

# INTRODUCTION

Fiscal year 2021 saw the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board pay over \$13 billion in benefit payments across the retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness programs. In descending order, Texas, Illinois, Florida, Pennsylvania, California, New York, Ohio, Missouri, Nebraska, Georgia, and Virginia accounted for slightly over 50% of the total benefits (Figure 1). Annuitants in the same eleven states also received more than 50% of the total retirement and survivor benefits. Most of the unemployment and sickness benefits were paid in Texas, Illinois, California, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Ohio, Indiana, Nebraska, and Arkansas. For more information, see Statistical Table A6.

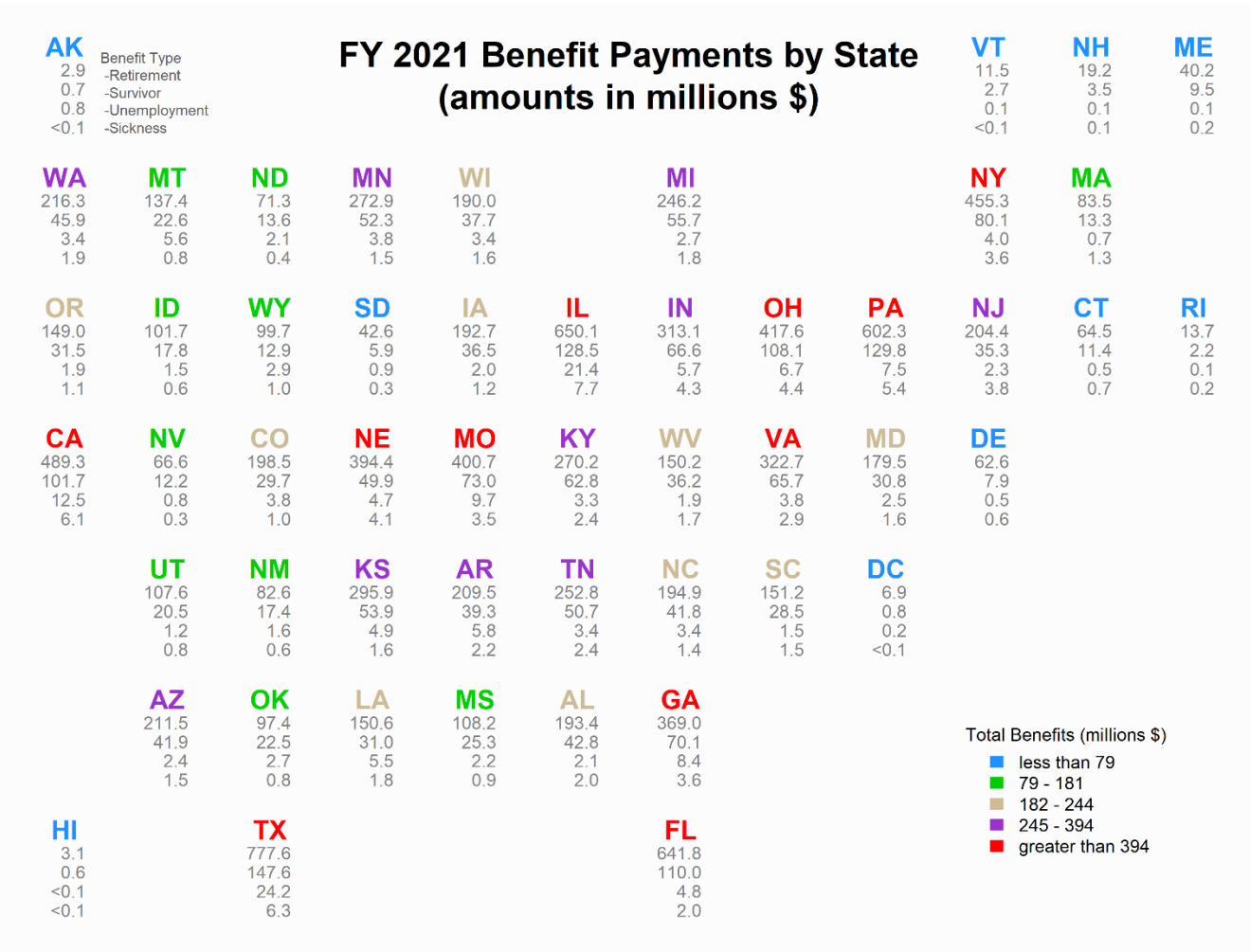


Figure 1. FY 2021 Benefit Payments by State

Awarded retirement annuities were near all-time lows over the twenty-year period from 2002 through 2021 across all categories with the exception of divorced widows which saw a sharp increase from 2020 to 2021 (Figures 2 and 3). While most award category trends have declined, some including aged widows, children, divorced widows, and widowed parents have seen increases in recent years. Employee, spouse, and aged widows are typically the most frequently awarded annuitant types. For more information, see Statistical Table B2.

## Number of Retirement Annuities Awarded During Fiscal Year

Fiscal Years 2002 - 2021

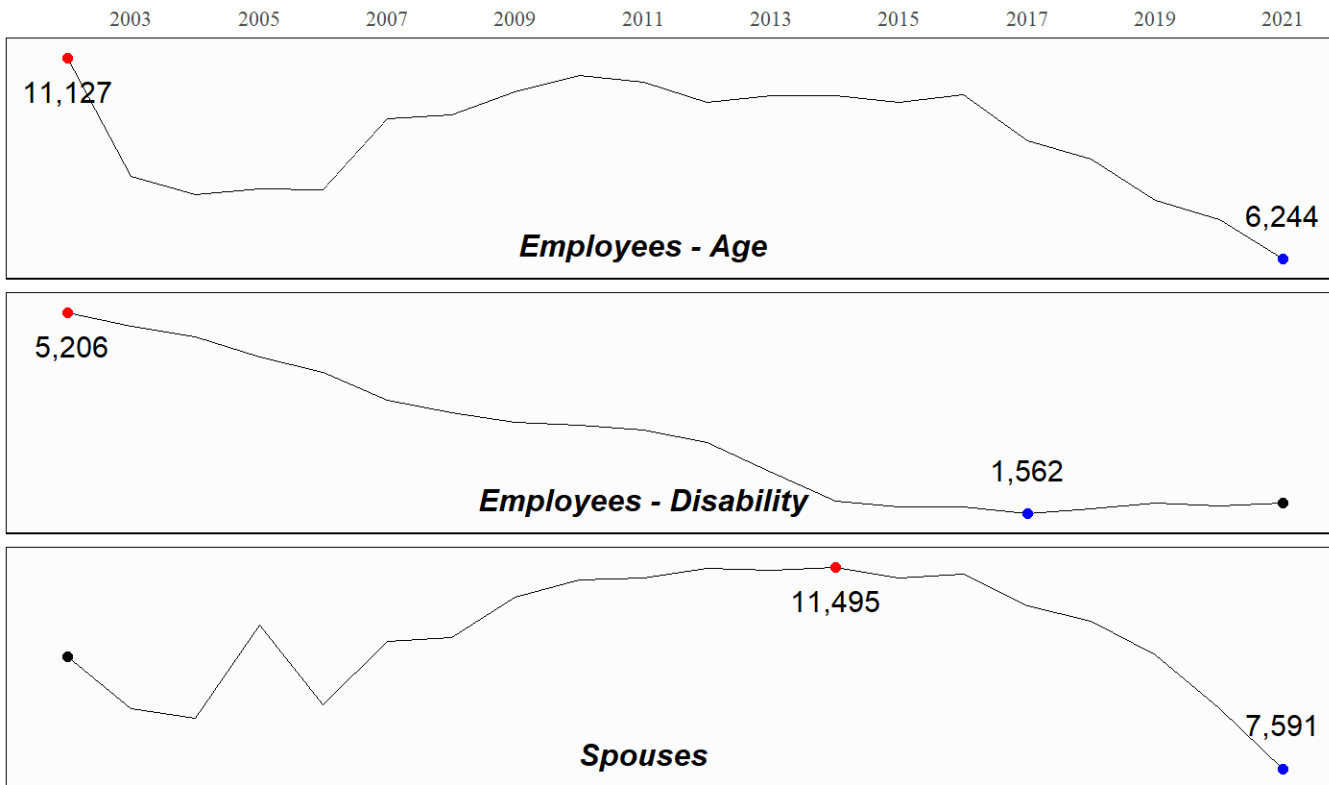


Figure 2. Number of Retirement Annuities Awarded During Fiscal Years 2002 through 2021

# Number of Survivor Annuities Awarded During Fiscal Year

Fiscal Years 2002 - 2021

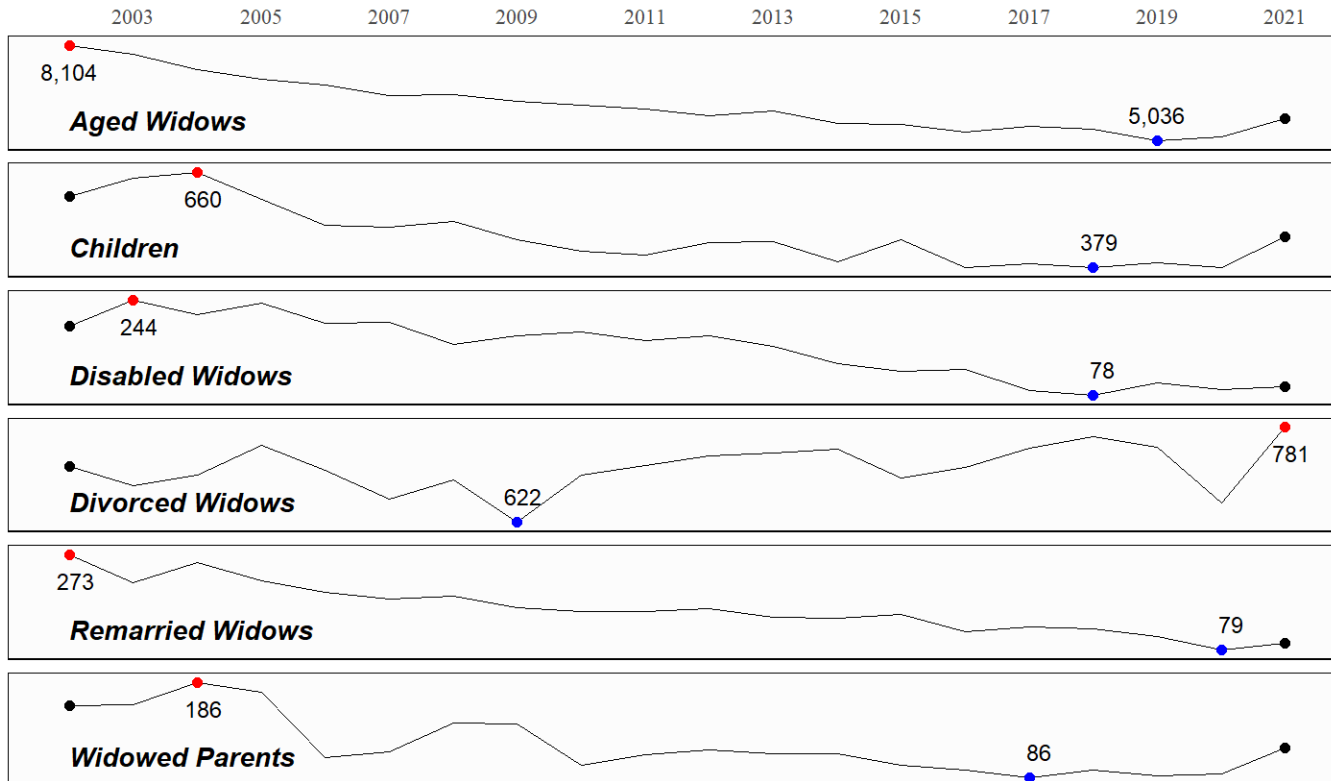


Figure 3. Number of Survivor Annuities Awarded During Fiscal Years 2002 through 2021

While unemployment and sickness benefit totals in Figure 1 provide insight in the distribution of those benefit amounts across the United States, usage rates show the extent of unemployment and sickness claims across the country. The usage rate for both unemployment and sickness insurance is the number of railroad employees who applied for and received benefits within a state compared to the total number of eligible employees within the State. Unemployment insurance usage rates for benefit year 2020 (July 2020 – June 2021) were higher in states in the middle part of the country (Figure 4). This occurred during a time when the COVID-19 pandemic had affected the economy as well as extreme winter weather crippled the middle part of the country from the northern to the southern borders. For more information, see Statistical Tables C3 and C4.

### Unemployment Usage Rates for Benefit Year 2020

July 2020 - June 2021

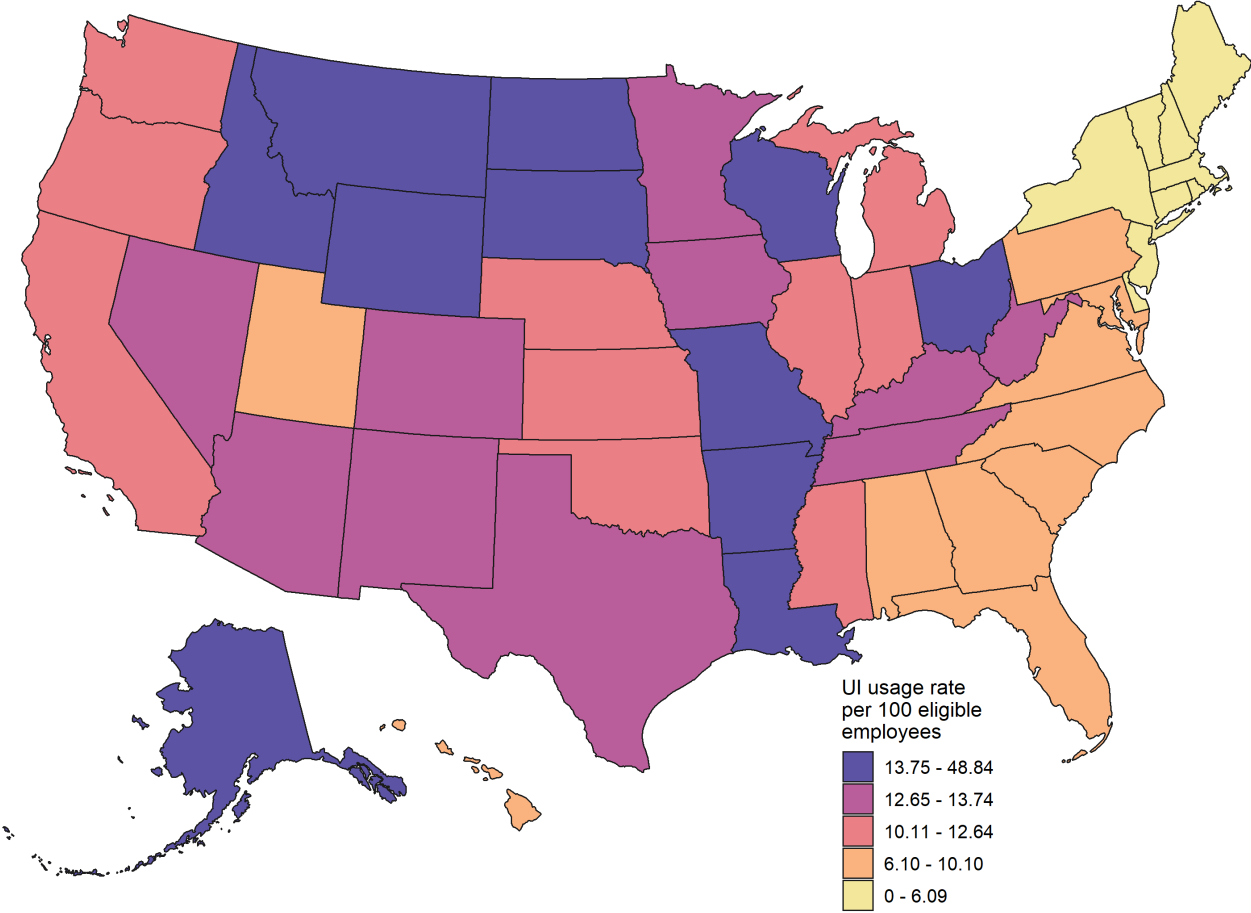


Figure 4. Unemployment Usage Rates for Benefit Year 2020 (July 2020 - June 2021)

The eastern half of the United States experienced the highest sickness insurance usage rates during benefit year 2020 with Midwest and Southern States dominating (Figure 5). COVID-19 associated applications far exceeded more traditional illnesses such as injuries and musculoskeletal issues as each successive wave of the virus moved through the general population during July 2020 through June 2021. Continuing sickness claims were not affected as much by the virus due to its shorter duration when compared to more chronic illnesses. For more information, see Statistical Tables C3 and C4.

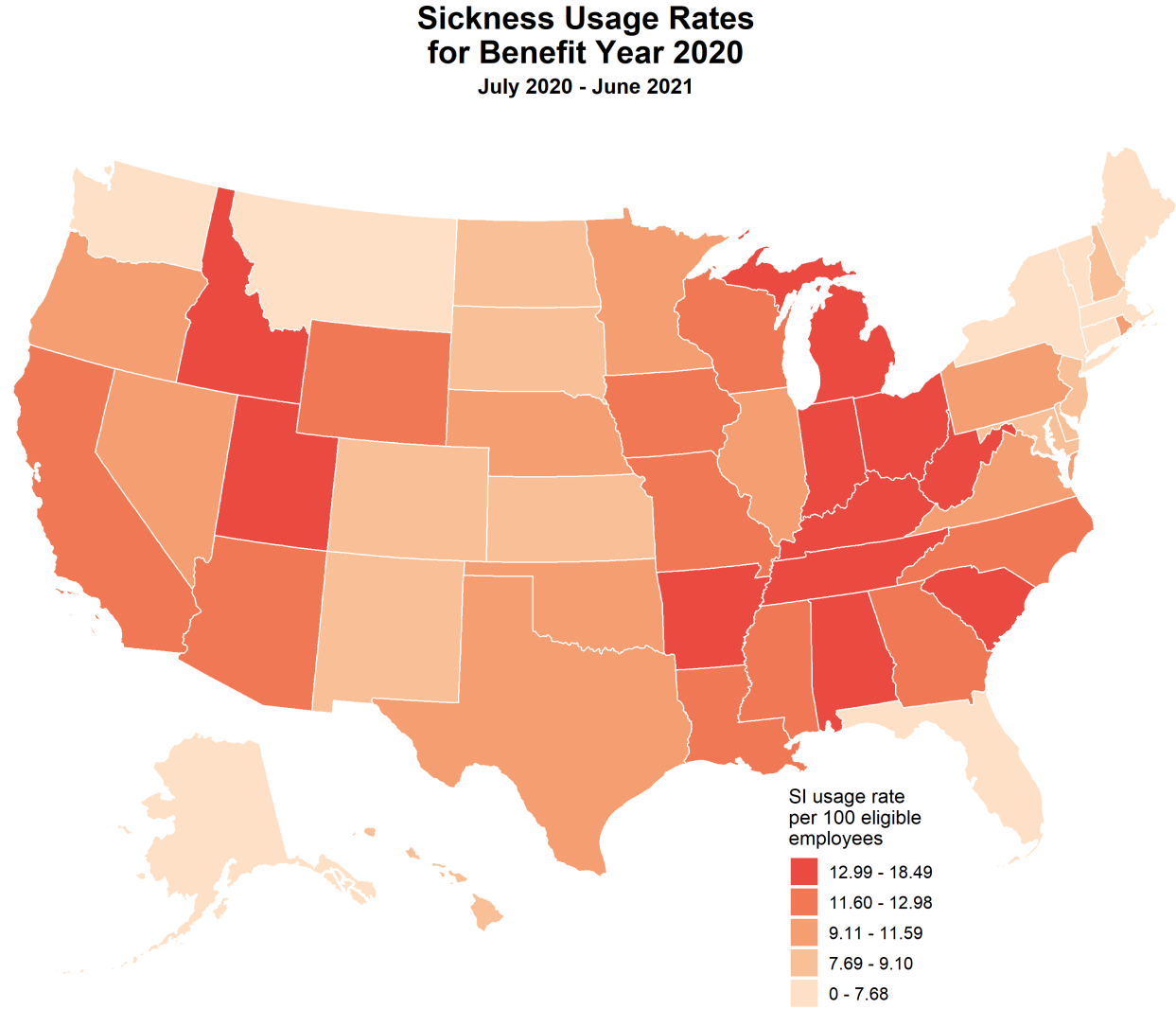
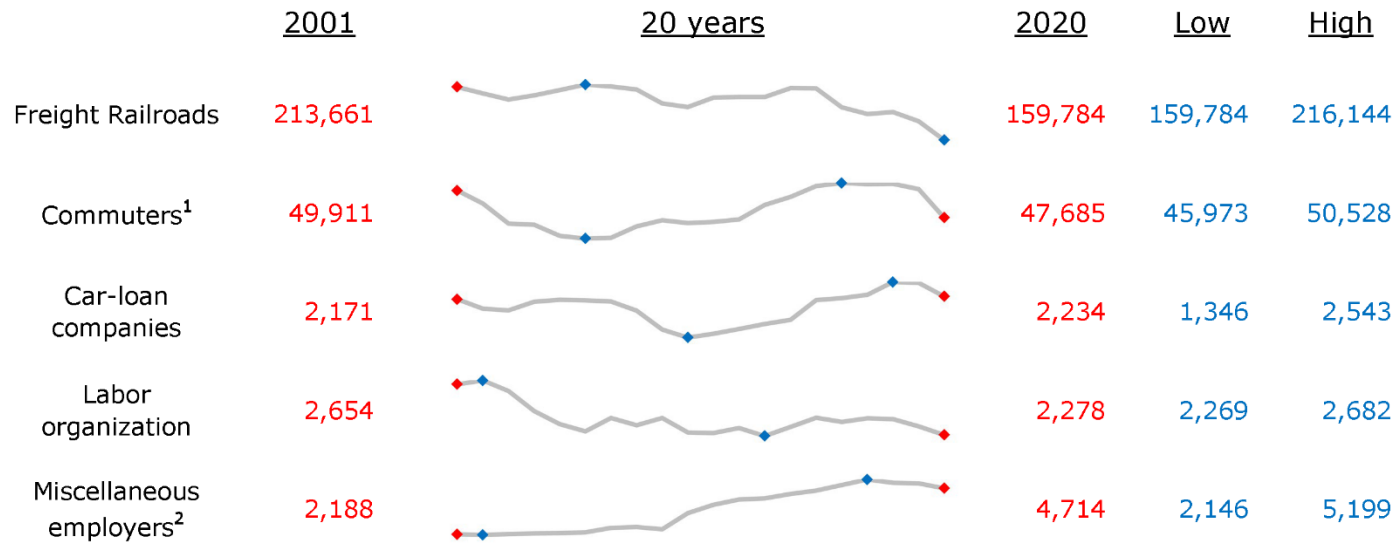


Figure 5. Sickness Usage Rates for Benefit Year 2020 (July 2020 - June 2021)

Railroad employment trends varied by employer type from calendar years 2001 through 2020 (Figure 6). Freight railroads experienced the largest decline of 25% while labor organizations and commuters had smaller declines of 14% and 4.5%, respectively. Car loan companies showed a small increase of 2.9% with miscellaneous employers having an increase of 115%. Freight railroads have traditionally been the predominant employer in the rail industry comprising almost 75% of total employees in 2020 which is a small drop from nearly 80% back in 2001. For more information, see Statistical Table D5.

### Railroad Employees by Employer Type for years 2001 - 2020



<sup>1</sup> Includes National Railroad Passenger Corp. (Amtrak)

<sup>2</sup> Includes lessor companies, employer associations and miscellaneous carrier affiliates.

Figure 6. Railroad Employees by Employer Type (2001-2020)

The tables in this volume include data on the railroad retirement and railroad unemployment insurance programs for fiscal year 2021 (October 2020-September 2021), calendar year 2020, unemployment and sickness benefit year 2020-2021 (July 2020-June 2021), and, in some tables, for earlier years.

The tables are presented in four sections: (A) financial statistics, (B) retirement and survivor benefits, (C) unemployment and sickness benefits, and (D) employment and compensation. Each section is introduced by a summary of the subject matter, including definitions of the major terms used in the tables and limitations of the data presented in the tables.

All the Statistical Tables are now available online. For current and historical versions, go to:

<https://www.rrb.gov/FinancialReporting/FinancialActuarialStatistical/Annual>

## FINANCIAL STATISTICS

- A1. Beneficiaries and benefits paid under the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, by fiscal year, 2012-2021, cash basis
- A2. Status of the Railroad Retirement Act accounts and trust funds, by fiscal year, 2012-2021, cash basis
- A3. Status of the financial interchange between the Railroad Retirement Accounts and the Old-Age and Survivors, Disability, and Hospital Insurance Trust Funds, by fiscal year, 2012-2021, cash basis
- A4. Status of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account, by fiscal year, cash basis\*
- A5. Status of the RUIA Administration Fund, by fiscal year, cash basis\*
- A6. Retirement, survivor, unemployment and sickness benefit payments, by class of benefit and state of residence of beneficiary, fiscal year 2021, cash basis

## RETIREMENT AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

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- B3. Retirement and survivor benefits paid, by type of benefit and fiscal year, 2012-2021, cash basis
- B4. Lump-sum death benefits and residual payments awarded, by status of employee at death and fiscal year, 2012-2021
- B5. Number and average amount of retirement and survivor annuities in current-payment status on September 30, 2021, by type of annuity and status of annuitant under Social Security Act
- B6. Regular employee annuities in current-payment status on September 30, 2021, and awarded in fiscal year 2021, by type and amount
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\*This table is no longer available as of Fiscal Year 2019.



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- B22. Components of survivor annuities in current-payment status on December 31, 2020, and awarded in calendar year 2020, by type of beneficiary and amount
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- B25. Survivor family benefits in current-payment status on December 31, 2020, by family composition and amount
- B26. Lump-sum death benefits and residual payments awarded in fiscal year 2021, by status of employee at death and amount
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- D8. Employees in 2020, by type of employer and months of service
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