
RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

JUSTIFICATION OF
BUDGET ESTIMATES



FISCAL YEAR 2017



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD
844 NORTH RUSH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-2092

BOARD MEMBERS:

VACANT, CHAIRMAN

WALTER A. BARROWS, LABOR MEMBER

STEVEN J. ANTHONY, MANAGEMENT MEMBER

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In compliance with the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-11, enclosed is our Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2017, which includes our Performance Plan for the year. This budget complies with OMB guidance and is in accordance with the President's proposals. The President's proposed budget provides for \$122,499,000 for the Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) administrative expenses in fiscal year 2017.

The Railroad Retirement Board is an independent agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government. The RRB's primary function is to administer comprehensive retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts. In connection with the retirement program, the RRB has administrative responsibilities under the Social Security Act for certain benefit payments and railroad workers' Medicare coverage. It also assists in the administration of the Internal Revenue Code.

We estimate that the proposed funding will provide for a staffing level of 850 full-time equivalent staff years (FTEs). The proposed budget would also provide Information Technology investments of about \$6.1 million to modernize our legacy benefit systems.

In addition to the requests for administrative expenses, the President's budget includes \$25,000,000 to fund the continuing phase-out costs for vested dual benefits. An additional amount, not to exceed \$500,000, would also become available if projected dual benefit payments for the year exceed the amount available for payments.

Also, presented in the budget is a request for \$150,000 for interest related to uncashed railroad retirement checks. The \$150,000 is being requested for a 2-year period, and would be available through September 30, 2018. All of the amounts presented in this letter exclude funding for the RRB's Office of Inspector General, which submits separate budget and performance information.

The President's Budget includes three proposed legislations for the Limitation on Administration account. The first legislation clarifies the authority of the RRB to hire attorneys through competitive civil service. The second legislation proposes to amend the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act to include a felony charge for individuals committing fraud against the Agency. The third legislation proposes that the RRB be provided access to the National Directory of New Hire (NDNH), a federal database of employment and unemployment insurance information. Access to NDNH supports the RRB's program integrity efforts to prevent improper payments.

Finally, the President's Budget includes about \$4,359,000 million to strengthen the integrity of the RRB's programs. These funds will provide the RRB improved capability to conduct increased training and enhanced quality assurance and statistical modeling techniques to maintain a higher standard for fraud prevention and detection and increased program integrity workloads. The Railroad Retirement Board has proven to be a good investment over the last 80 years. Our program integrity efforts save the trust fund from which railroad benefits are paid an estimated \$4.49 for each \$1.00 spent on program integrity activities.

Thank you for your support of this proposed budget.

Sincerely,

Original Signed
Walter A. Barrow
Steven J. Anthony
February 9, 2016

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable, Shaun Donovan, Director
Office of Management and Budget





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CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611-2092

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VACANT, CHAIRMAN

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STEVEN J. ANTHONY, MANAGEMENT MEMBER

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET ESTIMATES
FISCAL YEAR 2017

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATION ESTIMATES
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2016 and 2017

Account	Fiscal Year 2016		Fiscal Year 2017		Page
	FTEs	Amount	FTEs	Amount	
Limitation on Administration	860	\$111,225,000 <u>a/</u>	850	\$122,499,000	9
Dual Benefits Payments Account	—	\$29,000,000 <u>a/</u>	—	\$25,000,000 <u>b/</u>	47
Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts	—	\$ 150,000 <u>a/</u>	—	\$ 150,000 <u>c/</u>	55
Limitation on the Office of Inspector General	50	\$8,437,000 <u>a/</u>	56	\$10,499,000 <u>d/</u>	—

a/ The full year 2016 appropriations for these accounts were enacted under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113).

b/ The appropriation language provides for \$25,000,000 to fund vested dual benefits from general revenues of which \$ 2,000,000 is expected from income taxes on vested dual benefits. An additional 2 percent reserve (\$500,000) will become available only if the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available to pay vested dual benefits.

c/ This amount reflects our latest estimate for interest related to uncashed railroad retirement checks and will remain available through September 30, 2018.

d/ This limitation is for the Railroad Retirement Board's Office of Inspector General, which submits a separate budget justification document and annual performance plan.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is an independent agency in the executive branch of the Federal Government. The RRB's primary function is to administer comprehensive retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts. In connection with the retirement program, the RRB has administrative responsibilities under the Social Security Act for certain benefit payments and railroad workers' Medicare coverage. It also assists in the administration of the Internal Revenue Code.

The RRB is headed by three Board Members appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate. By law, one member is appointed upon recommendations made by railroad labor organizations and one upon recommendations of railroad employers. The third member, the Chairman, represents the public interest. The Board Members' terms of office are 5 years and expire in different years. The President also appoints an independent statutory Inspector General for the RRB (who functions outside the control of the Board Members, but who reports directly to the Chairman for administrative purposes) who is to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in RRB programs and operations.

During fiscal year 2015, the RRB paid \$12.2 billion, net of recoveries and offsetting collections, in retirement and survivor benefits. Railroad unemployment and sickness insurance benefits totaled \$85.1 million, net of recoveries and offsetting collections. The RRB also had recoveries of \$1.15 million in benefit overpayments for temporary extended unemployment benefits under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and paid \$8.625 million, net of recoveries, under the Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009, the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. About 558,000 beneficiaries received retirement and survivor benefits; about 9,000 railroad workers received unemployment insurance benefits; and about 16,000 received sickness insurance benefits. In fiscal year 2015, the RRB also paid benefits on behalf of the Social Security Administration amounting to \$1.5 billion to about 111,000 beneficiaries.

Programs Administered by the RRB

Railroad Retirement Act

Under the Railroad Retirement Act, the RRB makes monthly benefit payments to qualified railroad employees who retire because of age or disability, to eligible spouses of such employees, and to survivors of deceased employees. Total and permanent disability annuities are payable to employees unable to work at any job, and occupational disability annuities are payable to career railroad employees unable to work at their regular railroad jobs. Supplemental annuities are payable to career railroad employees with service prior to October 1981. There are also provisions for lump-sum payments.

The Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-90), enacted on December 21, 2001, made a number of major changes to the Railroad Retirement Act. The legislation provided for full early retirement eligibility at age 60 for railroad employees with 30 or more years of service; eliminated the maximum provision that had previously capped some employee and spouse railroad retirement benefits; reduced the basic eligibility requirement for an employee annuity from 10 to 5 years if performed after 1995; and provided increased benefits for some widow(er)s. The Act also authorized the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust to manage and invest the assets of the railroad retirement system in the same array of investment alternatives available to private sector pension plans.

The RRB also administers certain vested dual benefits financed by annual appropriations from general funds. As of September 30, 2015, about 16,000 beneficiaries received vested dual benefits.

Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act

Under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, the RRB pays unemployment insurance benefits to railroad workers who are unemployed but ready, willing, and able to work, and sickness insurance benefits to railroad workers who are unable to work because of illness, injury, or pregnancy. The RRB also assists unemployed railroad workers in securing employment.

Financing of Railroad Retirement Benefits

The primary source of income for the railroad retirement/survivor benefit program is payroll taxes paid by covered employers and their employees. By law, railroad retirement taxes are coordinated with social security taxes. Employees and employers pay tier I taxes at the same rate as social security taxes. In addition, both employees and employers pay tier II taxes, which are used to finance railroad retirement benefit payments over and above social security benefit levels.

Other sources of income currently include Federal income taxes on railroad retirement annuities, appropriations from general funds of the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) provided to phase-out vested dual benefits, interest on investments, and the financial interchange with the social security trust funds. The financial interchange places the social security trust funds in the same position they would be in if railroad service were covered by the Social Security program instead of the Railroad Retirement program. In effect, through the financial interchange, the portion of railroad retirement annuities that is equivalent to social security benefits is reinsured through the social security system, thereby extending social security protection to railroad workers. The Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account is charged with railroad retirement benefit payments equivalent to social security benefits, and credited with taxes and transfers associated with those benefits.

Vested dual benefits are funded by annual appropriations from general funds of the Treasury and paid from a separate account, the Dual Benefits Payments Account. Since October 1, 1988, revenue from income taxes on these benefits has also been credited to the Dual Benefits

Payments Account. If the appropriation in a fiscal year does not cover total benefits, individual payments must be reduced by proration.

Amounts needed to administer these programs are authorized by the Congress in annual appropriation acts. In addition, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and others reimburse the RRB for certain activities. Beginning in fiscal year 2013, a contractor provides Specialty Medicare Administrative Contractor (SMAC) Services to the RRB and Railroad Medicare beneficiaries and their medical series providers, nationwide, for Part B Medical Services. In fiscal year 2017, it is estimated that the RRB will be reimbursed about \$29.4 million for such costs. The estimate includes \$18.8 million for SMAC.

Financing Provisions of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001

Investment changes. The Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001 (RRSIA) provides for the transfer of railroad retirement funds from the Railroad Retirement Accounts to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, whose Board of Trustees is empowered to invest Trust assets in nongovernmental assets, such as equities and debt, as well as in governmental securities. The Railroad Retirement Board also receives transfers from the Trust, as needed, to pay railroad retirement and survivor benefits.

The Trust is not an agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government. Its Board of Trustees is comprised of seven members: three members selected by rail labor to represent the interests of labor; three members selected by rail management to represent management interests; and one independent member selected by a majority of the other six members. The Trustees are appointed only from persons who have experience and expertise in the management of financial investments and pension plans. The Trustees are subject to reporting and fiduciary standards similar to those under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act.

The RRB transferred \$1.502 billion, \$19.188 billion, and \$586 million to the Trust in fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004, respectively. The Trust has invested the transferred funds and the results of these investments are reported to the RRB and posted periodically on the RRB's website. The net asset value of Trust-managed assets on September 30, 2015, was approximately \$24.5 billion. From its inception through January 2016, the Trust transferred approximately \$18.2 billion to the RRB to pay railroad benefits, including approximately \$1.19 billion in fiscal year 2015.

Payroll taxes. Under the RRSIA, tier II taxes on both employers and employees are based on the ratio of certain asset balances to the sum of benefits and administrative expenses (the average account benefits ratio). Depending on the average account benefits ratio, tier II taxes for employers can range between 8.2 percent and 22.1 percent, while the tier II tax rate for employees can be between 0 percent and 4.9 percent. The calendar year 2016 tier II tax rates are 13.1 percent and 4.9 percent for rail employers and employees, respectively. The maximum amount of earnings subject to tier II taxes is \$88,200 in 2016.

The RRSIA does not affect tier I social security equivalent tax rates, which are the same as for social security covered employers and employees. The tier I payroll tax rate for the year 2016 on covered rail employees and employers is 7.65 percent for employees.

For withholding and reporting purposes, the employer tax rate is divided into 6.2 percent for retirement and 1.45 percent for Medicare hospital insurance. The maximum amount of an employee's earnings subject to the 6.20 percent rate is \$118,500 in 2016, but there is no maximum on earnings subject to the Medicare tax rate.

Supplemental annuities. The RRSIA also repealed the railroad retirement supplemental annuity tax paid by covered employers, and eliminated the separate Railroad Retirement Supplemental Account. While supplemental railroad retirement annuities provided by the Railroad Retirement Act continue to be due and payable, they are now funded from the Railroad Retirement Account.

Financing of Unemployment and Sickness Insurance Benefits

The railroad unemployment and sickness insurance program is financed by payroll taxes paid by covered employers. The Railroad Unemployment Insurance and Retirement Improvement Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-647) amended the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act to provide for an experience-rated employer contribution system responsive to fluctuations in railroad employment and benefit usage.

For calendar year 2016, the minimum employer contribution rate is 2.15 percent. New employers in 2016 will pay a tax of 2.52 percent, which represents the average rate paid by all employers in the period 2012 - 2014. For 77 percent of covered employers, the unemployment insurance rate assessed will be 2.15 percent in 2016, while 8 percent of employers will pay the maximum of 12 percent.

The 2016 rate is applied to the first \$1,455 earned monthly by each employee. In accordance with Public Law 100-647, the wage base is indexed each year to approximately two-thirds of the cumulative growth in average national wages since 1984. An employer's overall rate under the system cannot exceed 12 percent, or 12.5 percent if the maximum surcharge described below is in effect. These rates include a component to cover costs shared by all employers and 0.65 percent of the employers' taxable payroll is permanently appropriated to the RRB for administrative expenses. In addition, a surcharge is added to employers' unemployment contributions for any calendar year when the balance in the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account on the previous June 30 is less than a certain amount. Depending on the account balance, the surcharge rate may be 1.5, 2.5, or 3.5 percent of the wage base.

Description of Appropriation Requests

Limitation on Administration

This is the single administrative account for the RRB, which provides funding for the administration of both the railroad retirement/survivor and the unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs. Amounts needed for this limitation are derived from the Railroad Retirement Account, the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund.

Dual Benefits Payments Account

Section 15(d) of the Railroad Retirement Act provides for a Dual Benefits Payments Account which is separate from other railroad retirement accounts. The vested dual benefit portion of railroad retirement annuities is paid from this account and is funded by appropriations from general revenues.

Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts

This account was established in conjunction with the implementation of the Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983. Section 417 of the act amended the Railroad Retirement Act to provide for the reimbursement of unnegotiated benefit checks to the extent that such reimbursements are provided for, in advance, in appropriations acts. This account is the vehicle through which such appropriations are made.

Under provisions of the Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987, funds for the principal amount of uncashed checks are appropriated to the Treasury and then transferred directly to the appropriate RRB accounts. As a result, in fiscal year 1991, the RRB began receiving credits to this account for only the interest portion of the uncashed check transfers. This account also acts as a conduit for transferring income taxes on benefits to the other railroad retirement accounts.

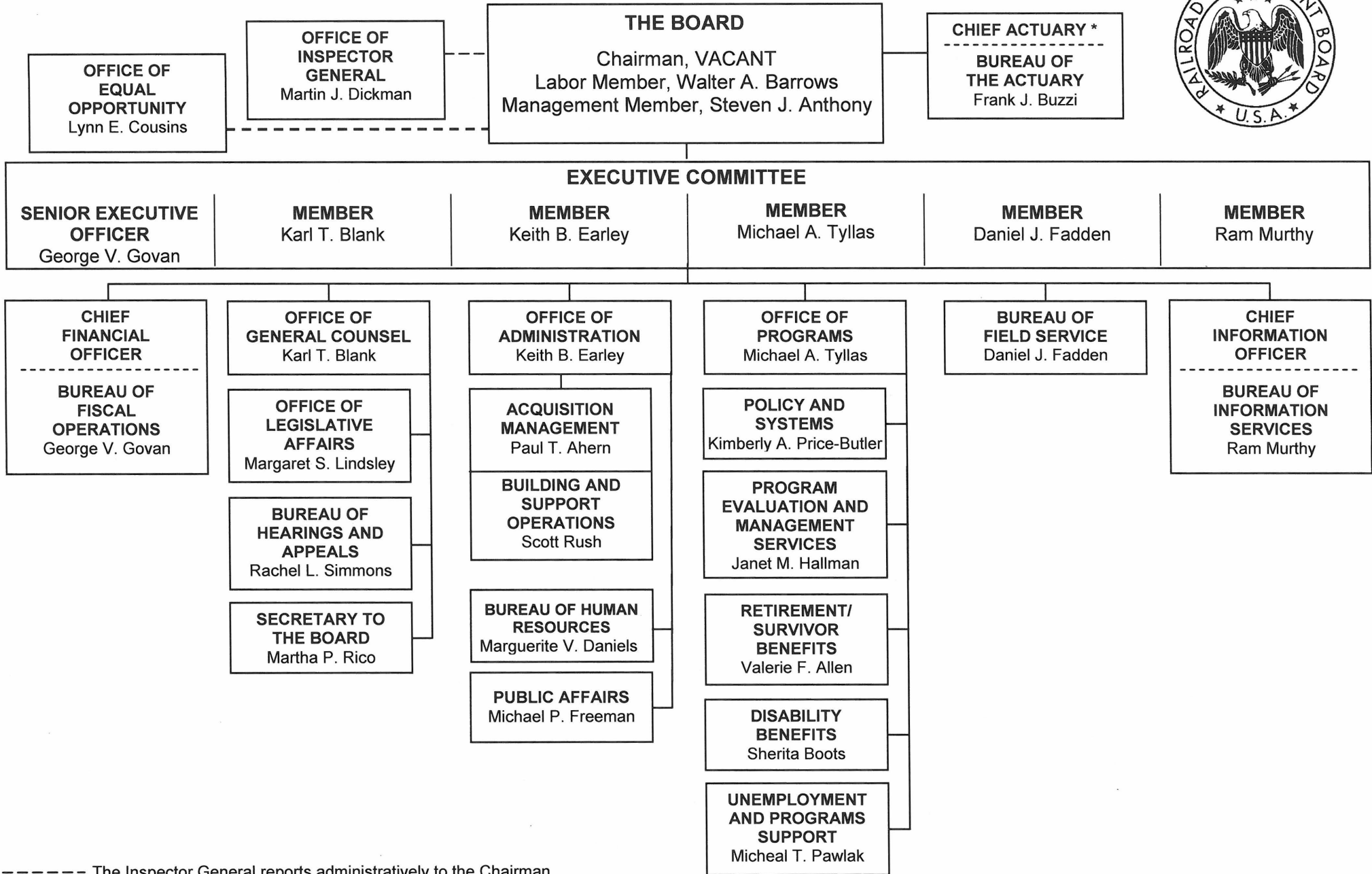
Limitation on the Office of the Inspector General

This appropriation request, which is described in a separate justification document, is for the Office of the Inspector General. The 1988 amendments to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 100-504) included the RRB as an "establishment" covered by the Inspector General Act and specified the Chairman of the RRB as the head of the establishment for purposes of the act. Previously, the Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983 had amended the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to provide for an Office of Inspector General at the RRB.

The Board Members

<u>Incumbent's name/ (Title)</u>	<u>Term expiration date</u>	<u>RRB compensation rate effective January 2016</u>	<u>Professional affiliations</u>
Vacant (Chairman)			
Steven J. Anthony (Management Member)	08-28-18	\$155,500	Virginia Bar, Missouri Bar, US Supreme Court Bar
Walter A. Barrows (Labor Member)	08-28-14	\$155,500	Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen, Federal Managers' Association, American Federation of Government Employees

U.S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD



----- The Inspector General reports administratively to the Chairman.

----- The Director of Equal Opportunity reports administratively to the Director of Administration and programmatically to the Board.

* Non-voting member of the Executive Committee

JUSTIFICATION OF ESTIMATES

The Administration's Proposed Appropriation Language

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATION

For necessary expenses for the Railroad Retirement Board ("Board") for administration of the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, [\$111,225,000] \$122,499,000, to be derived in such amounts as determined by the Board from the railroad retirement accounts and from moneys credited to the railroad unemployment insurance administration fund: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act this limitation may be used to hire attorneys only through the excepted service: *Provided further*, That the previous proviso shall not change the status under Federal employment laws of any attorney hired by the Railroad Retirement Board prior to January 1, 2013. (*Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

Explanation of Proposed Appropriation Language

<u>Appropriation language</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
<p>For necessary expenses for the Railroad Retirement Board ("Board") for administration of the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, [<i>\$111,225,000</i>] <i>\$122,499,000</i>, to be derived in such amounts as determined by the Board from the railroad retirement accounts and from moneys credited to the railroad unemployment insurance administration fund: <i>Provided</i>, That notwithstanding section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act this limitation may be used to hire attorneys only through the excepted service: <i>Provided further</i>, That the previous proviso shall not change the status under Federal employment laws of any attorney hired by the Railroad Retirement Board prior to January 1, 2013.</p>	<p>This budget request is for funds to administer the railroad retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs under a single administrative account. The Limitation on Administration Account draws on the following trust fund accounts for funding: Railroad Retirement Account, Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund.</p>

Authorizing Legislation

Legislation	2016		2017	
	Authorized	Current estimate	Authorized	Appropriation request
Authorizing legislation -- Railroad Retirement Act: Section 15(a), first two sentences of section, and Section 15A(c)(1)	Indefinite	\$111,225,000 <u>a/</u>	Indefinite	\$122,499,000

Authorizing legislation -- Railroad
Unemployment Insurance Act:
Section 11(a)

a/ A full- year 2016 appropriation for this account was enacted under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113).

Section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act:

"The Railroad Retirement Account established by section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1937 shall continue to be maintained in the Treasury of the United States. There is hereby appropriated to such Account for each fiscal year, beginning with the fiscal year ending June 30, 1975, to provide for the payment of benefits to be made from such Account in accordance with the provisions of section 7(c)(1) of this Act, and to provide for expenses necessary for the Board in the administration of all provisions of this Act, an amount equal to amounts covered into the Treasury (minus refunds) during each fiscal year under the Railroad Retirement Tax Act."

Section 15 A(c)(1) of the Railroad Retirement Act:

"Except as otherwise provided in this section, amounts in the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account shall be available only for purposes of paying social security equivalent benefits under this Act and to provide for the administrative expenses of the Board allocable to social security equivalent benefits."

Section 11(a) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act:

"The Secretary of the Treasury shall maintain in the unemployment trust fund established pursuant to section 904 of the Social Security Act an account to be known as the railroad unemployment insurance administration fund. This unemployment insurance administration fund shall consist of (i) such part of all contributions collected pursuant to section 8 of this Act as equals 0.65 per centum of the total compensation on which such contributions are based; (ii) all amounts advanced to the fund by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to this section; (iii) all amounts appropriated by subsection (b) of this section; and (iv) such additional amounts as Congress may appropriate for expenses necessary or incidental to administering this Act. Such additional amounts are hereby authorized to be appropriated."

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES a/
Budget Authority By Object Classification

<u>Limitation on Administration</u>	Fiscal year 2015		Fiscal year 2016		Fiscal year 2017	Change (increases	
Direct obligations by object class	actual amounts(\$)	b/c/	enacted amounts(\$)	c/d/	estimated amounts(\$)	c/	and decreases)
Personnel compensation:							
Full-time permanent	58,745,000		60,782,000		66,088,000		5,306,000
Positions other than permanent	861,000		811,000		710,000		-101,000
Other personnel compensation	<u>1,410,000</u>		<u>1,516,000</u>		<u>1,019,000</u>		<u>-497,000</u>
Total personnel compensation	61,016,000		63,109,000		67,817,000		4,708,000
Personnel benefits: civilian	21,443,000		22,321,000		21,883,000		-438,000
Benefits for former personnel	162,000		276,000		280,000		4,000
Travel and transportation of persons	630,000		781,000		619,000		-162,000
Transportation of things	45,000		42,000		40,000		-2,000
Rental payments to GSA	3,300,000	e/	3,316,000	e/	3,650,000		334,000
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	4,384,000		5,192,000		5,200,000		8,000
Printing and reproduction	232,000		226,000		257,000		31,000
Consulting services	650,000		722,000		591,000		-131,000
Other services	18,434,000		14,490,000		21,465,000	f/	6,975,000
Supplies and materials	595,000		590,000		488,000		-102,000
Equipment	<u>334,000</u>		<u>160,000</u>		<u>209,000</u>		<u>49,000</u>
Total, direct obligations	111,225,000		111,225,000		122,499,000		11,274,000
Unobligated balance	<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>		<u>0</u>
Total budget authority	<u>111,225,000</u>		<u>111,225,000</u>		<u>122,499,000</u>		<u>11,274,000</u>

a/ In a separate justification document, the Office of Inspector General is requesting \$10,499,000 for administrative expenses in fiscal year 2017.

b/ The amounts included for 2015 reflect the annualized level provided by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 113-235).

c/ The Limitation on Administration excludes \$33.4 million in fiscal year 2015 that the RRB received in reimbursements from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and others. Amounts for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 exclude \$29.7 million and \$29.4 million respectively that the RRB expects to be reimbursed in each fiscal year from CMS and others.

d/ Reflects funding provided under (P.L. 114-113), the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016.

e/ Reflects the payment of actual costs to the General Services Administration (GSA) for the rental of space.

f/ This amount includes \$377,000 for security provided by the Federal Protective Service.

Note: Amounts shown in the table are rounded to the nearest thousand.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES ^{a/}

	Appropriation total
FY 2017 estimate	\$122,499,000 ^{b/}
FY 2016 level	<u>111,225,000</u>
Net change	\$ 11,274,000

	<u>2016 Current (Base)</u>		<u>2017 Change from Base</u>	
	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Budget Authority</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Budget Authority</u>
Increases:				
<i>Built-in:</i>				
1. Net change related to full-time and part-time salaries:				
Adjustments to average salary estimates		\$3,142,000		
January 2017 pay raise		1,602,000		
Grade/step increases		462,000		
Other compensation (awards and overtime)		<u>(497,000)</u>		
Subtotal, built-in salary and FTE increases	860	\$63,109,000	--	\$4,708,000
2. Net change related to personnel benefits:				
Adjustment to previous estimates		\$1,029,000		
January 2017 pay raise		524,000		
Grade/step increases		151,000		
Other changes (health insurance, etc.)		<u>(2,142,000)</u>		
Subtotal, built-in changes to benefits	--	22,321,000	--	<u>(438,000)</u>
Subtotal, built-in compensation increases			--	<u>\$4,270,000</u>
<i>Program:</i>				
1. Benefits to former personnel	--	276,000	--	4,000
2. Rental payments to GSA	--	3,316,000	--	334,000
3. Other services	--	14,490,000	--	6,975,000
4. Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	--	5,192,000	--	8,000
5. Printing and reproduction	--	226,000	--	31,000
6. Equipment	--	160,000	--	49,000
Subtotal, program increases				<u>\$7,401,000</u>
Decreases:				
<i>Program:</i>				
1. Transportation of things	--	42,000	--	(2,000)
2. Travel and transportation	--	781,000	--	(162,000)
3. Consulting services	--	722,000	--	(131,000)
4. Supplies and material	--	590,000	--	(102,000)
Total decreases				<u>(397,000)</u>
Net change			--	<u>\$11,274,000</u>

^{a/} Corresponds to page 12 - Administrative Expenses.

^{b/} Amount shown for fiscal year 2016 reflects the annualized level provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113).

Note: Dollar amounts are rounded to the nearest thousand.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Budget Authority by Strategic Goal

<u>Limitation on Administration</u>	Fiscal year 2015				Fiscal year 2016				Fiscal year 2017			
	Actual				Enacted				Estimate			
<u>Program by strategic goal</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amounts (\$)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amounts (\$)</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Amounts (\$)</u>	<u>%</u>
Strategic goal:												
1. Customer service	656	76	86,931,518	78	651	76	86,931,518	78	650	76	91,882,288	75
2. Stewardship	211	24	24,293,482	22	209	24	24,293,482	22	200	24	30,616,712	25
Total, direct program obligations	867		111,225,000		860		111,225,000		850		122,499,000	
Unobligated balance			0				0				0	
Total budget authority	<u>867</u>		<u>111,225,000</u>		<u>860</u>		<u>111,225,000</u>		<u>850</u>		<u>122,499,000</u>	

The Railroad Retirement Board's Strategic Plan includes these strategic goals.

1. Provide excellent customer service.
2. Serve as responsible stewards for our customers' trust funds and agency resources.

STAFFING HISTORY

Actual Full-time Equivalent Employment

Fiscal year	<u>Total FTEs</u> a/	Change from <u>previous year</u>	Percent change from <u>previous year</u>	Cumulative FTE <u>Reduction</u>	Cumulative percent change since fiscal <u>year 1993</u>
1993	1,698 b/	---	---	---	---
1994	1,615 b/	-83	-4.9%	83	-4.9%
1995	1,483 b/	-132	-8.2%	215	-12.7%
1996	1,401 b/	-82	-5.5%	297	-17.5%
1997	1,297	-104	-7.4%	401	-23.6%
1998	1,227	-70	-5.4%	471	-27.7%
1999	1,196	-31	-2.5%	502	-29.6%
2000	1,136	-60	-5.0%	562	-33.1%
2001	1,101	-35	-3.1%	597	-35.2%
2002	1,099	-2	-0.2%	599	-35.3%
2003	1,079	-20	-1.8%	619	-36.5%
2004	1,048	-31	-2.9%	650	-38.3%
2005	957	-91	-8.7%	741	-43.6%
2006	940	-17	-1.8%	758	-44.6%
2007	927	-13	-1.4%	771	-45.4%
2008	918	-9	-1.0%	780	-45.9%
2009	897	-21	-2.3%	801	-47.2%
2010	908	11	1.2%	790	-46.5%
2011	903	-5	-0.6%	795	-46.8%
2012	884	-19	-2.1%	814	-47.9%
2013	885	1	0.1%	813	-47.9%
2014	866	-19	-2.1%	832	-49.0%
2015	867	1	0.1%	831	-48.9%
2016	860 c/	-7	-0.8%	838	-49.4%
2017	850 d/	-10	-1.2%	848	-49.9%

a/ Excludes staffing for the Office of the Inspector General

b/ Includes Special Management Improvement Fund FTEs for fiscal years 1993-1996 of 80, 58, 30

c/ Reflects an adjusted projection as of mid-January 2016.

d/ Reflects the estimated staffing level in the President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2017.

Funding for Major Contracts

This chart shows contracts of \$10,000 and over that are planned for fiscal year 2017 in the following categories: consulting services, government contracts, medical fees, maintenance of facilities, and contractual services.

<u>Title and description</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2017 funding (\$)</u>
<u>Information Technology</u>	
• <u>Mainframe Applications Re-engineering</u> . Funding will re-engineer critical legacy mainframe applications to sustain agency operations and enable a "future ready" RRB workforce equipped with modern tools and technologies to do their jobs in the most efficient and effective manner that leads to sustained customer satisfaction in the railroad community.	6,100,000
• <u>Voice Communications System</u> . Additional funding to complete conversion of legacy communications system to a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) system.	275,000
• <u>IT operations support and memberships</u> . Requested funding includes contractual services for Tivoli storage, IBM operations support services and Gartner membership.	218,300
• <u>Help Desk Contract</u> . Funding for help desk staff to augment RRB staff.	475,000
• <u>License agreement</u> . Funds are required to maintain the RRB's Microsoft Enterprise License Agreement.	350,000
• <u>Disaster recovery</u> . Funding will be used to support warm site operations for back up of mainframe and open architecture data. Also, included are two disaster recovery tests in accordance with FISMA requirements.	484,050 <u>a/</u>
• <u>IT Security</u> . Security authorization and continuous monitoring of RRB information systems.	115,500
• <u>Secure Wireless Office</u> . Contractor services to support infrastructure.	90,000
• <u>Chief Information Officer Initiative</u> . Executive council contract.	41,000

Funding for Major Contracts

<u>Title and description</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2017 funding (\$)</u>
<u>Support of benefit program activities</u>	
• <u>Medical fees</u> . Funding is required for medical services and hospital transcripts used to make disability determinations.	2,874,200
• <u>Consultative medical services</u> . Funding will be used for medical evidence reviews concerning benefit and claim matters and preparation of advisory medical opinions.	537,300
• <u>Field service training</u> . Contract funding will be used for training claims representatives and supervisors.	119,000
• <u>Customer satisfaction index</u> . Contractor assistance will be used for administering the American Customer Satisfaction Index survey.	41,000
• <u>Clerical services</u> . Temporary clerical services to assist with workloads in various field offices.	104,000
<u>Financial management</u>	
• <u>Payments to Treasury</u> . Funding is required for fees by the Department of the Treasury for issuing checks and making electronic funds transfers on the RRB's behalf, as well as postage costs incurred for RRB mailings released by the Treasury.	37,446 ^{a/}
• <u>Migration of Labor distribution report</u> . Funding will be used to support enhanced cost accounting through conversion of federal personnel/payroll provider to private personnel/payroll provider. Conversion to private personnel/payroll provider will include integrated activity based cost reporting and eliminate internal developed applications.	150,000
<u>Administrative support</u>	
• <u>File management services</u> . Fees will be paid to the National Archives and Records Administration for services by the Federal Records Center (FRC) to maintain the RRB claim files. This cost includes \$24,000 for shuttle service to transport files between RRB headquarters and the FRC.	270,000 ^{a/}

Funding for Major Contracts

<u>Title and description</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2017 funding (\$)</u>
• <u>Photocopiers</u> . Funding is required to continue contractual services for photocopiers in the RRB's headquarters building, including high speed copiers that are used to prepare program related booklets, pamphlets, and other informational material.	515,000
• <u>Equifax</u> . Funding will be used to obtain access to the work number system for employment and income information.	400,000
• <u>E-Payroll and human resources services</u> . Funding is required for contracted E-Payroll and electronic human resources services provided by GSA.	389,801 <u>a/</u>
• <u>Field office support services</u> . Funding is required for field office alterations, miscellaneous and administrative support services, and health unit maintenance agreements.	30,000 <u>a/</u>
• <u>Personnel identification system</u> . Funding is required to obtain updated personnel identification cards that meet the Homeland Security Presidential Directive for secure identification for agency employees and contractors. The requested funding also includes leasing a credentialing station at the headquarters building.	60,000 <u>a/</u>
• <u>Shipping and receiving</u> . Funds are required to continue shipping and receiving services.	50,100
• <u>Employee assistance program</u> . The RRB provides professional assistance for employees with personal problems that adversely affect work performance.	41,300
• <u>Videoconferencing and transcription services</u> . Funding will provide for videoconferencing services needed for hearing appeals.	45,000
• <u>Recruitment and hiring services</u> . Funding will be used to pay OPM for recruitment and hiring services, background investigations, as well as flexible spending accounts.	174,000 <u>a/</u>
• <u>Public Debt</u> . Payments will be made to the Bureau of Public Debt for three changes of station and monthly administrative fees.	40,000 <u>a/</u>

Funding for Major Contracts

<u>Title and description</u>	<u>Estimated FY 2017 funding (\$)</u>
<u>Facility management services</u>	
• <u>Building maintenance and repairs</u> . Funding is required for facility maintenance, elevator maintenance, repairs to the RRB headquarters building, and related services.	867,500
• <u>Switch and wiring</u> . Funding will be used for the removal of old telephone switches and wiring.	100,000
• <u>Federal Protective Service costs</u> . Funding is required for protective services, billed by the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Protective Service.	377,474 <u>a/</u>
• <u>Janitorial services</u> . Funding is needed for janitorial services for the RRB headquarters building.	737,000
• <u>Building security</u> . Funding is required for guard service for the RRB headquarters building.	635,000
Agency total	<u>16,743,971</u>

a/ Contractual services provided by Federal Government agencies comprise \$1,862,771 of the agency program total.

BUDGET AUTHORITY BY FUND

	Fiscal year 2015 actual amounts	Fiscal year 2016	Fiscal year 2017 estimated	Change, FY 2016 to FY 2017
<u>Railroad Retirement Program</u>				
<u>Direct Program:</u>				
Railroad Retirement Account	67,737,000	67,938,000	77,744,000	9,806,000
Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account	29,988,000	28,044,000	28,800,000	756,000
Total, direct railroad retirement program obligations	97,725,000	95,982,000	106,544,000	10,562,000
<u>Railroad Unemployment and Sickness Insurance Program</u>				
<u>Direct Program:</u>				
Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund	13,500,000	15,243,000	15,955,000	712,000
Total, direct railroad retirement, unemployment and sickness insurance obligations	110,458,975	111,225,000	122,499,000	11,274,000
Unobligated balance	766,025	---	---	---
Total, direct railroad retirement, unemployment and sickness insurance budget authority	111,225,000	111,225,000	122,499,000	11,274,000

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATION

Financing

<u>Financing</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2015 actual</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2016 enacted</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2017 estimate</u>
Total, direct program obligations	\$110,458,975	\$111,225,000	\$122,499,000
Unobligated balance	<u>766,025</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
Limitation	<u>\$111,225,000</u>	<u>\$111,225,000</u>	<u>\$122,499,000</u>

Relation of direct program obligations to outlays

Obligations incurred, net	111,225,000	111,225,000	122,499,000
Obligated balance, start of year	0	27,165,715	27,165,715
Obligated balance, end of year	<u>(27,165,715)</u>	<u>(27,165,715)</u>	<u>(27,165,715)</u>
Outlays from limitation	<u>\$84,059,285</u>	<u>\$111,225,000</u>	<u>\$122,499,000</u>

Note: Funds to administer the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act are combined into a single administrative account. Funds to administer the Railroad Retirement Act are transferred from the Railroad Retirement Account and the Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account to the Limitation on Administration. Funds required to administer the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act are transferred from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Administration Fund to the Limitation on Administration.

The financial operations of the Limitation on Administration can also be expressed in a sources and uses of funds table as shown below.

Sources and Uses of Funds

	<u>Fiscal year 2015 actual</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2016 enacted</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2017 estimate</u>
<u>Direct program sources</u>			
Available from benefit trust funds by Congressional appropriation	<u>\$111,225,000</u>	<u>\$111,225,000</u>	<u>\$122,499,000</u>
<u>Direct program uses</u>			
Administrative expenses	\$110,458,975	\$111,225,000	\$122,499,000
Unobligated balance	<u>766,025</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>---</u>
Total uses:	<u>\$111,225,000</u>	<u>\$111,225,000</u>	<u>\$122,499,000</u>

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATION

Amounts Available for Obligation

	<u>Fiscal year 2015 actual</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2016 enacted</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2017 estimate</u>
Appropriation	\$110,458,975	\$111,225,000	\$122,499,000
Unobligated balance	<u>766,025</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total direct obligations <u>a/</u>	<u>\$111,225,000</u>	<u>\$111,225,000</u>	<u>\$122,499,000</u>

a/ The RRB also received reimbursements totaling \$33.4 million in fiscal year 2015 and expects to receive \$29.7 million in fiscal year 2016, and \$29.4 million in fiscal year 2017 for reimbursable activities.

APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY TABLE

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget estimate to the Congress</u>	<u>House allowance</u>	<u>Senate allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation/ continuing resolution</u>	
2008	\$ 103,517,570	\$ 103,694,000	\$ 103,694,000	\$101,882,466	<u>a/</u>
2009	105,463,000	105,463,000	105,463,000	105,463,000	<u>b/</u>
2010	109,073,000	109,073,000	109,073,000	109,073,000	<u>c/</u>
2011	110,573,000	---	---	108,854,854	<u>d/</u>
2012	112,239,000	---	---	108,649,264	<u>e/</u>
2013	111,149,000	---	---	108,734,464	<u>f/</u>
2014	110,953,000	---	---	110,300,000	<u>g/</u>
2015	112,150,000	---	---	111,225,000	<u>h/</u>
2016	119,918,000	---	---	111,225,000	<u>i/</u>
2017	122,499,000				

a/ Reflects the appropriation received under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161), less a rescission of \$1,811,534.

b/ Amount reflects funding made available by the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 111-8).

c/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-117).

d/ Reflects the appropriation of \$109,073,000, less a rescission of \$218,146 under the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P.L. 112-10).

e/ Reflects the appropriation of \$108,855,000, less a rescission of \$205,736 under the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74).

f/ Reflects the appropriation of \$111,149,000, less a rescission of \$222,298, and a sequester of \$2,192,238, under the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-6).

g/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).

h/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 113-235).

i/ Reflects the appropriation made available by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113).

Retirement/Survivor Benefit Program
Summary Processing Workload Table

<u>Fiscal years</u>	<u>Average number of annuitants</u>	<u>New applications</u>	<u>Supplemental annuity applications</u>	<u>Social Security initial awards</u> ¹	<u>Post-payment adjustments</u>	<u>Number of payments</u>	<u>Medicare enrollments</u> ²
2005	595,484	37,510	7,129	6,329	98,312	7,592,204	5,030
2006	582,995	35,617	7,794	6,065	94,108	7,426,518	4,838
2007 ³	571,271	37,134	9,345	5,965	113,489	7,349,904	5,188
2008	562,347	36,909	9,176	6,010	99,525	7,191,744	5,686
2009	554,124	37,248	9,725	8,128	110,534	7,104,066	5,235
2010	549,154	37,384	9,581	12,563	120,102	7,055,426	5,204
2011	544,256	37,231	9,743	9,275	93,425	7,011,155	5,803
2012	540,080	35,856	9,341	9,342	85,206	6,967,676	6,522
2013	534,982	36,041	9,075	3,116	80,786	6,921,034	6,306
2014	530,367	35,368	8,802	3,124	76,440	6,864,029	6,270
2015	526,487	34,234	8,145	3,417	66,316	6,825,427	6,851
2016 (est)	523,400	34,000	7,000	3,000	66,000	6,790,000	7,000
2017 (est)	520,200	33,000	6,000	3,000	65,000	6,740,000	6,000

1/ Beginning in fiscal year 2013, Social Security initial awards no longer include mechanical adjustments.

2/ Excludes attainments.

3/ Post-payment adjustments reflect 21,358 receipts due to the processing of special adjustments for annuity increases resulting from changes in retirement service and earnings credits reported by railroad employers over a period of several years.

Railroad Unemployment/Sickness Insurance Program
Summary Processing Workload Table

Fiscal Years	Railroad employment ^{1/}	Unemployment insurance			Sickness insurance		
		Applications	Claims	Payments	Applications	Claims	Payments
2005	232,000	11,701	71,654	60,057	24,795	161,062	138,610
2006	236,000	11,186	64,697	53,781	25,866	155,525	133,519
2007	237,000	13,002	71,156	58,385	22,996	148,607	127,372
2008	235,000	13,483	79,016	65,388	21,932	140,788	120,498
2009	223,000	39,509	230,476 ^{2/}	198,230 ^{2/}	21,466	138,993	118,770
2010	221,000	18,721	210,965 ^{3/}	190,152 ^{3/}	21,476	139,653	119,426
2011	229,000	12,756	93,598 ^{4/}	83,144 ^{4/}	20,797	136,014	115,705
2012	234,000	12,914	83,120 ^{5/}	72,776 ^{5/}	20,240	129,318	110,154
2013	237,000	14,944	96,871 ^{6/}	84,365 ^{6/}	19,110	119,364	100,951
2014	242,000	11,982	77,580 ^{6/}	64,864 ^{6/}	19,335	120,838	102,020
2015	247,000 (est)	14,177	67,643	55,368	19,467	121,271	102,540
2016 (est)	241,000	21,000	120,000	98,000	20,000	127,000	107,000
2017 (est)	237,000	20,000	112,000	92,000	21,000	132,000	112,000

^{1/} Average annual railroad employment is based on mid-month counts and presented on a calendar year basis.

^{2/} Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-5). Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2009.

^{3/} Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under P.L. 111-5 and the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-92).

^{4/} Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under P.L. 111-5, P.L. 111-92, and the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (PL. 111-312).

^{5/} Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under P.L. 111-92, P.L. 111-312, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-78), and the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-96).

^{6/} Includes unemployment insurance claims and payments under P.L. 111-92, P.L. 111-312, P.L. 112-78, P.L. 112-96, and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (P.L. 112-240). Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2013.

PERFORMANCE PLAN



Fiscal Year 2017

Railroad Retirement Board

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Introduction

The Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) has developed this performance budget for fiscal year 2017 to support our mission (see mission statement on the following page) and to communicate our intentions for meeting challenges and seeking opportunities. We will use the plan to hold managers accountable for achieving program results and to improve program effectiveness and public accountability by promoting a continued focus on results, service quality, and customer satisfaction. We will also use the plan to help managers improve service delivery by requiring that they plan for meeting program objectives and by providing them with information about program results and service quality.

This plan is closely linked to our **Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2014 - 2018** and can be easily cross-referenced to that plan. The performance budget provides detailed performance goals, performance indicators and target levels to guide agency managers as they implement our Strategic Plan. It also communicates our plans to our stakeholders, including the railroad community, the Administration, the Congress, and other government agencies. It is one part of a comprehensive set of interlocking plans that cover all major aspects of agency operations. In this plan, we have established specific performance goals (with performance indicators and projected performance levels) to be achieved in fiscal year 2017. Additionally, it supports our other functional plans required to manage the agency. These functional plans include the **Customer Service Plan** and the **Information Technology Capital Plan**. These plans support the annual submission of the agency budget to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Congress.

The RRB's strategic and performance goals are presented in the sections following our mission statement. Information on anticipated performance in fiscal year 2017 for each performance goal, at the President's proposed budget level of \$122,499,000, is provided in Exhibit I. To provide for ongoing improvement in performance and accountability, we will continue to set programmatic goals which are aggressive, realistic and accurately measured. We will also ensure that planned improvements are transparent and result in meaningful outcomes, and that agency managers are accountable for achieving performance goals.

We will also prepare and submit to the President and the Congress a report on program performance for fiscal year 2017, as part of our Performance and Accountability Report. The report will be reviewed by the RRB's Office of Inspector General (OIG) to help ensure the reliability and utility of our performance information. The reported information will be derived from agency systems and will compare the performance goals and indicators to actual program performance for the fiscal year.

This performance budget meets the requirements of the GPRA Modernization Act and was prepared by RRB employees.

***RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD
MISSION STATEMENT***

The RRB's mission is to administer retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs for railroad workers and their families under the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. These programs provide income protection during old age and in the event of disability, death or temporary unemployment and sickness. The RRB also administers aspects of the Medicare program and has administrative responsibilities under the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code.

In carrying out its mission, the RRB will pay benefits to the right people, in the right amounts, in a timely manner, and will take appropriate action to safeguard our customers' trust funds. The RRB will treat every person who comes into contact with the agency with courtesy and concern, and respond to all inquiries promptly, accurately and clearly.

Strategic Goal I: *Provide Excellent Customer Service.* We aim to satisfy our customers' expectations for quality service in terms of service delivery options and levels and manner of performance. At the President's proposed budget level for fiscal year 2017, we plan to allocate \$91,882,288 and 650 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) to this strategic goal. We have established two performance goals that focus on the specifics of achieving this strategic goal.

Strategic Objective: Pay benefits timely. The RRB is committed to ensuring that we pay benefits in a timely manner. We have nine objectives in place to track the timeliness of the actions we take in a year regarding both Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (RUIA) programs. In addition, we will:

- *Ensure accurate, up-to-date, accessible instructions to support our front-line employees as they provide customer support.*
- *Inform our customers about their responsibilities.*
- *Ensure that the Customer Service Plan is comprehensive and is revised when appropriate.*
- *Promote direct deposit for benefit payments.*
- *Monitor key payment workloads.*
- *Allocate resources effectively.*

Our Customer Service Plan includes customer service timeliness standards for paying benefits. Through September 30, 2015, the overall actual performance was 98.8 percent. This means that customers received benefit services within the timeframes promised in the Customer Service Plan for nearly 99 percent of the 249,500 service transactions for which timeliness was measured.

The inset at the right shows composite results in four combined categories of services.

**Overall Timeliness Performance
Fiscal Year 2015 (through 9/30/2015)**

- Retirement applications: 96.0%
(target: 95.0%)
- Survivor applications: 96.0%
(target: 94.5%)
- Disability applications/payments: 65.7%
(target: 82.8%)
- RUIA applications/claims: 99.9%
(target: 98.6%)

Communications with RRB customers

In addition to making payments, we provide a variety of information to our customers. We provide general information through our website, publications, and our toll-free number. We also provide information to individuals through annual statements of wages and compensation, annuity estimates, notices of annuity and benefit awards and changes, annual income tax statements, and answers to questions regarding benefits. In addition, we use an

on-line presentation facility called *RRBVision* to provide information and training to the public and rail employers.

Strategic Objective: Provide a range of choices in service delivery methods. To fulfill customers' needs, we must provide high quality, accurate services on a timely basis, and in ways that are accessible and convenient to all our customers, including the elderly and those with impairments. Consistent with our vision statement, we strive to provide a broad range of choices for customer service. Our level of performance will be measured by how well we succeed in providing the level of service our customers expect, and by the number of new electronic services we can provide in each program at a reasonable cost. Our goal is to expand customer choice by offering alternative access to our major services. To achieve our goals in this area, we plan to:

- *Increase opportunities for our customers to conduct business in a secure manner over the Internet.*
- *Continue to develop electronic services that enable the employer to conduct daily business transactions and file required reports in an efficient, effective and secure manner.*

To date the ERSNet project has developed and implemented a total of 27 automated services for employers to notify, request information or provide a means for correcting and transmitting data electronically to and from the Railroad Retirement Board. During the last implementation in FY 2015, we added one additional service by completing Form BA-9, Report of Separation Allowance or Severance Pay, which converted the final employer reporting form into another on-line service. We also developed a knowledge based two-step authentication process that allows the users to reset their own passwords after receiving a unique key code that is required for authentication.

We currently are working to implement additional enhancements to the ERSNet system to integrate additional edits; add file upload capability to existing forms; and create a single sign-on system for users with multiple accounts.

In the next Phase of the ERSNet project, we plan to develop an additional notification for employers that provide information about employees who are deceased with Form G-73a.1, Notice of Death. We will also add the G-251a/b, Job Information Form which requests information from employers about the duties performed by employees who file for disability annuities. This phase will add two additional services to the system.

In fiscal year 2017, the RRB will develop additional notifications to employers about benefit entitlement; allow them to correct suspended cases on-line; and to make corrections to their own contact information. We will work to develop on-line processes for AESOP (Employee Retirement Estimate File); the Suspense and Error Tracking System (SETS); Form G-117a, Designation of Contact Officials; and RL-13g, Notice to Employer of Relinquishment of

Rights of Disability Annuitant Who Attained Age 65.

Strategic Goal II: *Serve as Responsible Stewards for Our Customers' Trust Funds and Agency Resources.* The RRB is committed to fulfilling its fiduciary responsibilities to the rail community. At the President's proposed budget level for fiscal year 2017, we plan to allocate \$30,616,712 and 200 FTEs to this strategic goal. We have established four performance goals that focus on the specifics of achieving this strategic goal.

Strategic Objective: *Ensure that trust fund assets are protected, collected, recorded and reported appropriately.* The RRB is committed to prudent management of its trust funds. Our success in this objective is reflected through annual audited financial statements, actuarial valuations, financial projections, benefit payment accuracy, debt collection, experience-based contribution rates, and payroll tax and railroad employee compensation reconciliations. We also have responsibilities with regard to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, which are addressed under performance goal II-D. To accomplish this commitment, we will:

- *Continue to issue annual audited financial statements.*
- *Monitor the solvency of the trust funds through a sound program of actuarial valuations and financial projections.*
- *Correctly estimate the amounts needed for future benefit payments.*
- *Verify that payroll taxes are fully collected and properly recorded.*
- *Issue accurate, timely determinations and notices of contribution rates required under the unemployment and sickness insurance program.*
- *Continue to carry out the RRB's debt management policy.*

In November 2015, we released our Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2015. The RRB's OIG did not express an opinion (disclaimer) on the RRB's 2015 financial statements, which were included in that report. The OIG reported material weaknesses in the RRB's financial reporting. Significant efforts are underway to strengthen controls in this area.

Strategic Objective: *Ensure the accuracy and integrity of benefit programs.* The principal indicators of accuracy are the benefit payment accuracy rates in each program. Our performance goal is to ensure that we can continue to meet or exceed 99 percent payment accuracy in the payments we initiate or manually adjust in a given year. To accomplish this goal, we will:

- *Monitor payment accuracy and the levels of improper payments, and identify problems.*
- *Provide feedback and take additional preventive actions as appropriate.*
- *Maintain established matching programs.*
- *Continue our program integrity reviews.*

Under the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA) of 2002, and the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA) of 2010, the RRB reviews and reports on the amount of erroneous payments and engages in activities to reduce them. Since improper payment reporting began, the amounts attributable to the RRB's two benefit programs (the RRA and the RUIA) have been below the definition of "significant" improper payments identified in the law and related guidance issued by OMB.

As part of our fiduciary responsibilities to the rail community, we must ensure that the correct benefit amounts are being paid to the right people. We match our benefit payments against the Social Security Administration's earnings and benefits database, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' death records, the Office of Personnel Management's benefit records, and State wage reports, exclusively via secure electronic transmissions. We also administer other benefit monitoring programs to identify and prevent erroneous payments, and refer some cases to the RRB's OIG for investigation. After investigation, the Inspector General may pursue more aggressive actions, which include civil and criminal prosecution.

We measure the effectiveness of the program integrity efforts each year by comparing the dollars identified as improper payments and saved through these initiatives to their cost. For example, in fiscal year 2015, the RRB invested the equivalent of about 27 full-time employees, at a cost of approximately \$2.7 million, in program integrity efforts. This resulted in over \$11.4 million in recoverables, \$717,002 in benefits saved, and the referral of 20 cases to the OIG for investigation. This is approximately \$4.49 in savings for each \$1.00 invested in these activities.

Strategic Objective: Ensure effectiveness, efficiency and security of operations. How we do our business is a critical component of good stewardship. The RRB is committed to effective, efficient and secure internal operations. Many factors and programs contribute to this goal. We use our management control review process as a means of reviewing critical agency processes in order to provide reasonable assurance of the effectiveness and efficiency of our programs and operations. If material weaknesses are detected, we take corrective action. In addition, we perform a variety of quality assurance activities to ensure that our benefit programs comply with established policies, standards and procedures. We consider the findings from these reviews as we plan our information technology initiatives.

In support of the Administration's direction to agencies to assess the effectiveness of current information technology (IT) management practices and address opportunities to improve management of IT resources we added measurements based on the PorfoliStat categories Deliver, Innovate and Protect. The measurements ensure that the agency engages in proactive performance management of its IT.

- *Deliver – Deliver on Budget Percent of IT Projects costs within 10% of budgeted costs.*
- *Deliver – Meet Customer Expectations. WWW.RRB.GOV Internet Services (Mainline and Employer Reporting System) Continuous availability experienced by end users.*
- *Innovate – Design for Modularity. Strategy for Continuity of Operations Improvements.*
- *Protect – Email Data Loss Prevention. Percentage of externally bound emails and their attachments automatically encrypted that contain personally identifiable or credit card information.*
- *Protect – Percentage of agency employees required to use a Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card to authenticate.*

The measurements ensure that the agency engages in proactive performance management of information technology by ensuring effectiveness, efficiency and security of operations. The use of performance measures and management processes allows the RRB to monitor actual versus expected results, while also providing appropriate oversight and quality control. The status of each measure is captured and evaluated monthly by those responsible for overseeing the measure, evaluated quarterly by the Office of the Chief Information Officer to ensure that the activity is meeting the expected measure, and reported annually in the agency's fiscal year performance plan.

In addition to our ongoing activities, during the planning period we will continue to emphasize key areas related to strategic management of human capital, improving program performance and accountability, and systems security.

Strategic Management of Human Capital – Like many agencies, the RRB has an aging workforce. About 55 percent of our employees have 20 or more years of service and over 40 percent of the current workforce will be eligible for retirement by fiscal year 2017. To prepare for the expected turnover, the agency is placing increased emphasis on strategic management of human capital. Each organization has completed workforce planning documents that identify the current staffing levels, projected attrition and planned hiring through fiscal year 2017, subject to available funding. Each executive also completed a gap analysis for his/her organization that identified potential areas of skills and knowledge gaps that will need to be addressed, identified areas where additional training may be necessary or where mentoring may be desirable to prepare employees for more senior positions, and identified areas of new skills that may need to be addressed through outside hires.

The agency has been able to utilize the re-employment of retirees to allow retirees under the Civil Service Retirement System and the Federal Employees Retirement System to be temporarily rehired without losing entitlement to their retirement annuities under Section 1122(a) of Public Law 111-84, which amended sections 8344 and 8468 of Title 5 of the

United States Code. The agency has been able to rehire several annuitants on a temporary basis to assist in areas that have knowledge gaps due to attrition.

The RRB is also devoting more attention and resources to training and has provided meaningful training programs for our employees. We have offered courses in the areas of performance management, and managerial and supervisory development, and we recently provided negotiation training and “train the trainer” sessions and Microsoft Office training for employees. We also make use of technology in this area, utilizing our on-line presentation facility, *RRB Vision*, which allows employees to view training, including a video component, in an online format. In addition, all field managers now have ready access to the latest webinar technology to facilitate the remote training of new employees, as well as the ongoing training of experienced field staff. Lastly, we continue to implement a new internet-based software package – Learning Management System (LMS), which effectively formalizes all aspects of training for all agency employees, while also providing self-assessments to the student and feedback to supervisors on their progress. These initiatives are particularly useful to employees and managers in the agency’s field offices.

The Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey (FEVS) provides our employees the opportunity to influence change by submitting feedback about their work environment, leadership, and many other aspects of our organization. We were pleased that of the 862 employees invited to participate, 481 completed the survey, for a response rate of 56% (compared to a government-wide response rate of 50%). Forty eight survey items increased since 2014 while only 15 survey items decreased since 2014. We are also pleased to report that our agency ranked in the top ten (out of 37 departments/large agencies) in the areas of Global Satisfaction (7th) and Employee Engagement (10th). Employee engagement is a leading indicator of performance and is a key objective of the People and Culture goal of the President’s Management Agenda.

Improving Performance and Accountability – The RRB will take steps to ensure that:

- Programmatic goals continue to be aggressive, realistic and accurately measured,
- Program improvement plans result in meaningful outcome improvements,
- Managers are accountable for achieving goals and improvement plans, and
- Program performance plans and outcomes are transparent.

Systems Security – Information security is a critical consideration for government agencies where maintaining the public’s trust is essential. The RRB relies extensively on computerized systems to support its mission operations and store the sensitive information that it collects. The RRB’s information security program is established and maintained to reasonably protect systems data and resources against internal failures, human errors, attacks and natural catastrophes that might cause improper disclosure, modification, destruction, or denial of services. To ensure mission continuity, plans and procedures exist to maintain continuity of

operations after a disruption of services for information systems that support the operations and assets of the RRB.

The RRB's Continuity of Operations plan consists of a number of components, including an Occupant Emergency Plan, a Business Continuity Plan, a Crisis Management Communication Plan, and technically specific plans for mainframe, local area network (LAN), data communications, and desktop recovery. The agency regularly conducts semi-annual off-site disaster recovery exercises. System programmers restore the systems and applications of the agency from back-ups retrieved from an alternate data storage facility. Program libraries are re-created and production databases established. Finally, business analysts verify that the systems recovered correctly.

Federal agencies are required to provide annual computer security awareness training for employees and contractors. Security awareness efforts are designed to change behavior or reinforce good security practices by focusing attention on security. We continue to develop new approaches for refreshing the awareness initiative by providing updated and innovative presentations for the agency staff. We have a full training program that combines a security awareness presentation with additional role-based training appropriate to the RRB's information technology environment. Every employee and contractor with computer network access participates in this annual event. Individuals who do not use a computer receive physical security awareness information. In addition to the awareness presentation, computer analysts, software developers and network/system engineers also receive specialized technical education necessary to maintain their skills and enhance proficiency. The formal awareness training program is supplemented by a weekly Security News feature story, prominently headlined on the Intranet's home page, reminding people to protect their computers and information throughout the year. Every year, the RRB awareness program has been able to report exemplary levels of participation.

The RRB kicked off its basic awareness training in April of 2015 using a web-based basic awareness program offered by SANS (an industry leader in security training) called "Securing the Human." Employees and contractors were required to complete 27 assigned training topics such as how to identify social engineering, how to perform safe browsing, and more. Additionally, with the increased risk of cyber-attacks impacting the RRB network, including phishing attacks, social engineering, and introduction of malware, it is imperative that all RRB employees with significant security responsibilities receive annual role based training. For 2015, the RRB has put in place a Learning Management System (LMS) that will make sure those staff with increased security responsibilities will receive the required training for their respective roles and responsibilities later in the year by completing course modules from SkillSoft designed specifically for information security role based training.

Faced with an increasingly dangerous threat environment, the RRB relies on a sophisticated hardware and software defense that utilizes carefully monitored and maintained firewall technology, anti-virus software and intrusion detection systems to prevent viruses, worms,

spam and malicious content from infiltrating the network, as well as to ensure that critical data and sensitive information are not compromised. To buttress these proactive threat management resources in the event of a successful malware attack, the agency has implemented a robust incident response capability. Utilizing the capabilities of a special Security Operations Center (SOC), the RRB Computer Emergency Response Team has the ability to conduct forensic collection and analysis of electronic evidence from almost any type of digital media in use today and respond to all network threats that impact the agency. The RRB has also established an Agency Core Response Group to determine if there is a reasonable expectation that an incident may be a data breach with the potential for identity theft, and notifies the Board members who will make the final decisions regarding breach notification.

The Security Authorization process is integral to the information security programs of Federal agencies. Performing the security authorization process helps provide an understanding of the risks and other factors that could adversely affect the agency's mission for all of the agency information systems. The RRB continues to follow a Security Authorization strategy for fiscal year 2015 that is in line with the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) Risk Management Framework (RMF) strategy and employs a continuous monitoring strategy to increase the effectiveness of our current information security program, performing annual risk assessments, as well as testing all security controls applicable to the information system. To further supplement the agency's continuous monitoring strategy, we recently formed a partnership with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and enrolled in the Continuous Diagnostic Mitigation (CDM) program. The CDM program increases the agency's visibility of potential threats continuously.

Strategic Objective: Effectively carry out responsibilities with respect to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. Although the RRB no longer has primary responsibility for the investment of the trust fund monies, it continues to have responsibilities in ensuring that the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (NRRIT), and its seven-member Board of Trustees, comply with the provisions of the Railroad Retirement Act. This responsibility will be fulfilled through review of the monthly, quarterly and annually submitted reports by the NRRIT, and its auditors' reports. In addition, the RRB's Board Members and General Counsel meet twice annually with the Trustees and receive detailed briefings during periodic telephone conferences.

The RRB has authority to bring civil action should it detect any violation of the Railroad Retirement Act or non-compliance with any provisions of that Act.

To facilitate coordination among the NRRIT and Federal Government organizations, the Department of the Treasury, OMB, NRRIT and RRB have entered into a voluntary memorandum of understanding concerning budgetary, accounting and financial reporting responsibilities.

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2017 Performance Plan	2012 Actual (\$108.6m)	2013 Actual (\$108.7m)	2014 Actual (\$110.3m)	2015 Actual ^{1/} (\$111.225m)	2016 Enacted (\$111.225m)	2017 President's Proposed (\$122.499m)
<i>STRATEGIC GOAL I: Provide Excellent Customer Service</i>						
<p><i>Strategic Objective: Pay benefits timely.</i> Goal leader for objectives I-A-1 through I-A-5; I-A-7 and I-A-8: Michael Tyllas, Director of Programs Goal leader for objective I-A-6: Dan Fadden, Director of Field Service Goal leader for objective I-A-9: Rachel L. Simmons, Director of Hearings and Appeals</p>						
I-A-1. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a railroad retirement employee or spouse initial annuity application within 35 days of the annuity beginning date, if advanced filed. (Measure: % ≤ 35 days)	96.3%	95.6%	95.2%	95.8%	95.0%	95.0%
I-A-2. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a railroad retirement employee or spouse initial annuity application within 60 days of the date the application was filed. (Measure: % ≤ 60 days)	97.9%	97.0%	95.3%	96.5%	95.0%	95.0%
I-A-3. RRB makes a decision to pay, deny or transfer to SSA an initial annuity application for a railroad retirement survivor not already receiving a benefit within 60 days of the annuity beginning date, or date filed (whichever is later). (Measure: % ≤ 60 days)	94.8%	96.1%	96.1%	94.3%	94.0%	94.0%

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2017 Performance Plan	2012 Actual (\$108.6m)	2013 Actual (\$108.7m)	2014 Actual (\$110.3m)	2015 Actual ^{1/} (\$111.225m)	2016 Enacted (\$111.225m)	2017 President's Proposed (\$122.499m)
I-A-4. RRB makes a decision to pay, deny or transfer to SSA an initial annuity application for a railroad retirement survivor already receiving the benefits as a spouse within 30 days of the RRB's receipt of first notice of the employee's death. (Measure: % ≤ 30 days)	95.6%	95.4%	95.5%	95.5%	94.5%	94.5%
I-A-5. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a lump sum death benefit within 60 days of the date the application was filed. (Measure: % ≤ 60 days)	98.4%	98.8%	98.4%	98.1%	98.0%	98.0%
I-A-6. RRB certifies a payment or releases a letter of denial of UI or SI benefits within 10 days of the date RRB receives the claim. (Measure: % ≤ 10 days)	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.4%	99.5%
I-A-7. RRB makes a decision to pay or deny a benefit for a disabled applicant or family member within 100 days of the date the application is filed. (Measure: % ≤ 100 days)	74.9%	72.5%	42.8%	31.0%	70.0%	Due to ongoing process improvement, RRB will re-baseline this metric for 2017.
I-A-8. RRB makes a payment to a disabled applicant within 25 days of the date of decision or earliest payment date, whichever is later. (Measure: % ≤ 25 days)	96.8%	95.1%	95.6%	95.8%	94.5%	94.5%

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2017 Performance Plan	2012 Actual (\$108.6m)	2013 Actual (\$108.7m)	2014 Actual (\$110.3m)	2015 Actual ^{1/} (\$111.225m)	2016 Enacted (\$111.225m)	2017 President's Proposed (\$122.499m)
I-A-9. Reduce the number of days elapsed between the date the appeal is filed and a decision is rendered. (Measure: average elapsed days)	336	316	270	261	270	235
Strategic Objective: Provide a range of choices in service delivery methods. Goal leader: Michael Tyllas, Director of Programs						
I-B-1. Offer electronic options to our customers, allowing them alternative ways to perform primary services via the Internet or interactive voice response systems. (Measure: Number of services available through electronic media)	19 services available	19 services available	19 services available	19 services available	20 services available	20 services available
I-B-2. Enable employers to use the Internet to conduct business with the RRB, in support of the Government Paperwork Elimination Act. (Measures: percentage of employers who use the on-line Employer Reporting System (ERS); number of services available through electronic media)	a) Employers using ERS:	85.0%	87.0%	98.3%	99.0%	99.0%
	b) Internet services:	19 Internet services available	21 Internet services available	26 Internet services available	27 Internet services available	29 Internet services available

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2017 Performance Plan	2012 Actual (\$108.6m)	2013 Actual (\$108.7m)	2014 Actual (\$110.3m)	2015 Actual ^{1/} (\$111.225m)	2016 Enacted (\$111.225m)	2017 President's Proposed (\$122.499m)	
<i>STRATEGIC GOAL II: Serve as Responsible Stewards for Our Customers' Trust Funds and Agency Resources</i>							
<i>Strategic Objective: Ensure that trust fund assets are protected, collected, recorded, and reported appropriately.</i> Goal leader: George V. Govan, Chief Financial Officer							
II-A-1. Debts will be collected through billing, offset, reclamation, referral to outside collection programs, and a variety of other collection efforts. (Measure: total overpayments recovered in the fiscal year / total overpayments established in the fiscal year.)	97.7%	97.7%	91.3%	99.6%	85.0%	85.0%	
<i>Strategic Objective: Ensure the accuracy and integrity of benefit programs.</i> Goal leader II-B-1(a)(b) and II-B-3 and 4: Michael Tyllas, Director of Programs Goal leader II-B-2(a)(b): Dan Fadden, Director of Field Service							
II-B-1. Achieve a railroad retirement benefit payment accuracy rate ^{2/} of at least 99%. (Measure: percent accuracy rate)	a) Initial payments:	99.75%	99.84%	99.52%	99.96% ^{3/}	99.60%	99.60%
	b) Sample post recurring payments:	99.97%	99.70%	100%	100% ^{3/}	99.60%	99.60%

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2017 Performance Plan	2012 Actual (\$108.6m)	2013 Actual (\$108.7m)	2014 Actual (\$110.3m)	2015 Actual ^{1/} (\$111.225m)	2016 Enacted (\$111.225m)	2017 President's Proposed (\$122.499m)	
II-B-2. Achieve a railroad unemployment/sickness insurance benefit payment accuracy rate ^{2/} of at least 99%. (Measure: percent accuracy rate)	a) Unemployment	99.83%	98.99%	99.83%	99.23%	99.50%	99.60%
	b) Sickness	99.37%	99.42%	99.52%	99.40%	99.40%	99.50%
II-B-3. Overall Initial Disability Determination Accuracy. (Measure: % of Case Accuracy)	New Indicator for FY2015	New Indicator for FY2015	New Indicator for FY2015	FY 2015 performance will be measured in FY 2016.	96.00%	96.00%	
II-B-4. Maintain the level of Railroad Retirement Act (RRA) improper payments below the OMB threshold. (Measure: prior to FY14, below 2.5%; beginning FY14, below 1.5%)	0.59%	0.54%	0.70%	0.59%	0.90%	1.00%	

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2017 Performance Plan	2012 Actual (\$108.6m)	2013 Actual (\$108.7m)	2014 Actual (\$110.3m)	2015 Actual ^{1/} (\$111.225m)	2016 Enacted (\$111.225m)	2017 President's Proposed (\$122.499m)
II-B-5. Achieve a return of at least \$3.60 for each dollar spent on program integrity activities. (Measure: recoverables and savings per dollar spent.)	\$4.55: \$1.00	\$4.90: \$1.00	\$5.20: \$1.00	\$4.49: \$1.00	\$4.50: \$1.00	\$4.25 \$1.00
<p><i>Strategic Objective: Ensure effectiveness, efficiency, and security of operations.</i> Goal leader: Ram Murthy, Chief Information Officer</p>						
II-C-1. Complete modernization of RRB processing systems in accordance with long-range planning goals. (Measure: Meet target dates for the project. Yes/No)	Yes. The RUIA conversion was completed in October 2012. We began conversion work on the Employment Data Maintenance (EDM) database.	Yes. The conversion of the EDM database was completed in January 2013. The design phase of the Payment Rate and Entitlement History (PREH) database was completed in December 2013.	No. The target date for PREH conversion is delayed due to higher priority project (TPAM) mandated by US Treasury. New target: April 30, 2015.	Yes. The target date for the RUIA XR modernization and Medicare Database conversion has been met. PREH conversion is delayed due to staff working on higher priority project (the Disability Program Improvement Plan). The new target date is September 30, 2016.	No. The modernization of the Tax Database will now be incorporated in the multi-year Mainframe Applications Re-engineering project.	Project complete.

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2017 Performance Plan	2012 Actual (\$108.6m)	2013 Actual (\$108.7m)	2014 Actual (\$110.3m)	2015 Actual ^{1/} (\$111.225m)	2016 Enacted (\$111.225m)	2017 President's Proposed (\$122.499m)
II-C-2. Deliver – Deliver on Budget. Percent of IT Projects costs within 10% of budgeted cost.	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	85%	85%
II-C-3. Deliver – Meet Customer Expectations. <u>WWW.RRB.GOV</u> Internet Services (Mainline and employer Reporting System) Continuous availability experienced by end users.	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	Continuous availability target: 99.0% Hours of outage allowed per month: 7 hours	Continuous availability target: 99.0% Hours of outage allowed per month: 7 hours
II-C-4. Innovate – Design for Modularity. Strategy for Continuity of Operations Improvements.	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	Implement automatic failover of email system to alternate facility.	Continue working on application of HTTPS – only standard to www.rrb.gov.
II-C-5. Innovate – Adopt New Technologies. Percentage of investments that evaluated cloud alternatives.	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	98.5%	98.5%
II-C-6. Protect – Email Data Loss Prevention. Percentage of externally bound emails and their attachments automatically encrypted that contain personally identifiable or credit card information.	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	99%	99%

Railroad Retirement Board FY 2017 Performance Plan	2012 Actual (\$108.6m)	2013 Actual (\$108.7m)	2014 Actual (\$110.3m)	2015 Actual ^{1/} (\$111.225m)	2016 Enacted (\$111.225m)	2017 President's Proposed (\$122.499m)
II-C-7. Protect – Percentage of agency employees required to use a Personal Identity Verification (PIV) card to authenticate.	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	New Performance Goal for FY 2016	100%	100%
<i>Strategic objective: Effectively carry out responsibilities with respect to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust.</i> Goal leader: Karl T. Blank, General Counsel						
II-D-1. Timely review information reported by the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust to carry out RRB's oversight responsibility under section 15(j)(5)(F) of the Railroad Retirement Act. Reports are to be reviewed within 30 days of receipt. (Measure: Yes/No)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Footnotes are following:

^{1/} Actual results represent status as of September 30, 2015, unless otherwise noted.

^{2/} The payment accuracy rate is the percentage of dollars paid correctly as a result of adjudication actions performed.

^{3/} The actual results represent status as of March 31, 2015.

JUSTIFICATION OF ESTIMATES

The Administration's Proposed Appropriation Language

DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For payment to the Dual Benefits Payments Account, authorized under section 15(d) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, [\$29,000,000] \$25,000,000, which shall include amounts becoming available in fiscal year [2016] 2017 pursuant to section 224(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 98-76; and in addition, an amount, not to exceed 2 percent of the amount provided herein, shall be available proportional to the amount by which the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available for payment of vested dual benefits: *Provided*, That the total amount provided herein shall be credited in 12 approximately equal amounts on the first day of each month in the fiscal year. (*Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016.*)

Explanation of Proposed Appropriation Language

<u>Appropriation language</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
<p>For payment to the Dual Benefits Payments Account, authorized under section 15(d) of the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, [\$29,000,000] \$25,000,000, which shall include amounts becoming available in fiscal year [2016] 2017 pursuant to section 224(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 98-76; and in addition, an amount, not to exceed 2 percent of the amount provided herein, shall be available proportional to the amount by which the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available for payment of vested dual benefits: <i>Provided</i>, That the total amount provided herein shall be credited in 12 approximately equal amounts on the first day of each month in the fiscal year.</p>	<p>The proposed appropriation language provides \$25,000,000 to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for payment of vested dual benefits. Of the \$25,000,000, it is estimated that \$2 million will be derived from income tax revenues as provided by Section 224(c)(1)(B) of Public Law 98-76. Also, an additional reserve amount not to exceed \$500,000 (\$25,000,000 X 2%) will be made available only if the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available. The monies provided to the Dual Benefits Payments Account are to be made available to the account on a monthly basis in 12 approximately equal amounts.</p>

Authorizing Legislation

Legislation	2016		2017	
	Authorized	Current estimate	Authorized	Appropriation request
Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 as amended: Sections 15(d)(1), 7(c)(1), and 15(i)(2)				
Dual Benefits Payments	Indefinite	\$29,000,000	Indefinite	\$25,000,000

Section 15(d)(1):

"There is hereby created an account in the Treasury of the United States to be known as the Dual Benefits Payments Account. There is hereby authorized to be appropriated to such account for each fiscal year beginning with the fiscal year ending September 30, 1982, such sums as are necessary to pay during such fiscal year the amounts of annuities estimated by the Board to be paid under sections 3(h), 4(e), and 4(h) of this Act and under sections 204(a)(3), 204(a)(4), 206(3), and 207(3) of Public Law 93-445."

Section 7(c)(1):

"In any fiscal year, the total amounts paid under such sections shall not exceed the total sums appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that fiscal year."

Section 15(i)(2):

"The Secretary of the Treasury shall, on a monthly basis, credit each account established in the Treasury for the payment of benefits under this Act for the proportionate amount of benefit checks (including interest thereon) drawn on each such Account more than six months previously but not presented for payment and not previously credited to such Account, to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts."

Appropriations History Table

Dual Benefits Payments Account a/

<u>Year</u>	<u>Budget estimate to the Congress</u>	<u>House allowance</u>	<u>Senate allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation/ continuing resolution</u>	
2008	79,000,000	79,000,000	79,000,000	79,000,000	b/
2009	72,000,000	72,000,000	72,000,000	72,000,000	
2010	64,000,000	64,000,000	64,000,000	64,000,000	
2011	57,000,000	---	---	56,886,000	c/
2012	51,000,000	---	---	50,914,950	d/
2013	45,000,000	---	---	50,914,950	e/
2014	39,000,000	---	---	39,000,000	f/
2015	34,000,000	---	---	34,000,000	g/
2016	29,000,000	---	---	29,000,000	h/
2017	25,000,000	---	---		

a/ For all amounts on the following table, the appropriation language provides that an additional amount, not to exceed 2 percent of the appropriation amount, shall become available under certain conditions to provide for full payment of vested dual benefits. The appropriation language also specifies that the amount made available will be credited to the account on a monthly basis in 12 approximately equal amounts.

b/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$79,000,000 provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008 (P.L. 110-161), less a rescission of \$1,380,130 in accordance with P.L. 110-161. Additional funding was allocated from the contingency reserve to restore the funding level to \$79,000,000 and ensure full payment of vested dual benefits.

c/ Amount reflects the level of funding provided by the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P.L. 112-10). This amount reflects an appropriation of \$57,000,000 less a rescission of \$114,000.

d/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$51,000,000, less a rescission of \$85,050 provided by the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74).

e/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$50,914,950 provided by the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriation Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-6).

f/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$39,000,000 provided by the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).

g/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$34,000,000 provided by the Consolidated and Further Appropriation Act, 2015 (P.L. 113-235).

h/ Amount reflects an appropriation of \$29,000,000 provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113).

Funding Sources

The proposed appropriation language calls for funding from the following source.

<u>Funding sources</u>	<u>Budget authority <u>a/</u></u>
General revenue	\$25,000,000
[Of the \$25,000,000 to be funded from general revenue, \$2,000,000 is expected from income taxes on vested dual benefits.]	

a/ The proposed appropriation language provides that "... an amount, not to exceed 2 percent of the amount provided herein, shall be available proportional to the amount by which the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available for payment of vested dual benefits"

Dual Benefits Payments Account

Amounts Available for Obligation

	<u>Fiscal year 2015 Actual</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2016</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2017 Estimate</u>
Appropriation, excluding 2% contingency reserve (general funds of the Treasury)	\$34,000,000	\$29,000,000	\$25,000,000
Transfer from other accounts (Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts)	<u>2,000</u> a/	<u>2,000</u> a/	<u>2,000</u> a/
Subtotal:	\$34,002,000	\$29,002,000	\$25,002,000
Less:			
Unobligated balance	<u>\$2,136,718</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total obligations (payments to beneficiaries)	<u>\$31,865,282</u>	<u>\$29,002,000</u>	<u>\$25,002,000</u>

a/ This amount represents this account's share of interest on uncashed checks.

Explanation of 2017 Request

This is the 42nd request for appropriations authorized by the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to fund vested dual benefits received by railroad retirees who, under prior law, would have become covered by both the railroad retirement system and the social security system because railroad retirement was not fully coordinated with social security from 1937 to 1974.

Under laws in effect prior to 1975, a worker engaging in covered employment under both the Railroad Retirement Act and Social Security Act could receive benefits separately under both Acts. Because the social security benefit formula is weighted in favor of the low wage earner, the total of a worker's benefits from both systems averaged more than annuities of railroad employees who worked in the rail industry exclusively, and who had paid proportionally higher retirement taxes for the purpose of receiving higher benefits. The cost of the dual benefits was borne by the railroad retirement system since they reduced the system's income from its financial interchange with the social security system.

This situation was the major cause of the poor financial condition of the railroad retirement system in the early 1970s. In order to improve the system's financial condition, the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 provided that the tier I component of the railroad retirement annuity be reduced by any social security benefit. This essentially integrated the two systems and eliminated the advantage of qualifying for benefits under both systems.

However, it was generally considered unfair to eliminate this advantage entirely for those already retired or close to retirement when the 1974 Act became effective. The 1974 Act, therefore, provided for a restoration of benefits which were considered vested at the end of 1974. The restored amount was known as the "vested dual benefit."

After considering various alternatives, the Congress authorized general fund appropriations to finance the cost of phasing out dual benefits. The Congress considered it unfair to impose this cost on current and future railroad employees because such employees would not be permitted to receive dual benefits upon retirement (except where vested rights were involved). Similarly, the Congress believed that it would be unfair to impose this cost on railroads because railroads had not benefitted and had consistently opposed the creation and expansion of dual benefits. Financing the vested dual benefit component of railroad retirement annuities from general revenues was supported by a precedent regarding military service and by the fact that the dual benefit problem had been brought about by prior Congressional action repealing past dual benefit restrictions over the objections of the railroads.

Under the 1974 Act, appropriations had been authorized from general revenues for the phase-out costs of vested dual benefits. The amounts were to be sufficient to fund vested dual benefits on a level payment basis over the years 1976-2000. Because there was no provision in the law to reduce vested dual benefits to a level that would be fully covered by the amount appropriated, railroad retirement taxes were being used to cover the shortfall in

the appropriation from general revenues. This led to a drain on the Railroad Retirement Account and contributed to a cash flow crisis.

To stop the resulting drain on the Railroad Retirement Account, the 1981 amendments changed vested dual benefits to a pay-as-you-go basis rather than a level-payment system. Starting in fiscal year 1982, vested dual benefits were to be reduced so as not to exceed the amount of the annual appropriation.

The Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983 provided that revenues generated from income taxes on vested dual benefits be credited to the Railroad Retirement Account for fiscal years 1984 through 1988, and thereafter to the Dual Benefits Payments Account. Thus, since fiscal year 1989, these taxes have been credited to the Dual Benefits Payments Account and applied as an offset to the amount of funding needed from general revenues.

The fiscal year 2017 appropriation language provides for 12 monthly payments to this account from general revenues and specifies that \$25,000,000 be appropriated for benefits. In addition, the proposed language provides that an additional amount not to exceed 2 percent of the \$25,000,000 appropriated -- or up to \$500,000 -- shall be available proportional to the amount by which the product of recipients and the average benefit received exceeds the amount available for payment of vested dual benefits.

JUSTIFICATION OF ESTIMATES

The Administration's Proposed Appropriation Language

FEDERAL PAYMENTS TO THE RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

For payment to the accounts established in the Treasury for the payment of benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act for interest earned on unnegotiated checks, \$150,000, to remain available through September 30, [2017] 2018, which shall be the maximum amount available for payment pursuant to section 417 of Public Law 98-76. (*Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016*).

Explanation of Proposed Appropriation Language

<u>Appropriation language</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
<p>For payment to the accounts established in the Treasury for the payment of benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act for interest earned on unnegotiated checks, \$150,000, to remain available through September 30, [2017] 2018, which shall be the maximum amount available for payment pursuant to section 417 of Public Law 98-76.</p>	<p>Section 417 of Public Law 98-76 (Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983) amended the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 to provide for monthly transfers from the Treasury of amounts for benefit checks drawn 6 months earlier and not presented for payment.</p> <p>Since fiscal year 1991, the RRB does not receive credits to this account for the principal amount of uncashed railroad retirement checks under provisions of the Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987. Instead, such funds, which are appropriated to the Treasury, are transferred directly to the railroad retirement accounts and the Dual Benefits Payments Account. Interest on uncashed railroad retirement checks, however, must still be appropriated in advance to this account.</p>

Authorizing Legislation

Legislation	2016		2017	
	Authorized	Current estimate	Authorized	Appropriation request
Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983, Section 417	Indefinite	\$150,000 <u>a/</u>	Indefinite	\$150,000
Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987, Section 1003				
Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, as amended, Section 15(i)(2)				

"The Secretary of the Treasury shall, on a monthly basis, credit each account established in the Treasury for the payment of benefits under this Act for the proportionate amount of benefit checks (including interest thereon) drawn on each such Account more than six months previously but not presented for payment and not previously credited to such Account, to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts."

Appropriations History Table

<u>Fiscal year</u>	<u>Budget estimate to the Congress</u>	<u>House allowance</u>	<u>Senate allowance</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
2008	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$ 150,000	\$150,000
2009	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2010	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2011	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
2012	150,000	---	---	150,000
2013	150,000	---	---	150,000
2014	150,000	---	---	150,000
2015	150,000	---	---	150,000
2016	150,000	---	---	150,000 <u>a/</u>
2017	150,000			

a/ This amount reflects the level of funding provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113).

Note: Amounts appropriated are available for 2 years.

Federal Payments to the Railroad Retirement Accounts
(Appropriations for Uncashed Checks)

Amounts Available for Obligation

	<u>Fiscal year 2015 actual</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2016 estimate</u>	<u>Fiscal year 2017 estimate</u>
Appropriation	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Plus:			
Unobligated balance, start of year	<u>150,000 a/</u>	<u>150,000 a/</u>	<u>150,000 a/</u>
Subtotal:	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000
Less:			
Unobligated balance, end of year	<u>276,747</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>
Total obligations	<u>\$23,253</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>	<u>\$100,000</u>

a/ Of the total end of year unobligated balance, only the \$150,000 appropriated in the previous fiscal year is brought forward into the subsequent fiscal year.

Explanation of 2017 Request

Prior to enactment of Section 417 of the Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983, amounts for uncashed benefit checks were not credited to the Railroad Retirement Accounts. Section 417 provided a two-part process for recovering unnegotiated benefit check amounts. The first part, represented by the 1985 appropriation request, was a catch-up mechanism to credit the accounts with the amount of all uncashed checks issued prior to May 1985, that the Treasury and the RRB could jointly identify from accounting records. The amount agreed upon and appropriated in 1985 was \$15 million and was to remain available through September 30, 1986.

The second part of the process went into effect for checks issued on and after May 1, 1985. From that date, on a monthly basis, the Treasury transferred to the account amounts represented by checks drawn 6 months earlier and not presented for payment. These amounts were provided for, in advance, in appropriation acts. For fiscal year 1991 and thereafter, the RRB is to seek appropriation authority only for the interest earned on unnegotiated checks. Under provisions of the Competitive Equality Banking Act of 1987, the principal amount of uncashed railroad retirement checks is to be appropriated to the Treasury, which in turn shall transfer such amounts directly to the appropriate RRB accounts.

The appropriation proposed for fiscal year 2017 provides that funds would be available for 2 years, through September 30, 2018.

**Information Technology Strategy and Benefits
Fiscal Year 2017**

The fiscal year 2017 information technology investment to re-engineer mainframe applications builds on fiscal year 2016 investments in support of the RRB’s Office in the Cloud plan to enable a “future ready” RRB workforce. The plan provides staff with modern tools and technologies to do their jobs in the most efficient and effective manner that leads to sustained customer satisfaction in the railroad community we serve. The strategy for Office in the Cloud incorporates the President’s Management Agenda to improve the way that Government works and delivers for citizens by four pillars: efficiency, effectiveness, economic growth, and people and culture.¹

The fiscal year 2017 IT investments reflect OMB Guidance Levels and do not encompass all investments at the preliminary Agency Request Level.

Investment	President’s Proposed
Mainframe Applications Re-engineering	\$6,100,000
Information Technology Staff Augmentation	0
Records Management System	0
Workstation Equipment Replacement	0
Imaging System Replacement	0
Secure Wireless Office	0
Microsoft Dynamics CRM	0
Continuity of Operations – User Community	0
Content Management Services	0
Risk Management & Privacy	0
Enterprise Test Lab	0
Office 365	0
Beneficiary & Employer Systems Strong Authentication	0
Firewall	0
Employer Reporting System	0
Employee Time Entry	0
Enterprise Mobile Management	0
Electronic Freedom of Information Act (e-FOIA) System	0
Secure Pull Printing	0
Total, IT Capital Plan requests	\$6,100,000

¹ Office of Management and Budget, Fiscal Year 2017 Budget Guidance (OMB Memorandum M -15-11) (May 1, 2015).

**Information Technology Strategy and Benefits
Fiscal Year 2017**

System Modernization (\$6,100,000)

The RRB has taken significant strategic steps to improve its computer processes, first by moving to a relational database environment, and next by optimizing the data that resides in its databases. The next strategic step is to take advantage of the optimized relational database structure and modernize the agency’s computer systems and processes.

Many of the RRB’s existing systems are old and complex and require a large investment in maintenance from both a technical and business perspective. Because of the complexity and size of this project we are taking a measured multi-phased approach. The project’s holistic approach builds an information infrastructure to support the RRB’s critical business processes. By modernizing its systems, the RRB will ultimately decrease the time and cost to develop and operate the systems, allowing us to focus on new initiatives that will improve business practices and save or control costs.

Mainframe Applications Re-engineering | \$6,100,000

The RRB’s mainframe environment includes 200 major application systems consisting of more than 4,200 custom programs and approximately 7 million lines of code in COBOL. The reengineering effort is a transition to a distributed architecture with open standards. There is also a cultural shift from batch oriented processing to interactive transactional processing. A desired outcome of this strategy is that applications run more efficiently, with simplified logic that is easy to understand, and are better documented.

A large number of agency’s information technology employees are at or nearing retirement age. As years go by, the skills required to enhance and maintain the legacy skills, especially developers with COBOL skills, will be few and hard to find. By re-engineering the applications, we mitigate the inherent risks of aging workforce of which 40% can retire today, each taking with them the institutional knowledge of 40+ years. Given that technology advances rapidly, it is essential that the bureau have the ability to modernize business applications to support the agency’s strategic goals and objectives. This means there needs to be a renewed focus to revolutionize the current applications development environment to make it flexible to accommodate change, and embrace new technologies.

Note: The Mainframe Applications Re-engineering project is a multi-year effort that requires additional funding in fiscal year 2018 to complete the re-engineering and transition to a distributed architecture with open standards.

Mainframe Applications Re-engineering	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	Total
Applications Reengineering	\$0	\$6,100,000	\$8,660,090	\$14,760,090

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Summary of Full-Time Equivalent Employment

Series	Rank	FY 2015 actual	FY 2016 estimate	FY 2017 estimate
Executive	Level III	1	1	1
	Level IV	2	2	2
Senior Executive Service	ES-00	7	7	7
General Schedule/Management	GS/GM-15	33	32	32
	GS/GM-14	57	58	58
	GS/GM-13	112	108	108
	GS-12	199	196	198
	GS-11	132	131	130
	GS-10	121	120	120
	GS-9	55	51	50
	GS-8	34	32	32
	GS-7	53	57	57
	GS-6	7	9	7
	GS-5	35	31	26
	GS-4	19	25	22
	GS-3	0	0	0
	GS-2	0	0	0
Wage Board	All Levels	0	0	0
Combined	Total	867	860	850

Positions in the Office of Inspector General are excluded.

AVERAGE ES AND GS/GM SALARIES AND BENEFITS
AND GS/GM GRADES

	FY 2015 actual	FY 2016 estimate	FY 2017 estimate
Average ES salary	\$173,993	\$176,605	\$177,930
Average ES benefits	52,146	54,501	55,321
Subtotal, ES	226,139	231,106	233,251
Average GS/GM salary	\$80,744	\$83,137	\$87,199
Average GS/GM benefits	24,199	25,656	27,111
Subtotal, GS/GM	104,943	108,793	114,310
Average GS/GM grade	12.3	12.5	12.6

Railroad Retirement Board
Employee Relocation Expenses

	Past year FY 2015	Current year FY 2016	Budget year FY 2017
Total	<u>\$422,326</u>	<u>\$242,000</u>	<u>\$242,000</u>

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS FOR FY 2017

1. **Amend the Railroad Retirement Act to allow the Railroad Retirement Board to utilize various hiring authorities available to other Federal agencies.**

Section 7(b)(9) of the Railroad Retirement Act contains language requiring that all employees of the Railroad Retirement Board, except for one assistant for each Board Member, must be hired under the competitive civil service.

Elimination of this requirement would enable the Railroad Retirement Board to use various hiring authorities offered by the Office of Personnel Management.

2. **Amend the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act to include a felony charge for individuals committing fraud against the Agency.**

Section 13 of the Railroad Retirement Act and Section 9 of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act contain misdemeanor charges for individuals committing fraud against the Railroad Retirement Board.

The Railroad Retirement Board proposes to amend the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts to include a felony charge for individuals committing fraud against the Agency.

Under this proposal, both the Railroad Retirement Act and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act would be amended to include a felony charge similar to violations under 42 U.S.C. § 408, 18 U.S.C. § 1001, or 18 U.S.C. § 287.

3. **Amend the Social Security Act to provide access for the Railroad Retirement Board to the National Directory of New Hires.**

The Social Security Act provides for a National Directory of New Hires (NDNH). The Directory is used to enhance child support payments and in enforcement of the tax laws of the United States. In addition, the Commissioner of Social Security is granted access to the Directory.

The 2017 Budget includes a package of proposals to allow additional programs and agencies authority to access the National Directory of New Hire Data, a federal database of employment and unemployment insurance information administered by the Office of Child Support Enforcement within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Access to this data is tightly controlled by statute, and HHS implements strong privacy, confidentiality, and security protections to protect the data from unauthorized use or disclosure. Currently several programs are successfully using this data for program integrity, implementation, and research purposes, and the use of that data has led to important insights and program integrity gains. The Budget proposes to build on this strong history of data stewardship and protection to allow additional programs and

agencies to access this valuable data to learn what works and improve program implementation, while continuing to protect the privacy, security and confidentiality of that data. Included in this package is the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB).

The Railroad Retirement Board pays benefits under both the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts that are based in part on a claimant's earnings. The RRB currently conducts wage matches with all 50 States to detect improper payments. The 2017 Budget proposes access to NDNH for RRB in order to conduct wage matches, establish eligibility for disability benefits in a more efficient manner, and detect potential improper payment of benefits under the Railroad Retirement and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Acts.

The proposal also includes penalties for unauthorized access, use, disclosure, or re-disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII); clear specification of each authorized purpose; a requirement that the minimum data necessary be accessed; and satisfies the Administration's criteria for when authority to access NDNH data should be considered.

The package also requires HHS to review each agency's security position before they allow that agency to access the data, prohibits HHS from granting access to the data for any purpose not authorized in statute, and requires HHS to generate a public reporting on the use of NDNH data. Please see Budget, Chapter, A Government of the Future, and HHS's Administration for Children and Families Congressional Justification for additional information on the full package of NDNH access proposals and the criteria for considering access to NDNH data.

RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD

Program Integrity Administrative Expenses Account Proposal

The proposal includes the creation of a new limitation account entitled Program Integrity Administrative Expenses, which would reflect \$4.3M in mandatory funding for RRB's program integrity activities for fiscal year 2017 in addition to amounts provided to RRB through the Limitation on Administrative Expenses account. If approved, the funds should be available as no year funds, providing us with the flexibility to aggressively hire and train staff to support the processing of more program integrity work.

In light of recent disability fraud events that have impacted the RRB, like other federal government agencies, the RRB needs to address this challenge through the following objectives: increase staff disability oversight, improve existing program integrity functions, and implement initiatives to target groups of annuitants most likely to commit medical and/or earnings fraud.

The proposed \$4.3M was determined based on a review of current operations as well as disability recommendations from the Government Accountability Office and the RRB's Office of Inspector General. Below is a breakout of the funding requirement to enhance program integrity objectives:

<u>Cost Item</u>	<u>FTEs</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Staffing:		
Process and Documentation Enhancements	7	\$ 770,000
Program Quality Evaluation	4	440,000
Continuing Disability Review/Certification	6	660,000
Chief Medical Officer	1	244,245
Contractual:		
Fraud Training		32,000
Independent Specialist Medical Exams		1,240,000
Functional Capacity Evaluations (FCE's)		110,500
Advisory Committee/Consultant Services		398,000
Printing/Mailing Contracts		60,000
Enhanced Earnings Monitoring		405,000
Total	18	\$4,359,745

Staffing Costs: Augmented staff includes 4 people dedicated to quality assurance and 7 people dedicated to program evaluation through such activities as oversight of fraud prevention initiatives, special studies, and the development/implementation of enhanced procedures critical to program integrity. An additional 6 employees will support enhanced emphasis on initial eligibility and continuing entitlement to benefits, such as an expanded Continuing Disability Reviews program, annual certifications and other required reporting. A Chief Medical Officer

will be hired providing assistance and guidance to agency staff in the adjudication of disability claims, work with our medical contractors and being a part of the future contracting teams that evaluate bids from outside medical contractors, develop a process to ensure that examiners and others in the disability application and determination process have updated training on development and interpretation of medical evidence, and collaborate with the Board to ensure the administration of our disability program is carried out effectively.

Contractual Costs: Contractual costs include on-going annual fraud training for employees at all levels of the organization, confirming medical exams for all initial disability applications with specialists performing exams on a number of problematic infirmities, such as mental and orthopedic conditions, enhanced earnings monitoring with the use of The Work Number, consulting services for evaluations and guidance to ensure our enhancements are beneficial, and the increased cost for printing and mailing annual certifications of continued eligibility, annual earnings reminder notices and other enhanced communications with beneficiaries.

The Railroad Retirement Board has proven that we are a good investment over the 80 years the RRB has been in operation. We continue to work smarter and more efficiently. Our program integrity efforts save the Trust Fund from which railroad benefits are paid an estimated \$4.49 for each \$1.00 spent on program integrity activities. With adequate funding, we will ramp up our cost-effective program integrity work, provide enhanced quality service, and invest in initiatives that allow us to offer better and more efficient customer service and to protect the Trust Funds.