



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds
David A. Stella
SECRETARY

801 W Badger Road
PO Box 7931
Madison WI 53707-7931

1-877-533-5020 (toll free)
Fax (608) 267-4549
<http://etf.wi.gov>

CORRESPONDENCE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 22, 2010

TO: Employee Trust Funds Board
Wisconsin Retirement Board
Teachers Retirement Board

FROM: Anne Boudreau, Deputy Administrator
Division of Retirement Services

SUBJECT: Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Benefit Information

This memo is for informational purposes only. No Board action is required.

Please find attached the *WRS Benefit Information* report for the period October – December 2009 and for Calendar Year 2009. This document contains information reflecting the retirement benefit activities administered by the Department of Employee Trust Funds. The data presented covers participant retirement estimates requested, new annuities started, and WRS annuity payment information. In addition to quarterly information, this report also contains calendar year 2009 data on retirement benefit activities.

Of interest are both the retirement estimates **requested** in 2009 and the new annuities **started** in 2009. The number of retirement estimates requested jumped up from 16,883 in calendar year 2008 to 18,836 in 2009—an increase of 11.6% and the first annual increase in three years. Retirement estimate requests previously had dropped off each year since 2006, at a rate of about 4.5% per year. At the same time, the number of new annuities dropped 5.0% from 8,224 in 2008 to 7,833 in 2009. There has been a 4.5- 5% decrease in new annuities each year since 2007.

We would appreciate receiving any feedback that you would like to offer on further enhancements to this document. Staff will be available at the meeting to answer questions. Contact Jean Gilding at (608) 266-1210 (e-mail jean.gilding@etf.state.wi.us) or Anne Boudreau at (608) 266-0758 (e-mail anne.boudreau@etf.state.wi.us) with any further comments or questions.

attachment

Reviewed and approved by Jean Gilding, Division of Retirement Services.

Signature

Date

Board	Mtg Date	Item #
Jl	3.18.10	5Bii



STATE OF WISCONSIN
Department of Employee Trust Funds

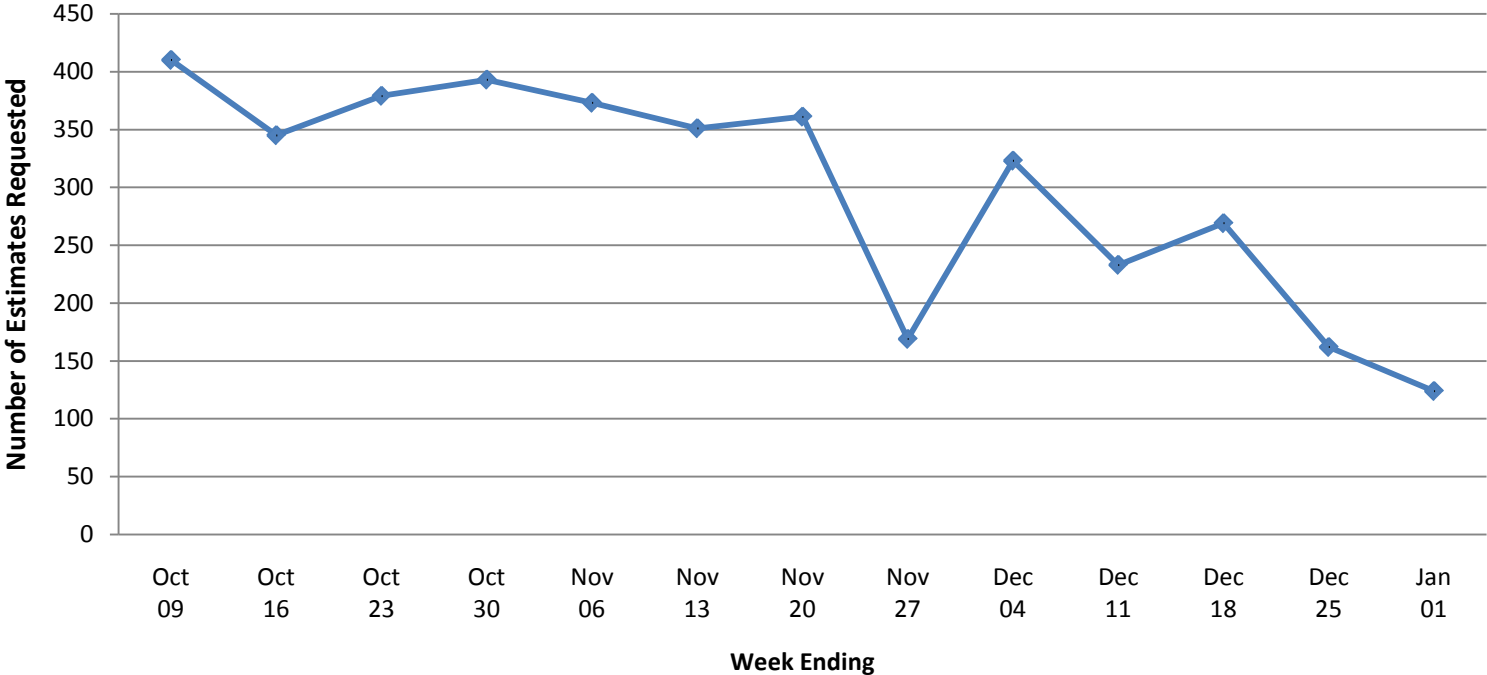
Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Benefit Information

October – December 2009
and
Calendar Year 2009

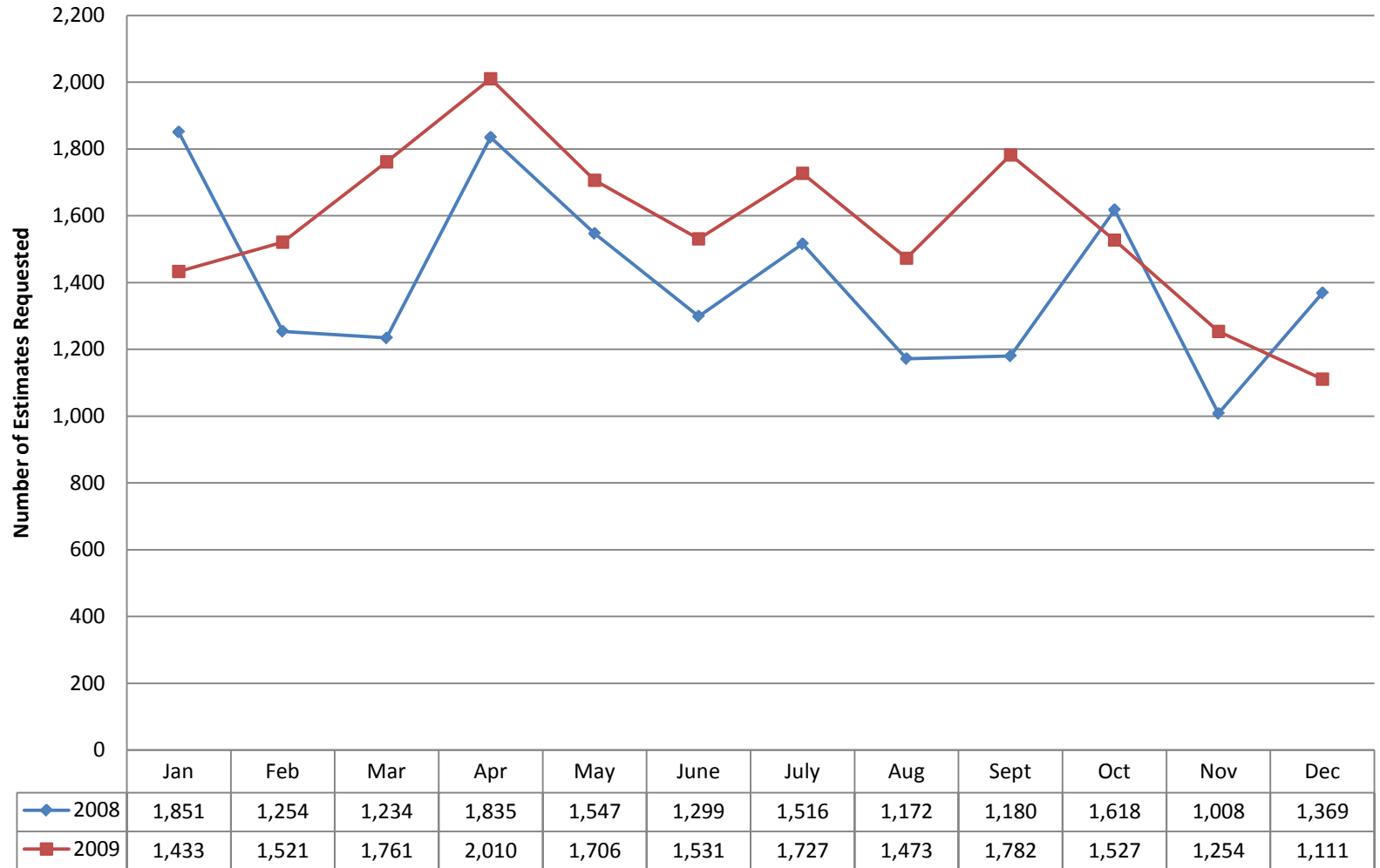
WRS RETIREMENT ESTIMATES

- 3,892 Retirement Estimates requested during the period October - December 2009
- Retirement Estimates requested decreased 2.6% from the previous year's 4th quarter (3,995 in 2008)

Retirement Estimates Requested by Week 4th Quarter 2009



WRS RETIREMENT ESTIMATES
Retirement Estimates Requested by Month
2009 Compared to 2008

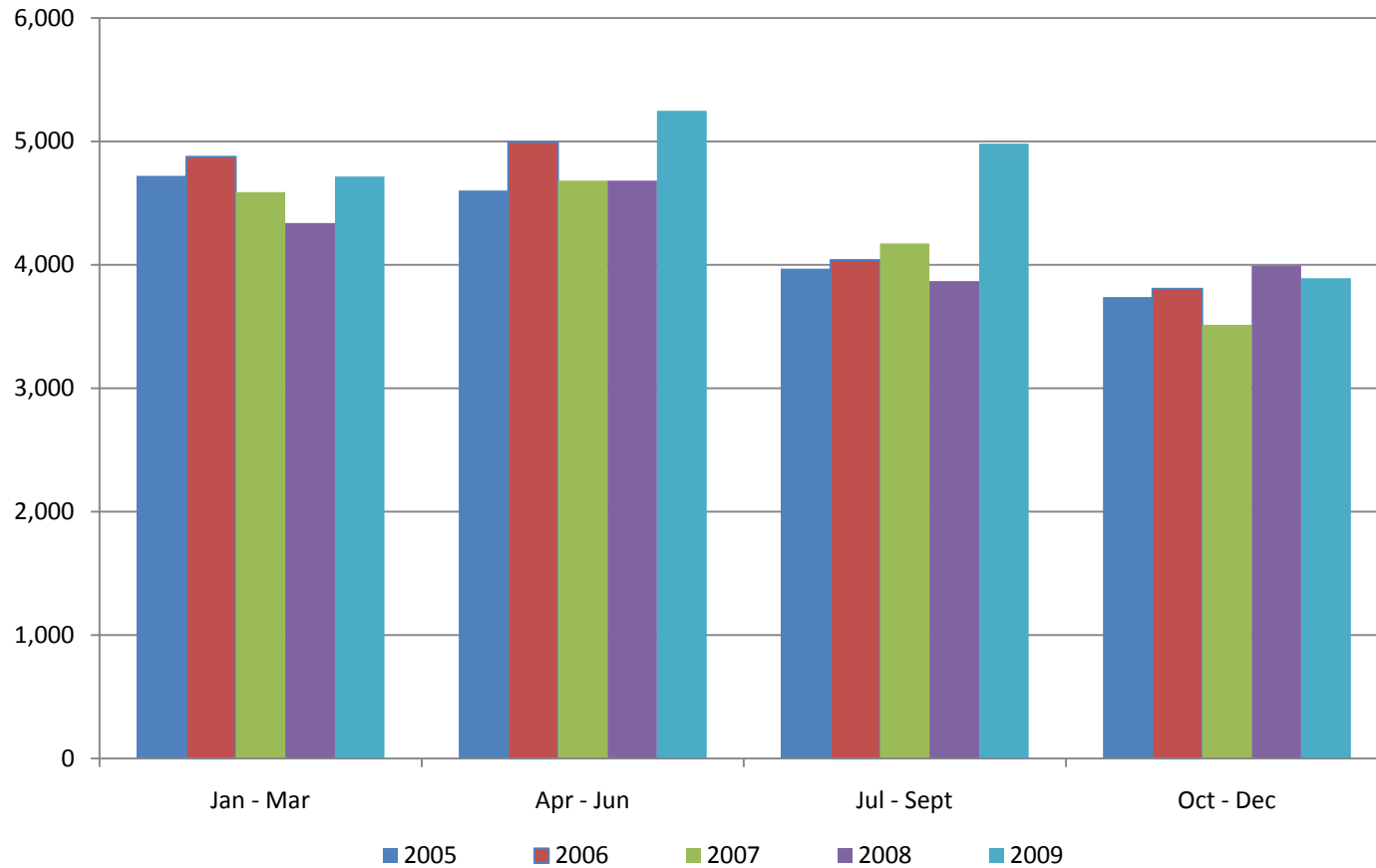


WRS RETIREMENT ESTIMATES

Retirement Estimates Requested

2005-2009

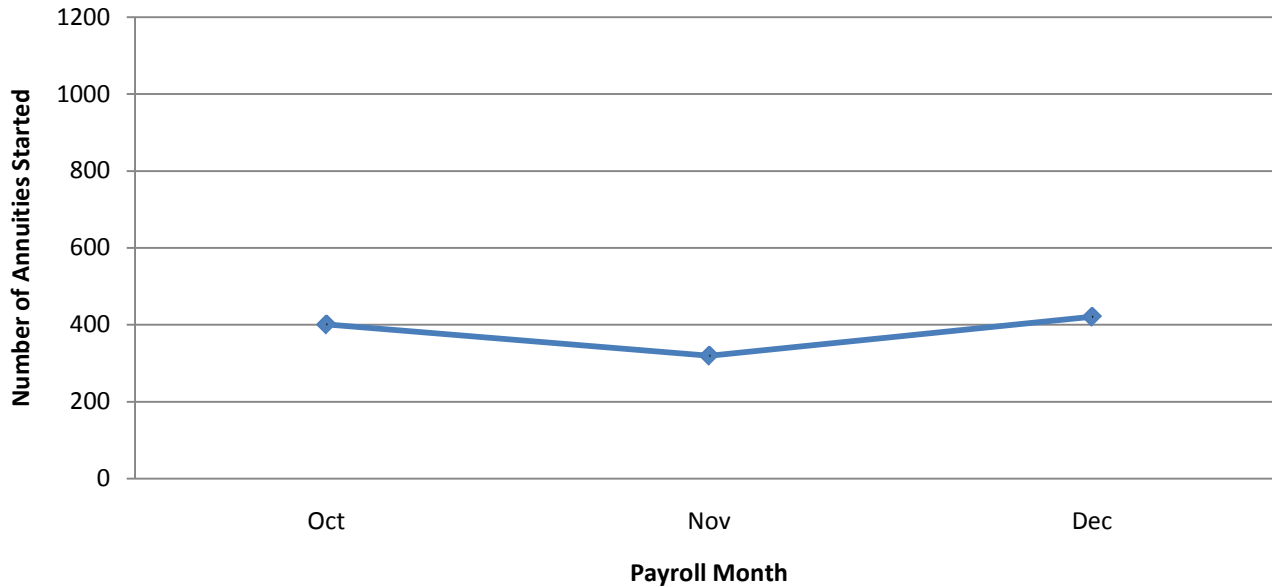
Participants can request a formal benefit estimate up to one year before anticipated retirement.



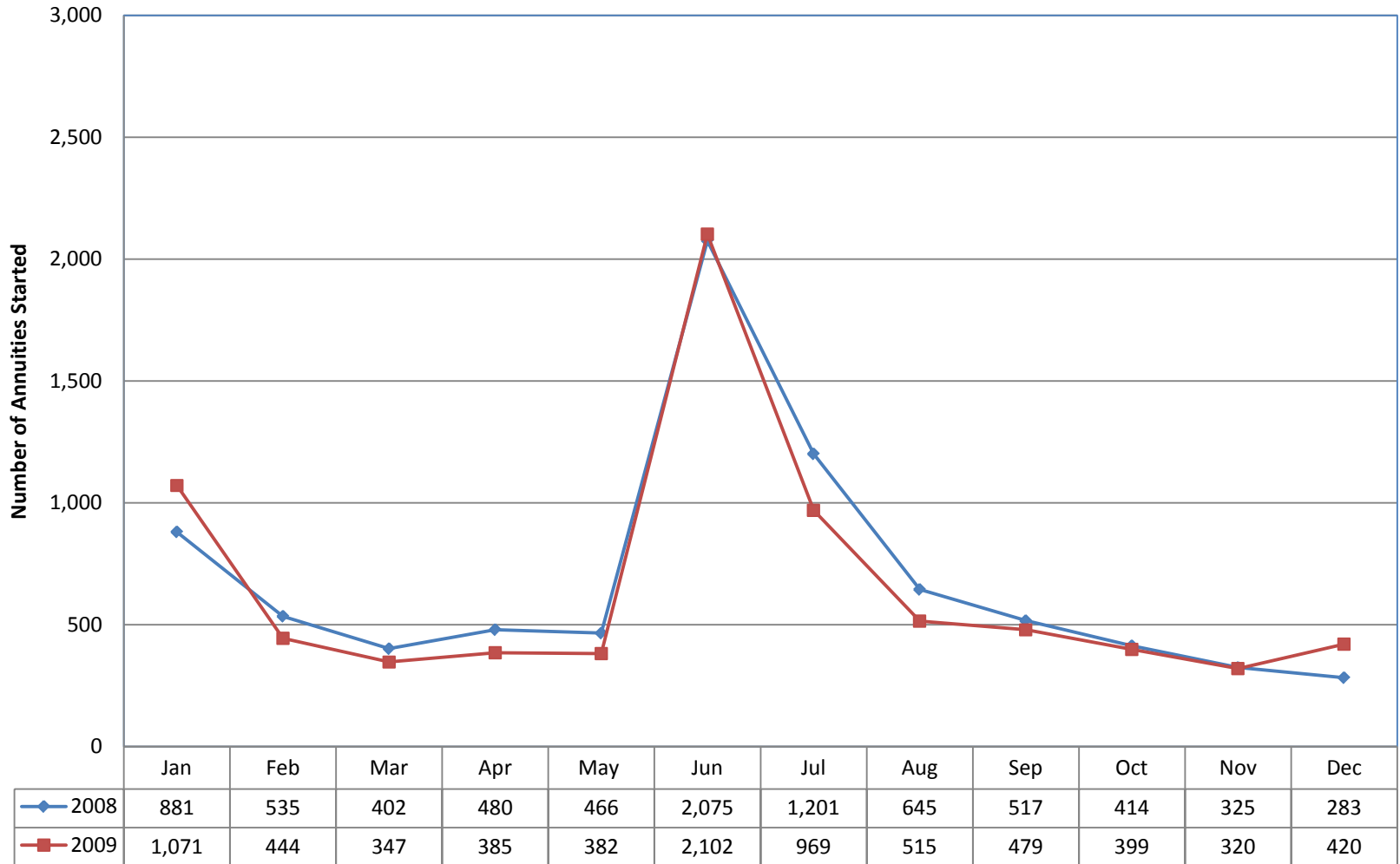
WRS RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

- 1,142 New Annuities started during the period October to December 2009
- 3 Annuities started as a Finalized Payment
(annuities can be started as finalized and not estimated if the Department has the final service earnings and contribution data from the employer)
- New Annuities started increased 11.7% from the previous year's 4th quarter (1,022 in 2009)
- New Annuities started in 2009 (7,841) decreased 5.3% compared to 2008 (8,258). This is the second year in a row that New Annuities have decreased.

**New Annuities Started by Month
4th Quarter 2009**



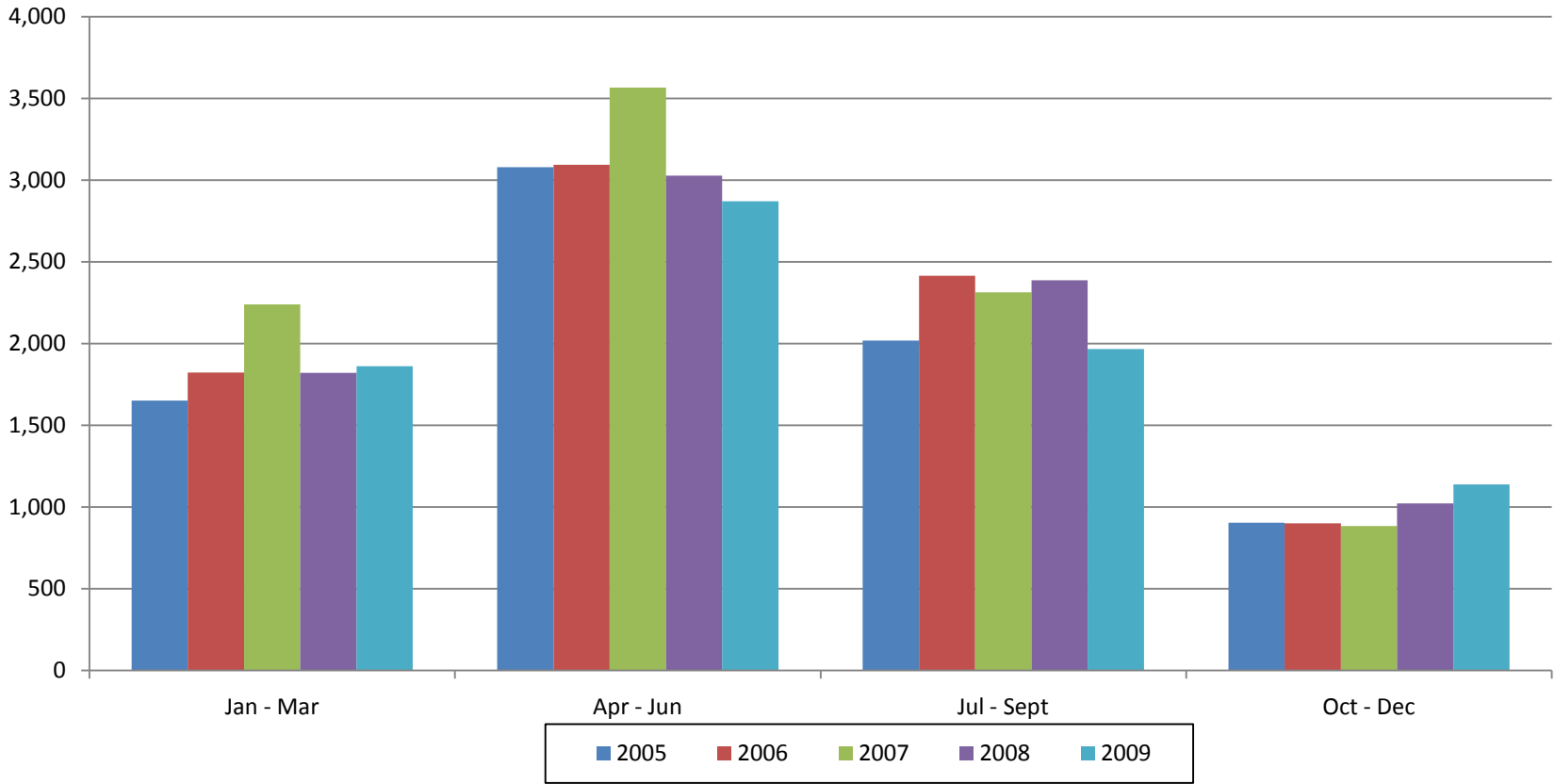
WRS RETIREMENT ESTIMATES
New Annuities Started by Month
2009 Compared to 2008



WRS RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

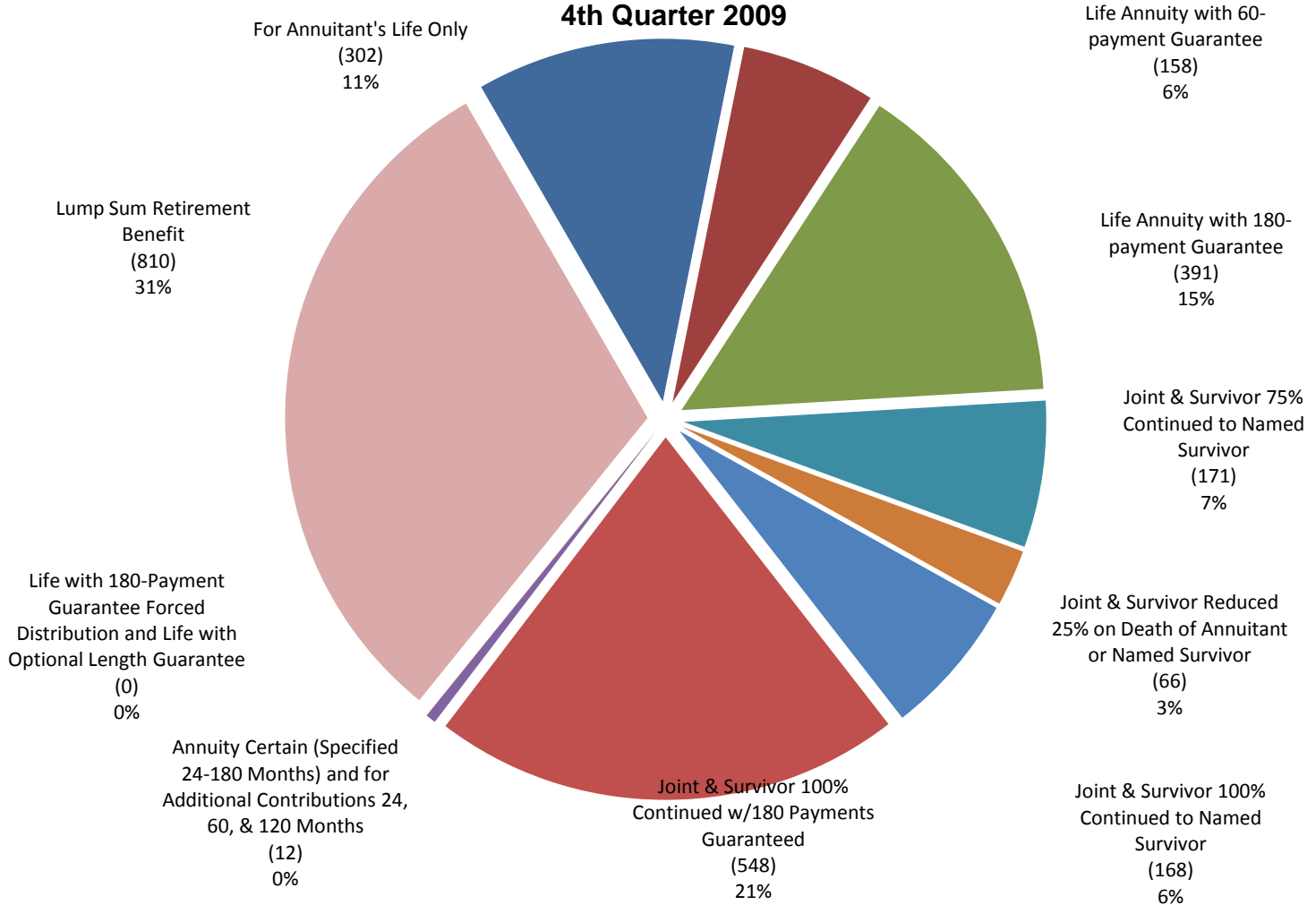
Estimated Annuities Started 2005-2009

New annuities are quickly processed by giving participants “estimated” annuities that are calculated as close as possible to final eligible benefits.



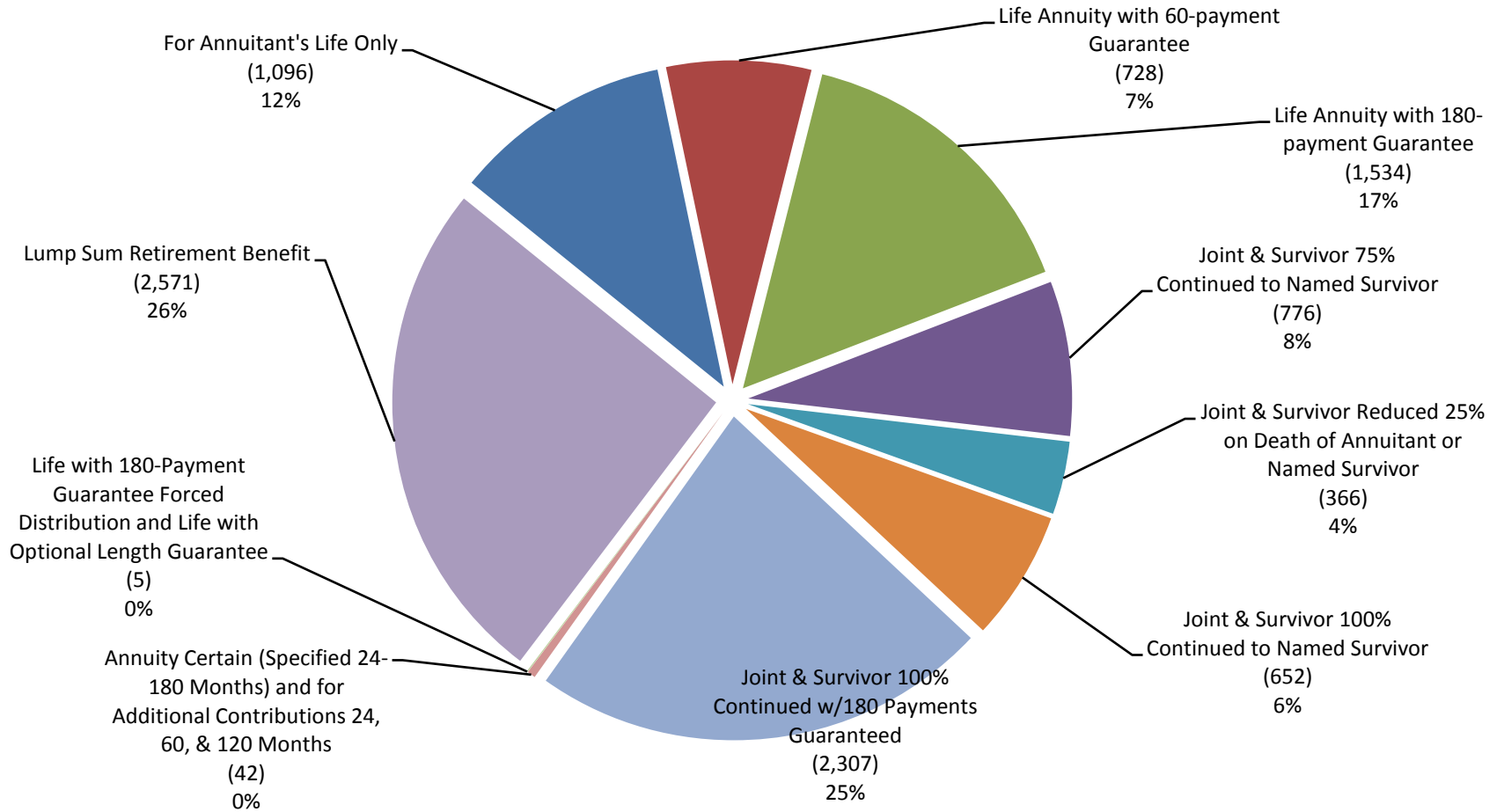
WRS RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Benefit Options Taken Finalized Annuities & Lump Sum Retirement Benefits 4th Quarter 2009

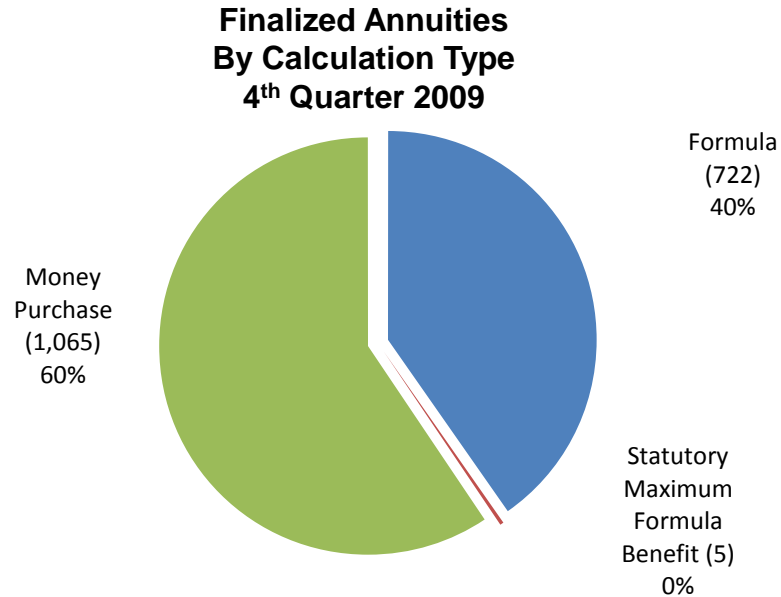


WRS RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Benefit Options Taken Finalized Annuities & Lump Sum Retirement Benefits for Calendar Year 2009



WRS RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

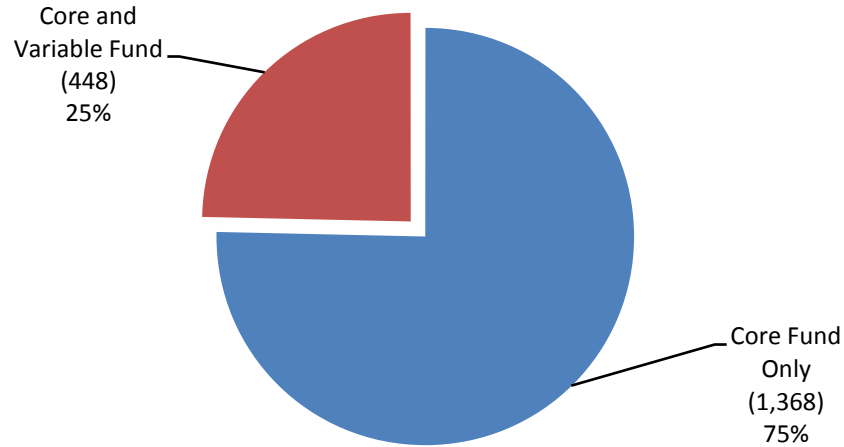


- Money Purchase Calculated benefits continued to climb. This brought the Money Purchase calculated benefits to 60% for the 4th quarter, and to 55.3% for the year, which is a higher percentage than in 2008.

	Formula	Money Purchase
2006	48.4%	51.6%
2007	45.9%	54.1%
2008	46.0%	54.0%
2009	44.3%	55.3%

WRS RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

**Finalized Annuities
By Benefit Fund Type
4th Quarter 2009**

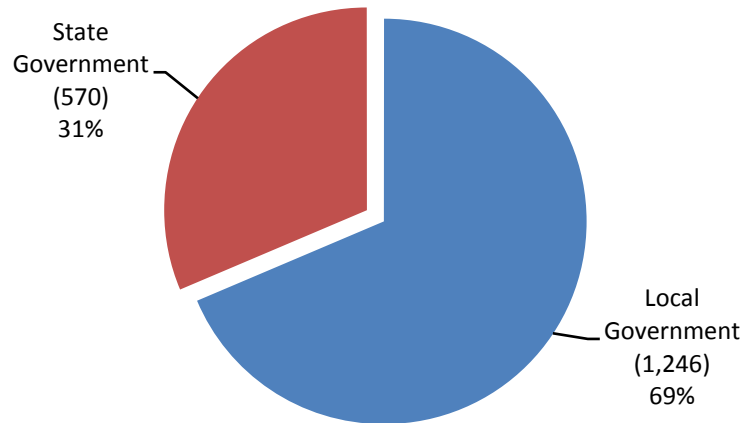


- Core Fund Only benefits increased slightly compared to 4th quarter 2008, when Core Fund Only benefits made up 71% of all finalized annuities. For the year, Core Fund Only benefits were up to 71.2% of finalized annuities.

	Core Only	Core and Variable
2006	71.0%	29.0%
2007	69.2%	30.8%
2008	68.60%	31.4%
2009	71.2%	28.8%

WRS RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

**Finalized Annuities
By Employer Type
4th Quarter 2009**

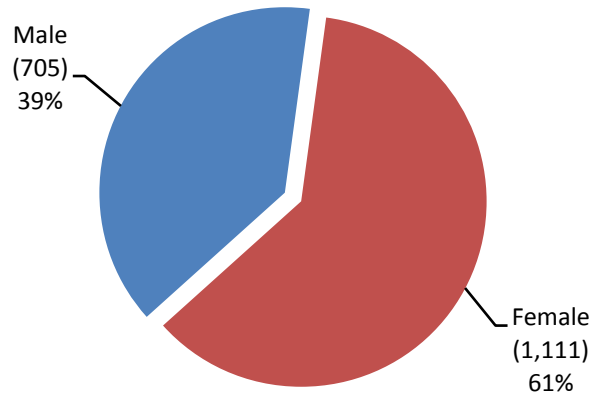


- Local Government retirees were down 15% compared to the 4th quarter of 2008, when they made up 84% of Finalized Annuities. For the year, Local Government retirees were also down slightly from 75.5% of Finalized Annuities in 2008, to 71.0% in 2009.

	Local Government	State Government
2006	59.6%	40.4%
2007	68.3%	31.7%
2008	75.5%	24.5%
2009	71.0%	29.0%

WRS RETIREMENT ANNUITIES

Finalized Annuities By Gender 4th Quarter 2009



- At 39%, Male retirees increased slightly compared to 4th quarter 2008 (34%). The increase was more significant comparing the last two full years: Males made up 39.7% in 2008 and 53.3% in 2009.

	Male	Female
2006	44.6%	55.4%
2007	41.6%	58.4%
2008	39.7%	60.3%
2009	53.3%	46.7%

WRS RETIREMENT & BENEFICIARY ANNUITIES

Retirement Terminations and Beneficiary Information 4th Quarter 2009

- 9 Retirement Annuity Terminations occurred during the period October – December 2009.
 - 8 annuitants returned to work and elected to participant in the WRS
 - 1 annuitant cancelled her benefit application

- 54 Beneficiary Annuities started during the period October – December 2009

- 6 Beneficiary Annuity Terminations occurred during the period October – December 2009
 - All 6 beneficiaries converted their annuities to lump sum payments

WRS RETIREMENT & BENEFICIARY ANNUITIES

**WRS Payment Information
4th Quarter 2009**

Gross Payments by Fund (\$)

Payroll Month	Core	Variable	Subtotal	General Purpose Revenue	Total
Oct 09	290,691,544.36	20,079,659.58	310,771,203.94	71,054.99	310,842,258.93
Nov 09	290,712,321.62	20,042,578.76	310,754,900.38	70,553.26	310,825,453.64
Dec 09	290,374,733.48	20,009,937.80	310,384,671.28	70,294.56	310,454,965.84

Gross Payments by Method of Payment (\$)

Payroll Month	Direct Deposit	Paper Check	Deductions	Accounts Receivable	Total
Oct 09	256,460,832.06	3,612,500.42	51,243,825.48	(474,899.03)	310,842,258.93
Nov 09	256,073,456.42	3,569,380.97	51,693,602.03	(510,985.78)	310,825,453.64
Dec 09	256,830,680.05	3,428,659.36	50,803,086.16	(607,459.73)	310,454,965.84

Number Paid

Payroll Month	Paid by Direct Deposit		Paid by Paper Check		Total
Oct 09	148,376	98.33%	2,518	1.67%	150,894
Nov 09	148,513	98.37%	2,458	1.63%	150,971
Dec 09	148,819	98.38%	2,453	1.62%	151,272

WRS RETIREMENT & BENEFICIARY ANNUITIES

WRS Payment Information Calendar Year 2009

Gross Annuity Payments by Fund (\$)

For 12 Payroll Months	Core	Variable	Subtotal	General Purpose Revenue	Total
2007	3,034,533,930.54	421,811,955.87	3,456,345,886.41	1,422,120.08	3,457,768,006.49
2008	3,344,886,380.55	429,217,427.20	3,774,103,807.75	1,160,473.12	3,775,264,280.87
2009	3,465,655,447.71	287,419,151.14	3,753,074,598.85	912,216.83	3,753,986,815.68

Gross Annuity Payments by Method of Payment (\$)

For 12 Payroll Months	Direct Deposit	Paper Check	Deductions	Accounts Receivable	Total
2007	2,600,292,171.05	313,292,607.86	549,658,895.86	(5,475,668.28)	3,457,768,006.49
2008	2,874,067,714.45	306,265,937.04	602,060,945.47	(7,130,316.09)	3,775,264,280.87
2009	3,026,124,193.55	129,450,452.74	605,589,999.29	(7,177,829.90)	3,753,986,815.68

Annuitant Location

Number of Annuitants by Location					
Wisconsin	130,256	86.11%	Texas	1,007	0.67%
Florida	3,745	2.48%	Michigan	967	0.64%
Arizona	2,086	1.38%	Colorado	624	0.41%
Minnesota	1,991	1.32%	Arkansas	491	0.32%
Illinois	1,266	0.84%	Other States and Territories	7,443	4.92%
California	1,150	0.76%	Foreign Countries	246	0.16%