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# Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board  
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## Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs

Selected Current Statistics for **October - December 2016**

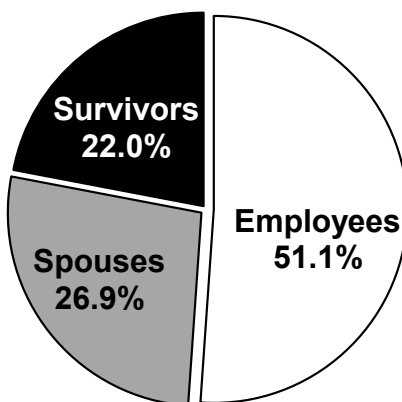
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**Railroad Retirement and  
Survivor Beneficiaries  
on the Rolls, by Type,  
December 2016**  
(521,000 beneficiaries)



**NOTE.**--Some 6,100 employees also received spouse annuities and more than 2,200 employees also received survivor annuities.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2016**

Period	Employee annuities							
	Total <sup>1</sup>		Age			Supple- mental <sup>3</sup>	Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries	Awarded age annuity	Disability converted to age annuity <sup>2</sup>	Disability			
<b>Number in current-payment status at end of period</b>								
December 2016	653,561	521,469	190,857	45,146	30,546	122,870	141,434	4,959
November 2016	653,653	521,546	190,888	45,012	30,752	122,898	141,262	4,940
October 2016	653,991	521,831	190,923	44,871	31,031	122,954	141,170	4,909
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>								
December 2016	.....	.....	\$2,690.63	\$2,371.85	\$2,684.12	\$41.55	\$1,009.34	\$625.72
November 2016	.....	.....	2,681.81	2,363.64	2,677.42	41.55	1,006.44	624.05
October 2016	.....	.....	2,678.69	2,361.29	2,675.48	41.55	1,005.30	623.35
<b>Number awarded during period</b>								
December 2016	1,998	1,715	419	.....	124	283	661	45
November 2016	2,617	2,207	716	.....	97	410	797	55
October 2016	2,797	2,332	767	.....	126	465	864	48
10/16 - 12/16	7,412	6,254	1,902	.....	347	1,158	2,322	148
10/15 - 12/15	7,713	6,168	1,957	.....	364	1,545	2,127	180
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>4</sup></b>								
December 2016	.....	.....	\$3,113.56	.....	\$2,190.98	\$40.61	\$1,030.07	\$689.14
November 2016	.....	.....	3,113.46	.....	2,822.38	41.48	1,090.43	587.11
October 2016	.....	.....	3,167.78	.....	2,676.24	41.42	1,087.23	728.50
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)</b>								
December 2016	\$1,074,698	.....	\$520,981	\$106,203	\$100,863	\$5,170	\$151,930	\$3,766
November 2016	993,154	.....	500,104	105,740	71,223	5,024	138,407	2,874
October 2016	1,036,367	.....	512,926	105,291	87,921	5,125	143,752	3,175
10/16 - 12/16	3,104,219	.....	1,534,011	317,234	260,007	15,319	434,089	9,815
10/15 - 12/15	3,065,765	.....	1,504,492	301,531	281,503	15,402	416,584	8,887

<sup>1</sup>Includes dependent parents' annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. Benefit payments also include hospital insurance benefits for services in Canada. <sup>2</sup>A disability annuity ends when the retiree attains full retirement age, at which time the annuity converts to an age and service annuity. Consequently, these annuitants are receiving age and service annuities. Full retirement age is age 65 for those born before 1938 and gradually increases to age 67 for those born 1960 and later. <sup>3</sup>Excludes partition payments to spouses and divorced spouses where the employee is deceased. Averages are after court-ordered partitions. <sup>4</sup>Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates.

**NOTE**--MONTHLY BENEFITS in CURRENT-PAYMENT STATUS at the end of month include all benefits awarded to date and payable for the month. BENEFITS AWARDED consist of those certified for the first time on either a partial or final basis. BENEFIT PAYMENTS for a month, shown in both the benefit and financial statistics, consist of recurrent monthly checks dated the first of the month, plus retroactive and lump-sum payments made during the month, less returned checks (excluding those not yet distributed by Account), refunds of benefits paid previously, etc. Data are on a cash basis (unaudited) and are partly estimated.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2016 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits										
Period	Annuities						Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments	Partition payments <sup>6</sup>
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers <sup>5</sup>	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers					
<b>Number in current-payment status at end of period</b>										
December 2016	90,276	3,638	651	3,148	9,737	8,710	.....	.....	1,568	
November 2016	90,442	3,643	654	3,150	9,707	8,723	.....	.....	1,560	
October 2016	90,662	3,652	652	3,166	9,704	8,727	.....	.....	1,548	
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>										
December 2016	\$1,629.67	\$1,308.76	\$1,885.03	\$1,053.05	\$1,059.81	\$1,072.18	.....	.....	\$307.32	
November 2016	1,625.13	1,307.91	1,888.34	1,050.89	1,056.90	1,068.08	.....	.....	307.01	
October 2016	1,621.46	1,307.61	1,882.63	1,050.37	1,055.31	1,066.04	.....	.....	306.19	
<b>Number awarded during period</b>										
December 2016	364	3	5	8	62	24	185	---	.....	
November 2016	439	7	7	8	48	33	186	---	.....	
October 2016	434	5	6	4	35	43	151	---	.....	
10/16 - 12/16	1,237	15	18	20	145	100	522	---	.....	
10/15 - 12/15	1,217	17	22	31	157	96	653	1	.....	
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>4</sup></b>										
December 2016	\$2,021.16	\$1,103.16	\$1,828.21	\$1,063.63	\$1,162.40	\$1,482.81	\$902	---	.....	
November 2016	2,084.63	1,888.63	2,150.08	1,302.88	1,297.19	1,452.83	935	---	.....	
October 2016	2,018.22	1,117.82	1,986.60	1,319.50	1,037.20	1,204.77	963	---	.....	
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)</b>										
December 2016	\$153,098	\$5,047	\$1,395	\$3,451	\$11,535	\$10,580	\$180	---	\$479	
November 2016	142,168	4,163	1,141	3,214	9,632	8,742	177	---	524	
October 2016	147,800	4,847	1,293	3,349	10,303	9,839	150	---	575	
10/16 - 12/16	443,066	14,057	3,829	10,014	31,470	29,161	507	---	1,578	
10/15 - 12/15	446,319	14,664	3,884	10,395	30,542	29,579	611	\$9	1,294	

<sup>5</sup>Number and average in current-payment status, and benefit payments during period, includes annuities to disabled widow(er)s age 60 and over now payable as aged widow(er)s' annuities. <sup>6</sup>Limited to partition payments to spouses and divorced spouses where the employee is deceased or not otherwise entitled to an annuity. Partition payments from employees on the rolls are included with the employees' annuities.

**NOTE**--(Continued from previous page.)

FOR WIDOWS and WIDOWERS aged 60 and over and WIDOWED MOTHERS and FATHERS, the number of benefits being paid and benefit payments include benefits temporarily being continued at spouse annuity rates, pending award of survivor annuities.

INSURANCE LUMP SUMS and RESIDUAL PAYMENTS are each counted only once with respect to an employee's death even though divided among 2 or more persons. Award data for insurance lump sums exclude deferred benefits, i.e., those payable a year after the employee's death.

Data on benefit payments are for CALENDAR MONTHS; all other data are for ACCOUNTING MONTHS ending on approximately the 29th of each month.

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2016 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	December 2016	November 2016	October 2016	October 2016 - December 2016	October 2015 - December 2015
<b>RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period<sup>1</sup></b>	\$504,623	\$611,373	\$739,556	\$739,556	\$877,301
<b>Income, total</b>	555,955	435,681	451,310	1,442,946	1,489,056
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	186,666	207,668	213,395	607,730	630,118
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	104,000	104,000	97,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	135,687	135,461	132,178	403,326	381,282
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust <sup>4</sup>	233,000	93,000	.....	326,000	376,000
Transfer from SSEB Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>5</sup>	-537	-1,626	400	-1,764	34
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury <sup>6</sup>	16	22	21	58	65
Interest on investments <sup>7</sup>	1,123	1,157	1,316	3,597	4,557
<b>Outgo, total</b>	619,764	542,431	579,493	1,741,688	1,689,246
Benefit payments	478,821	400,781	442,292	1,321,894	1,291,454
Payments of SSA benefits	134,737	135,670	131,021	401,428	380,066
Administrative expenses <sup>8</sup>	5,767	5,557	5,742	17,066	16,197
Funding for Office of Inspector General	439	423	437	1,300	1,530
<b>Balance at end of period<sup>1</sup></b>	440,814	504,623	611,373	440,814	677,111
<b>NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
<b>Cash and investment balance at end of period<sup>9</sup></b>	\$24,866,057	\$24,755,079	\$24,754,695	\$24,866,057	\$24,587,815
<b>DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT<sup>10</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	-\$3,975	-\$2,068	.....	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments <sup>11</sup>	(12)	.....	.....	(12)	(12)
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Vested dual benefit payments	2,138	1,907	\$2,068	\$6,113	\$6,941
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	-6,113	-3,975	-2,068	-6,113	-6,941

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2016 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued**

Item	December 2016	November 2016	October 2016	October 2016 - December 2016	October 2015 - December 2015
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$743,745	\$806,026	\$721,860	\$721,860	\$880,840
<b>Income, total</b>	586,109	530,655	678,725	1,795,489	1,744,335
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	212,381	229,407	228,250	670,037	688,080
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	70,000	70,000	65,000
Financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	372,659	300,069	379,236	1,051,964	986,467
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments <sup>7</sup>	1,069	1,179	1,240	3,488	4,788
<b>Outgo, total</b>	596,304	592,936	594,560	1,783,799	1,775,202
Benefit payments	593,740	590,465	592,007	1,776,211	1,767,370
Repayment of financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses <sup>8</sup>	2,381	2,294	2,370	7,045	7,170
Funding for Office of Inspector General	183	177	183	543	662
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	733,550	743,745	806,026	733,550	849,973

<sup>1</sup>Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of December 2016, liabilities were \$14,236,000. <sup>2</sup>Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. <sup>3</sup>Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. <sup>4</sup>Under the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001, as amended, the portion of the RR Account not needed to pay current administrative expenses is to be transferred to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (Trust). The Trust may transfer funds back to the RR Account for payment of benefits. The balance of the SSEB Account not needed to pay current benefits and administrative expenses is to be transferred to the Trust or to the RR Account. <sup>5</sup>Net of amounts distributed by account. <sup>6</sup>Net of returns of uncashed check credits. Includes undistributed canceled checks under 1-year limited payability. <sup>7</sup>Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 2). <sup>8</sup>Reflects adjustments for prior periods. <sup>9</sup>Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. <sup>10</sup>Total vested dual benefits paid during a fiscal year are limited to the amount appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that year. Any amounts not spent are returned to the U.S. Treasury. The appropriation for fiscal year 2016 was \$29.0 million, including income tax transfers. Funds for October through December 2015 and October through December 2016 were provided under a partial year continuing resolution. <sup>11</sup>Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. <sup>12</sup>Less than \$500. <sup>13</sup>Includes interest.

**NOTE**--Data relate to CALENDAR month.

**Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.**

**Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2016**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
<b>Unemployment<sup>1</sup></b>						
December 2016	1,297	1,128	48	4,978	4,966	28
November 2016	1,106	646	41	4,290	4,286	19
October 2016	820	638	10	4,119	4,094	58
7/16 - 12/16	10,175	7,873	422	8,972	8,896	302
7/15 - 12/15	11,778	7,375	201	8,466	8,388	289
<b>Sickness</b>						
December 2016	1,192	1,003	63	5,364	5,336	45
November 2016	1,104	1,024	49	5,287	5,272	33
October 2016	1,251	1,125	11	5,247	5,196	82
7/16 - 12/16	12,652	9,871	331	10,449	10,310	623
7/15 - 12/15	12,373	9,612	313	10,216	10,093	543

Period	Number of payments			Averages <sup>2</sup>		Benefit payments <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week <sup>3</sup>	
<b>Unemployment<sup>1</sup></b>						
December 2016	9,457	9,410	47	9.1	\$333.05	\$7,742
November 2016	7,644	7,615	29	9.2	333.35	5,839
October 2016	7,550	7,478	72	9.2	333.95	5,288
7/16 - 12/16	48,118	46,943	1,175	9.0	334.25	35,942
7/15 - 12/15	40,890	39,729	1,161	8.9	333.05	27,199
<b>Sickness</b>						
December 2016	11,042	10,948	94	9.1	\$333.60	\$5,339
November 2016	9,717	9,647	70	9.2	333.20	5,695
October 2016	9,609	9,450	159	9.1	333.35	6,001
7/16 - 12/16	58,373	55,820	2,553	9.0	335.70	31,768
7/15 - 12/15	54,838	52,559	2,279	8.9	334.20	29,638

<sup>1</sup> Temporary extended benefits under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 had to begin by December 31, 2009. Temporary extended benefits under the Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009, as amended, had to begin by December 31, 2013. Current activity primarily reflects recoveries.

<sup>2</sup> Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week=equal to 5 times average daily benefit.

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, amounts reflect a reduction of 7.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2013, a reduction of 7.3% for days after September 30, 2014, 6.8% for days after September 30, 2015 and 6.9% for days payable after September 30, 2016.

**NOTE**--An unemployment claimant files only one APPLICATION for a benefit year. A sickness claimant files an APPLICATION at the beginning of each period of continuing sickness.

NORMAL BENEFIT ACCOUNTS are opened when the first payment is made.

The number of BENEFICIARIES is the count of persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits in the period. Those receiving both normal and extended benefits for unemployment or sickness are counted only once in the total for each type.

PAYMENTS generally cover 14-day registration periods. Benefits are payable for days over 7 during an employee's first 14-day registration period. Sickness benefits are paid for days of sickness after the 4th consecutive day of sickness in the first claim in each period of continuing sickness; for subsequent registration periods in the same period of continuing sickness, payments are made for all days of sickness over 4 whether or not consecutive. Unemployment benefits are paid for days of unemployment over 4. However, in the case of unemployment benefits due to a legal authorized strike, unemployment benefits are not paid until after a 14-day waiting period. Non-strikers unemployed due to an illegal strike must also serve a 14-day waiting period.

(Continued on next page.)

**Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2016 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	December 2016	November 2016	October 2016	October 2016 - December 2016	October 2015 - December 2015
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$70,604	\$80,798	\$69,019	\$69,019	\$95,002
<b>Income, total</b>	2,715	1,430	23,161	27,305	23,098
Contributions <sup>1</sup>	1,234	533	22,124	23,891	21,529
Interest on investments	367	14	16	398	675
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>2</sup>	1,113	882	1,020	3,016	894
Transfers from RUI Administration Fund <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Outgo, total</b>	13,175	11,624	11,381	36,180	32,544
Unemployment benefit payments <sup>3</sup>	7,742	5,839	5,288	18,869	16,087
Sickness benefit payments <sup>3</sup>	5,339	5,695	6,001	17,035	16,137
Funding for Office of Inspector General	93	90	93	276	321
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	60,144	70,604	80,798	60,144	85,556
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$17,227	\$18,336	\$12,132	\$12,132	\$13,858
<b>Income, total</b>	-975	138	7,492	6,655	7,163
Contributions <sup>1</sup>	-1,062	138	7,492	6,568	7,074
Interest on investments	87	.....	.....	87	89
<b>Outgo, total</b>	1,294	1,247	1,288	3,829	3,228
Administrative expenses	1,294	1,247	1,288	3,829	3,228
Transfers to RUI Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	14,958	17,227	18,336	14,958	17,793

<sup>1</sup> Amounts reflect quarterly re-allocation of contributions between the RUI Account and the RUI Administration Fund.

<sup>2</sup> Net of distributed amounts.

<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, amounts reflect a reduction of 7.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2013, 7.3% for days after September 30, 2014, 6.8% for days after September 30, 2015, and 6.9% for days after September 30, 2016.

**NOTE.**--(Continued from previous page.)

BENEFIT PAYMENTS are on a cash basis (unaudited) and represent amounts paid during the period including retroactive payments, less recoveries distributed to beneficiary accounts, refunds, and cancellations of previous payments.

ADMINISTRATION FUND balances reflect current adjustments to income and disbursements for previous years.

All unemployment and sickness data relate to CALENDAR MONTHS.

**Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.**

**Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2016 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued**

Item	December 2016	November 2016	October 2016	October 2016 - December 2016	October 2015 - December 2015
<b>EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT<sup>4</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$9,448	\$9,448	\$9,448	\$9,448	\$9,434
Interest and other income	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Benefits <sup>5</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	9,448	9,448	9,448	9,448	9,431
<b>EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, WORKER, HOMEOWNERSHIP, AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ACT<sup>6</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$132,929	\$132,929	\$132,929	\$132,929	\$132,725
Interest and other income	.....	.....	.....	.....	17
Benefits <sup>5</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	-27
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	132,929	132,929	132,929	132,929	132,769

<sup>4</sup> The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law on February 17, 2009, contained an appropriation of \$20,000,000 to provide up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits for certain railroad workers who exhaust their rights to the benefits normally provided under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2009.

<sup>5</sup> Negative amounts due to recoveries exceeding benefit payments. Positive disbursements for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act include the write-off of bad debt.

<sup>6</sup> Enacted on November 6, 2009, the Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009 contained an appropriation of \$175,000,000 to extend the provisions of the Recovery Act by one year. The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (enacted December 17, 2010), the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (enacted December 23, 2011), the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (enacted February 22, 2012), and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (enacted January 2, 2013) each continued the special unemployment benefit provision for periods ranging from two months to one year, for a total extension of three years. Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2013.

**Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.**



## Table 5: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- December 2016

### RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

<b>Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$1,074,698,000
Regular and Supplemental benefits	1,072,560,000
Vested dual benefits	2,138,000

	Number	Average
<b>Total benefits being paid at end of month</b>	654,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	267,000	\$2,636
Supplemental	123,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	146,000	996
Aged widows' and widowers'	90,000	1,630
Other benefits	27,000	1,072
<b>Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month</b>	521,000	.....

### UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS

	Unemployment <sup>1</sup>	Sickness
<b>Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)<sup>2</sup></b>	\$7,742,000	\$5,339,000
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	5,000	5,400
<b>Average payment per week<sup>2</sup></b>	\$333	\$334

<sup>1</sup> Starting in June 2009, includes temporary extended unemployment benefits authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2009. Beginning in November 2009, temporary extended unemployment benefits are also being paid under the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009, as amended. Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, amounts reflect a reduction of 7.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2013, a reduction of 7.3% for days after September 30, 2014, and 6.8% for days after September 30, 2015.