

Quick Info

2013 Rates

Effective Rates

Core	10.9%
Variable	31.0%

Review your annual *Statement of Benefits* to see how these rates affect your account balances.



Sign up for ETF E-Mail Updates

Stay current on important Wisconsin Retirement System benefits-related news and information through *ETF E-mail Updates*. You'll know when we post important announcements like investment returns and effective rates, add new webinars, and schedule benefits presentations in your area.

Sign up today! Look for the red envelope logo on our website at <http://etf.wi.gov>.

Video and Webinar Help You Read, Under- stand Your Statement

Learn how to read and understand your Statement of Benefits! Watch our online video, *Your Annual Statement of Benefits* or sign up for a live webinar. To find out about all ETF learning opportunities, go to <http://etf.wi.gov> (click on Members-Benefits Presentations).

Statement of Benefits Enclosed

This special edition of *WRS News* accompanies the annual *Statement of Benefits*. You will find your statement enclosed. In this newsletter we include news and information that will help you learn more about the connection between the personal account information on your statement and your Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits. Page 2 of this important document contains your WRS beneficiary designation on file with the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF)—does it reflect how you would want your WRS survivor benefits paid?

The law requires ETF to follow the member's written instructions on the beneficiary designation form even if, for example, it still lists a former spouse or domestic part-

ner. When it comes to your WRS account, few things are more important than keeping your beneficiary designation up to date. That is because your will does not take the place of a WRS beneficiary designation. In addition, your beneficiary does not automatically change when your life circumstances change.

What is the easiest way to ensure your beneficiary designation is current? Call ETF at 1-877-533-5020 or simply download a *Beneficiary Designation Form (ET-2320)* from our website. Complete the form and submit it to ETF by mail or fax.

If you have a Wisconsin Deferred Compensation (WDC) Program account, make sure your beneficiary designation for that account is current. Contact the WDC at 1-877-457-9327 or at www.wdc457.org.

Live Webinars Convenient Way to Learn About WRS Benefits

Did you know that the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) offers live, interactive webinars – online presentations – designed to increase your understanding of Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits? Our webinars are 30-minute presentations about a single topic of interest. They are conducted by an ETF specialist, using a slide show for visual support. Webinars can be viewed from any computer with speakers. Participants can submit questions to the specialist while the webinar is in progress. To date, we have conducted more than 40 sessions on such topics as:

- Steps to retirement
- How divorce can affect your WRS benefits
- Beneficiary designations
- Returning to work after retirement

WRS Remains Strongest Funded

For the second consecutive year, an analysis by Morningstar, Inc. has found that the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) is the strongest funded state pension system in the country. In its report analyzing current data for pension plans administered by all 50 states, Morningstar said the fiscal health of state pension plans varies drastically. The report focuses on two key metrics:

- **Funded Ratio**—the ability of a pension plan to meet its obligations, which is calculated by dividing the pension plan's assets by its liabilities; and
- **Unfunded Liability Per Capita**—the amount each person in the state would need to pay to fully fund an unfunded liability.

According to Morningstar, Wisconsin's funded ratio is 99.9%, a 0.1% increase from last year; Wisconsin's liability per capita is \$18, a reduction of \$3 from 2012 and the lowest of any public pension plan in the country. In addition, Morningstar said that more than half of all states fall below Morningstar's fiscally sound threshold of 70% funded; only six states have funded levels of more than 90%; 12 states have funded ratios of at least 80%, which is considered "strong" by Morningstar.

The continued strength of the WRS is a credit to its careful benefit design, the commitment to properly fund the system and strong investment returns that have generated more than 80% of the money in the pension fund.

Webinars, continued

- The annual *Statement of Benefits*
- Effective rates and annuity adjustments

More than 1,300 people have participated in our webinars. Here is what some webinar participants have told us:

- *Great webinar! Glad ETF offers these; they are very informative and helpful.*
- *It was very helpful to be able to ask questions specific to my situation. Thank you for making the webinar available.*
- *Did an excellent job at answering questions about a very confusing subject, especially since every employee's situation is different.*

Where can I find more information about ETF webinars? Review the schedule and webinar topic descriptions on our webpage located at <http://etf.wi.gov/members/webinars.htm>. In addition, be sure to sign up for *ETF E-mail Updates* and check the box(es) for "Schedule of Presentations". ETF will send you updated webinar information on a monthly basis.

Which Presentations Fit Your Needs? Where to Find the Schedule?

Did you know that the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) offers group appointments, two different types of statewide benefit presentations, webinars, videos and other ways you can learn about your Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) benefits? Check out the "ETF Learning Opportunities" page at http://etf.wi.gov/members/benefits_presentations.htm. On this page you can also learn about which benefits presentation fits your needs and use the interactive map to find out about learning opportunities scheduled in your area. Take advantage of these great educational resources so you can make timely, informed decisions about your WRS benefits.

Get Investment Return Information by E-Mail

Want to stay on top of investment performance of the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) trust funds, along with other important information from the State of Wisconsin Investment Board? Sign up for *ETF E-mail Updates*. Look for the red envelope logo at <http://etf.wi.gov>. For questions about WRS investments, e-mail info@swib.state.wi.us or call 1-800-424-7942 or 608-267-0957.

Keep Your Address Current

To update your address on file with the Department of Employee Trust Funds, complete a new *Name/Address Change* form (ET-2815). Find it on our website under the Forms and Publications menu, or call toll free 1-877-383-1888 or 608-266-2323.