
Quarterly Benefit Statistics

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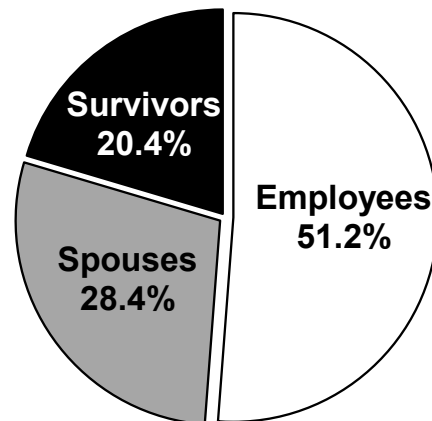
Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs

Selected Current Statistics for **October - December 2020**

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Railroad Retirement and Survivor Beneficiaries on the Rolls, by Type, December 2020

(497,000 beneficiaries)



NOTE.--Some 6,000 employees also received spouse annuities and approximately 2,000 employees also received survivor annuities.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
October - December 2020**

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								
December 2020	620,175	497,364	185,837	49,425	19,428	113,584	141,804	5,196
November 2020	620,908	497,790	185,955	49,383	19,579	113,881	141,936	5,193
October 2020	622,002	498,596	186,170	49,344	19,774	114,151	142,126	5,204
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2020	.....	.....	\$3,022.58	\$2,660.20	\$2,907.36	\$41.51	\$1,114.29	\$716.13
November 2020	.....	.....	2,989.97	2,630.44	2,874.17	41.51	1,103.57	707.02
October 2020	.....	.....	2,987.48	2,627.98	2,871.76	41.51	1,102.54	706.82
Number awarded during period								
December 2020	1,796	1,664	457	.....	148	132	496	40
November 2020	1,984	1,792	491	.....	124	192	564	42
October 2020	2,207	2,014	582	.....	158	193	698	38
10/20 - 12/20	5,987	5,470	1,530	.....	430	517	1,758	120
10/19 - 12/19	6,168	5,472	1,638	.....	295	696	1,950	141
Average amount awarded during period⁴								
December 2020	.....	.....	\$3,245.56	.....	\$3,102.66	\$41.35	\$1,060.87	\$690.34
November 2020	.....	.....	3,182.26	.....	3,169.06	38.35	1,108.56	654.09
October 2020	.....	.....	3,320.27	.....	3,083.98	40.49	1,090.69	814.15
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵								
December 2020	\$1,095,256	.....	\$556,617	\$129,572	\$63,621	\$4,723	\$157,945	\$3,826
November 2020	1,094,934	.....	557,140	129,370	63,521	4,739	157,719	3,784
October 2020	1,093,375	.....	556,654	128,998	63,419	4,752	157,935	3,794
10/20 - 12/20	3,283,565	.....	1,670,411	387,940	190,561	14,214	473,599	11,404
10/19 - 12/19	3,253,384	.....	1,649,369	373,102	203,596	14,657	466,506	11,266

¹Includes 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. 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
October - December 2020 -- 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									
December 2020	78,935	3,142	568	2,540	9,736	7,699	.....	.....	2,266
November 2020	79,015	3,137	570	2,547	9,735	7,697	.....	.....	2,265
October 2020	79,235	3,157	574	2,562	9,737	7,699	.....	.....	2,254
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period									
December 2020	\$1,856.82	\$1,451.36	\$1,995.80	\$1,208.11	\$1,223.22	\$1,217.08	.....	.....	\$325.38
November 2020	1,848.65	1,441.15	1,999.65	1,193.64	1,206.22	1,200.70	.....	.....	324.05
October 2020	1,844.11	1,438.48	1,997.62	1,192.31	1,205.99	1,197.83	.....	.....	324.25
Number awarded during period									
December 2020	403	10	9	7	50	44	141	----	.....
November 2020	455	4	10	7	53	42	115	----	.....
October 2020	421	2	6	13	60	36	164	----	.....
10/20 - 12/20	1,279	16	25	27	163	122	420	----	.....
10/19 - 12/19	1,158	16	22	20	147	85	459	1	.....
Average amount awarded during period⁴									
December 2020	\$2,400.11	\$1,611.83	\$1,888.97	\$1,284.57	\$1,352.42	\$1,566.69	\$906	----	.....
November 2020	2,385.13	2,433.54	1,654.88	1,492.57	1,216.47	1,606.72	867	----	.....
October 2020	2,357.86	2,155.92	1,681.51	1,302.23	1,306.78	1,571.99	924	----	.....
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵									
December 2020	\$147,033	\$4,870	\$1,240	\$3,056	\$11,802	\$10,050	\$133	----	\$754
November 2020	147,097	4,723	1,230	3,072	11,798	9,893	102	----	732
October 2020	146,544	4,610	1,177	3,085	11,756	9,738	155	----	744
10/20 - 12/20	440,674	14,203	3,647	9,213	35,356	29,681	390	----	2,230
10/19 - 12/19	440,437	14,440	3,620	9,533	34,654	29,654	436	(8)	2,047

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. ⁸Less than \$500.

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 2020 (In thousands)
Cash Basis

Item	December 2020	November 2020	October 2020	October 2020 - December 2020	October 2019 - December 2019
SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT					
Income					
Payroll taxes ¹	\$156,224	\$164,190	\$146,779	\$467,193	\$633,923
Income tax transfers ²	.....	.....	73,000	73,000	67,000
Financial interchange advances ³	475,385	419,247	467,876	1,362,509	1,129,727
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments ⁴	1,422	1,936	1,427	4,785	-10,527
Outgo					
Benefit payments	\$627,788	\$626,038	\$626,150	\$1,879,976	\$1,860,268
Repayment of financial interchange advances ³	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account ⁵	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses	1,017	.....	4,428	5,445	7,479
Funding for Office of Inspector General	95	.....	431	526	724
RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT					
Income					
Payroll taxes ¹	\$168,176	\$177,836	\$165,588	\$511,600	\$620,727
Income tax transfers ²	.....	.....	102,000	102,000	100,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	165,689	167,837	168,229	501,755	484,209
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust ⁵	650,000	176,000	382,000	1,208,000	426,000
Transfer from SSEB Account ⁵	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments ⁴	357	1,064	608	2,029	-12,102
Outgo					
Benefit payments	\$466,458	\$467,864	\$466,175	\$1,400,497	\$1,389,410
Payments of SSA benefits	166,262	167,926	168,025	502,213	483,980
Loans to Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account	21,000	21,000	15,000	57,000	.....
Administrative expenses	3,585	.....	15,071	18,657	22,534
Funding for Office of Inspector General	351	.....	1,459	1,810	2,184
NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST					
Cash and investment balance at end of period⁶	\$26,225,822	\$26,006,179	\$24,107,895	\$26,225,822	\$26,275,255
DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT ⁷					
Vested dual benefit payments	\$1,010	\$1,032	\$1,050	\$3,093	\$3,706

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. ⁶Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. ⁷Total 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 2020 and 2021 was \$16.0 and \$13.0 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
October - December 2020**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
Unemployment						
December 2020	1,713	1,792	120	8,731	8,703	54
November 2020	2,445	1,080	57	8,701	8,681	41
October 2020	1,765	1,303	25	8,963	8,865	105
7/20 - 12/20	19,096	17,880	570	20,480	20,273	538
7/19 - 12/19	10,078	7,333	161	7,909	7,817	284
Sickness						
December 2020	3,224	1,136	148	6,711	6,679	54
November 2020	2,768	1,105	57	5,784	5,758	44
October 2020	2,183	1,236	29	5,473	5,413	118
7/20 - 12/20	19,443	9,901	515	13,944	13,783	760
7/19 - 12/19	11,489	8,818	375	9,300	9,162	623
Period	Number of payments			Averages ¹		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week ²	Benefit payments ² (thousands)
Unemployment						
December 2020	20,440	20,335	105	8.8	\$375.65	\$14,223
November 2020	16,046	15,982	64	8.8	376.95	11,058
October 2020	18,386	18,204	182	8.8	376.25	12,726
7/20 - 12/20	123,414	121,220	2,194	8.4	376.70	84,012
7/19 - 12/19	41,273	40,089	1,184	9.0	363.50	31,258
Sickness						
December 2020	14,504	14,322	182	7.9	\$375.70	\$9,160
November 2020	11,436	11,339	97	8.0	375.10	7,294
October 2020	11,834	11,566	268	8.2	375.80	7,649
7/20 - 12/20	71,134	67,735	3,399	7.8	377.00	44,830
7/19 - 12/19	52,502	49,972	2,530	9.0	365.65	39,687

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, 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, 6.2% for days after September 30, 2018, 5.9% for days after September 30, 2019, and 5.7% for days after September 30, 2020.

NOTE --Beginning in May 2020, RUIA claimants have also been paid under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020.

Special Extended Unemployment Benefits and Enhanced Benefits were paid to unemployment beneficiaries, and Waived Waiting Period Benefits were paid to unemployment and to sickness beneficiaries, as follows:

- In October 2020, \$0.6M to 500 beneficiaries, \$0.3M to 100 beneficiaries, and \$0.3M to 1,500 unemployment and \$0.4M to 1,600 sickness beneficiaries.
- In November 2020, \$0.3M to 200 beneficiaries, \$0.4M to 200 beneficiaries, and \$0.4M to 1,500 unemployment and \$0.4M to 1,800 sickness beneficiaries.
- In December 2020, \$0.3M to 200 beneficiaries, \$0.1M to 20 beneficiaries, and \$0.4M to 1,600 unemployment and \$0.5M to 2,400 sickness beneficiaries.

GENERAL NOTES --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 -- December 2020

RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)¹	\$1,095,256,000
Regular and Supplemental benefits	1,094,246,000
Vested dual benefits	1,010,000

	Number	Average
Total benefits being paid at end of month	620,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	255,000	\$2,943
Supplemental	114,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	147,000	1,100
Aged widows' and widowers'	79,000	1,857
Other benefits	26,000	1,186
Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month	497,000	.....

UNEMPLOYMENT - SICKNESS

	Unemployment	Sickness
Gross benefit payments¹	\$14,223,000	\$9,160,000
Beneficiaries	8,700	6,700
Average payment per week¹	\$375	\$376

¹ In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, amounts reflect a reduction of 6.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2018, 5.9% for days after September 30, 2019, and 5.7% for days after September 30, 2020.

-- Note: Beginning in May 2020, RUIA claimants have also been paid under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020. In December 2020, the gross amount paid was \$1.3 million.