

**Maximum monthly benefit rate^a under the Railroad Retirement and Social Security Acts
December 2020 and Quarterly for 2021**

Program and type of benefit	Month in which benefit payments begin ^b				
	Dec. 2020	March 2021	June 2021	Sept. 2021	Dec. 2021
1. Railroad Retirement Act					
(a) Retirement benefits ^c					
Employee alone	\$ 5,589	\$ 5,588	\$ 5,625	\$ 5,662	\$ 5,700
Employee and spouse	8,240	8,240	8,293	8,347	8,401
(b) Survivor benefits ^d					
Family	8,622	8,631	8,679	8,727	8,776
Widow(er) alone at 65	5,292	5,292	5,327	5,363	5,398
Widow(er) alone at 60	4,447	4,436	4,465	4,495	4,525
2. Social Security Act					
(a) Retirement benefits ^e					
Employee alone	2,857	2,841	2,841	2,841	2,841
Employee and spouse	4,255	4,226	4,226	4,226	4,226
(b) Survivor benefits					
Family	5,439	5,475	5,475	5,475	5,475
Widow(er) alone at 65	2,960	2,980	2,980	2,980	2,980
Widow(er) alone at 60	2,222	2,237	2,237	2,237	2,237
3. Railroad retirement average monthly compensation based on the highest 60 months of earnings	7,965	8,035	8,110	8,185	8,260

- a. Benefits are based on an employee who began work on January 1 of the year the employee attained age 22 and either retires or dies at age 65. Benefits reflect early retirement reduction factors for retirement prior to social security normal retirement age based on year of birth. An employee retiring at a later age or beginning work earlier could be entitled to higher benefits than those shown.
- b. Employee is assumed to retire in the month before the first payment is received. For the calendar year 2021 calculations, the year of birth for the employee is assumed to be 1956 with a social security normal retirement age of 66 years and 4 months.
- c. Including supplemental annuity.
- d. Based on maximum creditable earnings, including year of death.
- e. In computing the benefit to be paid in the year of retirement, social security does not include earnings in the year of retirement. Such earnings may later increase the benefit under the recomputation rules.

Note: Maximum taxable compensation during 2021 is \$142,800 for tier 1 and \$106,200 for tier 2. Maximum taxable compensation for social security during 2021 is \$142,800. Benefits are rounded to the lower dollar.