



HIGHLIGHTS

January/February 2014

Vexed About Vesting?

Don't be. "Vesting" applies only to FERS participants and means that you can keep your Agency Automatic (1%) Contributions and their earnings after working for the Federal Government for at least 3 years. (For FERS employees in Congressional and certain noncareer positions, the requirement is 2 years.) Your own contributions and Agency Matching Contributions are automatically vested. All Federal civilian service counts toward vesting. Your vesting period begins on your TSP Service Computation Date (SCD), which is shown on your TSP statements. If you leave Government service before you satisfy your vesting requirement, you forfeit your Agency Automatic (1%) Contributions and their earnings.



The TSP is on Twitter!

The TSP is pleased to announce the launch of its Twitter account @tsp4gov. Follow us to get current, informative messages as well as quick and easy access to helpful tools and videos that will help you make smart decisions about your TSP account.



Improving Your TSP Experience

Every year is an opportunity for the TSP to offer you better service, more education, and useful tools so that you will find it easier to make smart decisions for your retirement. In 2013:

TSP.gov went mobile

Now you can easily access your TSP account anytime and anywhere through your Android, iPhone, or similar smartphone by using the TSP's website (tsp.gov). And the good news is you don't need to download an app to use this feature. Just go to My Account from your smartphone and you will be directed to a mobile version, where you can view your account balance, transaction history, and perform contribution allocations and interfund transfers. Want to visit the non-mobile site? Just select the "Full Site" button on the top right of the screen.

We expanded our YouTube video library

We think you'll find our newest additions educational. We strive to keep each video short so you can get the most important information quickly. Check out "The TSP: What's It All About?" to get a good summary of this valuable Federal benefit. We created two versions, one for our civilian participants and another for uniformed services. Or take a few minutes to find out why investment expenses matter and how the TSP's low costs help you save more for your retirement. Learn all about it in our video "What Do You Pay to Save?" You'll find it and all of our videos on our YouTube channel, TSP4gov.

We've added more tools to your retirement planning toolbox

Do you understand how your TSP contributions affect your take-home pay? Use our simple Paycheck Estimator Calculator to see how contributions affect you now, and how much they can grow in the future. If you're approaching the time that you'll need to start turning your TSP savings into income, take a look at our Retirement Income Calculator. It lets you estimate and compare the amount you'd receive every month in retirement from the available monthly income options and features that the TSP offers. You can find both of these calculators, along with many others in the Planning & Tools section of the TSP website, tsp.gov.

Reservists became eligible for Roth

Our partners in the payroll offices worked hard so that now we can say Roth is an option for all of our participants who are contributing to the TSP. Reservists were added in the Fall of 2013. If you're still not sure whether Roth is right for you, we encourage you to watch our Roth YouTube videos and also try out our Contribution Comparison Calculator, which allows you to compare the effects of making Roth vs. traditional contributions. 🌱

We hope you agree that the TSP offered you an even better experience in 2013. But we're far from finished. In 2014, we'll be laying the groundwork for several more initiatives including expanding our social media outreach. As always, our singular focus is to manage the TSP solely in the interests of you and your beneficiaries so that your savings will be a source of comfort and security in your retirement.

Rates of Return

	L 2050	L 2040	L 2030	L 2020	L Income	G Fund	F Fund	C Fund	S Fund	I Fund
Monthly 2013										
Jan	4.63%	4.11%	3.56%	2.83%	1.10%	0.13%	-0.56%	5.18%	6.96%	4.45%
Feb	0.56	0.54	0.49	0.41	0.27	0.13	0.51	1.36	1.00	-0.99
Mar	2.71	2.44	2.12	1.69	0.73	0.13	0.07	3.75	4.69	0.88
April	2.41	2.13	1.91	1.58	0.67	0.12	1.02	1.93	0.65	5.32
May	0.53	0.51	0.43	0.33	0.19	0.12	-1.78	2.34	2.71	-3.12
June	-1.59	-1.40	-1.20	-0.94	-0.30	0.14	-1.53	-1.34	-0.99	-2.77
July	4.83	4.29	3.72	2.95	1.21	0.18	0.13	5.10	6.88	5.29
Aug	-2.11	-1.87	-1.60	-1.22	-0.39	0.18	-0.48	-2.89	-2.76	-1.31
Sep	4.42	3.90	3.40	2.71	1.12	0.19	0.99	3.14	5.89	7.41
Oct	3.47	3.11	2.75	2.23	1.01	0.19	0.89	4.60	2.94	3.38
Nov	1.93	1.74	1.54	1.24	0.58	0.18	-0.35	3.05	2.49	0.75
Dec	1.98	1.77	1.56	1.25	0.58	0.19	-0.56	2.54	2.94	1.51
Annual 2004 – 2013										
2004	-	-	-	-	-	4.30%	4.30%	10.82%	18.03%	20.00%
2005	-	-	-	-	-	4.49	2.40	4.96	10.45	13.63
2006	-	16.53	15.00	13.72	7.59	4.93	4.40	15.79	15.30	26.32
2007	-	7.36	7.14	6.87	5.56	4.87	7.09	5.54	5.49	11.43
2008	-	-31.53	-27.50	-22.77	-5.09	3.75	5.45	-36.99	-38.32	-42.43
2009	-	25.19	22.48	19.14	8.57	2.97	5.99	26.68	34.85	30.04
2010	-	13.89	12.48	10.59	5.74	2.81	6.71	15.06	29.06	7.94
2011	-	-0.96	-0.31	0.41	2.23	2.45	7.89	2.11	-3.38	-11.81
2012	15.85	14.27	12.61	10.42	4.77	1.47	4.29	16.07	18.57	18.62
2013	26.20	23.23	20.16	16.03	6.97	1.89	-1.68	32.45	38.35	22.13

The returns for the TSP funds represent net earnings after deduction of administrative expenses and, in the cases of the F, C, S, I, and L Funds, after deduction of trading costs and investment management fees. Additional information about the TSP funds, the related indexes, and their respective 1-, 3-, 5-, and 10-year returns can be found in the TSP Fund Information sheets on the TSP website.

With the exception of L 2050, the Lifecycle funds — which are invested in the individual TSP funds (G, F, C, S, and I)[†] — were implemented on August 1, 2005. Therefore, their first annual returns are for 2006. Since L 2050 was implemented on January 31, 2011, its first annual returns are for 2012.

[†] The Government Securities Investment (G) Fund; the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund; the Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund; the Small Capitalization Stock Index (S) Fund; the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund