
Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
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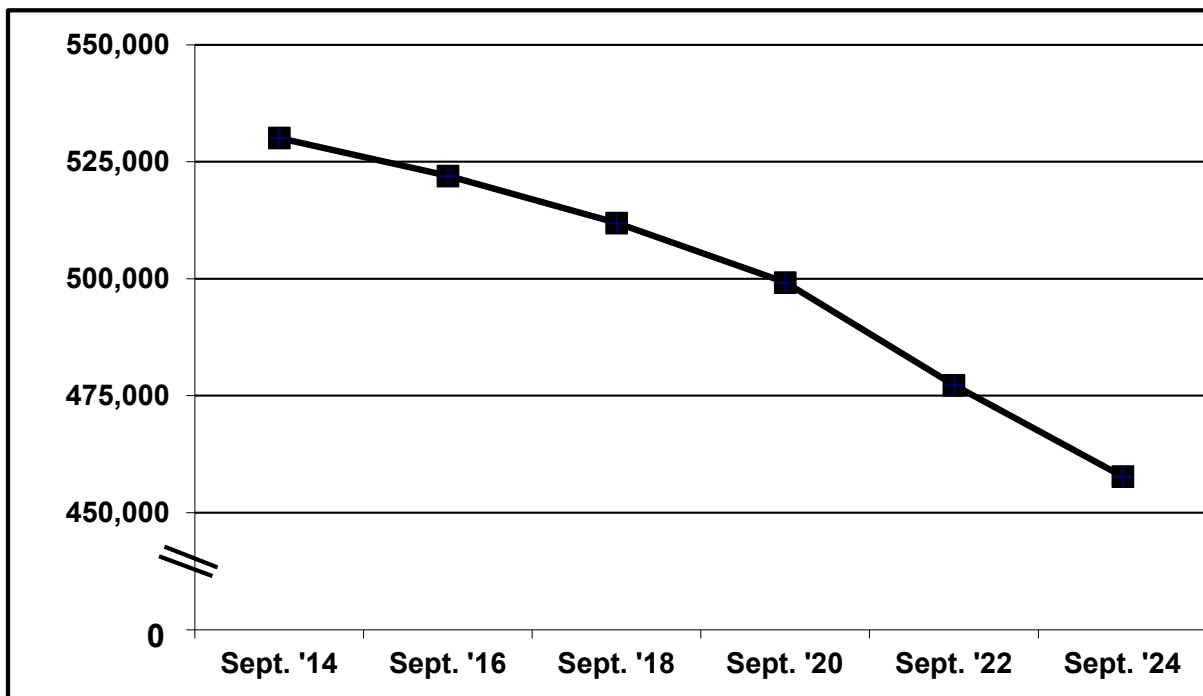
February 7, 2025

Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs Selected Current Statistics for July - September 2024

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Total Monthly Railroad Retirement Beneficiaries, September 2014 through September 2024



**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
July - September 2024**

Period	Total ¹		Employee annuities					
			Age		Disability	Supple- mental ³	Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries	Awarded age annuity	Disability converted to age annuity ²				
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
September 2024	562,758	457,761	173,324	46,229	14,910	96,331	131,233	4,602
August 2024	563,748	458,425	173,491	46,225	15,011	96,647	131,381	4,627
July 2024	564,588	458,887	173,596	46,450	14,905	97,027	131,509	4,629
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
September 2024	.....	.....	\$3,551.69	\$3,160.08	\$3,459.15	\$41.48	\$1,274.99	\$858.61
August 2024	.....	.....	3,550.08	3,159.35	3,456.94	41.48	1,275.74	858.62
July 2024	.....	.....	3,548.71	3,158.67	3,457.13	41.48	1,276.15	858.88
Number awarded during period								
September 2024	1,539	1,505	461	.....	113	34	431	33
August 2024	1,760	1,717	536	.....	130	43	496	50
July 2024	1,671	1,649	507	.....	111	22	514	39
10/23 - 9/24	19,647	18,971	5,454	.....	1,384	676	5,580	534
10/22 - 9/23	19,385	18,782	5,091	.....	1,261	603	5,822	483
Average amount awarded during period⁴								
September 2024	.....	.....	\$3,717.46	.....	\$3,752.54	\$37.39	\$1,138.16	\$998.40
August 2024	.....	.....	3,641.60	.....	3,565.45	39.39	1,140.20	868.12
July 2024	.....	.....	3,705.89	.....	3,725.92	41.52	1,223.98	784.83
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵								
September 2024	\$1,191,915	.....	\$616,616	\$146,361	\$58,635	\$4,045	\$168,894	\$4,058
August 2024	1,197,688	.....	618,340	146,791	60,518	4,060	169,876	4,013
July 2024	1,194,700	.....	617,475	147,204	58,820	4,077	169,845	4,038
10/23 - 9/24	14,312,029	.....	7,397,274	1,764,151	707,925	49,541	2,039,721	48,846
10/22 - 9/23	14,021,025	.....	7,228,375	1,714,637	708,867	51,755	2,018,449	47,759

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 2024 -- 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 2024	71,356	2,576	551	2,058	9,746	6,763	.....	.....	3,070
August 2024	71,558	2,583	556	2,065	9,747	6,790	.....	.....	3,058
July 2024	71,642	2,603	549	2,076	9,725	6,822	.....	.....	3,046
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period									
September 2024	\$2,199.64	\$1,684.73	\$2,328.50	\$1,509.79	\$1,526.44	\$1,510.36	.....	.....	\$350.06
August 2024	2,194.21	1,681.85	2,321.28	1,506.68	1,526.06	1,506.59	.....	.....	349.59
July 2024	2,188.59	1,682.28	2,307.39	1,505.67	1,526.03	1,506.38	.....	.....	349.64
Number awarded during period									
September 2024	370	(8)	(8)	8	53	30	84	----	.....
August 2024	391	(8)	9	(8)	62	38	103	----	.....
July 2024	373	(8)	7	9	54	34	104	----	.....
10/23 - 9/24	4,800	33	77	71	675	361	1,214	(8)	.....
10/22 - 9/23	4,872	35	76	81	719	342	1,418	(8)	.....
Average amount awarded during period⁴									
September 2024	\$2,959.92	\$3,731.76	\$2,172.11	\$2,376.88	\$1,523.13	\$2,026.07	\$956	----	.....
August 2024	2,919.50	1,581.98	2,237.03	2,097.00	1,492.95	1,641.49	877	----	.....
July 2024	2,791.10	1,223	2,188.49	2,022.44	1,389.26	1,786.13	925	----	.....
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵									
September 2024	\$157,201	\$4,444	\$1,361	\$3,106	\$15,086	\$10,931	\$83	----	\$1,084
August 2024	157,680	4,450	1,318	3,127	15,134	11,200	92	----	1,077
July 2024	156,976	4,386	1,337	3,138	14,989	11,233	101	----	1,070
10/23 - 9/24	1,872,957	54,580	15,942	37,751	178,367	131,142	1,155	\$4	12,542
10/22 - 9/23	1,830,536	55,685	15,950	37,994	169,760	128,251	1,347	1	11,520

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. ⁸Number awarded is greater than zero but less than five

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 2024 (In thousands)
Cash Basis

Item	September 2024	August 2024	July 2024	October 2023 - September 2024	October 2022 - September 2023
SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT					
Income					
Payroll taxes ¹	\$291,992	\$258,552	\$277,902	\$3,219,827	\$3,484,743
General revenue transfers ²	.....	.....	.....	.....	-334,531
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	107,000	412,000	378,000
Financial interchange advances ⁴	468,425	374,214	469,242	5,071,120	5,082,365
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	5,933,461	5,636,214
Interest on investments ⁵	2,165	3,289	2,929	34,653	52,944
Outgo					
Benefit payments	\$711,605	\$713,415	\$713,437	\$8,530,717	\$8,293,945
Repayment of financial interchange advances ⁴	.....	.....	.....	5,234,836	4,953,110
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	670,503	588,449
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account ⁶	.....	.....	.....	.....	507,000
Administrative expenses	1,604	1,657	1,657	19,699	20,019
Funding for Office of Inspector General	181	187	187	2,209	2,178
RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT					
Income					
Payroll taxes ¹	\$339,436	\$305,541	\$328,344	\$3,682,807	\$3,718,293
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	167,000	542,000	486,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	217,378	217,088	216,938	2,561,117	2,405,216
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust ⁶	160,000	19,000	182,000	1,180,000	1,415,000
Transfer from SSEB Account ⁶	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Loan Repayments from RUIA ⁴	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments ⁵	230	2,199	1,859	23,809	21,023
Outgo					
Benefit payments	\$479,858	\$483,814	\$480,795	\$5,775,329	\$5,719,684
Payments of SSA benefits	217,072	217,129	216,772	2,558,749	2,402,090
Loans to Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account (RUIA)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses	7,018	7,252	7,252	86,174	90,142
Funding for Office of Inspector General	793	820	820	9,671	9,815
NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST					
Cash and investment balance at end of period⁷	\$27,481,720	\$27,276,970	\$26,871,623	\$27,481,720	\$24,241,277
DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT ⁸					
Vested dual benefit payments	\$451	\$459	\$468	\$5,984	\$7,395

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, was \$9.0 million for fiscal year 2023 and \$8.0 million for fiscal year 2024.

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 2024**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
Unemployment						
September 2024	432	303	3	1,423	1,393	39
August 2024	513	794	4	1,456	1,402	72
July 2024	2,251	766	34	1,365	1,279	112
7/24 - 9/24	3,196	1,863	41	2,055	2,005	120
7/23 - 9/23	2,078	1,192	35	1,352	1,290	121
Sickness						
September 2024	1,109	925	6	3,486	3,372	154
August 2024	1,726	1,814	20	3,449	3,217	294
July 2024	3,823	1,810	135	3,142	2,798	467
7/24 - 9/24	6,658	4,549	161	4,955	4,767	506
7/23 - 9/23	6,636	4,501	160	5,031	4,820	549

Period	Number of payments			Averages ¹		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week ²	Benefit payments ² (thousands)
Unemployment						
September 2024	2,634	2,564	70	9.3	\$439.70	\$2,421
August 2024	2,937	2,786	151	9.2	439.90	2,700
July 2024	2,156	1,946	210	8.7	420.25	2,003
7/24 - 9/24	7,727	7,296	431	9.1	434.85	7,124
7/23 - 9/23	5,069	4,602	467	9.1	405.95	4,349
Sickness						
September 2024	6,786	6,476	310	9.1	\$439.85	\$6,203
August 2024	6,933	6,313	620	9.1	436.50	6,438
July 2024	5,986	5,011	975	8.8	418.20	5,192
7/24 - 9/24	19,705	17,800	1,905	9.0	433.75	17,833
7/23 - 9/23	19,054	17,048	2,006	9.0	405.25	16,286

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 5.7% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2020, and before January 3, 2021. Beginning January 3, 2021, the Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act of 2020 (CARWA) temporarily suspended sequestration through May 9, 2023. The Railroad Employee Equity and Fairness Act of 2024 (REEF Act), enacted December 23, 2024, ended sequestration retroactively to May 9, 2023, but benefit amounts reflect the provisions in place at time of payment. Repayment of benefit amounts will be included in the month in which they are repaid.

NOTE --Additional unemployment and sickness benefits were also paid under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act). CARWA and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) reduced the enhanced benefit payments from \$1,200 to \$600 per registration period while extending all benefits through registration periods beginning September 6, 2021.

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 -- September 2024

RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)¹	\$1,191,915,000
Regular and Supplemental benefits	1,191,464,000
Vested dual benefits	451,000

	Number	Average
Total benefits being paid at end of month	563,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	234,000	\$3,469
Supplemental	96,000	41
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	136,000	1,261
Aged widows' and widowers'	71,000	2,200
Other benefits	25,000	1,409
Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month	458,000	.....

UNEMPLOYMENT - SICKNESS

	Unemployment	Sickness
Gross benefit payments¹	\$2,421,000	\$6,203,000
Beneficiaries	1,400	3,500
Average payment per week	\$440	\$440

¹ In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, amounts reflect a reduction of 5.7% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after May 9, 2023. Though the REEF Act, enacted December 23, 2024, ended sequestration retroactively to May 9, 2023, benefit amounts reflect legislation in place at time of payment. Repayment of benefit amounts will be included in the month in which they are repaid.