

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

**Financial Statements and Supplementary Information
And Report of Independent Auditor's Report**

September 30, 2008

**BERTSMITH
& Co.**

Certified Public Accountants and Management Consultants

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
SEPTEMBER 30, 2008**

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The Board of Trustees
 Employees' Retirement System of the
 Government of the Virgin Islands:

We have audited the accompanying statement of plan net assets of the Government of the Virgin Islands Employees' Retirement System (the System) as of September 30, 2008, and the related statement of changes in plan net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the System's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. The prior year's summarized comparative information has been derived from the System's 2007 financial statement, and in our report dated November 25, 2008, we expressed a qualified opinion on those statements.

Except as discussed in the following paragraphs, we conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the System's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As explained in note 4, the financial statements include investments in a limited partnership valued at \$42,836,274. The System's estimate is based on information provided by the general partner of the limited partnership in the fiscal year 2006 less the return of capital during the year 2008 of \$8,163,726 upon the restructure of the fund. Management has chosen to maintain its investment balance from the prior year due to its uncertainty of the recoverability of its investment.

The real estate investment in the System Complex reflected at \$20,864,895 as of September 30, 2008 is based on historical costs. A portion of the real estate investment is leased to other government agencies and commercial tenants, and in accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) No. 25, *Financial Reporting for Defined Benefit Pension Plans and Note Disclosures for Defined Contribution Plans* requires that the leased portion of the investment be presented at fair value. A valuation of this real estate investment was not performed in fiscal year 2008. The effects of this departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on the System's financial statements and the supplementary schedules have not been determined.

In our opinion, except for:

- the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary, if the scope of our audit had not been limited by our inability to satisfy ourselves as to the fair value of the limited partnership investment,

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- the effects of not having performed a valuation in fiscal year 2008 of the real estate investment in the System complex related to the portion of the building held for lease, and not carrying such investment at fair value, and

The financial statements referred to in the first paragraph above present fairly, in all material respects, the plan net assets of the Employees' Retirement System of the Government of the Virgin Islands as of September 30, 2008, the changes in its plan net assets for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management's discussion and analysis on pages 3 through 13 is not a required part of the basic financial statements, but is supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. This supplementary information is the responsibility of the System's management. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

The schedules of funding progress and employer contributions on pages 34 through 35 are not a required part of the basic financial statements, but are required supplementary information required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

This supplementary information is the responsibility of the System's management. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the supplementary information. However, we did not audit and do not express an opinion it. As a result of such limited procedures, we believe that the schedules of funding progress and employer contributions are not in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States because an actuarial valuation was not performed within the required two year period.

Bert Smith & Co.

December 8, 2009

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis

September 30, 2008

This management's discussion and analysis (MD&A) of the Employees' Retirement System of the Government of the Virgin Islands (the System) is designed to (a) assist the reader in focusing on significant financial issues, (b) provide an overview of the System's financial activity, (c) identify changes in the System's financial position, and (d) identify individual issues or concerns. All amounts, unless otherwise indicated, are expressed in thousands of dollars.

The MD&A is intended as a supplement and should be read in conjunction with the financial statements.

Overview of the Financial Statements

The System is a component unit of the primary government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and is included in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of the Government. The System's financial statements include the following components:

- Statement of Plan Net Assets
- Statement of Changes in Plan Net Assets
- Notes to the Financial Statements
- Required Supplementary Information

The *Statement of Plan Net Assets* presents the Plan's assets and liabilities and the resulting net assets, which are held in trust for pension benefits. This statement reflects a year-end snapshot of the System's investments, at fair value, receivables and other assets and liabilities.

The *Statement of Changes in Plan Net Assets* presents information showing how the Plan's net assets held in trust for pension benefits changed during the year. This statement includes additions for contributions by members and employers and investment earnings and deductions for annuity payments, refunded contributions and administrative expenses.

Notes to the Financial Statements are an integral part of the financial statements and provide additional information that is necessary in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the data reported in the financial statements. This section also now includes the disclosure of actuarial methods and significant assumptions used in the most recent actuarial valuations and the funded status of the plan in accordance with GASB Statement No. 50, "Pension Disclosures – an amendment of GASB Statements No. 25 and No. 27."

Required Supplementary Information presents information concerning the Systems' funding progress and its obligations to provide pension benefits to members. A schedule of required employer contributions is also presented and is useful in evaluating the condition of the plan.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE SYSTEM AS A WHOLE

Comparison of 2008 and 2007 Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets

Condensed assets, liabilities, and net assets are presented below (dollar amounts in thousands):

<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Increase (decrease)</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Investments	\$ 988,979	\$ 1,312,363	\$ (323,384)	(25%)
Foreign currency exchange contracts	285	-	285	100%
Member loans, net	125,877	118,105	7,772	7%
Real estate, net	100,865	99,854	1,011	1%
Other assets	380,235	416,269	(36,034)	(9%)
Total assets	1,596,241	1,946,591	(350,350)	(18%)
Total liabilities	221,476	339,222	(117,746)	(35%)
Total net assets	1,374,765	\$ 1,607,369	(232,604)	(14%)

At September 30, 2008 and 2007, the System's total assets were \$1.596 billion and \$1.947 billion, respectively. This decrease in total assets resulted mainly from the net effect of the following:

- Investments decreased \$323.4 million, which represented a 25% decrease over September 30, 2007. Both the domestic and international equity segments impacted the decreased performance of the Fund. For the year ended September 30, 2008 the total return on the investment portfolio amounted to (15%). In addition the System received a distribution in the form of a return of capital totaling \$8.2 million from its limited partnership investment in Attilanus.

The System is restricted by asset allocation mandates which require maintaining 60% of its investment portfolio in equity stocks. Thus, the value of the equity portfolio of the System like that of other investors was heavily impacted by the downturn in the financial market at the end of fiscal year 2008.

- The members' loans increased \$7.8 million to approximately \$125.9 million as of September 30, 2008 from approximately \$118.1 million as of September 30, 2007. The 7% increase was attributable primarily to the increased personal loans granted during the year. The allowance for losses were reevaluated as of year-end and adjusted to reflect the current risk of default.
- The real estate increased approximately \$1.01 million due to additions made during the fiscal year 2008 net of depreciation expense of \$112 thousand.
- Total other assets decreased by approximately \$36 million as a result of the net effect of the following:
 - The invested securities lending collateral decreased to approximately \$197.6 million as of September 30, 2008 from approximately \$304.5 million as of September 30, 2007. This decrease of \$106.9 million was offset by a similar decrease of the same amount in the liabilities section (securities lending collateral). These securities lending transactions pay a predetermined interest rate with significant covenant protecting the lender to exposure to loss. The change is dependent on the securities loaned at year end by the System's custodian.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

- The cash and cash equivalents increased to approximately \$112.9 million as of September 30, 2008 from approximately \$59 million as of September 30, 2007. The cash and cash equivalents are segregated as follows (dollar amounts in thousands):

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Increase (decrease)</u>
Cash in money market accounts	\$ 95,598	\$ 35,043	\$ 60,555
Cash in operational accounts	<u>17,293</u>	<u>23,988</u>	<u>(6,695)</u>
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 112,891</u>	<u>\$ 59,031</u>	<u>\$ 53,860</u>

Total increase in money market accounts of approximately \$60.6 is due primarily to investment managers holding larger than usual cash positions because of the unstable market conditions combined with volatile stock prices, which created less than favorable buying opportunities. The decrease of \$6.7 million in the operational cash accounts reflects cash management needs at September 30, 2008 as compared to September 30, 2007.

- The unsettled securities sold increased \$3.44 million to approximately \$11.7 million as of September 30, 2008 from approximately \$8.2 million as of September 30, 2007.

At September 30, 2008, the System's total liabilities were \$221.5 million compared with \$339.2 million at September 30, 2007.

- The System has a cash overdraft with bank of approximately \$3.5 million as of September 30, 2008.
- The System wrote off a \$10.5 million cash overdraft with the Department of Finance, which has been carried on its books for several years; after confirmation with the Central Government, the System determined that this liability did not exist.
- The line of credit with financial institution decreased by \$2 million when compared to prior year. On October 2, 2006, the System entered into a loan agreement with a financial institution to provide working capital to the System for its corporate purposes. This line of credit is a revolving line of credit in the aggregate maximum principal amount of \$25 million. The decrease reflects periodic payments made.
- Securities lending transactions decreased by approximately \$106.9 million when compared to prior year, and is offset by a similar decrease in the assets section.
- The unsettled securities purchased decreased \$1.59 million to approximately \$6.33 million as of September 30, 2008 from approximately \$7.9 million as of September 30, 2007.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

Comparison of 2008 and 2007 Additions, Deductions, and Changes in Plan Net Assets

Condensed additions, deductions, and changes in plan net assets are presented below (dollar amounts in thousands):

<u>Additions, deductions, and changes in plan net assets</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>Increase (decrease)</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Net (depreciation)/appreciation in fair value of investments	\$(231,086)	\$ 140,273	\$ (371,359)	(265%)
Net appreciation in fair value of real estate	-	19,487	(19,487)	(100%)
Interest, dividends, and other	62,212	58,069	4,143	7%
Rental income, net	3,209	4,621	(1,412)	(31%)
Less investment management fees and custodian fees, borrowers' rebates and other agent fees on securities lending transactions, and other expenses	<u>15,477</u>	<u>20,718</u>	<u>(5,241)</u>	(25%)
Total investment (loss) income	(181,142)	201,732	(382,874)	(190%)
Total contribution income	112,829	96,547	16,282	17%
Other income	<u>20,423</u>	<u>2,091</u>	<u>18,332</u>	877%
Total additions	<u>(47,890)</u>	<u>\$ 300,370</u>	<u>\$(348,260)</u>	(116%)
Benefits paid directly to members	170,097	158,871	11,226	7%
Refunds of members' contributions	2,689	1,768	921	52%
Administrative and operational expenses	<u>11,928</u>	<u>9,839</u>	<u>2,089</u>	21%
Total deductions	<u>184,714</u>	<u>170,478</u>	<u>14,236</u>	8%
Net increases	<u>\$(232,604)</u>	<u>\$ 129,892</u>	<u>\$(362,713)</u>	(279)%

For the year ended September 30, 2008, operations resulted in a net decrease of \$232.6 million when compared to the net increase of \$129.9 million for the year ended September 30, 2007. This net decrease resulted from the net effect of the following:

■ **Net Depreciation in Fair Value of Investments**

Total net depreciation in fair value of investments for the year ended September 30, 2008 was approximately \$231.1 million, reflecting a 265% decrease over the \$140.3 million appreciation reported for the year ended September 30, 2007. For fiscal year ended September 30, 2008 the System generated negative absolute returns due to the corrosive effects of the U.S. economic downturn.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

In fact, the month of September 2008 proved to be a period of historic negative returns worldwide. The System's portfolios, in both the domestic and international markets, were impacted by the fallout from the major financial institutions placed in conservatorship, the largest bank failure in history, major financial institutions converted to commercial banks and now under the control of the U.S. Government and the several other unprecedented events causing credit and liquidity crises in the financial sector and havoc on the capital markets.

Stocks in the sectors of finance, energy, basic materials and healthcare performed well for the System in the early part of fiscal year 2008, but by the end of the year it was apparent that a global meltdown was upon us and it affected the System's entire portfolio. Equities suffered setbacks in the latter part of the fiscal year. There were extensive sell-offs in the equity markets caused by a drop in stocks as the market reacted to the heavy turmoil in credit markets and widespread recession worries.

Nonetheless, the System is a long-term investor and manages the pension fund with long-term goals in mind. The primary investment philosophy of the System is diversification among various asset classes, which is the best way to achieve its long-term goal. GERS management along with its Board of Trustees, under advisement from its financial advisors, will continue to review all investment programs and monitor the investment managers that are responsible for investing the assets. The present fluctuations of the financial markets are reflective of the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s from which the System rebounded because of its investment diversification and long-term asset allocations. This same recovery is expected going forward.

■ **Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Real Estate**

The value of the Havensight Mall property was adjusted in the prior year to reflect its fair market value consistent with the implementation of GASB No. 25. No valuation was performed during 2008.

■ **Interest, Dividends, and Other**

Total interest, dividends, and other increased to approximately \$62.2 million for the year ended September 30, 2008 from approximately \$58.1 million for the year ended September 30, 2007. The increase of \$4.14 million in interest, dividends, and other was due primarily to the net combination of the following factors. Interest income from investments increased to \$24.6 million for fiscal year ended September 30, 2008 from \$21.6 million for fiscal year ended September 30, 2007. This gain of \$3 million was due to periodic interest hikes throughout the year. Other investment income increased to \$14.3 million for fiscal year September 30, 2008 from \$11.5 million for fiscal year September 30, 2007.

■ **Investment Management Fees and Custodian Fees, Borrower' Rebates and Other Agent Fees on Securities Lending Transactions, and Other Expenses**

The investment and other fees decreased to approximately \$15.5 million for the year ended September 30, 2008 from approximately \$20.7 million for the year ended September 30, 2007. The decrease of \$5.2 million is primarily due to increased rebates and other agent fees on securities lending transactions.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

■ **Contribution Income**

Total contribution income increased by approximately 17% or \$16.3 million to \$112.8 million in fiscal year 2008 from \$96.5 million in fiscal year 2007. The System increased the employer's contribution rate from 14.5% to 17.5%. Of the \$16.3 million increase, \$11.3 represented payments towards the outstanding amounts due for the 3% rate increase.

■ **Other Income**

Other income increased to \$20.4 million for fiscal year ended September 30, 2008 from approximately \$2.1 million dollars in fiscal year ended September 30, 2007. This \$18.3 million increase included primarily \$4.5 million received for payment of a cost of living bonus to retirees, who retired prior to 1990, or their beneficiaries; \$2.6 million received as a condemnation settlement for GERS land used for roadway improvement and a \$2.7 million write down of excess allowance for uncollectible loans. In addition a \$10.5 million liability due the Central Government, which was carried on the books for several years, was written off after GERS confirmed that the liability was nonexistent.

■ **Benefits Paid Directly to Members**

Benefits paid directly to members increased to approximately \$170.1 million for the year ended September 30, 2008 from approximately \$158.9 million for the year ended September 30, 2007 due primarily to the increase in the overall number of retirees receiving benefits through the annuity payroll and a cost of living adjustment of 1.5% and 1% provided to retired and disabled beneficiaries, respectively.

■ **Administrative and Operational Expenses**

Administrative and operational expenses increased by approximately \$2.1 million to approximately \$11.9 million for the year ended September 30, 2008 from \$9.8 million for the year ended September 30, 2007. The increase was mainly due to costs associated with the implementation of the new loans and benefits software to improve the delivery of services to the members of the System.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

Comparison of 2007 and 2006 Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets

Condensed assets, liabilities, and net assets are presented below (dollar amounts in thousands):

<u>Net Assets</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Increase (decrease)</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Investments	\$ 1,312,363	\$ 1,193,362	\$ 119,001	10%
Foreign currency exchange contracts	-	184	(184)	(100%)
Member loans, net	118,105	112,557	5,548	5%
Real estate, net	99,854	79,074	20,780	26%
Other assets	416,269	400,781	15,488	4%
Total assets	1,946,591	1,785,958	160,633	9%
Total liabilities	339,222	308,480	30,742	10%
Total net assets	\$ 1,607,369	\$ 1,477,478	\$ 129,891	9%

At September 30, 2007 and 2006, the System's total assets were \$1.947 billion and \$1.786 billion, respectively. This increase in total assets resulted mainly from the net effect of the following:

- Investments, specifically marketable securities, increased \$119 million, which represented a 10% increase over September 30, 2006. Both the domestic and international equity segments have been major contributors to the increased performance of the Fund. For the year ended September 30, 2007 the total return on the investment portfolio amounted to 14.5%

The System is restricted by asset allocation mandates which require maintaining 60% of its investment portfolio in equity stocks. Thus, the value of the equity portfolio of the System like that of other investors was heavily impacted by the general favorable conditions reflected in the market during fiscal year 2007 and 2006.

- The members' loans increased \$5.5 million to approximately \$118.1 million as of September 30, 2007 from approximately \$112.6 million as of September 30, 2006. The 5% increase was attributable primarily to the increased personal loans granted during the year. The allowance for losses remained at the same level as in 2006.
- The real estate net increased approximately \$20.8 million due mainly to implementation of GASB No. 25, "Financial Reporting for Defined Benefit Pension Plans and Note Disclosures for Defined Contribution Plans" for the Havensight Mall property. The standard requires that such an investment be presented at fair value resulting in an increase of approximately \$19.5 million. The additional \$1.3 million increase was due to additions made during the fiscal year 2007 net of depreciation expense of \$109 thousand.
- Total other assets increased by approximately \$15.5 million as a result of the net effect of the following:

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

- The invested securities lending collateral increased to approximately \$304.5 million as of September 30, 2007 from approximately \$271.2 million as of September 30, 2006. This increase was offset by an increase from the same amount (\$33.3 million) in the liabilities section (securities lending collateral). These securities lending transactions pay a predetermined interest rate with significant covenant protecting the lender to exposure to loss. The increase in the type of investment results from gains in the stock market as the System invested in higher-yielding equity investments to benefit from the effect of the general favorable conditions shown by the capital markets.
- The cash and cash equivalents decreased to approximately \$59 million as of September 30, 2007 from approximately \$83.4 million as of September 30, 2006. The cash and cash equivalents are segregated as follows (dollar amounts in thousands):

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Increase (decrease)</u>
Cash in money market accounts	\$ 35,043	\$ 79,992	\$ (44,949)
Cash in operational accounts	23,988	3,439	20,549
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$ 59,031</u>	<u>\$ 83,431</u>	<u>\$ (24,400)</u>

Total decrease in money market accounts of approximately \$44.9 million is in part attributable to the offsetting increase in marketable securities. The System's investment managers took the opportunity to capitalize on the relative out performance in the domestic equity stocks. In addition the System is required by mandate to limit cash and cash equivalents to no more than 5% of the total portfolio. The increase in the cash operational accounts of approximately \$20.5 million is due to the need for increased draw downs from the investments in marketable securities to fund the current operating deficiency.

- The unsettled securities sold increased \$3.6 million to approximately \$8.2 million as of September 30, 2007 from approximately \$4.6 million as of September 30, 2006.

At September 30, 2007, the System's total liabilities were \$339.2 million compared with \$308.5 million at September 30, 2006.

- The cash overdraft with bank of approximately \$3.5 million as of September 30, 2006 was eliminated as of September 30, 2007.
- The line of credit with financial institution decreased by \$687 thousand when compared to prior year. On October 2, 2006, the System entered into a loan agreement with a financial institution to provide working capital to the System for its corporate purposes. This line of credit is a revolving line of credit in the aggregate maximum principal amount of \$25 million. The decrease reflects periodic payments made.
- Securities lending transactions increased by approximately \$33.3 million when compared to prior year.
- The unsettled securities purchased increased \$548 thousand to approximately \$7.9 million as of September 30, 2007 from approximately \$7.4 million as of September 30, 2006.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

Comparison of 2007 and 2006 Additions, Deductions, and Changes in Plan Net Assets

Condensed additions, deductions, and changes in plan net assets are presented below (dollar amounts in thousands):

<u>Additions, deductions, and changes in plan net assets</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>Increase (decrease)</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ 140,273	\$ 62,705	\$ 77,568	124%
Net appreciation in fair value of real estate	19,487	-	19,487	100%
Interest, dividends, and other	58,069	56,072	1,997	4%
Rental income, net	4,621	3,645	976	27%
Less investment management fees and custodian fees, borrowers' rebates and other agent fees on securities lending transactions, and other expenses	<u>20,718</u>	<u>18,118</u>	<u>2,600</u>	14%
Total investment income	201,732	104,304	97,428	93%
Total contribution income	96,547	99,271	(2,724)	(3%)
Other income	<u>2,091</u>	<u>263</u>	<u>1,828</u>	695%
Total additions	<u>300,370</u>	<u>203,838</u>	<u>96,532</u>	47%
Benefits paid directly to members	158,871	147,801	11,070	7%
Refunds of members' contributions	1,768	2,935	(1,167)	(40%)
Administrative and operational expenses	<u>9,839</u>	<u>10,258</u>	<u>(419)</u>	(4%)
Total deductions	<u>170,478</u>	<u>160,994</u>	<u>9,484</u>	6%
Net increases	<u>\$ 129,892</u>	<u>\$ 42,844</u>	<u>\$ 87,048</u>	203%

For the year ended September 30, 2007, operations resulted in a net increase of \$129.9 million when compared to the net increase of \$42.8 million for the year ended September 30, 2006. This fluctuation in net increase resulted from the net effect of the following:

■ **Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Investments**

Total net appreciation in fair value of investments for the year ended September 30, 2007 increased \$77.6 million to \$140.3 million, reflecting a 124% increase over the \$62.7 million appreciation reported for the year ended September 30, 2006. The increase in net appreciation was concentrated in the System's U.S. domestic equity portfolios. Stocks in the sectors of finance, energy, basic materials and healthcare performed well for the System in fiscal year 2007.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

■ **Net Appreciation in Fair Value of Real Estate**

The net appreciation in fair value represents the increase in fair value of the Havensight Mall property, the recognition of which is consistent with the implementation of GASB No. 25.

■ **Interest, Dividends, and Other**

Total interest, dividends, and other increased to approximately \$58.1 million for the year ended September 30, 2007 from approximately \$56.1 million for the year ended September 30, 2006. The increase of \$2.0 million in interest, dividends, and other was due primarily to the net combination of the following factors. Interest income increased to \$21.6 million for fiscal year ended September 30, 2007 from \$18.4 million for fiscal year ended September 30, 2006. This gain of \$3.2 million was due to periodic interest hikes throughout the year. The offsetting decrease of \$1.5 million was attributable primarily to payables on forward exchange contracts.

■ **Investment Management Fees and Custodian Fees, Borrower' Rebates and Other Agent Fees on Securities Lending Transactions, and Other Expenses**

These investment and other fees increased to approximately \$20.7 million for the year ended September 30, 2007 from approximately \$18.1 million for the year ended September 30, 2006. The increase of \$2.6 million is primarily due to increased rebates and other agent fees on securities lending transactions.

■ **Contribution Income**

Total contribution income decreased by approximately 3% or \$2.7 million to \$96.5 million in fiscal year 2007 from \$99.3 million in fiscal year 2006. During 2006, the System received payments in the amount of approximately \$7 million for past monies due from the Government of the United States Virgin Islands for employee and employer contributions pursuant to the Early Retirement Act of 1994. The System did not record receivables related to these monies during the years that they were earned. Negating such monies received in 2006, the System saw an increase in contribution income of approximately \$4.3 million in 2007

■ **Other Income**

Other Income increased to \$2.1 million dollars for fiscal year ended September 30, 2007 from approximately \$263 thousand in fiscal year ended September 30, 2006. This \$1.9 million increase included \$1.5 million received for payment of a cost of living bonus to retirees, or their beneficiaries, who retired prior to 1990. The additional \$400 thousand represent primarily penalty fees on late rental payments and other miscellaneous fees.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Management's Discussion and Analysis (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

■ **Benefits Paid Directly to Members**

Benefits paid directly to members increased to approximately \$158.9 million for the year ended September 30, 2007 from approximately \$147.8 million for the year ended September 30, 2006 due to the increase in the overall number of retirees receiving benefits through the annuity payroll registers; a cost of living adjustment of 1.5% and 1% provided to retired and disabled beneficiaries, respectively; and a \$1.5 million bonus paid to beneficiaries who retired prior to 1990.

■ **Administrative and Operational Expenses**

Administrative and operational expenses decreased \$419 thousand to approximately \$9.8 million for the year ended September 30, 2007 from \$10.3 million for the year ended September 30, 2006. The decrease was mainly due to reductions in various service fees and salaries and wages.

CONTACTING THE SYSTEM'S MANAGEMENT

This financial report is designed to provide the board of trustees, the membership and investors, and creditors with a general overview of the finances and to demonstrate the System's accountability for the money it receives. Questions or concerns regarding any information in this report or requests for additional information should be addressed to the Government Employees' Retirement System, 3438 Kronprindsens Gade, Saint Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Statement of Plan Net Assets
September 30, 2008
(With Comparative Totals for September 30, 2007)

	2008	2007
Assets		
Investments:		
Marketable securities, at fair value:		
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 58,255,278	\$ 125,255,922
Corporate obligations	102,983,638	58,294,024
Foreign bonds and government obligations	46,767,897	78,241,099
Common stock - U.S.	467,488,934	696,871,642
Common stock – foreign	73,359,601	122,870,071
Preferred stock – foreign	971,829	1,277,687
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	153,171,919	171,432,680
Mutual funds	31,525,824	3,162,338
Investment Loans	8,000,000	-
Real estate investment trust	3,617,308	3,957,314
	946,142,228	1,261,362,777
Limited partnership	42,836,274	51,000,000
	988,978,502	1,312,362,777
Foreign currency exchange contract	285,451	-
Member loans:		
Mortgage	12,396,380	14,450,913
Personal	113,565,988	106,449,387
Auto	214,775	205,041
	126,177,143	121,105,341
Less allowance for losses	(300,000)	(3,000,000)
	125,877,143	118,105,341
Real estate:		
Havensight Mall	80,000,000	80,000,000
System Complex	20,864,895	19,853,966
	100,864,895	99,853,966
Invested securities lending collateral	197,593,196	304,456,020
Cash and cash equivalents	112,890,788	59,030,897
Interest-bearing deposit with bank	26,404,669	25,770,073
Reserved assets	78,410	76,715
Due from the Department of Finance and outside agencies of the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands	21,267,062	9,384,928
Accrued interest receivable	5,799,392	5,875,975
Unsettled securities sold	11,651,703	8,215,237
Other	4,550,348	3,459,446
Total Assets	1,596,241,559	1,946,591,375
Liabilities		
Foreign currency exchange contract	-	1,083,076
Cash overdraft with the Department of Finance	-	10,454,451
Cash overdraft with bank	3,457,567	-
Line of credit with financial institution	7,313,002	9,313,002
Securities lending transactions	197,593,196	304,456,020
Unsettled securities purchased	6,332,447	7,924,346
Other liabilities	6,779,851	5,991,068
Total Liabilities	221,476,063	339,221,963
Plan net assets held in trust for pension benefits	\$1,374,765,496	\$1,607,369,412

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Statement of Changes in Plan Net Assets
For the Year Ended September 30, 2008
(With Comparative Totals for September 30, 2007)

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Additions:		
Investment income (loss):		
Net appreciation in fair value of investments	\$ (231,086,415)	\$ 140,272,665
Net appreciation in fair value of real estate	-	19,487,324
Interest, dividends, and other	62,212,349	58,068,560
Rental income (loss) - net of related expenses:		
Havensight Mall	3,459,407	3,920,214
System Facilities - St. Thomas/St. Croix	(250,212)	701,002
	<u>(165,664,871)</u>	<u>222,449,765</u>
Less:		
Investment management fees and custodian fees	5,331,104	6,084,449
Borrowers' rebates and other agent fees on securities lending transactions	9,592,521	14,118,747
Other expenses	553,509	514,683
	<u>(181,142,005)</u>	<u>201,731,886</u>
 Contributions:		
Employer	75,871,146	60,778,382
Employees	36,957,585	35,769,001
	<u>112,828,731</u>	<u>96,547,383</u>
 Other income	<u>20,422,944</u>	<u>2,090,542</u>
 Total additions	<u>(47,890,330)</u>	<u>300,369,811</u>
 Deductions:		
Benefits paid directly to members	170,097,096	158,871,038
Refunds of members' contributions	2,688,788	1,768,207
Administrative and operational expenses	11,927,702	9,838,704
	<u>184,713,586</u>	<u>170,477,949</u>
 Total deductions	<u>184,713,586</u>	<u>170,477,949</u>
 Net increase (decrease)	(232,603,916)	129,891,862
 Plan net assets held in trust for pension benefits:		
Beginning of year	<u>1,607,369,412</u>	<u>1,477,477,550</u>
 End of year	<u>\$1,374,765,496</u>	<u>\$1,607,369,412</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements

September 30, 2008

NOTE 1: GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The Government of the Virgin Islands Employees' Retirement System (the System) is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer defined benefit plan. The System was established as of October 1, 1959 by the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands (the Government or Employer) as an independent and separate agency to provide pension benefits to its employees, and includes Judicial, Executive, Legislative Branches and outside agencies. Under provisions of Virgin Islands Code, Title 3, Chapter 27, (the Code) the board of trustees of the System are responsible for the administration of the System.

The System is a component unit of the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands for financial reporting purposes and is included in the Government's financial reports as a pension trust fund.

Membership of the System consisted of the following at September 30, 2008 and 2007:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits and terminated employees entitled to benefits but not yet receiving them	7,050	6,811
Current employees	<u>11,122</u>	<u>11,207</u>
	<u>18,172</u>	<u>18,018</u>

The System provides for retirement, death, and disability benefits to plan members. Benefits may be extended to beneficiaries of plan members. Regular employees who have completed 30 years of credited service or have attained age 60 with at least 10 years of credited service are eligible for a full service retirement annuity. Members who are considered "safety employees" as defined in the Code are eligible for full retirement benefits when they have earned at least 20 years of government service or have reached the age of 55 with at least 10 years of credited service. Regular employees who have attained age 50 with at least 10 years of credited service can elect to retire early with a reduced benefit. Senators and members of the Legislature may receive a retirement annuity when they have attained age 50 and completed six years of credited service or earned at least six years of credited service as a member of the Legislature.

The monthly annuity benefit payment is determined by applying a stipulated benefit ratio to the member's average compensation. Average compensation is determined by averaging the three highest years of salary the member earned within the last 10 years of service. The maximum annual salary that can be used in this computation is \$65,000, except for senators and judges, whose annual salary is used. The Board may set cost-of-living increases for annuitants and pensioners and determine when the annuity should be paid on the basis of the most recent actuarial valuation and the Consumer Price Index.

The Administrator of the System manages the business of the System and is responsible for its proper operation, subject to the orders, resolutions, and directives of the board of trustees of the System.

The following description of the System is provided for general information purposes only. Members should refer to the actual text of the retirement law in the Code, Title 3, Chapter 27 for more complete information.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

■ **Eligibility and Membership**

As a condition of employment, a person employed by the Government shall become a member of the plan, provided such person is under age 55 on the date of appointment. Membership contributions begin after completing one month of service.

■ **Contributions**

Contributions to the System are made by the Government and the members. Government and member contributions are not actuarially determined but are set by statute. The Government's contributions together with the members' contributions and the income of the System should be sufficient to provide an adequate actuarially determined reserve for the benefits prescribed by the Code.

The contributions required to fund the System on an "actuarial reserve basis" are calculated periodically by the System's actuarial consultant. The actuarial valuation as of September 30, 2006 indicates that the current combined statutory employer and employee contribution rates are not sufficient to meet the cost of the System on an actuarial basis, as required law.

The Government's required contribution is 17.5% of the members' annual salary and required member contributions are 8% of annual salary for regular employees, 9% for senators, 11% for judges, and 10% for Act 5226 eligible employees. Prior to June 29, 2000, member contributions were refundable without interest upon withdrawal from employment before retirement. Effective November 2, 2005, legislation was passed that required that the annual interest on refunded contributions be determined by the Board from the experience of the System which shall be not less than 2%, nor more than 4% per annum.

■ **Early Retirement Act of 1994**

In August 1994, legislation providing an early retirement incentive was passed. The legislation was subsequently amended on October 13, 1994, December 30, 1994 and December 5, 1995. Among other matters, the legislation allowed a member of the System who had a combined aggregate number of years of credited service plus number of years of age attained, equal to at least 75 years as of the date of the legislation to retire without reduction of annuity. Members who attained the age of 50 with at least 10 but less than 30 years of credited service may add an additional three years to their age for this computation. Members with 30 years of service or who can retire without penalty under the Code shall have their average compensation increased by 4 percentage points.

For each employee electing to retire pursuant to Section 8(a) of the above-mentioned Act, the Government shall contribute to the System, on a quarterly basis, an amount equal to the Employer and employee contributions that would have been made until the employee reached age 62 had the employee not elected to retire under this provision. For employees electing to retire under Section 8(b) of the Act, the Government shall contribute to the System a sum equal to the additional contribution the employer and employee would have made had the employee received a salary 4% higher during the 3 years used to compute the employee's average compensation figure, plus a sum of \$5,000. Based on the calculation, this amount was \$26,853,245 and \$26,666,590 as of September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, of which a total of \$26,682,141 and \$26,390,733 had been received by the System since the year ended September 30, 1998, respectively.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

The actuary of the System has determined that the specific funding provided under the Early Retirement Act of 1994 is inadequate to cover the costs of the program. The System is seeking to recover any unfunded costs of the program under a newly enacted provision of the retirement law which provides that the employer shall compensate the System for the costs of any special early retirement program.

■ **Member Loans**

Subject to the provisions of the retirement law and subject to rules and regulations prescribed by the board of trustees, members of the System have the right to obtain loans from the System to finance a home, automobile, or other personal needs. The maximum mortgage loan that could be granted to members who have been contributing to the System for at least five years is \$250,000. The interest rate on new first mortgages was 8% and on second mortgages, 9% throughout the year. Members may also borrow up to \$50,000 to buy land.

Members who have contributed to the System for at least five years can borrow up to \$18,000 for the purchase of an automobile. Auto loans bear interest rates that ranged between 8.75% - 9.50% with a maximum term of five years. Active members may also borrow up to 75% of their contributions paid into the System to a maximum borrowing of \$50,000 as a personal loan. The interest rate offered on personal loans was 8.00 % to 8.5% for the year. Retired members could qualify for personal loans up to \$10,000 at the same interest rate as active members.

■ **Administrative Expenses**

The administrative expenses of the System are obligations of the System and are being handled by the System through its own bank account. The System's Board of Trustees approves the System's annual operating budget.

NOTE 2: SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A summary of the significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of the accompanying financial statements follows:

Basis of Accounting - The accompanying financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Employee and employer contributions are recognized as additions to plan net assets in the period in which employee services are performed. Benefits are recorded upon payment. Refunds are recognized when due and payable in accordance with the terms of the plan.

Cash and Cash Equivalents - The System considers all highly liquid investments purchased with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

Method Used to Value Investments - Investments in marketable securities are carried at quoted market values. Shares of mutual funds are valued at the net asset value of shares held by the System at year-end. Purchases and sales are recorded on a trade-date basis. Realized gains and losses on securities are determined by the average cost method.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

Investments in member loans are valued at the outstanding principal balance less an allowance for estimated loan losses. Management of the System believes that, based upon interest rate and risk factors, this valuation approximate fair value. Investments in limited partnership have no readily ascertainable market value and are based on the valuation reported by the general partner.

Investment in the Havensight Mall real estate is estimated based on an independent appraisal.

Investment in the System's facilities - St. Thomas/St. Croix real estate is carried at historical cost, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization on that portion of the facility occupied by the System.

There are certain market risks, credit risks, liquidity risks, foreign exchange risks, and event risks which may subject the System to economic changes occurring in certain industries, sectors, or geographies.

Depreciation - Capital assets utilized in the operation of the System are valued at historical cost and depreciation is computed using the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Furniture and equipment are depreciated over 5 years and building and improvements over 25 years. The capitalization threshold used by the System was \$1,000 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year.

Tax Exemption - The System is exempt from all income and property taxes.

Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions in determining the reported amounts of plan net assets, liabilities, and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results may differ from those estimates. The System utilizes various investment instruments. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit, and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such change could materially affect the amounts reported in the financial statements.

Comparative Totals - The financial statements include certain prior-year summarized comparative information. Such information does not include sufficient detail or reclassifications to constitute a presentation in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the System's financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2007, from which the summarized information was derived.

NOTE 3: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The cash and cash equivalents are segregated as follows:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cash in money market accounts	\$ 95,597,992	\$ 35,043,245
Cash in operational accounts	17,292,796	23,987,652
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u>\$112,890,788</u>	<u>\$ 59,030,897</u>

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

NOTE 4: INVESTMENTS

(a) Marketable Securities

The System's investments in marketable securities are held in trust by a commercial bank on behalf of the System and are administered by several professional investment managers. The System's board of trustees has established investment policies that place limitation and provide guidelines on amounts that may be invested in certain investment categories. In addition, such policies provide the requisites in the institutions with which investment transactions can be entered into. The System's board of trustees authorizes the System to invest in the following:

- United States Government agencies and instrumentalities obligations;
- Bonds or notes which are general obligations of any state in the United States, or of any political subdivision;
- Bonds or other obligations which are payable from revenue or earnings specifically pledged of a public utility which is municipally owned either directly or indirectly through any civil division, authority, or public instrumentality of the municipality;
- Bonds or any other evidences of indebtedness issued or guaranteed by any domestic railroad corporation, or in equipment trust certificates, provided that these securities bear a rating of "BBB" or better by any two nationally known security rating agencies. Not more than 2% of total investments should consist of any one issue of these bonds;
- Bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of any domestic public utility corporation provided that these securities bear a rating of "BBB" or better by any two nationally known security rating agencies. Not more than 2% of total investments should consist of any one issue of these bonds;
- Bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of any domestic industrial corporation provided that these securities bear a rating of "BBB" or better by any two nationally known security rating agencies. Not more than 2% of total investments should consist of any one issue of these bonds;
- Bonds or other obligations of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico or of the territories of the United States, provided that the investment in any one issue of bonds of these entities should not exceed 10% thereof, and that the total investment in all securities of any one of such entities should be limited to 2% of the total investment account of the System;
- Common and preferred stocks of any corporation chartered under the laws of the United States, or of any state, district, or territory thereof or common and preferred stocks of any foreign corporation if listed on any internationally recognized security exchange. The investment in the stock of any single corporation should not exceed 1% of the market value of the total investment of the fund on the date of purchase or be greater than 1% of the total outstanding stock of the corporation. The aggregate amount to be invested in common and preferred stocks should be limited to 60% of the market value of the total investments of the System on the date the investment is made. Investment in foreign stocks should be limited to 10% of the market value of the total investment of the System.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

The aggregate amount to be invested in common and preferred stock should be limited to 20% of the book value of the total investments of the System on the date the investment is made and the investment in any such stocks or a sale thereof should be approved by at least two-thirds of the membership of the board of trustees;

- Mutual funds of any corporation chartered under the laws of the United States, or any state, district, or territory thereof if listed on a national securities exchange;
- Mortgage loans to members or retirees of the System for initial construction phases of a home, for purchase of a home, or for capital improvements of a home;
- Chattel mortgages to members or retirees of the System for the purchase of new automobiles, which may not exceed \$18,000;
- Personal loans to active members and those members who have retired and are entitled to annuities, provided such loans do not exceed \$50,000 for active members and \$10,000 for retirees and that the recipient has no other outstanding personal loan from the System;
- Loans to active members or retirees of the System solely for the purchase of land;
- Real property purchased and/or developed by the board of trustees for sale for homeownership purposes;
- Bonds or other indebtedness issued by foreign governments or foreign corporations provided that (a) these securities bear a rating of "BBB" or better by any two internationally known securities rating agencies, and (b) not more than 2% of total investments should consist of any one issue of these bonds. The aggregate amount to be invested in foreign bonds should be limited to 10% of the market value of the total investments of the System on the date the investment is made;
- Mortgage and asset-backed securities.

(b) Limited Partnership

The System is authorized to invest in life settlement policy contract investments provided:

- The investment is in a group of life insurance policies, with a minimum number of 100 measured lives.
- The face value of any single policy investment by the System does not exceed the greater of \$5,000,000 or 2% of the aggregate face value of policy investments by the System.
- The aggregate face value of policy investments by the System on any individual life does not exceed the greater of 10,000,000 or 1% of the aggregate face value of policies purchased as investments by the System.

On August 15, 2006, the System invested \$50,000,000 in a limited partnership, Attilanus L.P. (the Fund). The partnership purchases senior life insurance policies for individuals who are age 65 and older and have an average life expectancy of 5 to 7 years. A senior life settlement provides cash payment in exchange for the assignment of an ownership interest in life insurance policy insuring the life of an individual.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

The partnership agreement is effective through December 31, 2017 and may be extended for an additional two year period. Limited partners are not permitted to withdraw funds from the partnership.

On June 12, 2008, Attilanus accepted a structured purchase of its settlement life insurance policy portfolio offer from Coit Capital, a division of Riviere Securities, Ltd. This purchase was executed through a special purpose entity, Life Settlements Absolute Return (LASAR), which issued \$40 million in 9% preference notes, \$24 million in 9.5% mezzanine notes and residual notes and \$13.7 million in cash. From this transaction the System received a distribution in the form of a return of capital totaling \$8,163,726. It is expected that future sale of the mezzanine notes will result in additional return of capital to the System and other investors.

The fair value of the limited partnership investment of \$42,836,274 is based on the valuation reported on the System's financial statements as of September 30, 2007, reduced for the return of capital from the restructure. The valuations provided by the Fund's general manager as of September 30, 2008 and October 1, 2008 were \$54,437,920 and \$45,917,300, respectively. This reflected a decrease in value of approximately \$8.5 million within one day, resulting in the System's uncertainty of the investment's value at year end. Reporting the value at September 30, 2008 at the same value as Fiscal Year 2007 level less return of capital is the conservative stance. Senior life settlement contracts do not have active trading markets in which fair value can be easily determined.

The fair value of the System's investments at September 30, 2008 and 2007 amounted to \$988,978,502 and \$1,312,362,777, respectively. The investments generated interest and dividend income of \$36,584,734 and \$34,822,932 for the years ended September 2008 and 2007, respectively. In addition, the System's investments including gains and losses on investments bought and sold, as well as held during the year depreciated and appreciated in value by (\$231,086,415) and \$140,272,665, respectively, as follows:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 3,818,285	\$ 2,582,998
Corporate obligations	(16,575,191)	1,584,692
Foreign bonds and government obligations	(5,962,524)	4,181,298
Common stock - U.S.	(174,897,267)	109,593,362
Common and preferred stock - foreign	(29,454,187)	23,181,312
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	(3,730,916)	(1,043,774)
Mutual funds	(3,752,458)	472,281
Real Estate Investment Trust	(532,157)	(320,725)
Limited partnership	-	41,221
Totals	<u>\$(231,086,415)</u>	<u>\$140,272,665</u>

Investment Policies

The System has chosen to manage the investment risks by contractually requiring each portfolio investment manager to abide by restrictive investment guidelines specifically tailored to that individual manager rather than adopting across-the-board investment policies with respect to these investment risks. The guidelines stipulate the investment style, the performance objective, performance benchmarks, and portfolio characteristics.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

For example, in the case of foreign currency risk, the policy guidelines for the U.S. dollar equity portfolios differ from those for the non-U.S. dollar equity portfolios. Likewise, in the case of credit risk, the guidelines for one fixed income manager stipulate a minimum acceptable credit rating for each debt instrument while the guidelines for a different fixed income portfolio merely require that the average of credit ratings for a certain fair value percentage of the portfolio meet a minimum requirement.

Each manager is likewise subject to a "manager standard of care" that establishes a fiduciary relationship requiring the manager to act prudently and solely in the best interest of the System.

Separately, the System's guidelines also require a manager's investment return performance to compare favorably with the performance of the relevant passive market index such as the S & P 500 Index.

Custodial Credit Risk-Deposits

The custodial credit risk for deposits is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a depository financial institution, the System will not be able to recover deposits or will not be able to recover collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. Cash and cash equivalents consist of money market accounts. As required by law, banks or trust companies designated as depository of public funds of the Government and its various agencies, authorities, and instrumentalities are to maintain corporate surety bond or pledge collateral satisfactory to the U.S. Virgin Islands Commissioner of Finance to secure all funds deposited.

At September 30, 2008 and 2007, all cash and cash equivalents were covered by federal deposit insurance, corporate surety bonds, or by collateral held by the System.

Concentration of Credit Risk

Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss attributed to the magnitude of the System's investment in a single issuer of securities. The System's investment policy (the Investment Policy) establishes limitations on portfolio composition by investment type to limit its exposure to concentration of credit risk. The investment policy provides that a minimum of 60% of its investment portfolio be invested in equity stocks and a minimum of 40% of its investment portfolio be invested in fixed income.

There were no investments in any one issuer that represent 5% or more of total investments.

Credit Risk

The Investment Policy is designed to minimize credit risk by restricting authorized investments to only those investments permitted by the statute, subject to certain additional limitations. These additional limitations consist of prohibitions against investments in derivative securities, options, futures or short positions. However, the Investment Policy allows for investments in mortgage pass-through securities.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

The fair value and credit ratings of debt securities (excluding U.S. government obligations and obligations expressly guaranteed by the U.S. government), money market funds, mutual funds, and other pooled investments of fixed income securities at September 30, 2008 include the following:

Standard & Poor's Credit Ratings:

	<u>Fair value</u>	<u>Credit Ratings</u>
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	\$ 996,169	Not rated
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	118,906	A+
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	136,331	AA+
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	140,498,946	AAA
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	11,421,566	Not available
Corporate obligations	286,320	Not rated
Corporate obligations	17,190,514	A
Corporate obligations	11,526,031	A-
Corporate obligations	14,940,420	A+
Corporate obligations	5,653,749	AA
Corporate obligations	14,567,641	AA-
Corporate obligations	278,439	AA+
Corporate obligations	6,477,381	AAA
Corporate obligations	914,078	BB+
Corporate obligations	11,158,557	BBB
Corporate obligations	9,895,956	BBB-
Corporate obligations	10,094,552	BBB+
Foreign bonds	13,129,250	AAA
Foreign bonds	1,010,483	Not available
Foreign bonds	1,099,110	Not rated
Government obligations - foreign	31,529,055	AAA
Investment loan	8,000,000	Not rated
Mutual funds	31,525,824	Not rated
Total	<u>\$ 342,449,278</u>	

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

Moody's Investor Services Credit Ratings:

	<u>Fair value</u>	<u>Credit Ratings</u>
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	\$ 143,816	A3
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	245,063	A1
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	169,218	AA2
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	138,232,589	AAA
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	246,737	BA3
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	8,554,647	Not available
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	5,579,850	Not rated
Corporate obligations	14,090,841	A1
Corporate obligations	11,183,049	A2
Corporate obligations	12,403,353	A3
Corporate obligations	2,269,577	AA1
Corporate obligations	11,386,435	AA2
Corporate obligations	11,541,071	AA3
Corporate obligations	4,699,503	AAA
Corporate obligations	1,071,204	B3
Corporate obligations	4,151,762	BA1
Corporate obligations	6,186,739	BAA1
Corporate obligations	15,333,621	BAA2
Corporate obligations	8,471,161	BAA3
Corporate obligations	13,500	CAA2
Corporate obligations	181,820	Not rated
Foreign bonds	5,858,974	AAA
Foreign bonds	1,010,483	AA1
Foreign bonds	7,270,275	Not available
Foreign bonds	1,099,110	Not rated
Government obligations - foreign	31,529,055	AAA
Investment loan	8,000,000	Not rated
Mutual funds	31,525,824	Not rated
Total	<u>\$342,449,278</u>	

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements (Continued)

September 30, 2008

Cash and cash equivalents and all investments at September 30, 2008 include the following:

	<u>Fair value</u>	<u>Credit ratings</u>	
		<u>Standard & Poor</u>	<u>Moody's</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 89,598,520	Not rated	Not rated
Cash equivalents	5,999,472	AAA	AAA
Interest-bearing deposit with bank	17,292,796	Not rated	Not rated
Common stock - U.S.	467,488,934	Not rated	Not rated
Common stock - foreign	73,359,601	Not rated	Not rated
Preferred stock - foreign	971,829	Not rated	Not rated
Real estate investment trust	1,138,477	Not rated	Not available
Real estate investment trust	722,860	B-	Not available
Real estate investment trust	155,530	Not rated	Not available
Real estate investment trust	1,600,441	Not rated	Not rated
U.S. government and agency obligations	25,735,221	AAA	AAA
U.S. government and agency obligations	2,290,501	AA	AA1
U.S. government and agency obligations	258,406	BBB-	BA1
U.S. Treasury notes	13,142,293	AAA	AAA
U.S. Treasury bonds	14,761,004	AAA	AAA
Municipals	983,197	BBB	BAA3
Municipals	1,084,656	A+	A1
Limited partnership	42,836,274	Not rated	Not rated
Total cash, cash equivalents and other investments	<u>\$759,420,012</u>		

The total System's cash, cash equivalents and investment securities at September 30, 2008 consists of:

Fixed income investments	\$ 342,449,278
Cash, cash equivalents, and other Investments	<u>759,420,012</u>
	<u>\$1,101,869,290</u>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 95,597,992
Interest-bearing deposits with bank	17,292,796
Securities, at fair value	<u>988,978,502</u>
	<u>\$1,101,869,290</u>

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in interest rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The System does not have a specific policy to manage interest rate risk, but requires investment managers to diversify by issue, maturity, sector, coupon, and geography. Investment managers retained by the System follow specific investment guidelines and are evaluated against specific market benchmarks that represent their investment style. Any exemption from general guidelines requires approval from the System's board of trustees.

As of September 30, 2008, the System had the following investments and maturities:

Investment Type	Fair Value	Maturity (in years)				
		Less than 1 year	1 to 5 years	6 to 10 years	More than 10 years	No stated maturity date
U.S. government and agency obligations	\$ 28,284,128	\$ -	\$ 1,874,126	\$ 21,342,678	\$ 5,067,324	\$ -
U.S. Treasury notes	13,142,293	-	5,989,546	7,152,747	-	-
U.S. Treasury bonds	14,761,004	-	-	-	14,761,004	-
Municipals	2,067,853	-	-	-	2,067,853	-
Mutual funds	31,525,824	-	-	-	-	31,525,824
Corporate obligations	102,983,638	22,229,493	38,180,657	18,403,472	24,170,016	-
Foreign bonds	15,238,843	1,936,706	1,010,483	12,291,654	-	-
Government obligations - foreign	31,529,054	-	14,393,959	8,709,610	8,425,485	-
Mortgage and asset-backed securities	153,171,919	-	592,500	5,146,652	147,432,767	-
Investment Loan	8,000,000	8,000,000	-	-	-	-
Totals	\$400,704,556	\$32,166,199	\$62,041,271	\$73,046,813	\$201,924,449	\$31,525,824

Custodial Credit Risk - Investments

The custodial credit risk for investments is the risk that, in the event of the failure of a counterparty to a transaction, the System will not be able to recover the value of investment or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party. With the exception of underlying securities on loan secured by noncash collateral, the System's entire investment portfolio was held with a single third-party custodian in the System's name as of September 30, 2008 and 2007. The fair value of the underlying securities on loan secured by noncash collateral amounted to \$228,646 and \$4,749,064 at September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

Cash collateral held for securities lending transactions is invested in a collective investment pool maintained by the securities lending agent.

Foreign Currency Risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that changes in foreign exchange rates will adversely affect the fair value of an investment or deposit. The System has no general investment policy with respect to foreign currency risk.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

Foreign Currency Risk - Investments

The following foreign currency risk analysis schedule shows the fair value of investments that are exposed to this risk by currency denomination and investment type. This provides an indication of the magnitude of foreign currency risk for each currency.

Foreign Currency Risk Analysis

Fair value of cash equivalents and investments exposed to foreign currency risk by currency as of September 30, 2008:

Currency	Cash equivalents	Investment type			Total exposure	
		Government obligations foreign	Foreign bonds	Common stock - foreign		Preferred stock - foreign
Australian Dollar	\$ -	\$ 2,939,355	\$ 11,232,621	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,171,976
Canadian Dollar	5,356	4,873,020	-	1,630,339	-	6,508,715
Danish Krone	-	-	-	1,734,244	-	1,734,244
Euro Currency	69,288	8,425,485	-	32,835,064	971,829	42,301,666
Hong Kong Dollar	16,924	-	-	1,587,369	-	1,604,293
Iceland Krona	-	-	1,936,706	-	-	1,936,706
Japanese Yen	14,652	-	-	11,770,547	-	11,785,199
New Zealand Dollar	15,447	312,076	2,069,515	-	-	2,397,038
Norwegian Krone	428	-	-	1,084,825	-	1,085,253
Pound Sterling	22,392	8,397,535	-	12,714,002	-	21,133,929
Singapore Dollar	4,838	2,585,907	-	1,079,415	-	3,670,160
Swedish Krona	-	3,995,676	-	-	-	3,995,676
Swiss Franc	7,291	-	-	8,434,230	-	8,441,521
Thailand Baht	12,082	-	-	489,566	-	501,648
Totals	\$ 168,698	\$ 31,529,054	\$ 15,238,842	\$ 73,359,601	\$ 971,829	\$ 121,268,024

(c) Forward Currency Exchange Contracts

The System enters into various forward currency exchange contracts to manage exposure to changes in foreign currency exchange rates and to facilitate the settlement of foreign security transactions. A forward contract is an agreement to buy or sell a specific amount of currency at a specific delivery or maturity date for an agreed upon price. Risks associated with such contracts include movement in the value of the foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar and the ability of the counterparty to perform in accordance with the terms of the contracts. Changes in the market value of open and closed forward contracts are recorded within interest, dividends, and other income in the statement of changes in plan net assets. The fair value of forward currency exchange contracts outstanding at September 30, 2008 and 2007 is as follows:

	2008	2007
Forward currency purchases	\$ 20,956,254	\$ 34,177,501
Forward currency sales	20,670,803	35,260,577
Unrealized gain/loss	\$ 284,451	\$ (1,083,076)

During the year ended September 30, 2008, the System recognized a foreign exchange gain of \$510,689. During the year ended September 30, 2007, the System recognized a foreign exchange loss of \$2,269,620.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

Such gain (loss) is reported in interest, dividends, and other investment income in the accompanying financial statements.

(d) Member Loans

The System's investments in member loans, net of allowances for loan losses, at September 30, 2008 and 2007 were \$125,877,143 and \$118,105,341, respectively. Such investments in member loans generated interest income of \$10,670,753 and \$10,416,831 for the years ended September 30, 2007 and 2006, respectively. The average interest rate was 8.25% and 8.5% for the years ended September 2008 and 2007, respectively.

(e) Real Estate

The investment in the Havensight Mall was appraised in November 2006 for a market value of \$80 million. The investment in the Havensight Mall real estate generated rental income, net of related expense, of \$3,459,407 and \$3,920,214 for the years ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

The System Facilities---St. Thomas/St. Croix are partially an investment of the System's retirement funds in real estate held for rent or lease. The System uses a portion of the building in the operation of the System. Depreciation is provided for only that portion of the building that is utilized in the operation of the System. The remaining areas of the building are leased to other government agencies and commercial tenants.

The investment in the System Facilities --- St. Thomas/St. Croix as of September 30, 2008 and 2007 is as follows:

		<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Land	\$	6,824,860	6,824,860
Building, improvements, and fixtures		12,561,858	12,509,617
Construction in progress - St. Croix's building		<u>3,120,239</u>	<u>2,049,195</u>
		22,506,956	21,383,672
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization		<u>(1,642,061)</u>	<u>(1,529,706)</u>
Totals	\$	<u>20,864,895</u>	<u>19,853,966</u>

NOTE 5: SECURITIES LENDING TRANSACTIONS

The Government's statutes permit the System to participate in securities lending transactions, and the System has, via a securities lending authorization agreement (the Agreement), authorized State Street Bank and Trust Company (the Custodian) to lend securities to broker-dealers and banks pursuant to a form of loan agreement. Lent securities are collateralized with cash, securities issued or guaranteed by the U.S. government, or irrevocable bank letters of credit. The System does not have the ability to pledge or sell collateral securities delivered absent a borrower default. No restrictions were imposed during 2008 or 2007 as to the amount of loans the Custodian can make on behalf of the System.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

Loans are generally terminable on demand. The collateral received shall (i) in the case of loaned securities denominated in U.S. dollars or whose primary trading market is located in the U.S. or sovereign debt issued by foreign governments, have a market value of 102% of the market value of the loaned securities, (ii) in the case of loaned securities which are not denominated in the U.S. dollars or whose primary trading market is not located in the United States, have a market value of 105% of the market value of the loaned securities, or (iii) have a higher value as may be applicable in the jurisdiction in which the loaned securities are customarily traded. Such collateral should be kept, at a minimum, at 100% of the market value of the security for all borrowers throughout the outstanding period of the loans. As of September 30, 2008 and 2007, the System had no credit risk exposure to borrowers because the amounts the System owed the borrowers exceeded the amounts the borrowers owed the System. Under the terms of the Agreement, the Custodian must indemnify the System for losses attributable to violations by the Custodian under the "Standard of Care" clause described in the Agreement. There were no such violations during the fiscal years 2008 or 2007, and there were no losses during either fiscal year resulting from the default of the borrowers or the Custodian. The risk of any loss of collateral or investment of cash collateral (including a loss of income or principal, or loss of market value thereon) lies with the System, except for losses resulting from negligence or intentional misconduct of the Custodian in performing the duties described in the Agreement with respect to collateral.

In lending securities, cash collateral is invested, together with the cash collateral of other lenders, in a collective investment pool. As of September 30, 2008 and 2007, such investment pool had a weighted average maturity of 34 days and 40 days, respectively, and an average expected maturity of 405 days and 409 days, respectively. Because the loans were terminable at will, their duration did not generally match the duration of the investments made with cash collateral. As of September 30, 2008 and 2007, the fair value of securities on loan amounted to \$200,545,544 and \$305,210,402, respectively, which consisted of U.S. government and agency obligations, fixed income, and equity corporate securities. The total collateral held by the System's Custodian or other banks was valued at, \$203,059,841 including \$197,593,196 of cash, and \$313,300,965 including \$304,456,020 of cash, as of September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively. Investments made with cash collateral are reported as an asset of the System with a corresponding liability in the accompanying statements of net assets. Investment earnings of \$11,993,887 and \$14,973,815 for the years ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively, are reported in other investment income in the accompanying financial statements.

NOTE 6: RESERVED ASSETS

Reserved assets represent amounts set aside for use in the awarding of scholarships to the System's members.

Reserved assets consist of the following:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Cash	\$ 74,622	\$ 73,005
Certificates of deposit	3,788	3,710
Totals	<u>\$ 78,410</u>	<u>\$ 76,715</u>

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements *(Continued)*

September 30, 2008

NOTE 7: DUE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS.

At September 30, 2008 and 2007, the amount recorded as due from the Department of Finance of the Government and outside agencies of the Government consists of the following:

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Contributions and payroll withholding due from		
Department of Finance	\$ 19,610,672	\$ 8,269,010
Outside agencies	<u>1,656,390</u>	<u>1,115,918</u>
Totals	<u>\$ 21,267,062</u>	<u>\$ 9,384,928</u>

NOTE 8: CASH OVERDRAFT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

In Fiscal Year September 30, 2008 the System eliminated the estimated \$10,454,451 cash overdraft which had been carried on the books for several years including fiscal year 2007. That amount represented the unreconciled netting of cash receipts and disbursements processed through the Department of Finance on behalf of the System through 2001.

In Fiscal Year 2008 GERS determined, after confirmation with the Central Government, that this liability did not exist and made an adjustment which decreased the liability and increased other income. In prior periods inclusion of this liability had overstated liabilities and understated net assets.

NOTE 9: LINE OF CREDIT WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

On October 2, 2006, the System entered into a loan agreement with Banco Popular de Puerto Rico (the Bank) to provide working capital to the System for its corporate purposes, to fund the system's required debt service, and to pay issuance and closing costs associated with this financing. This line of credit is a revolving credit facility with a maximum principal amount of \$25 million and accrues interest at a fixed rate of 6.25% calculated on a 360-day basis and is due and payable quarterly, commencing on the first day of the fourth calendar month following the closing of the loan. The line of credit facility is available to the System for a period up to three years, subject to annual renewals. At any time that an event of default occurs and is continuing, the loan will bear interest at a rate equal to 3% above the variable interest rate.

The Bank maintains in its possession a certificate of deposit in the original amount of \$20 million in the name of the System as security for the payment and performance of all obligations owed by the System to the Bank, including the loan. This certificate of deposit was presented as interest-bearing deposit with the Bank in the accompanying financial statements.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

NOTE 10: ADDITIONAL PENSION DISCLOSURES

(a) Plan Description

The System is the administrator of a cost-sharing multiple-employer defined benefit pension plan. The System, a component unit of the Government of the Virgin Islands, is administered by a Board of Trustees who exercises control and management of the System including the investment of its assets. The System provides retirement, death and disability benefits. Cost of living adjustments are provided at the discretion of the Board of Trustees. The System issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and Requirement Supplementary Information (RSI). The Annual Required Contribution (ARC) is determined by Acts of the Legislature.

(b) Funding Status and Funding Progress

As of September 30, 2008, the most recent actuarial valuation shows the plan was 53.88% funded. The Actuarial Accrued Liability (AAL) for benefits was \$2.84 billion and the actuarial value of assets was \$1.53 billion, resulting in an Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) of \$1.31 billion. The covered payroll (projected annual payroll of active members covered by the plan) was \$433.5 million, and the ratio of UAAL to the covered payroll was 302.21%.

The schedules of funding progress and employer contributions, presented as RSI following the notes to the financial statements presents (i) a historical trend that indicates whether the actuarial value of plan assets are increasing or decreasing over time in relation to the AAL for benefits and (ii) the responsibility of the employer in meeting the actuarial requirements to maintain the retirement system on a sound financial basis.

(c) Actuarial Methods and Assumptions

The comparability of trend information, shown as RSI, is affected by changes in actuarial assumptions, benefit provisions, actuarial funding methods, accounting policies and other changes. Those changes usually affect trends in contribution requirements and in ratios that use the pension benefit obligations as a factor.

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuation at the dates indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows:

Valuation date	September 30, 2006
Actuarial cost method	Entry age normal
Amortization method	Level dollar, closed group
Remaining amortization period	20 years
Asset valuation method	Actuarial value, but not less than 80% nor greater than 120% of market

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Notes to Financial Statements (*Continued*)

September 30, 2008

Actuarial assumptions:

Investment rate of return	8% per year compounded annually
Projected salary increases	5.5% per year compounded annually, attributable to inflation
Cost-of-living adjustments	Retirement benefits increased by 1.5% of the original amount each year after age 60. Disability benefits are also increased by 1%

NOTE 11: RISKS OF LOSS

The System is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; thefts of, damage to, and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters. Claims against the System, Board of Trustees or any of its staff as a result of an actual or alleged breach of fiduciary duty are insured with a commercial insurance policy. Coverage provided is limited to \$5,000,000 with a deductible amount of \$100,000. Defense costs incurred in defending such claims will be paid by the insurance company. However, the total defense cost and claims paid shall not exceed the total aggregate coverage of the policy.

NOTE 12: LITIGATION

The System is a defendant in legal claims arising from its normal operations. It is management's opinion, after consulting with its legal counsels, that losses, if any, resulting from these claims will not have a material effect on the System's financial position.

NOTE 13: MANAGEMENT FEES AND CUSTODIAN FEES

The Custodian and investment advisers of the System's investment fund are entitled to annual fees computed on the basis of the market value of the System's investment fund assets and to reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incidental to custodial duties. Such fees amounted to \$5,331,104 and \$6,084,449 for the years ended September 30, 2008 and 2007, respectively.

NOTE 14: SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

Subsequent to the fiscal year ended September 30, 2008, global financial markets suffered significant declines in value attributable to significant strains on many of the world's largest financial institutions. These difficulties, which were caused by a combination of liquidity constraints and continued write downs of mortgage-related assets, have resulted in a global economic downturn that has negatively impacted the value of most financial assets. The investment assets of the System have also incurred a considerable decline in value since September 30, 2008 due to these unfavorable market conditions.

An appraisal report for the System's St. Thomas facility, the GERS Complex, was issued October 26, 2009, reflecting a market value of \$9,000,000. This facility is used for the operation of the System, while a portion of it is leased.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS**

Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Funding Progress
September 30, 2008

Actuarial valuation Date	(a) Actuarial value of assets	(b) Unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL)	(c) Actuarial accrued liability (a) + (b)	(d) Funded ratio (a)/(c)	(e) Annual covered payroll	UAAL as a percentage of covered payroll (b)/(e)
1998 (**)	1,078,291,775	307,300,371	1,385,592,146	77.82%	*	*
1999 (***)	1,255,210,585	518,081,040	1,773,291,625	70.78%	307,568,648	168.44%
2000 (**)	1,330,089,822	525,608,964	1,855,698,786	71.68%	304,887,045	172.39%
2001	1,342,894,336	731,727,064	2,074,621,400	64.73%	298,909,928	244.80%
2002 (****)	1,337,676,064	815,884,419	2,153,560,483	62.11%	367,803,013	221.83%
2003	1,346,906,862	921,669,858	2,268,576,720	59.37%	338,444,739	272.33%
2004 (*****)	1,360,288,336	977,502,024	2,337,790,360	58.19%	372,996,234	262.07%
2005 (*****)	1,366,982,183	1,088,574,553	2,455,556,736	55.67%	355,462,276	306.24%
2006	1,421,093,035	1,236,571,529	2,657,664,564	53.47%	394,595,844	313.38%
2007(*****)	1,509,244,380	1,241,138,878	2,750,383,258	54.87%	419,161,255	296.10%
2008(*****)	1,530,604,789	1,310,218,726	2,840,823,515	53.88%	433,549,406	302.21%

Note: Data for the year ended September 30, 1996 is not available.

(*) Information not available.

(**) Estimated as of September 30, 1998 and 2000 based on the last actuarial valuation as of September 30, 1997 and 1999, respectively.

(***) Actuarial value of assets was fresh started at market value.

(****) Estimated based on the financial information provided as of September 30, 2002 for the actuarial value of assets. For the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) amount was based on the September 30, 2001 amount projected to September 30, 2002 assuming actual experience matched the actuarial assumption.

(*****) Estimated based on the financial information provided as of September 30, 2004 for the actuarial value of assets. For the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) amount was projected from the last completed actuarial valuation as of October 1, 2001 assuming that actual experience during the October 1, 2001 to September 30, 2004 matched that assumed by the actuarial assumptions.

(*****) Estimated based on the financial information provided as of September 30, 2005 for the actuarial value of assets. For the unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) amount was projected from the last completed actuarial valuation as of October 1, 2003 assuming that actual experience during the October 1, 2003 to September 30, 2005 matched that assumed by the actuarial assumptions.

(*****) Based on financial information as of September 30, 2007 and the actuarial accrued liability was projected from the October 1, 2006 actuarial valuation assuming that actual experience during the October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007 matched that assumed by the actuarial assumptions.

(*****) Based on the financial information as of September 30, 2008 and the actuarial accrued liability was projected from the October 1, 2006 actuarial valuation assuming that actual experience during the October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2008 matched that assumed by the actuarial assumptions. Payroll was estimated based on reported contributions for the year.

Actuarial valuation up to September 30, 1998:

The entry age normal with Frozen Initial Liability funding method does not determine Past Service Liability each year. Rather, it rolls forward the unfunded liability (UAAL) with adjustment for changes in benefits or assumptions.

The actuarial accrued liability shown above has been determined as the sum of the UAAL and the actuarial value of assets.

Actuarial valuation - September 30, 1999 - September 30, 2006:

Actuarial accrued liability determined under the Entry Age Normal Method.

See accompanying independent auditors' report on required supplementary information.

**EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF THE
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Required Supplementary Information
Schedule of Employer Contributions
September 30, 2008

	<u>Annual required contributions</u>	<u>Contributions made</u>	<u>Percentage contributed</u>
Year ended September 30:			
1998	62,578,121	45,984,661	73.48%
1999*	62,237,129	45,148,387	72.54%
2000	64,992,493	44,078,554	67.82%
2001*	64,179,332	43,387,158	67.60%
2002	95,186,021	50,594,531	53.15%
2003*	117,124,599	51,588,235	44.05%
2004**	108,358,399	54,084,454	49.91%
2005**	120,184,848	51,542,030	42.89%
2006**	131,059,471	65,061,430	49.64%
2007	137,797,268	60,778,382	44.11%
2008***	138,488,871	75,871,146	54.79%

*Estimated based on prior year's actuarial valuation.

**Estimated based on FY 2003 actuarial valuation

*** Estimated based on FY 2006 actuarial valuation

See accompanying independent auditors' report on required supplementary information.