
Quarterly Benefit Statistics

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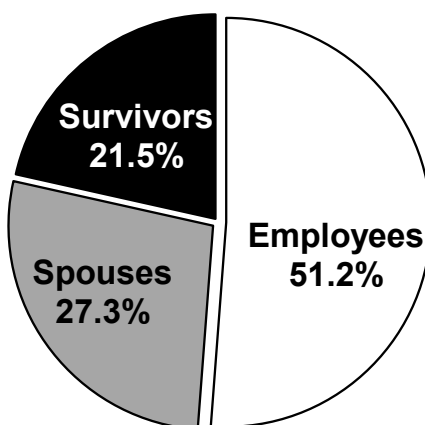
Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs

Selected Current Statistics for **October - December 2017**

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Railroad Retirement and Survivor Beneficiaries on the Rolls, by Type, December 2017

(517,000 beneficiaries)



NOTE.--Some 6,200 employees also received spouse annuities and approximately 2,200 employees also received survivor annuities.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
October - December 2017**

Period	Employee annuities							
	Total ¹		Age			Supple- mental ³	Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries	Awarded age annuity	Disability converted to age annuity ²	Disability			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2017	648,014	516,764	190,450	46,592	27,268	121,902	142,337	5,100
November 2017	647,835	516,591	190,368	46,398	27,488	121,917	142,095	5,080
October 2017	648,119	516,809	190,416	46,286	27,732	122,003	141,925	5,069
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2017	.....	.....	\$2,783.22	\$2,448.09	\$2,739.04	\$41.53	\$1,039.75	\$645.82
November 2017	.....	.....	2,738.23	2,406.40	2,693.31	41.53	1,024.24	632.81
October 2017	.....	.....	2,735.15	2,403.88	2,692.37	41.54	1,023.16	633.28
Number awarded during period								
December 2017	1,987	1,739	434	.....	134	248	623	50
November 2017	2,671	2,281	689	.....	125	390	853	59
October 2017	2,976	2,529	881	.....	137	447	902	57
10/17 - 12/17	7,634	6,549	2,004	.....	396	1,085	2,378	166
10/16 - 12/16	7,412	6,254	1,902	.....	347	1,158	2,322	148
Average amount awarded during period⁴								
December 2017	.....	.....	\$3,192.07	.....	\$2,277.99	\$40.64	\$1,095.18	\$753.23
November 2017	.....	.....	3,273.84	.....	2,867.65	40.79	1,131.74	632.92
October 2017	.....	.....	3,359.52	.....	2,653.71	41.22	1,105.34	745.47
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵								
December 2017	\$1,044,700	.....	\$522,415	\$111,492	\$78,097	\$5,069	\$146,900	\$3,336
November 2017	1,045,729	.....	522,757	111,055	79,102	5,080	147,109	3,330
October 2017	1,044,819	.....	522,518	110,691	79,901	5,087	146,407	3,305
10/17 - 12/17	3,135,248	.....	1,567,690	333,238	237,100	15,236	440,416	9,971
10/16 - 12/16	3,104,219	.....	1,535,265	317,234	262,355	15,337	430,785	9,587

¹Includes dependent parents' annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. Benefit payments also include hospital insurance benefits for services in Canada. ²A disability annuity ends when the retiree attains full retirement age, at which time the annuity converts to an age and service annuity. Consequently, these annuitants are receiving age and service annuities. Full retirement age is age 65 for those born before 1938 and gradually increases to age 67 for those born 1960 and later. ³Excludes partition payments to spouses and divorced spouses where the employee is deceased. Averages are after court-ordered partitions. ⁴Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates. ⁵Data provided by the Bureau of Fiscal Operations.

NOTE--MONTHLY BENEFITS in CURRENT-PAYMENT STATUS at the end of month include all benefits awarded to date and payable for the month. BENEFITS AWARDED consist of those certified for the first time on either a partial or final basis. BENEFIT PAYMENTS for a month, shown in both the benefit and financial statistics, consist of recurrent monthly checks dated the first of the month, plus retroactive and lump-sum payments made during the month, less returned checks (excluding those not yet distributed by Account), refunds of benefits paid previously, etc. Data are on a cash basis (unaudited) and are partly estimated.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
October - December 2017 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits									
Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments	Partition payments ⁷
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers ⁶	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers				
Number in current-payment status at end of period									
December 2017	87,255	3,501	634	3,038	9,725	8,454	.....	.....	1,737
November 2017	87,402	3,503	637	3,029	9,696	8,468	.....	.....	1,733
October 2017	87,607	3,508	626	3,034	9,699	8,476	.....	.....	1,718
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period									
December 2017	\$1,683.46	\$1,347.45	\$1,882.93	\$1,095.74	\$1,102.84	\$1,103.38	.....	.....	\$316.33
November 2017	1,672.44	1,334.34	1,883.72	1,072.89	1,080.63	1,084.21	.....	.....	315.74
October 2017	1,668.13	1,330.94	1,875.88	1,071.66	1,079.25	1,080.48	.....	.....	315.17
Number awarded during period									
December 2017	379	5	7	10	65	32	190	1	.....
November 2017	431	11	10	11	62	29	172	---	.....
October 2017	438	6	8	13	52	35	175	---	.....
10/17 - 12/17	1,248	22	25	34	179	96	537	1	.....
10/16 - 12/16	1,237	15	18	20	145	100	522	---	.....
Average amount awarded during period⁴									
December 2017	\$2,103.37	\$2,109.62	\$1,095.38	\$1,181.40	\$1,212.60	\$1,184.01	\$924	\$3,615	.....
November 2017	2,186.52	1,929.12	2,069.43	1,311.27	1,201.08	1,570.49	910	---	.....
October 2017	2,118.59	2,560.40	1,990.74	1,408.00	1,141.92	1,356.36	910	---	.....
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵									
December 2017	\$146,929	\$4,866	\$1,233	\$3,293	\$10,695	\$9,617	\$182	\$4	\$552
November 2017	146,653	5,001	1,278	3,290	10,619	9,716	162	---	546
October 2017	146,511	4,890	1,244	3,300	10,556	9,684	167	---	540
10/17 - 12/17	440,093	14,757	3,755	9,883	31,870	29,017	511	4	1,638
10/16 - 12/16	442,847	14,047	3,850	10,010	31,428	29,327	507	---	1,578

⁶Number and average in current-payment status, and benefit payments during period, includes annuities to disabled widow(er)s age 60 and over now payable as aged widow(er)s' annuities. ⁷Limited to partition payments to spouses and divorced spouses where the employee is deceased or not otherwise entitled to an annuity. Partition payments from employees on the rolls are included with the employees' annuities.

NOTE--(Continued from previous page.)

FOR WIDOWS and WIDOWERS aged 60 and over and WIDOWED MOTHERS and FATHERS, the number of benefits being paid and benefit payments include benefits temporarily being continued at spouse annuity rates, pending award of survivor annuities.

INSURANCE LUMP SUMS and RESIDUAL PAYMENTS are each counted only once with respect to an employee's death even though divided among 2 or more persons. Award data for insurance lump sums exclude deferred benefits, i.e., those payable a year after the employee's death.

Data on benefit payments are for CALENDAR MONTHS; all other data are for ACCOUNTING MONTHS ending on approximately the 29th of each month.

Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics
October - December 2017 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)

Item	December 2017	November 2017	October 2017	October 2017 - December 2017	October 2016 - December 2016
RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period¹	\$489,454	\$636,047	\$446,656	\$446,656	\$739,556
Income, total	556,779	447,312	788,585	1,792,676	1,442,946
Payroll taxes ²	197,396	207,183	239,368	643,947	607,730
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	105,000	105,000	104,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	139,316	141,716	141,307	422,339	403,326
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust ⁴	219,000	97,000	302,000	618,000	326,000
Transfer from SSEB Account ⁴	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ⁵	43	.....	.....	43	-1,764
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury ⁶	20	48	19	86	58
Interest on investments ⁷	1,005	1,365	892	3,261	3,597
Outgo, total	590,061	593,905	599,194	1,783,160	1,741,688
Benefit payments	448,155	448,528	447,653	1,344,336	1,321,894
Payments of SSA benefits	138,944	141,059	141,320	421,322	401,428
Transfer to SSEB Account ⁴	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses ⁸	2,715	3,955	9,409	16,080	17,066
Funding for Office of Inspector General	247	362	813	1,421	1,300
Balance at end of period¹	456,171	489,454	636,047	456,171	440,814
NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST					
Cash and investment balance at end of period⁹	\$26,803,241	\$26,695,593	\$26,436,217	\$26,803,241	\$24,866,057
DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT¹⁰					
Balance at beginning of period	-\$3,482	-\$1,753	.....	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments ¹¹	.....	(12)	.....	(12)	(12)
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Vested dual benefit payments	1,707	1,729	\$1,753	\$5,190	\$6,113
Balance at end of period	-5,190	-3,482	-1,753	-5,190	-6,113

Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics
October - December 2017 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued

Item	December 2017	November 2017	October 2017	October 2017 - December 2017	October 2016 - December 2016
SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$952,314	\$1,018,720	\$917,572	\$917,572	\$721,860
Income, total	600,543	530,758	700,568	1,831,868	1,795,489
Payroll taxes ²	212,346	215,722	246,704	674,771	670,037
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	73,000	73,000	70,000
Financial interchange advances ¹³	386,476	313,186	379,505	1,079,167	1,051,964
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments ⁷	1,722	1,850	1,359	4,931	3,488
Outgo, total	595,999	597,163	599,420	1,792,582	1,783,799
Benefit payments	594,837	595,471	595,413	1,785,721	1,776,211
Repayment of financial interchange advances ¹³	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account ⁴	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses ⁸	1,063	1,548	3,682	6,292	7,045
Funding for Office of Inspector General	99	145	325	569	543
Balance at end of period	956,858	952,314	1,018,720	956,858	733,550

¹Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of December 2017, liabilities were \$14,567,000. ²Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. ³Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. ⁴Under the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001, as amended, the portion of the RR Account not needed to pay current administrative expenses is to be transferred to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (Trust). The Trust may transfer funds back to the RR Account for payment of benefits. The balance of the SSEB Account not needed to pay current benefits and administrative expenses is to be transferred to the Trust or to the RR Account. ⁵Net of amounts distributed by account. ⁶Net of returns of uncashed check credits. Includes undistributed canceled checks under 1-year limited payability. ⁷Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 2). ⁸Reflects adjustments for prior periods. ⁹Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. ¹⁰Total vested dual benefits paid during a fiscal year are limited to the amount appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that year. Any amounts not spent are returned to the U.S. Treasury. The appropriation for fiscal year 2017 was \$25.0 million, including income tax transfers. Funds for October through December 2016 and October through December 2017 were provided under a partial year continuing resolution. ¹¹Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. ¹²Less than \$500. ¹³Includes interest.

NOTE--Data relate to CALENDAR month.

SOURCE: Bureau of Fiscal Operations

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

**Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics
October - December 2017**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
			Unemployment¹			
December 2017	1,013	688	40	3,288	3,267	40
November 2017	893	558	35	2,984	2,973	29
October 2017	777	560	12	2,898	2,855	83
7/17 - 12/17	7,191	5,258	203	5,958	5,866	350
7/16 - 12/16	10,175	7,873	422	8,972	8,896	302
			Sickness			
December 2017	1,069	862	59	5,310	5,282	46
November 2017	1,223	1,160	58	5,543	5,526	36
October 2017	1,348	1,198	23	5,485	5,420	125
7/17 - 12/17	12,779	9,813	380	10,412	10,242	698
7/16 - 12/16	12,652	9,871	331	10,449	10,310	623
Period	Number of payments			Averages ²		Benefit payments ^{3,4} (thousands)
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week ³	
			Unemployment¹			
December 2017	5,689	5,620	69	9.2	\$332.60	\$5,368
November 2017	5,882	5,834	48	9.3	333.25	3,260
October 2017	5,776	5,644	132	9.2	332.65	3,730
7/17 - 12/17	31,592	30,184	1,408	9.1	333.10	22,148
7/16 - 12/16	48,118	46,943	1,175	9.0	334.25	35,942
			Sickness			
December 2017	9,813	9,709	104	9.2	\$334.20	\$4,559
November 2017	11,315	11,236	79	9.2	333.10	5,957
October 2017	10,751	10,513	238	9.2	334.10	4,962
7/17 - 12/17	58,624	55,725	2,899	9.0	336.15	29,198
7/16 - 12/16	58,373	55,820	2,553	9.0	335.70	31,768

¹ Temporary extended benefits under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 had to begin by December 31, 2009. Temporary extended benefits under the Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009, as amended, had to begin by December 31, 2013. Current activity primarily reflects recoveries.

² Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week--equal to 5 times average daily benefit.

³ In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, amounts reflect a reduction of 7.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2013, a reduction of 7.3% for days after September 30, 2014, 6.8% for days after September 30, 2015, 6.9% for days payable after September 30, 2016 and 6.6% for days payable after September 30, 2017.

⁴ Data provided by the Bureau of Fiscal Operations.

NOTE.--An unemployment claimant files only one APPLICATION for a benefit year. A sickness claimant files an APPLICATION at the beginning of each period of continuing sickness.

NORMAL BENEFIT ACCOUNTS are opened when the first payment is made.

The number of BENEFICIARIES is the count of persons receiving unemployment or sickness benefits in the period. Those receiving both normal and extended benefits for unemployment or sickness are counted only once in the total for each type.

PAYMENTS generally cover 14-day registration periods. Benefits are payable for days over 7 during an employee's first 14-day registration period. Sickness benefits are paid for days of sickness after the 4th consecutive day of sickness in the first claim in each period of continuing sickness; for subsequent registration periods in the same period of continuing sickness, payments are made for all days of sickness over 4 whether or not consecutive. Unemployment benefits are paid for days of unemployment over 4. However, in the case of unemployment benefits due to a legal authorized strike, unemployment benefits are not paid until after a 14-day waiting period. Non-strikers unemployed due to an illegal strike must also serve a 14-day waiting period.

(Continued on next page.)

Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics
October - December 2017 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)

Item	December 2017	November 2017	October 2017	October 2017 - December 2017	October 2016 - December 2016
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$81,482	\$90,113	\$73,610	\$73,610	\$69,019
Income, total	481	661	25,363	26,505	27,305
Contributions ¹	-7	605	25,353	25,951	23,891
Interest on investments	563	56	18	637	398
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ²	-75	(3)	-8	-83	3,016
Transfers from RUI Administration Fund	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Outgo, total	9,985	9,293	8,860	28,138	36,180
Unemployment benefit payments ⁴	5,376	3,263	3,736	12,374	18,869
Sickness benefit payments ⁴	4,559	5,957	4,962	15,479	17,035
Funding for Office of Inspector General	49	72	163	284	276
Balance at end of period	71,978	81,482	90,113	71,978	60,144
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND					
Balance at beginning of period	\$15,369	\$16,024	\$11,483	\$11,483	\$12,132
Income, total	152	148	6,450	6,750	6,655
Contributions ¹	43	148	6,450	6,641	6,568
Interest on investments	108	.....	.....	108	87
Outgo, total	551	803	1,909	3,263	3,829
Administrative expenses	551	803	1,909	3,263	3,829
Transfers to RUI Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Balance at end of period	14,970	15,369	16,024	14,970	14,958

¹ Amounts reflect quarterly re-allocation of contributions between the RUI Account and the RUI Administration Fund.

² Net of distributed amounts.

³ Less than zero but greater than -\$500.

⁴ In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, amounts reflect a reduction of 7.3% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2014, 6.8% for days after September 30, 2015, 6.9% for days after September 30, 2016, and 6.6% for days after September 30, 2017.

NOTE.--(Continued from previous page.)

BENEFIT PAYMENTS are on a cash basis (unaudited) and represent amounts paid during the period including retroactive payments, less recoveries distributed to beneficiary accounts, refunds, and cancellations of previous payments.

ADMINISTRATION FUND balances reflect current adjustments to income and disbursements for previous years.

All unemployment and sickness data relate to CALENDAR MONTHS.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics
October - December 2017 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued

Item	December 2017	November 2017	October 2017	October 2017 - December 2017	October 2016 - December 2016
EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT⁵					
Balance at beginning of period	\$9,480	\$9,479	\$9,477	\$9,477	\$9,448
Interest and other income	(6)	(6)	(6)	(6)	.....
Benefits ⁷	-1	-1	-1	-3	.....
Balance at end of period	9,481	9,480	9,479	9,481	9,448
EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, WORKER, HOMEOWNERSHIP, AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ACT⁸					
Balance at beginning of period	\$133,173	\$133,171	\$133,167	\$133,167	\$132,929
Interest and other income	2	(6)	(6)	2	.....
Benefits ⁷	-7	-2	-4	-12	.....
Balance at end of period	133,181	133,173	133,171	133,181	132,929

⁵ The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, signed into law on February 17, 2009, contained an appropriation of \$20,000,000 to provide up to 13 additional weeks of unemployment benefits for certain railroad workers who exhaust their rights to the benefits normally provided under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act. Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2009.

⁶ Less than \$500.

⁷ Negative amounts due to recoveries exceeding benefit payments. Positive disbursements for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act include the write-off of bad debt.

⁸ Enacted on November 6, 2009, the Worker, Homeownership and Business Assistance Act of 2009 contained an appropriation of \$175,000,000 to extend the provisions of the Recovery Act by one year. The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (enacted December 17, 2010), the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011 (enacted December 23, 2011), the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (enacted February 22, 2012), and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 (enacted January 2, 2013) each continued the special unemployment benefit provision for periods ranging from two months to one year, for a total extension of three years. Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2013.

Source: Bureau of Fiscal Operations

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

Table 5: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- December 2017

RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)¹	\$1,044,700,000
Regular and Supplemental benefits	1,042,992,000
Vested dual benefits	1,707,000

	Number	Average
Total benefits being paid at end of month	648,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	264,000	\$2,720
Supplemental	122,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	147,000	1,026
Aged widows' and widowers'	87,000	1,683
Other benefits	27,000	1,102
Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month	517,000	.....

UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS

	Unemployment²	Sickness
Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)^{1,3}	\$5,368,000	\$4,559,000
Beneficiaries	3,300	5,300
Average payment per week³	\$333	\$334

¹ Data provided by the Bureau of Fiscal Operations.

² Starting in June 2009, includes temporary extended unemployment benefits authorized by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2009. Beginning in November 2009, temporary extended unemployment benefits are also being paid under the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009, as amended. Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2013.

³ In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended by the Budget Control Act of 2011, amounts reflect a reduction of 6.8% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2015, a reduction of 6.9% for days after September 30, 2016, and 6.6% for days after September 30, 2017.