
Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
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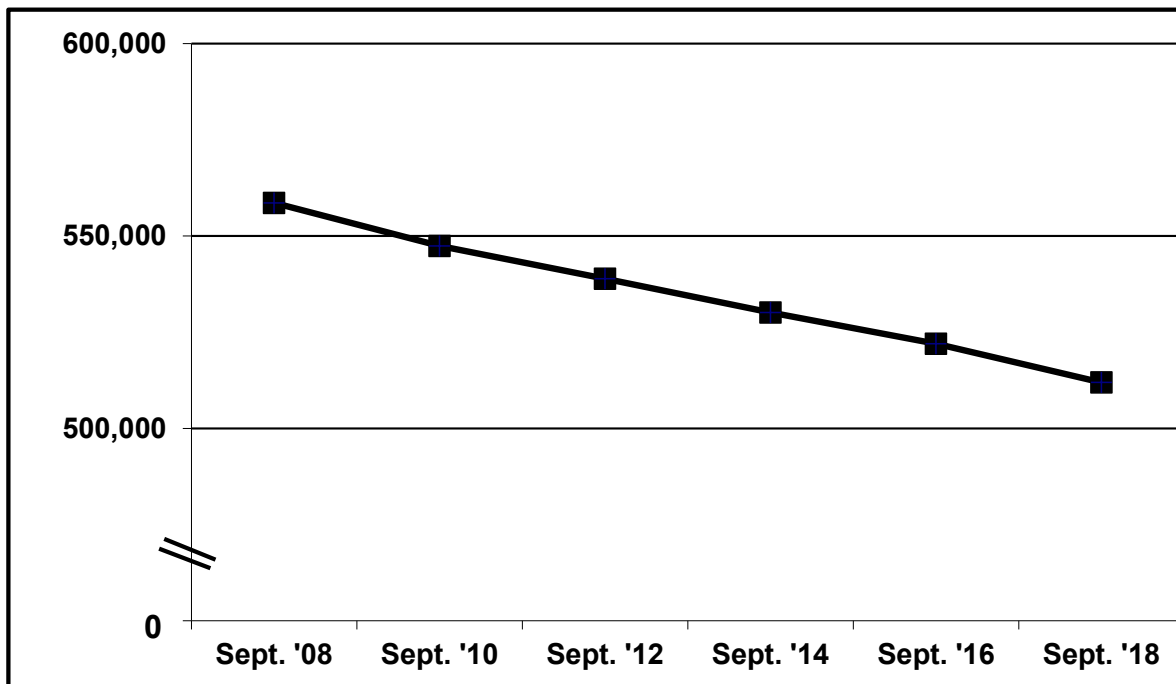
January 11, 2019

Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs Selected Current Statistics for July - September 2018

List of Tables:

Table 1 - Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
Table 2 - Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics
Table 3 - Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics
Table 4 - Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics
Table 5 - Benefits and Beneficiaries

Total Monthly Railroad Retirement Beneficiaries, September 2008 through September 2018



**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
July - September 2018**

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								
September 2018	641,470	511,922	189,571	47,436	25,059	120,222	142,528	5,180
August 2018	641,569	511,882	189,543	47,299	25,285	120,371	142,373	5,159
July 2018	641,833	512,068	189,482	47,138	25,573	120,454	142,249	5,153
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
September 2018	.....	.....	\$2,816.68	\$2,473.94	\$2,745.84	\$41.52	\$1,049.05	\$655.67
August 2018	.....	.....	2,813.72	2,471.35	2,746.39	41.52	1,048.53	653.95
July 2018	.....	.....	2,810.45	2,468.79	2,745.73	41.52	1,047.94	653.49
Number awarded during period								
September 2018	2,641	2,305	733	.....	162	336	796	59
August 2018	2,806	2,400	817	.....	148	406	834	76
July 2018	3,119	2,640	922	.....	146	479	953	85
10/17 - 9/18	31,863	27,670	8,710	.....	1,636	4,193	9,683	787
10/16 - 9/17	33,581	28,397	9,182	.....	1,525	5,184	10,082	687
Average amount awarded during period⁴								
September 2018	.....	.....	\$3,134.08	.....	\$2,823.50	\$40.88	\$1,062.40	\$749.63
August 2018	.....	.....	3,165.24	.....	2,784.88	40.66	1,028.02	671.87
July 2018	.....	.....	3,228.09	.....	2,985.78	40.83	1,067.49	691.30
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵								
September 2018	\$1,013,592	.....	\$521,909	\$116,648	\$44,692	\$4,922	\$151,056	\$3,575
August 2018	1,114,317	.....	550,264	116,145	105,611	5,125	150,937	3,613
July 2018	1,061,426	.....	533,890	115,736	76,194	5,021	150,343	3,507
10/17 - 9/18	12,693,009	.....	6,370,830	1,368,561	933,749	60,541	1,791,959	41,563
10/16 - 9/17	12,469,491	.....	6,198,347	1,291,434	1,015,398	61,201	1,736,142	38,882

¹Includes dependent parents' annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. Total benefit payments also include hospital insurance benefits for services in Canada. ²A disability annuity ends when the retiree attains full retirement age, at which time the annuity converts to an age and service annuity. Consequently, these annuitants are receiving age and service annuities. Full retirement age gradually increases, from age 65 to 67, for those born between 1937 and 1960. It is age 67 for those born after 1959 and age 65 for those born before 1938. ³Excludes partition payments to spouses and divorced spouses where the employee is deceased. Averages are after court-ordered partitions. ⁴Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates. 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
July - September 2018 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits										
Period	Annuities						Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments	Partition payments ⁷
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers ⁶	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers					
Number in current-payment status at end of period										
September 2018	84,710	3,378	604	2,903	9,760	8,232	.....	.....	1,865
August 2018	84,818	3,387	598	2,919	9,725	8,220	.....	.....	1,851
July 2018	85,017	3,421	598	2,931	9,706	8,243	.....	.....	1,847
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period										
September 2018	\$1,720.54	\$1,367.34	\$1,902.22	\$1,113.86	\$1,118.12	\$1,110.47	.....	.....	\$317.48
August 2018	1,716.53	1,365.58	1,897.64	1,112.63	1,116.33	1,108.55	.....	.....	317.68
July 2018	1,712.77	1,362.75	1,888.97	1,110.35	1,115.15	1,107.23	.....	.....	316.57
Number awarded during period										
September 2018	451	4	7	10	57	25	174	1	.....
August 2018	394	----	12	13	69	37	201	1	.....
July 2018	424	3	6	11	61	29	187	----	.....
10/17 - 9/18	5,413	78	93	124	764	379	2,446	3	.....
10/16 - 9/17	5,487	86	84	127	745	390	2,515	3	.....
Average amount awarded during period⁴										
September 2018	\$2,230.35	\$1,898.64	\$2,201.51	\$1,143.30	\$1,159.23	\$1,348.59	\$880	\$1,088	.....
August 2018	2,200.40	----	1,924.69	1,424.98	1,044.21	1,370.30	887	1,530	.....
July 2018	2,127.64	2,027.25	1,774.42	1,417.36	1,083.00	1,516.89	919	----	.....
Benefit payments during period (thousands)⁵										
September 2018	\$141,969	\$4,308	\$1,123	\$3,165	\$10,414	\$9,059	\$156	\$1	\$588	
August 2018	150,140	4,641	1,530	3,461	11,637	10,421	183	2	587	
July 2018	146,073	4,745	1,159	3,291	10,895	9,775	187	----	590	
10/17 - 9/18	1,756,633	57,989	14,627	39,675	129,918	117,420	2,329	7	6,971	
10/16 - 9/17	1,763,425	57,984	14,850	39,769	125,692	117,529	2,363	3	6,219	

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
July - September 2018 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)

Item	September 2018	August 2018	July 2018	October 2017 - September 2018	October 2016 - September 2017
RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period¹	\$768,700	\$800,448	\$612,595	\$446,656	\$739,556
Income, total	494,842	597,204	804,586	7,517,874	7,058,121
Payroll taxes ²	249,413	271,646	317,373	3,352,870	3,141,889
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	159,000	470,000	421,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	152,788	153,055	152,870	1,778,896	1,659,262
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust ⁴	.....	171,000	174,000	1,809,000	1,821,000
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ⁵	93	-15	13	43	-1,758
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury ⁶	34	22	20	307	303
Interest on investments ⁷	1,515	1,496	1,309	15,758	16,425
Outgo, total	607,416	628,952	616,733	7,308,405	7,351,021
Benefit payments	457,687	457,352	455,983	5,446,091	5,321,367
Financial interchange adjustment	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Payments of SSA benefits	141,671	164,115	153,264	1,776,632	1,656,994
Transfer to SSEB Account ⁴	.....	.....	.....	.....	296,000
Administrative expenses ⁸	7,465	6,901	6,901	78,728	70,467
Funding for Office of Inspector General	594	585	585	6,954	6,194
Balance at end of period¹	656,125	768,700	800,448	656,125	446,656
NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST					
Cash and investment balance at end of period⁹	\$26,468,665	\$26,466,853	\$26,439,273	\$26,468,665	\$26,389,616
DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT¹⁰					
Balance at beginning of period	\$1,650	\$1,592	\$1,414	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments ¹¹	1,708	1,726	1,746	\$21,001	\$23,001
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	.....	1,000	2,000
Vested dual benefit payments	1,538	1,667	1,568	20,180	23,639
Balance at end of period¹²	1,820	1,650	1,592	1,820	1,362

Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics
July - September 2018 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued

Item	September 2018	August 2018	July 2018	October 2017 - September 2018	October 2016 - September 2017
SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$1,185,730	\$1,331,475	\$1,198,008	\$917,572	\$721,860
Income, total	583,889	512,174	739,963	12,343,186	11,746,542
Payroll taxes ²	216,754	235,692	274,598	2,967,283	2,824,768
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	90,000	300,000	289,000
Financial interchange advances ¹³	364,319	273,837	373,098	4,109,056	4,095,393
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	4,942,425	4,522,486
Interest on investments ⁷	2,816	2,645	2,266	24,423	14,895
Outgo, total	647,213	657,919	606,496	12,138,353	11,550,830
Benefit payments	554,367	655,297	603,874	7,226,738	7,124,485
Financial interchange adjustment	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Repayment of financial interchange advances ¹³	.....	.....	.....	4,194,311	4,054,505
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	596,547	637,383
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account ⁴	91,000	.....	.....	91,000	-296,000
Administrative expenses ⁸	1,749	2,410	2,410	27,246	27,927
Funding for Office of Inspector General	97	211	211	2,510	2,530
Balance at end of period	1,122,406	1,185,730	1,331,475	1,122,406	917,572

¹Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of September 2018, liabilities were \$14,788,000. 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. In fiscal year 2017, the RR Account transferred funds to the SSEB Account to pay current benefits. 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 2018 was \$22.0 million, including income tax transfers. The appropriation for fiscal year 2017 was \$25.0 million, including income tax transfers. ¹¹Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. ¹²The Dual Benefits Payments Account balance does not carry over to the following fiscal year. 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
July - September 2018**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
Unemployment¹						
September 2018	569	409	1	2,038	1,963	105
August 2018	696	1,060	4	1,964	1,810	177
July 2018	2,020	958	111	1,965	1,760	269
7/18 - 9/18	3,285	2,427	116	2,856	2,734	283
7/17 - 9/17	4,508	3,452	116	3,861	3,731	309
Sickness						
September 2018	1,189	1,166	7	4,605	4,456	203
August 2018	2,080	2,897	33	4,693	4,389	381
July 2018	4,902	1,910	189	4,266	3,839	576
7/18 - 9/18	8,171	5,973	229	6,678	6,460	631
7/17 - 9/17	9,139	6,593	240	7,315	7,079	651
Period	Number of payments			Averages ²		Benefit payments ^{3,4} (thousands)
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week ³	
Unemployment¹						
September 2018	3,651	3,474	177	9.2	\$356.45	\$2,421
August 2018	4,006	3,634	372	9.2	356.15	2,124
July 2018	3,295	2,764	531	8.6	340.05	2,129
7/18 - 9/18	10,952	9,872	1,080	9.0	352.00	6,674
7/17 - 9/17	14,245	13,086	1,159	9.0	332.35	9,789
Sickness						
September 2018	8,342	7,961	381	9.1	\$356.75	\$4,465
August 2018	9,055	8,278	777	9.0	355.15	4,462
July 2018	7,332	6,118	1,214	8.7	340.75	3,503
7/18 - 9/18	24,729	22,357	2,372	8.9	352.65	12,430
7/17 - 9/17	26,745	24,267	2,478	8.9	335.20	13,720

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 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 7.3% 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.

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
July - September 2018 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)

Item	September 2018	August 2018	July 2018	October 2017 - September 2018	October 2016 - September 2017
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$106,191	\$108,768	\$93,340	\$73,610	\$69,019
Income, total	1,763	4,118	21,196	121,504	111,466
Contributions ¹	1,032	4,019	21,285	108,255	100,030
Interest on investments	535	-9	24	2,480	1,945
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ²	196	108	-113	-439	-2,866
Transfers from RUI Administration Fund ³	.....	.....	.....	11,208	12,357
Outgo, total	7,111	6,695	5,767	94,272	106,875
Unemployment benefit payments ⁴	2,425	2,104	2,136	37,865	46,804
Sickness benefit payments ⁴	4,465	4,462	3,503	54,885	58,811
Funding for Office of Inspector General	221	129	129	1,522	1,260
Balance at end of period	100,843	106,191	108,768	100,843	73,610
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND					
Balance at beginning of period	\$10,935	\$8,971	\$5,334	\$11,483	\$12,132
Income, total	-957	3,475	5,147	25,621	26,551
Contributions ¹	-989	3,475	5,147	25,477	26,389
Interest on investments	32	.....	.....	143	162
Outgo, total	1,511	1,511	1,511	28,636	27,200
Administrative expenses	1,511	1,511	1,511	17,429	14,842
Transfers to RUI Account ³	.....	.....	.....	11,208	12,357
Balance at end of period	8,467	10,935	8,971	8,467	11,483

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

² Net of distributed amounts.

³ In accordance with Section 11(d) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, the RUI Administration Fund transfers the balance in excess of \$6 million (on an accrual basis of accounting) at the end of the prior fiscal year to the RUI Account. The attributable interest is also transferred.

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 7.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2013, 7.3% for days 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.

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 because of rounding.

Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics
July - September 2018 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued

Item	September 2018	August 2018	July 2018	October 2017 - September 2018	October 2016 - September 2017
EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT⁵					
Balance at beginning of period	\$9,496	\$9,498	\$9,497	\$9,477	\$9,448
Interest and other income	(6)	1	(6)	6	5
Benefits ⁷	-2	2	(8)	-15	-24
Balance at end of period	9,499	9,496	9,498	9,499	9,477
EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS, WORKER, HOMEOWNERSHIP, AND BUSINESS ASSISTANCE ACT⁹					
Balance at beginning of period	\$133,276	\$133,294	\$133,287	\$133,167	\$132,929
Interest and other income	(6)	1	1	27	33
Benefits ^{4,7}	-2	18	-6	-85	-205
Balance at end of period	133,279	133,276	133,294	133,279	133,167

⁵ The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), 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 Current activity reflects recoveries. The positive amount in August is attributable to an accounting adjustment.

⁸ Less than zero but greater than -\$500.

⁹ 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 -- September 2018

RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)¹	\$1,013,592,000
Regular and Supplemental benefits	1,012,054,000
Vested dual benefits	1,538,000

	Number	Average
Total benefits being paid at end of month	641,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	262,000	\$2,748
Supplemental	120,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	148,000	1,035
Aged widows' and widowers'	85,000	1,721
Other benefits	27,000	1,109
Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month	512,000	.....

UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS

	Unemployment²	Sickness
Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)^{1,3}	\$2,421,000	\$4,465,000
Beneficiaries	2,000	4,600
Average payment per week³	\$356	\$357

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 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.