
Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
844 North Rush Street
Chicago, Illinois 60611-1275
www.rrb.gov

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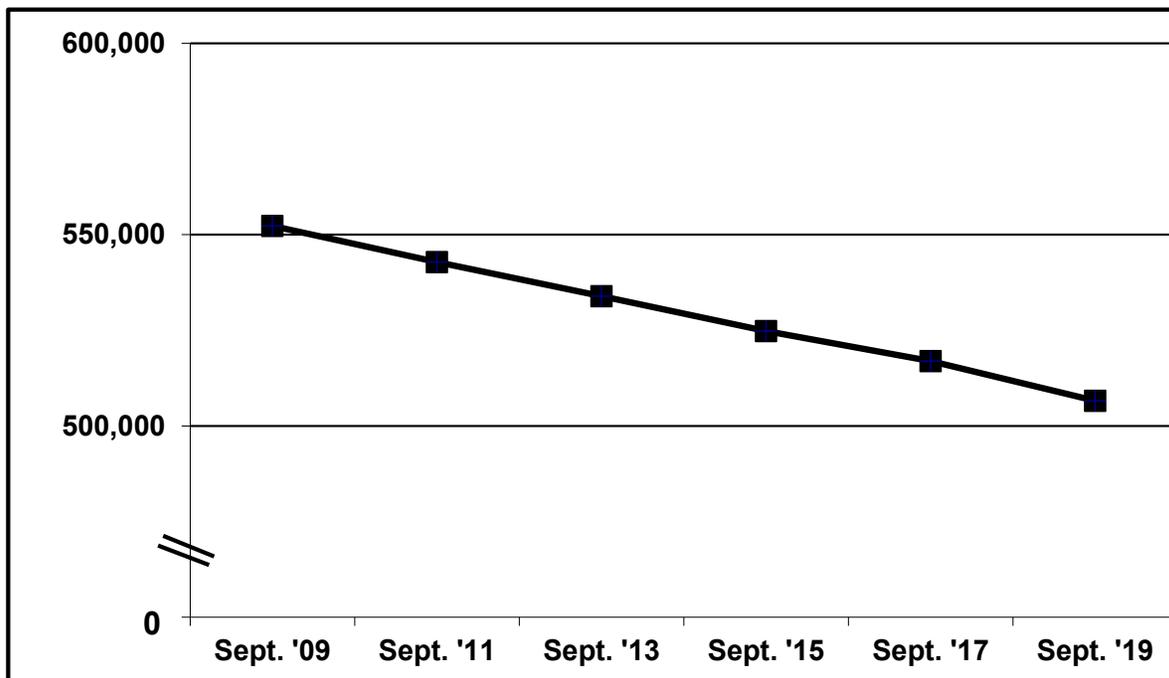
January 17, 2020

Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs Selected Current Statistics for July - September 2019

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Total Monthly Railroad Retirement Beneficiaries, September 2009 through September 2019



**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
July - September 2019**

Period	Employee annuities							
	Total ¹		Age			Supple- mental ³	Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries	Awarded age annuity	Disability converted to age annuity ²	Disability			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
September 2019	633,742	506,566	188,372	48,475	22,552	117,831	142,888	5,275
August 2019	634,166	506,817	188,377	48,344	22,778	118,021	142,836	5,238
July 2019	634,540	506,995	188,358	48,241	23,005	118,205	142,742	5,251
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
September 2019	.....	.....	\$2,912.31	\$2,563.75	\$2,821.52	\$41.51	\$1,078.70	\$685.17
August 2019	.....	.....	2,910.15	2,561.17	2,820.60	41.51	1,078.21	684.60
July 2019	.....	.....	2,907.12	2,558.39	2,819.26	41.51	1,077.78	683.27
Number awarded during period								
September 2019	2,300	2,043	629	.....	119	257	715	71
August 2019	2,578	2,283	744	.....	145	295	783	67
July 2019	2,632	2,301	749	.....	176	331	821	53
10/18 - 9/19	29,023	25,724	7,727	.....	1,717	3,299	9,056	752
10/17 - 9/18	31,863	27,670	8,710	.....	1,636	4,193	9,683	787
Average amount awarded during period⁴								
September 2019	.....	.....	\$3,106.63	.....	\$2,916.04	\$40.68	\$1,054.72	\$660.31
August 2019	.....	.....	3,272.39	.....	2,898.21	40.61	1,058.30	734.28
July 2019	.....	.....	3,165.33	.....	2,943.65	40.73	1,018.03	730.70
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵								
September 2019	\$1,084,658	.....	\$549,459	\$123,567	\$69,485	\$4,902	\$155,396	\$3,784
August 2019	1,087,605	.....	549,827	123,143	72,584	4,917	155,158	3,764
July 2019	1,084,601	.....	548,627	122,744	72,332	4,919	154,837	3,701
10/18 - 9/19	12,969,539	.....	6,549,123	1,451,597	884,401	59,424	1,847,983	44,320
10/17 - 9/18	12,693,009	.....	6,370,830	1,368,561	933,749	60,541	1,791,959	41,563

¹Includes dependent parents' annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. Total benefit payments also include hospital insurance benefits for services in Canada. ²A 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 gradually increases, from age 65 to 67, for those born between 1937 and 1960. It is age 67 for those born after 1959 and age 65 for those born before 1938. ³Excludes partition payments to spouses and divorced spouses where the employee is deceased. Averages are after court-ordered partitions. ⁴Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates. ⁵Beginning in July 2019, data is from the Monthly Treasury Statement. Prior to July 2019, data was provided by the Bureau of Fiscal Operations.

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.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
July - September 2019 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits									
Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments	Partition payments ⁷
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers ⁶	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers				
Number in current-payment status at end of period									
September 2019	81,959	3,277	576	2,743	9,764	7,957	.....	.....	2,050
August 2019	82,164	3,285	575	2,759	9,776	7,954	.....	.....	2,037
July 2019	82,331	3,293	576	2,779	9,756	7,956	.....	.....	2,025
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period									
September 2019	\$1,780.37	\$1,401.30	\$1,942.04	\$1,152.06	\$1,168.39	\$1,156.79	.....	.....	\$320.78
August 2019	1,776.23	1,398.60	1,936.81	1,148.74	1,166.59	1,154.22	.....	.....	320.41
July 2019	1,771.83	1,397.04	1,929.47	1,148.95	1,164.22	1,150.92	.....	.....	320.83
Number awarded during period									
September 2019	381	9	7	10	63	38	164	----	.....
August 2019	424	11	4	7	74	24	180	----	.....
July 2019	391	7	6	9	54	35	146	----	.....
10/18 - 9/19	5,039	98	87	107	747	393	2,132	3	.....
10/17 - 9/18	5,413	78	93	124	764	379	2,446	3	.....
Average amount awarded during period⁴									
September 2019	\$2,317.72	\$1,865.64	\$1,346.40	\$1,469.50	\$1,229.70	\$1,516.84	\$875	----	.....
August 2019	2,317.87	1,418.61	1,748.38	583.43	1,205.20	1,451.93	906	----	.....
July 2019	2,209.05	1,784.44	1,276.50	1,473.00	1,307.91	1,420.94	882	----	.....
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵									
September 2019	\$146,466	\$4,902	\$1,159	\$3,194	\$11,576	\$9,904	\$148	----	\$680
August 2019	146,727	4,934	1,156	3,189	11,591	9,768	173	----	652
July 2019	146,200	4,789	1,161	3,229	11,481	9,777	137	----	647
10/18 - 9/19	1,757,094	58,061	14,405	38,956	136,230	117,878	2,056	\$6	7,739
10/17 - 9/18	1,756,633	57,989	14,627	39,675	129,918	117,420	2,329	7	6,971

⁶Number 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. ⁷Limited 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
July - September 2019 (In thousands)
Cash Basis

Item	September 2019	August 2019	July 2019	October 2018 - September 2019	October 2017 - September 2018
SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT					
Income					
Payroll taxes ¹	\$223,104	\$226,174	\$259,551	\$2,869,773	\$2,967,283
Income tax transfers ²	.....	.....	66,000	260,000	300,000
Financial interchange advances ³	401,028	334,912	397,690	4,306,373	4,109,056
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	4,946,429	4,942,425
Interest on investments ⁴	13	2,348	2,358	23,449	24,423
Outgo					
Benefit payments	\$620,822	\$620,962	\$620,428	\$7,403,816	\$7,226,738
Repayment of financial interchange advances ³	.....	.....	.....	4,202,365	4,194,311
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	570,285	596,547
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account ⁵	191,000	.....	.....	191,000	91,000
Administrative expenses ⁶	1,867	1,867	1,867	30,702	27,246
Funding for Office of Inspector General	189	189	189	2,715	2,510
RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT					
Income					
Payroll taxes ¹	\$254,610	\$263,006	\$302,082	\$3,259,367	\$3,352,870
Income tax transfers ²	.....	.....	101,000	471,000	470,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	161,046	160,660	159,423	1,896,750	1,778,896
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust ⁵	157,000	110,000	190,000	1,794,000	1,809,000
Transfer from SSEB Account ⁵	191,000	.....	.....	191,000	.....
Interest on investments ⁴	-2,171	1,101	1,090	11,031	15,758
Outgo					
Benefit payments	\$462,438	\$465,325	\$462,860	\$5,548,166	\$5,446,091
Payments of SSA benefits	160,497	160,659	159,371	1,894,437	1,776,632
Administrative expenses ⁶	4,694	4,695	4,695	77,261	78,728
Funding for Office of Inspector General	475	476	476	6,824	6,954
NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST					
Cash and investment balance at end of period⁷	\$25,332,403	\$25,128,800	\$25,568,059	\$25,332,403	\$26,468,665
DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT ⁸					
Vested dual benefit payments	\$1,398	\$1,317	\$1,313	\$17,147	\$20,180

¹Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. ²Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. ³Includes interest. ⁴Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 1). ⁵Under 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. ⁶Prior to fiscal year 2019, reflects adjustments for prior periods. ⁷Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. ⁸Total 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 benefit appropriation, including income tax transfers, for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 was \$22.0 and \$19.0 million, respectively.

NOTE.--This Table has been revised to only include information from the Monthly Treasury Statements and other resources within the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of the Actuary and Research.

**Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics
July - September 2019**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
Unemployment						
September 2019	1,573	895	2	3,522	3,442	107
August 2019	1,229	1,555	7	2,970	2,819	171
July 2019	3,168	1,602	91	2,689	2,502	238
7/19 - 9/19	5,970	4,052	100	4,584	4,467	259
7/18 - 9/18	3,285	2,427	116	2,856	2,734	283
Sickness						
September 2019	1,407	1,136	21	4,601	4,455	193
August 2019	1,841	2,605	34	4,436	4,178	325
July 2019	4,911	2,042	181	4,026	3,671	510
7/19 - 9/19	8,159	5,783	236	6,424	6,229	568
7/18 - 9/18	8,171	5,973	229	6,678	6,460	631

Period	Number of payments			Averages ¹		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week ²	Benefit payments ^{2, 3} (thousands)
Unemployment						
September 2019	6,203	6,010	193	9.0	\$363.25	\$4,761
August 2019	5,380	5,036	344	9.0	362.20	4,082
July 2019	4,518	4,061	457	8.7	358.65	3,456
7/19 - 9/19	16,101	15,107	994	8.9	361.90	12,299
7/18 - 9/18	10,952	9,872	1,080	9.0	352.00	7,988
Sickness						
September 2019	8,797	8,398	399	9.1	\$363.35	\$6,690
August 2019	7,985	7,356	629	8.9	362.15	6,183
July 2019	7,542	6,474	1,068	8.8	360.20	5,616
7/19 - 9/19	24,324	22,228	2,096	8.9	363.45	18,488
7/18 - 9/18	24,729	22,357	2,372	8.9	352.65	18,174

¹ Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week--equal to 5 times average daily benefit.

² 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 7.3% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2014, 6.8% for days after September 30, 2015, 6.9% for days after September 30, 2016, 6.6% for days payable after September 30, 2017, and 6.2% for days payable after September 30, 2018.

³ Prior to July 2019, unemployment and sickness benefit payments were based on net amounts. Beginning in July 2019, that data is no longer available. Benefit payments for 2018 and 2019 have been adjusted to reflect gross amounts.

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.

Table 4: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- September 2019

RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)¹	\$1,084,658,000
Regular and Supplemental benefits	1,083,260,000
Vested dual benefits	1,398,000

	Number	Average
Total benefits being paid at end of month	634,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	259,000	\$2,839
Supplemental	118,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	148,000	1,065
Aged widows' and widowers'	82,000	1,780
Other benefits	26,000	1,143
Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month	507,000	.....

UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS

	Unemployment	Sickness
Gross benefit payments^{1,2}	\$4,761,000	\$6,690,000
Beneficiaries	3,500	4,600
Average payment per week²	\$363	\$363

¹ Prior to July 2019, unemployment and sickness benefit payments were based on net amounts. Beginning in July 2019, that data is no longer available. Benefit payments now reflect gross amounts.

² 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 6.9% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2016, 6.6% for days after September 30, 2017, and 6.2% for days after September 30, 2018.