

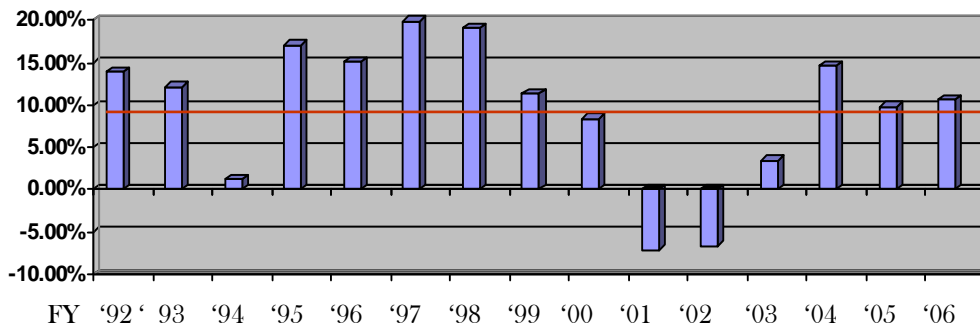
PERS investments return 10.72%

PERS enjoyed another strong year during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006, with a return on investments of 10.72%. It was the third consecutive year that the return has exceeded the actuarial assumption rate of 8%.

The actuarial assumption rate is the figure used by the PERS actuary in determining future benefits. To meet future obligations, PERS must average an 8% annual return.

What’s most important is how PERS does on a long-term basis. The report for the last fiscal year shows that PERS is doing well, with an average return of 9.24% for the past 15 years. However, the return of 7.98% for the last 10 fiscal years is slightly under the 8% actuarial assumption rate.

The graph below shows that the rate of return has exceeded 8% (red line) for 11 of the last 15 fiscal years.



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Newsletter includes 2006 Summary Annual Financial Report

This issue of *Looking Forward* includes an eight-page PERS 2006 Summary Annual

Financial Report. The report provides important financial information about the Retirement System.



Edwin C. LeGrand III (right) was sworn in for a six-year term on the PERS Board of Trustees by Assistant Secretary of State James Anderson. Mr. LeGrand, Executive Director of the Department of Mental Health, was re-elected as a State Employee Representative for a term ending December 31, 2012.

PRE-RETIREMENT EDUCATION

PERS members may register online for seminars held at convenient locations throughout the state or for Focus sessions held at the PERS Building in Jackson. Registration is required to attend either session.

Refer to the Pre-Retirement

Seminar schedule below and log on to the PERS website at www.pers.state.ms.us to register for seminars and Focus sessions. If you do not have access to the Internet, contact PERS using one of the telephone numbers on the last page of this newsletter for registration

information.

The 2007 seminar agenda has been streamlined, with registration at 9 a.m. and completion at 3:30 p.m.

Focus sessions are held every Monday at 9:30 a.m., every Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. and every Thursday at 2:00 p.m., except for state holidays.

Pre-Retirement Seminars

Seminars are on Wednesdays

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
March 7	Hattiesburg
March 14	Cleveland
March 21	Vicksburg
March 28	Ocean Springs
April 11	Tupelo
April 25	Meridian
May 9	Natchez
May 16	Grenada
May 23	Richland
June 6	Hattiesburg

2007 Seminar Agenda

<u>TIME</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Welcome & Estimate Explanation
9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	A Look at Estate Planning & Legal Affairs
10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.	Deferred Compensation Plan and Trust
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	LUNCH (Not provided)
1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Social Security
1:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	BREAK
2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	PERS Benefits and Options

Go online for information about PERS

The PERS website, available at www.pers.state.ms.us, is your source for readily available information and assistance concerning your retirement system and your benefits.

By logging on to the website you can:

- Use online calculators to estimate your future retirement benefits.
- Use online the calculator to estimate the cost to repay a refund.
- Download important forms from the Forms Library.
- Download the PERS Member Handbook.
- Read past issues of PERS newsletters.
- Review information concerning the Mississippi Deferred Compensation Plan & Trust.
- Learn about PERS Board of Trustees elections and download qualifying petitions.
- Read recent PERS news releases.



Welcome to the...
Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi

The PERS website provides a wealth of important information for members.

Are you ready for retirement?

For many working Americans, retirement is the Holy Grail. It's that time when you will never again say "Thank goodness it's Friday" because every day is a weekend.

But before you retire you must ask yourself:

Am I ready to retire?

And that means asking yourself some other questions, beginning with:

Can I afford to retire?

Many financial professionals suggest that you will need at least 70% of your current income to fund your retirement. The actual amount varies according to each individual's particular needs.

To determine how much income you should have, consider your needs in retirement, including:

- Food and clothing
- Housing
- Utilities
- Transportation
- Insurance
- Health care (a big part of retirement costs for many senior citizens).
- Recreation and hobbies

Don't forget to factor in an increase in the cost of living. The average inflation rate over the last 20 years has been about 3%, so plan accordingly.

To estimate your income in retirement, consider the following:

- **PERS BENEFITS** -- You can estimate your projected PERS retirement benefits on the PERS website -- www.pers.state.ms.us. Click on the appropriate



If your goal is to retire and enjoy more free time, you need to begin planning now.

calculator at the bottom of the home page and follow the directions for an online estimate of monthly benefits, as well as an estimate of the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and the amount you could receive from a Partial Lump Sum Option (PLSO) payment, if you qualify.

- **SOCIAL SECURITY** -- You can estimate your Social Security benefits by visiting www.ssa.gov. You must be at least age 62 to begin receiving Social Security benefits.
- **DEFERRED COMPENSATION** -- If you participate in Deferred Comp, you may withdraw as much or as little as you want prior to age 70 1/2. Deferred Comp officials can tell you how long the money will last based upon the rate of withdrawal. You may contact Deferred Comp by calling 1-800-846-4551 (toll free) or (601) 969-2064 (from the Jackson

area).

- **EMPLOYMENT** -- If you plan to work after retirement, calculate how much you will earn. (Remember to refer to PERS Regulation 34 if your plan for post-retirement employment involves potential covered employment.)
- **OTHER INCOME** -- Add any other sources of income in retirement, such as personal savings, IRAs and mutual funds.

Members considering retirement should attend a PERS Pre-Retirement Seminar (see page 2 or the PERS website for the schedule) or may make an appointment for a visit to the PERS office to receive an estimate of retirement benefits and retirement options available.

Only after you have answered all the financial questions and done some calculating will you know if you can afford to retire. But even if you can afford to retire, you must answer one final question:

Do I have a plan for my retirement years?

Planning how you will spend your time in retirement is just as important as planning how you will spend your money. Planning will help you enjoy a diverse range of meaningful and satisfying activities.

Make a list of what you want to do in retirement -- travel, volunteer work, return to school, take up a new hobby, or finish that project you started many years ago. Talk to some of your friends who have retired to find out what they are doing.

With proper planning, your golden years will never tarnish.

Parking garage awaits your visit to PERS

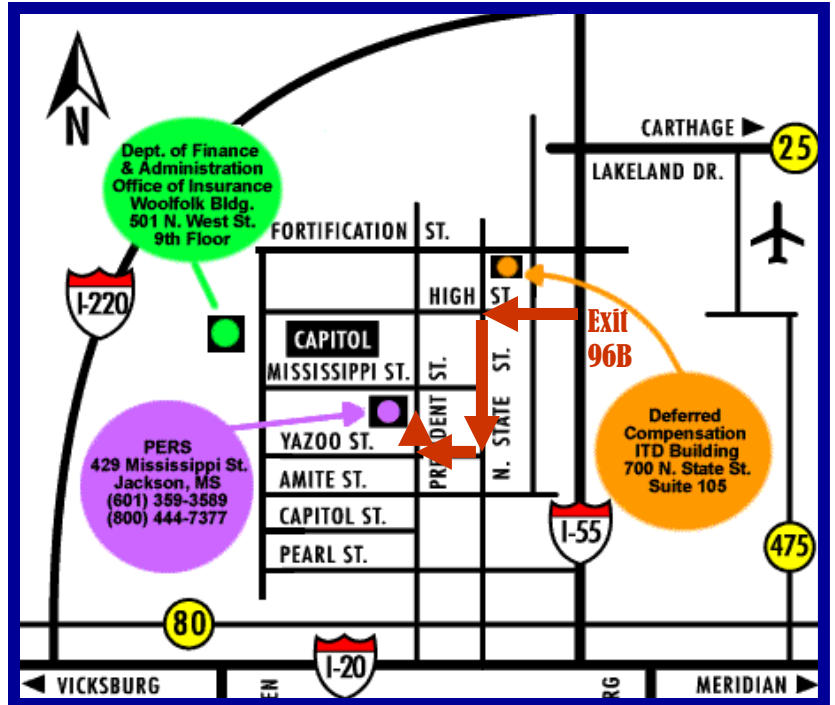
You don't have to park on the street or pay for a parking meter when you visit PERS. Visitor parking is available in the parking garage behind the PERS Building at 429 Mississippi Street. Entrance to the parking garage is from President Street, which is one-way northbound.

Coming by vehicle from anywhere in Mississippi take

the High Street exit (Exit 96B) from Interstate 55 and turn right at the end of the ramp. Proceed to the fifth traffic signal at State Street and turn left. Go through one traffic signal, then turn right onto Yazoo Street. Go one block to President Street. Turn right at the stop sign and go half a block to the parking garage entrance on the left.



Follow the red arrows on the map (right) from the High Street exit (Exit 96B) on Interstate 55 to the entrance of the PERS parking garage on President Street (above).



**429 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201-1005**

Phone
1-800-444-7377
(601) 359-3589

"Providing Benefits for Life"

PERS

We're on the Web
www.pers.state.ms.us

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