



# Newsflash

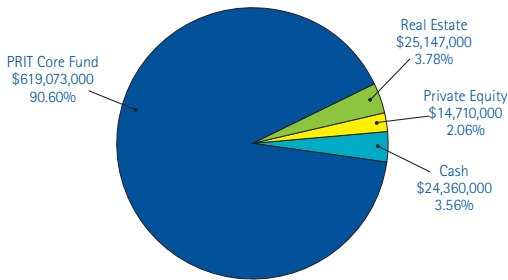
Middlesex County Retirement System

[www.middlesexretirement.org](http://www.middlesexretirement.org)

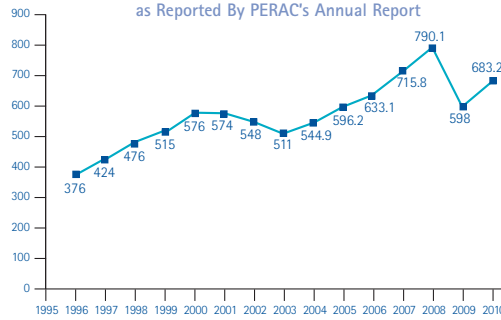
## Investments Get Back on Track

In 2008, the investments of both public and private retirement plans were devastated by the worse downturn in the markets since the Great Depression. In 2009, several of the markets bounced back, helping to undo some of the damage. 90% percent of the System's assets are invested through the Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Trust, which returned 17.23% for the year. The System's remaining assets, consisting of real estate and private equity investments, continued to struggle in 2009. When finalized, the System's 2009 investment return should be approximately 12.50%, exceeding the return target of 8.25%.

**Middlesex County Retirement Fund**  
Asset Allocation as of December 31, 2009  
Total Market Value = \$683,285 Million



**Asset Growth - 1995 to 2009**  
Year End Market Value in Millions  
as Reported By PERAC's Annual Report



## Notice of COLA Adoption

On March 23, 2010 the Board granted a Cost of Living Increase of 3% applicable to the first \$12,000 of qualifying retirees' benefits, or up to \$360. This is the maximum allowed under current law. The COLA will be effective on July 1, 2010, and marks the 12th consecutive year the Board has voted to grant retirees the maximum COLA.

## Earnings Statements Due at PERAC

Disability retirees are reminded that their 2009 Annual Statement of Earnings was due at the Public Employee Retirement Commission on or before April 15, 2010. Failure to file this information could result in an interruption of retirement benefits.

## Benefit Verification Forms Due

The Board appreciates the prompt return of the benefit verification forms by our retirees. If you have not yet returned this important document, please do so at once, otherwise your retirement benefits may be interrupted. If you need another form, please call us immediately. If you are ill or did not receive the form, please let us know so we can help you with this important document.

## Public vs. Private Compensation

A new report by the National Institute on Retirement Security and the Center for State and Local Government Excellence finds that employees of state and local government earn an average of 11% and 12% less, respectively, than comparable private sector employees, and this gap has widened in recent years. Read the full report on our website.

### Middlesex County Retirement System

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