the System's investment program is designed to help provide funding for current and future pension obligations.

Investments before securities lending activities for 2015 were \$24.7 billion, an increase of \$135 million from fiscal year 2014. Net investment income was \$845 million compared to \$4.0 billion at fiscal year end 2014.

One of the most critical decisions made by the System is that of the long-term asset allocation policy for the investment portfolio. In fiscal year 2015, the target asset allocation was 61.0 percent equities, 20.0 percent debt securities, and 10.0 percent real estate investments. Private equity was 8.0 percent. Cash and equivalents were 1.0 percent. The System's asset allocation decisions are based on liability requirements and guidelines established by the Mississippi Code of 1972. At year end, 40 investment firms were managing 53 portfolios for defined benefit pension plans. Portfolio performance is carefully monitored by the Board of Trustees with the assistance of an investment management consulting firm and the System's chief investment officer.

The System experienced a 3.4 percent investment return this year, which was less than the plan's benchmark return of 3.7 percent. The System operates on a long-term investment strategy resulting in a five-year rate of return of 11.9 percent, 10-year rate of 6.9 percent, and a 30-year rate of 8.9 percent.

Defined Benefit Plans Total Rates of Return

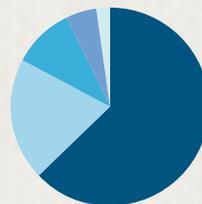
Fiscal Years Ending June 30



Total Investments: Past 10 Fiscal Years (in thousands)

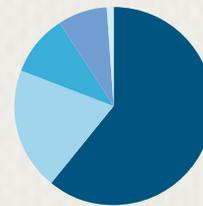
2006	\$23,852,219	2011	\$23,537,833
2007	\$27,876,880	2012	\$23,176,162
2008	\$24,953,445	2013	\$25,577,062
2009	\$17,911,472	2014	\$28,322,291
2010	\$20,845,217	2015	\$27,493,738

Asset Allocation at Fair Value Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2015



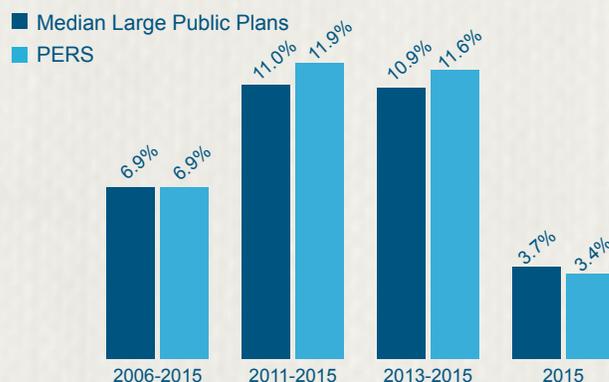
Equities	63.0%
Debt securities	20.0%
Real estate	10.0%
Private equity	5.0%
Cash and equivalents	2.0%

Long-Term Target Asset Allocation



Equities	61.0%
Debt securities	20.0%
Real estate	10.0%
Private equity	8.0%
Cash and Equivalents	1.0%

Large Public Plans: Annualized Rates of Return



PERS BUILDS ON ITS INITIAL SUCCESS

As it matured as a plan, PERS began equity investments in 1980 and expanded fixed income investment options with the hiring of external investment managers in 1983. Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan & Trust came under the administration of PERS in 1974 and, in 1987, PERS became responsible for the management of 17 firemen's and policemen's disability and relief funds—along with two general municipal employee retirement systems.

FRED M. WALKER (1972-1989)

EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY



RESOURCES

Website and Call Center

Our website, www.pers.ms.gov, provides an array of information and services to members, retirees, and the public.

PERS' Customer Service Center

analysts assist callers with questions and concerns in a prompt, courteous manner. The center, 800-444-7377 or 601-359-3589, is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday with the exception of state holidays.

Education Opportunities

Full-day **Retirement Education Seminars** are held throughout the state to assist members with retirement planning. Topics include Social Security, Mississippi Deferred Compensation (MDC), and PERS. Schedules and registration are available online.

Small group **Focus Sessions** assist members with retirement planning by providing each individual with

an estimate of benefits and detailed information on retirement options. Schedules and registration are available online.

Hosted by employers, **PERS on the Move seminars** are held during or after office hours to provide members with information regarding PERS and MDC. Visit us online to request a seminar.

Annual **agency training seminars** provide information to personnel responsible for benefits administration and reporting. Schedules, topics, and registration are posted online.

Printed Materials

Active and inactive members are mailed **annual statements** with account balances, designated beneficiaries, and unaudited estimates of benefits and years of service.

Our member, retiree, and employer **newsletters** provide pertinent

information to constituents about their retirement plans and System. Electronic versions of the newsletters are available online. Audio versions are available through the National Federation of the Blind of Mississippi.

Member Handbooks

include information about PERS, its administered programs, retirement benefits, retirement options, and important contact

information. Handbooks are available by request or can be downloaded from the PERS' website.

Award-Winning Report

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada

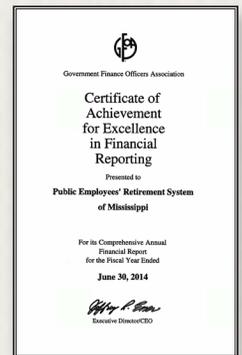
(GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular

Annual Financial

Reporting to PERS for its Popular Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a popular annual financial report with contents that conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability, and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of only one year. PERS has received a Popular Award for the last 12 consecutive fiscal years. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.



PERS CREATES A NEW STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

In 1952, Mississippi's retirement system for public employees was established and the administrative structure was built from the ground up. The first offices opened in the Woolfolk Building (and later moved to the Sillers Building) with a staff of about 20 who had never before run a retirement system. Within approximately six months, they had enrolled more than 95 percent (45,288) of the public employees eligible to participate in the plan.



WILLIAM R. HOUGH

(1952-1971)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

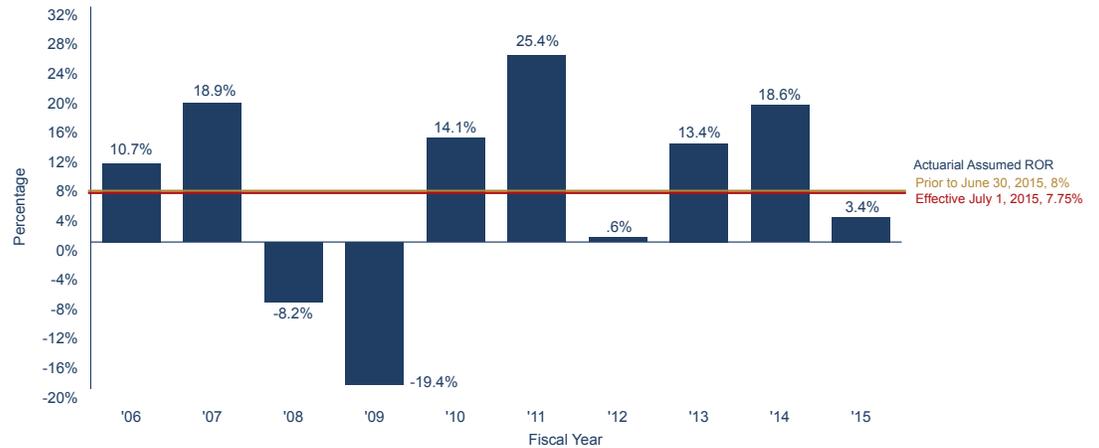
wage inflation assumption (i.e., how much salaries are expected to increase) was decreased from 4.25 percent to 3.75 percent.

What difference will these changes make?

We review the economic and demographic assumptions and make changes to our demographic assumptions on a regular basis so that PERS does not incur large gains or losses at any one time. While these changes are necessary from a prudent management perspective, they also affect our numbers.

From an administrative perspective, the demographic changes will be implemented July 1, 2016, and were factored into the FY 2015 actuarial valuation, which affected our unfunded accrued liability (UAL) and funding ratio. Our UAL for FY 2015 is \$16 billion, and our

funded status is 60 percent. However, despite these changes, PERS is projected to meet our funding policy goal of 80 percent by 2042, which shows that the decisions and adjustments we make now are best for the overall health of the System.



2016 Legislative Agenda/2015 Legislative Summary

The 2016 Legislative session is underway at the Capitol, and the PERS Board plans to introduce legislation this year for technical corrections, vesting, and deferred compensation.

The **technical corrections** bill is a housekeeping bill that will provide clarification to the PERS laws and update the statute to reflect current PERS regulations and federal laws. This bill will not affect those who are currently retired. PERS has attempted to pass the technical corrections bill since 2012.

If passed, the **vesting legislation** would change vesting requirements from eight years to four years for all PERS members, both active and inactive. This legislation is in response to employers who believe the eight-year vesting period hinders employee recruitment and retention. This change was encouraged by Governor Barbour's 2011 PERS Study Commission as a way to encourage individuals to seek public employment. A shorter vesting period will make it easier to recruit retired teachers from across state lines for Mississippi public school districts that are facing teacher shortages. PERS actuaries have shown that the cost would be minimal to the System.

The **deferred compensation** legislation would update the statute to reflect modern investment options and will have very little affect on the participants.

To track all PERS-related legislation this session, visit the [PERS-Related Legislation page](#) online for links to the full bills.

2015 Legislative Summary

House Bill 825 - Approved by Governor March 31

Personal Service Contract Review Board:

- Revised the process of awarding contracts for all state agencies

House Bill 1512 - Approved by Governor April 9

Administration and Operation PERS: FY 2016 (Budget) Bill

House Bill 1127 - Approved by Governor April 23

Iran Divestment Act of 2015:

- Prohibited PERS and the state Treasurer from investing with persons engaged in investment activities in Iran under certain circumstances with limited exceptions

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Tax Deferred Savings with MDC

Mississippi Deferred Compensation is a powerful tool to help you reach your retirement goals. Combined with other retirement benefits or savings

that you may have, this voluntary plan allows you to save and invest extra money for retirement tax-deferred. Find out more by visiting www.mdcplan.com.



2016 State Holidays

PERS will be closed to observe the following holidays:

George Washington's Birthday February 15
Confederate Memorial Day April 25
Memorial Day and Jefferson Davis' Birthday May 30
Fourth of July July 4
Labor Day September 5
Veterans Day November 11
Thanksgiving November 24
Christmas December 25-26*

* At the discretion of the Governor

PERS Board Updates

Lee County chancery clerk Bill H. Benson of Tupelo has been reelected to the PERS Board of Trustees.

At its October meeting, the Board certified election results between the incumbent, Benson, and Washington County tax assessor Mark K. Seard of Greenville to be county employee representative on the Board. Benson's new term runs from January 2016 through December 2022.

The Board will certify election results at its February meeting for a new public schools and community/junior college employee representative. Candidates for the post are Donna H. Boone, Quitman School District superintendent; Julia E. Brown, Holmes Community College director of human resources; incumbent Edward Lee Childress, Corinth School District superintendent; Billy W. Folkes, Lamar County School District director of student services; Timothy C. Lea, Copiah-Lincoln Community College director of veteran services; Vicky B. Shea, Tishomingo County School District teacher; and Darein C. Spann, Simpson County School District teacher. The six-year term begins May 1, 2016, and will run through April 1, 2022.