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# Quarterly Benefit Statistics

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

Selected Current Statistics for **October - December 2019**

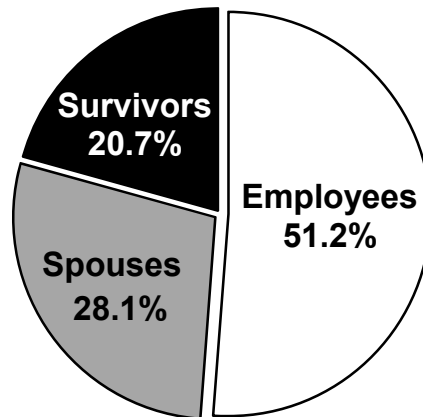
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**Railroad Retirement and  
Survivor Beneficiaries  
on the Rolls, by Type,  
December 2019**  
(505,000 beneficiaries)



**NOTE.**--Some 6,100 employees also received spouse annuities and approximately 2,100 employees also received survivor annuities.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2019**

Period	Employee annuities							
	Total <sup>1</sup>		Age			Supple- mental <sup>3</sup>	Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries	Awarded age annuity	Disability converted to age annuity <sup>2</sup>	Disability			
<b>Number in current-payment status at end of period</b>								
December 2019	631,833	505,224	188,061	48,846	21,724	117,302	142,899	5,263
November 2019	632,180	505,472	188,036	48,668	22,014	117,377	142,858	5,279
October 2019	632,936	506,003	188,169	48,547	22,286	117,589	142,836	5,268
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>								
December 2019	.....	.....	\$2,955.52	\$2,604.22	\$2,861.19	\$41.50	\$1,092.44	\$695.85
November 2019	.....	.....	2,917.16	2,568.37	2,822.77	41.50	1,079.63	684.13
October 2019	.....	.....	2,915.13	2,566.52	2,822.82	41.51	1,079.43	683.80
<b>Number awarded during period</b>								
December 2019	1,783	1,564	509	.....	79	219	528	30
November 2019	2,067	1,848	508	.....	99	219	686	45
October 2019	2,318	2,060	621	.....	117	258	736	66
10/19 - 12/19	6,168	5,472	1,638	.....	295	696	1,950	141
10/18 - 12/18	7,154	6,238	1,914	.....	380	916	2,259	146
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>4</sup></b>								
December 2019	.....	.....	\$3,321.89	.....	\$2,983.35	\$40.52	\$1,127.23	\$779.19
November 2019	.....	.....	3,118.01	.....	2,827.79	40.43	1,057.50	750.64
October 2019	.....	.....	3,140.68	.....	2,856.80	40.42	1,053.14	676.50
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)<sup>5</sup></b>								
December 2019	\$1,082,779	.....	\$549,686	\$124,772	\$65,912	\$4,875	\$155,506	\$3,724
November 2019	1,083,773	.....	549,558	124,345	67,709	4,884	155,602	3,753
October 2019	1,086,832	.....	550,125	123,985	69,975	4,898	155,398	3,789
10/19 - 12/19	3,253,384	.....	1,649,369	373,102	203,596	14,657	466,506	11,266
10/18 - 12/18	3,193,797	.....	1,608,653	352,429	221,691	14,986	453,964	10,610

<sup>1</sup>Includes dependent parents' annuities. Except for benefit payment data, excludes insurance lump-sum and residual payment figures. Benefit payments also include hospital insurance benefits for services in Canada. <sup>2</sup>A disability annuity ends when the retiree attains full retirement age, at which time the annuity converts to an age and service annuity. Consequently, these annuitants are receiving age and service annuities. Full retirement age 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. <sup>3</sup>Excludes partition payments to spouses and divorced spouses where the employee is deceased. Averages are after court-ordered partitions. <sup>4</sup>Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates. <sup>5</sup>Beginning in July 2019, data is from the Monthly Treasury Statement. Prior to July 2019, data was provided by the Bureau of Fiscal Operations.

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

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2019 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits									
Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments	Partition payments <sup>7</sup>
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers <sup>6</sup>	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers				
<b>Number in current-payment status at end of period</b>									
December 2019	81,487	3,253	568	2,713	9,709	7,908	.....	.....	2,079
November 2019	81,643	3,260	581	2,724	9,706	7,940	.....	.....	2,072
October 2019	81,860	3,272	574	2,731	9,761	7,961	.....	.....	2,059
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>									
December 2019	\$1,799.04	\$1,420.69	\$1,948.87	\$1,179.80	\$1,190.48	\$1,179.81	.....	.....	\$322.81
November 2019	1,788.75	1,407.89	1,940.98	1,159.33	1,172.65	1,160.66	.....	.....	321.58
October 2019	1,784.27	1,404.96	1,935.31	1,156.00	1,170.66	1,158.08	.....	.....	321.48
<b>Number awarded during period</b>									
December 2019	334	6	5	8	47	18	150	---	.....
November 2019	418	6	9	7	42	28	149	1	.....
October 2019	406	4	8	5	58	39	160	---	.....
10/19 - 12/19	1,158	16	22	20	147	85	459	1	.....
10/18 - 12/18	1,205	21	21	30	173	89	480	1	.....
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>4</sup></b>									
December 2019	\$2,519.75	\$1,692.87	\$2,487.98	\$1,646.00	\$1,194.04	\$1,689.24	\$935	---	.....
November 2019	2,315.16	2,117.52	1,429.32	1,396.86	937.83	1,528.18	958	\$149	.....
October 2019	2,343.48	2,328.49	2,024.67	1,630.20	1,361.94	1,470.31	870	---	.....
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)<sup>5</sup></b>									
December 2019	\$146,924	\$4,823	\$1,220	\$3,191	\$11,533	\$9,762	\$144	---	\$686
November 2019	146,598	4,808	1,188	3,168	11,473	9,845	148	<sup>(8)</sup>	671
October 2019	146,915	4,809	1,212	3,174	11,649	10,046	144	---	690
10/19 - 12/19	440,437	14,440	3,620	9,533	34,654	29,654	436	<sup>(8)</sup>	2,047
10/18 - 12/18	439,123	14,448	3,695	9,722	33,218	28,829	452	\$3	1,911

<sup>6</sup>Number and average in current-payment status, and benefit payments during period, includes annuities to disabled widow(er)s age 60 and over now payable as aged widow(er)s' annuities. <sup>7</sup>Limited to partition payments to spouses and divorced spouses where the employee is deceased or not otherwise entitled to an annuity. Partition payments from employees on the rolls are included with the employees' annuities. <sup>8</sup>Less than \$500.

**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.

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**October - December 2019 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis**

Item	December 2019	November 2019	October 2019	October 2019 - December 2019	October 2018 - December 2018
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Payroll taxes <sup>1</sup>	\$224,999	\$186,198	\$222,726	\$633,923	\$662,366
Income tax transfers <sup>2</sup>	.....	.....	67,000	67,000	60,000
Financial interchange advances <sup>3</sup>	391,818	334,512	403,397	1,129,727	1,075,293
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments <sup>4</sup>	1,926	230	-12,683	-10,527	6,190
<b>Outgo</b>					
Benefit payments	\$619,125	\$620,119	\$621,024	\$1,860,268	\$1,813,519
Repayment of financial interchange advances <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account <sup>5</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses <sup>6</sup>	1,984	1,966	3,528	7,479	8,804
Funding for Office of Inspector General	194	190	340	724	963
<b>RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Payroll taxes <sup>1</sup>	\$212,021	\$184,258	\$224,448	\$620,727	\$631,462
Income tax transfers <sup>2</sup>	.....	.....	100,000	100,000	170,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	160,323	162,498	161,388	484,209	459,046
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust <sup>5</sup>	262,000	97,000	67,000	426,000	364,000
Transfer from SSEB Account <sup>5</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments <sup>4</sup>	801	-473	-12,429	-12,102	3,646
<b>Outgo</b>					
Benefit payments	\$462,489	\$462,393	\$464,528	\$1,389,410	\$1,375,772
Payments of SSA benefits	160,338	162,366	161,277	483,980	458,985
Administrative expenses <sup>6</sup>	6,116	5,876	10,543	22,534	23,607
Funding for Office of Inspector General	591	570	1,023	2,184	2,420
<b>NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
<b>Cash and investment balance at end of period<sup>7</sup></b>	\$26,275,255	\$25,935,078	\$25,705,851	\$26,275,255	\$24,112,511
<b>DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT <sup>8</sup></b>					
<b>Vested dual benefit payments</b>	\$1,165	\$1,260	\$1,280	\$3,706	\$4,506

<sup>1</sup>Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. <sup>2</sup>Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. <sup>3</sup>Includes interest. <sup>4</sup>Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 1). <sup>5</sup>Under the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001, as amended, the portion of the RR Account not needed to pay current administrative expenses is to be transferred to the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust (Trust). The Trust may transfer funds back to the RR Account for payment of benefits. The balance of the SSEB Account not needed to pay current benefits and administrative expenses is to be transferred to the Trust or to the RR Account. <sup>6</sup>Prior to fiscal year 2019, reflects adjustments for prior periods. <sup>7</sup>Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. <sup>8</sup>Total vested dual benefits paid during a fiscal year are limited to the amount appropriated to the Dual Benefits Payments Account for that year. Any amounts not spent are returned to the U.S. Treasury. The benefit appropriation, including income tax transfers, for fiscal years 2019 and 2020 was \$19.0 and \$16.0 million, respectively.

**NOTE--This Table has been revised to only include information from the Monthly Treasury Statements and other resources within the Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of the Actuary and Research.**

**Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics  
October - December 2019**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
			<b>Unemployment<sup>1</sup></b>			
December 2019	1,412	953	28	4,878	4,859	24
November 2019	1,278	947	22	4,581	4,567	24
October 2019	1,418	1,381	11	4,374	4,341	59
7/19 - 12/19	10,078	7,333	161	7,909	7,817	284
7/18 - 12/18	5,413	3,699	198	4,312	4,215	321
			<b>Sickness</b>			
December 2019	1,168	855	69	4,906	4,866	58
November 2019	926	924	47	4,768	4,751	42
October 2019	1,236	1,256	23	4,979	4,925	111
7/19 - 12/19	11,489	8,818	375	9,300	9,162	623
7/18 - 12/18	11,496	8,810	356	9,414	9,253	683
Period	Number of payments			Averages <sup>1</sup>		Benefit payments <sup>2,3</sup> (thousands)
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week <sup>2</sup>	
			<b>Unemployment</b>			
December 2019	8,559	8,508	51	9.2	\$363.95	\$6,408
November 2019	8,277	8,241	36	9.2	364.00	6,204
October 2019	8,336	8,233	103	9.0	363.70	6,348
7/19 - 12/19	41,273	40,089	1,184	9.0	363.50	31,258
7/18 - 12/18	23,397	22,143	1,254	9.1	356.00	17,224
			<b>Sickness</b>			
December 2019	8,978	8,857	121	9.2	\$365.10	\$6,726
November 2019	8,844	8,763	81	9.2	365.05	6,643
October 2019	10,356	10,124	232	9.0	363.50	7,830
7/19 - 12/19	52,502	49,972	2,530	9.0	365.65	39,687
7/18 - 12/18	51,231	48,486	2,745	9.0	457.70	37,688

<sup>1</sup> Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week--equal to 5 times average daily benefit.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, amounts reflect a reduction of 6.8% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2015, 6.9% for days after September 30, 2016, 6.6% for days after September 30, 2017, 6.2% for days after September 30, 2018, and 5.9% for days after September 30, 2019.

<sup>3</sup> Prior to July 2019, unemployment and sickness benefit payments were based on net amounts. Beginning in July 2019, that data is no longer available. Benefit payments for 2018 and 2019 have been adjusted to reflect gross amounts.

**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.

## Table 4: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- December 2019

### RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

<b>Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)<sup>1</sup></b>	\$1,082,779,000
Regular and Supplemental benefits	1,081,614,000
Vested dual benefits	1,165,000

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Total benefits being paid at end of month</b>	632,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	259,000	\$2,881
Supplemental	117,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	148,000	1,078
Aged widows' and widowers'	81,000	1,799
Other benefits	26,000	1,162
<b>Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month</b>	505,000	.....

### UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS

	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Sickness</b>
<b>Gross benefit payments<sup>1,2</sup></b>	\$6,407,800	\$6,725,700
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	4,900	5,100
<b>Average payment per week<sup>2</sup></b>	\$365	\$365

<sup>1</sup> Prior to July 2019, unemployment and sickness benefit payments were based on net amounts. Beginning in July 2019, that data is no longer available. Benefit payments now reflect gross amounts.

<sup>2</sup> In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, amounts reflect a reduction of 6.8% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2015, 6.9% for days after September 30, 2016, 6.6% for days after September 30, 2017, 6.2% for days after September 30, 2018, and 5.9% for days after September 30, 2019.