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# Quarterly Benefit Statistics

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

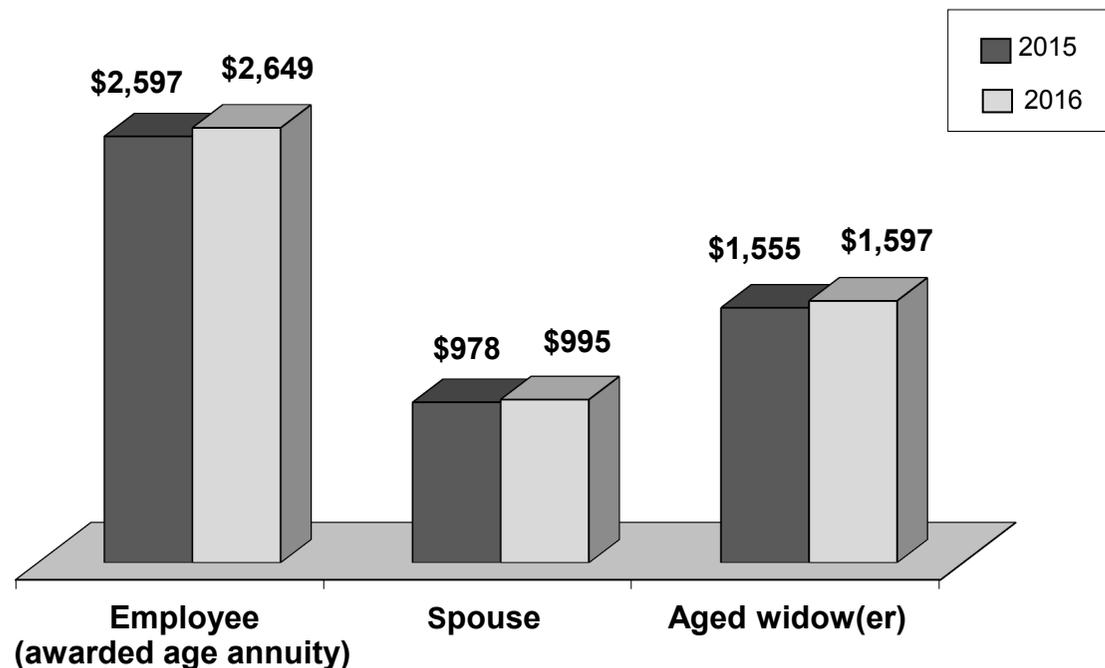
Selected Current Statistics for **January - March 2016**

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**Average annuity amounts being paid,  
March 2015 and March 2016**



**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
January - March 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>								
March 2016	654,821	522,839	190,369	43,914	32,806	122,935	140,111	4,755
February 2016	655,337	523,217	190,415	43,831	33,063	123,090	140,070	4,737
January 2016	654,731	522,678	190,042	43,687	33,245	123,023	139,725	4,731
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>								
March 2016	.....	.....	\$2,648.56	\$2,339.71	\$2,670.16	\$41.56	\$995.02	\$614.39
February 2016	.....	.....	2,644.48	2,337.43	2,668.65	41.56	993.43	613.17
January 2016	.....	.....	2,640.99	2,334.86	2,667.55	41.57	992.59	613.47
<b>Number awarded during period</b>								
March 2016	3,089	2,616	852	.....	140	473	939	59
February 2016	3,518	2,996	1,095	.....	164	522	1,050	59
January 2016	3,044	2,516	888	.....	119	528	879	72
10/15 - 3/16	17,364	14,296	4,792	.....	787	3,068	4,995	370
10/14 - 3/15	18,270	15,210	4,939	.....	952	3,060	5,344	377
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>4</sup></b>								
March 2016	.....	.....	\$3,013.60	.....	\$2,694.70	\$41.44	\$1,096.84	\$619.37
February 2016	.....	.....	2,983.73	.....	2,690.01	41.42	1,035.04	677.41
January 2016	.....	.....	3,121.98	.....	2,811.76	41.53	1,112.49	709.16
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)</b>								
March 2016	\$1,029,460	.....	\$506,296	\$102,202	\$92,494	\$5,128	\$141,608	\$3,042
February 2016	1,026,768	.....	504,873	101,750	92,947	5,129	141,100	3,041
January 2016	1,026,502	.....	504,780	101,422	93,665	5,142	139,908	3,003
10/15 - 3/16	6,148,495	.....	3,020,441	606,905	560,609	30,801	839,200	17,973
10/14 - 3/15	6,055,766	.....	2,936,271	571,074	608,626	30,529	810,538	16,922

<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  
January - March 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>										
March 2016	92,316	3,682	630	3,246	9,664	8,928	.....	.....	1,441	
February 2016	92,575	3,677	622	3,259	9,635	8,904	.....	.....	1,435	
January 2016	92,764	3,681	606	3,284	9,626	8,876	.....	.....	1,417	
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>										
March 2016	\$1,596.54	\$1,293.92	\$1,839.62	\$1,042.20	\$1,043.45	\$1,065.76	.....	.....	\$304.93	
February 2016	1,592.19	1,293.53	1,827.39	1,041.05	1,041.05	1,063.63	.....	.....	304.74	
January 2016	1,587.59	1,292.43	1,825.02	1,038.93	1,037.34	1,060.85	.....	.....	304.81	
<b>Number awarded during period</b>										
March 2016	459	14	10	21	79	42	318	1	.....	
February 2016	493	10	10	6	75	34	237	---	.....	
January 2016	459	10	6	7	46	30	197	---	.....	
10/15 - 3/16	2,628	51	48	65	357	202	1,405	2	.....	
10/14 - 3/15	2,851	54	47	78	354	213	1,507	1	.....	
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>4</sup></b>										
March 2016	\$2,069.53	\$1,556.30	\$2,416.32	\$1,050.62	\$1,100.47	\$1,491.37	\$928	\$4,552	.....	
February 2016	1,997.26	1,462.50	1,549.67	1,709.50	1,336.16	1,368.70	900	---	.....	
January 2016	2,075.88	1,386.33	1,674.59	1,251.29	1,224.28	1,183.50	899	---	.....	
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)</b>										
March 2016	\$147,916	\$5,028	\$1,250	\$3,439	\$10,234	\$10,028	\$307	\$5	\$442	
February 2016	147,619	4,899	1,190	3,418	10,185	9,912	235	---	448	
January 2016	148,260	4,880	1,291	3,446	10,173	9,873	200	---	439	
10/15 - 3/16	890,114	29,471	7,615	20,698	61,133	59,393	1,353	14	2,623	
10/14 - 3/15	899,621	29,702	7,799	21,321	59,858	59,440	1,475	---	2,435	

<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**  
**January - March 2016 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	March 2016	February 2016	January 2016	October 2015 - March 2016	October 2014 - March 2015
<b>RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period<sup>1</sup></b>	\$641,180	\$652,391	\$677,111	\$877,301	\$791,771
<b>Income, total</b>	620,573	554,725	542,553	3,206,907	3,273,894
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	305,449	345,023	251,260	1,531,851	1,638,867
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	161,000	258,000	232,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	126,725	126,362	129,047	763,416	747,244
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust <sup>4</sup>	187,000	82,000	.....	645,000	648,000
Transfer from SSEB Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>5</sup>	-2	-18	16	31	-491
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury <sup>6</sup>	32	15	32	144	192
Interest on investments <sup>7</sup>	1,369	1,342	1,198	8,466	8,081
<b>Outgo, total</b>	568,441	565,936	567,273	3,390,896	3,300,235
Benefit payments	436,298	434,925	433,613	2,596,289	2,531,150
Payments of SSA benefits	126,277	125,830	128,468	760,640	745,787
Administrative expenses <sup>8</sup>	5,497	4,586	4,887	31,167	20,871
Funding for Office of Inspector General	368	595	307	2,800	2,427
<b>Balance at end of period<sup>1</sup></b>	693,313	641,180	652,391	693,313	765,430
<b>NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
<b>Cash and investment balance at end of period<sup>9</sup></b>	\$24,434,151	\$23,553,899	\$23,705,119	\$24,434,151	\$26,116,764
<b>DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT<sup>10</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$1,077	\$1,036	-\$6,941	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments <sup>11</sup>	2,407	2,432	10,279	\$15,118	\$16,664
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,000
Vested dual benefit payments	2,636	2,391	2,302	14,270	16,302
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	848	1,077	1,036	848	1,362

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

Item	March 2016	February 2016	January 2016	October 2015 - March 2016	October 2014 - March 2015
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$845,934	\$914,920	\$849,973	\$880,840	\$877,837
<b>Income, total</b>	568,480	522,275	657,681	3,492,771	3,686,829
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	251,172	292,493	214,750	1,446,494	1,607,626
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	87,000	152,000	161,000
Financial interchange advances <sup>12</sup>	315,789	228,225	354,236	1,884,717	1,907,635
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments <sup>7</sup>	1,520	1,557	1,695	9,560	10,568
<b>Outgo, total</b>	592,949	591,262	592,733	3,552,146	3,518,969
Benefit payments	590,526	589,452	590,588	3,537,936	3,508,314
Repayment of financial interchange advances <sup>12</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses <sup>8</sup>	2,269	1,561	2,017	13,018	9,562
Funding for Office of Inspector General	154	249	128	1,192	1,092
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	821,465	845,934	914,920	821,465	1,045,697

<sup>1</sup>Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of March 2016 liabilities were \$14,001,000. <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. The appropriation for fiscal year 2015 was \$34.0 million, including income tax transfers. Funds for October through December 2014 and October through December 2015 were provided under a partial year continuing resolution. <sup>11</sup>Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. <sup>12</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  
January - March 2016**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
<b>Unemployment<sup>1</sup></b>						
March 2016	1,148	1,155	477	7,501	7,083	520
February 2016	1,798	2,682	431	8,129	7,783	450
January 2016	3,382	2,128	905	7,591	7,556	298
7/15 - 3/16	18,106	13,340	2,014	14,383	14,305	781
7/14 - 3/15	7,645	5,481	1,355	6,148	6,047	703
<b>Sickness</b>						
March 2016	1,325	1,019	379	4,905	4,141	990
February 2016	1,214	1,011	514	4,816	4,256	841
January 2016	1,090	876	1,004	4,969	4,929	437
7/15 - 3/16	16,002	12,518	2,210	13,182	13,067	1,584
7/14 - 3/15	15,552	12,205	1,946	12,736	12,621	1,339
Period	Number of payments			Averages <sup>2</sup>		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week <sup>3</sup>	Benefit payments <sup>3</sup> (thousands)
<b>Unemployment<sup>1</sup></b>						
March 2016	14,898	13,782	1,116	8.9	332.65	\$9,029
February 2016	14,354	13,485	869	8.8	333.70	9,716
January 2016	12,211	11,861	350	8.6	334.65	8,090
7/15 - 3/16	82,353	78,857	3,496	8.9	333.80	54,034
7/14 - 3/15	40,698	37,447	3,251	9.0	322.50	24,510
<b>Sickness</b>						
March 2016	10,260	8,005	2,255	8.8	333.80	\$4,439
February 2016	9,274	7,625	1,649	8.7	334.20	3,806
January 2016	9,524	9,001	523	8.8	334.20	5,021
7/15 - 3/16	83,896	77,190	6,706	8.8	336.20	42,904
7/14 - 3/15	79,263	73,832	5,431	8.8	326.05	37,600

<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 9.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after February 28, 2013, a reduction of 7.2% for days after September 30, 2013, 7.3% for days after September 30, 2014, and 6.8% for days after September 30, 2015.

**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**  
**January - March 2016 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	March 2016	February 2016	January 2016	October 2015 - March 2016	October 2014 - March 2015
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$92,697	\$88,154	\$85,556	\$95,002	\$118,012
<b>Income, total</b>	612	18,222	15,787	57,718	15,486
Contributions <sup>1</sup>	186	5,054	15,825	42,595	3,239
Interest on investments	645	153	17	1,489	1,756
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>2</sup>	-220	-359	-56	259	-847
Transfers from Administration Fund <sup>3</sup>	.....	13,375	.....	13,375	11,339
<b>Outgo, total</b>	13,587	13,679	13,189	72,999	42,192
Unemployment benefit payments <sup>4</sup>	9,071	9,747	8,103	43,006	16,819
Sickness benefit payments <sup>4</sup>	4,439	3,806	5,021	29,402	24,851
Funding for Office of Inspector General	78	126	65	590	522
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	79,722	92,697	88,154	79,722	91,306
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$8,294	\$22,035	\$17,793	\$13,858	\$10,120
<b>Income, total</b>	-41	1,486	5,338	13,948	13,803
Contributions <sup>1</sup>	-127	1,607	5,338	13,893	13,754
Interest on investments	86	-121	.....	54	48
<b>Outgo, total</b>	1,233	15,227	1,096	20,785	15,806
Administrative expenses	1,233	1,853	1,096	7,410	4,467
Transfers to RUI Account <sup>3</sup>	.....	13,375	.....	13,375	11,339
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	7,020	8,294	22,035	7,020	8,117

<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 Section 11(d) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, \$13,375,000 was transferred from the RUI Administration Fund to the RUI Account in February 2016. The transfer represents the amount in the RUI Administration Fund in excess of \$6 million (on an accrual basis of accounting) at the end of fiscal year 2015. The attributable interest of \$121,000 was also transferred in February 2016.

<sup>4</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 9.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after February 28, 2013, a reduction of 7.2% for days after September 30, 2013, 7.3% for days after September 30, 2014 and 6.8% for days after September 30, 2015.

**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**  
**January - March 2016 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued**

Item	March 2016	February 2016	January 2016	October 2015 - March 2016	October 2014 - March 2015
<b>EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT<sup>5</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$9,436	\$9,433	\$9,431	\$9,434	\$9,396
Interest and other income	2	2	(6)	7	19
Benefits <sup>7</sup>	0	-2	-2	2	9
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	9,438	9,436	9,433	9,438	9,406
<b>EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, WORKER, HOMEOWNERSHIP, AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ACT<sup>7</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$132,818	\$132,783	\$132,769	\$132,725	\$132,332
Interest and other income	9	6	4	36	57
Benefits <sup>4,7</sup>	-42	-29	-10	-108	-190
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	132,869	132,818	132,783	132,869	132,579

<sup>5</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>6</sup> Less than \$500.

<sup>7</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>8</sup> Less than zero but greater than -\$500.

<sup>9</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 -- March 2016

### RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

<b>Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$1,029,460,000
Regular and Supplemental benefits	1,026,824,000
Vested dual benefits	2,636,000

	Number	Average
<b>Total benefits being paid at end of month</b>	655,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	267,000	\$2,600
Supplemental	123,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	145,000	983
Aged widows' and widowers'	92,000	1,597
Other benefits	28,000	1,063
<b>Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month</b>	523,000	.....

### UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS

	Unemployment <sup>1</sup>	Sickness
<b>Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)<sup>2</sup></b>	\$9,029,000	\$4,439,000
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	7,500	4,900
<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, 7.3% for days after September 30, 2014, and 6.8% for days after September 30, 2015.