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# Quarterly Benefit Statistics

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board  
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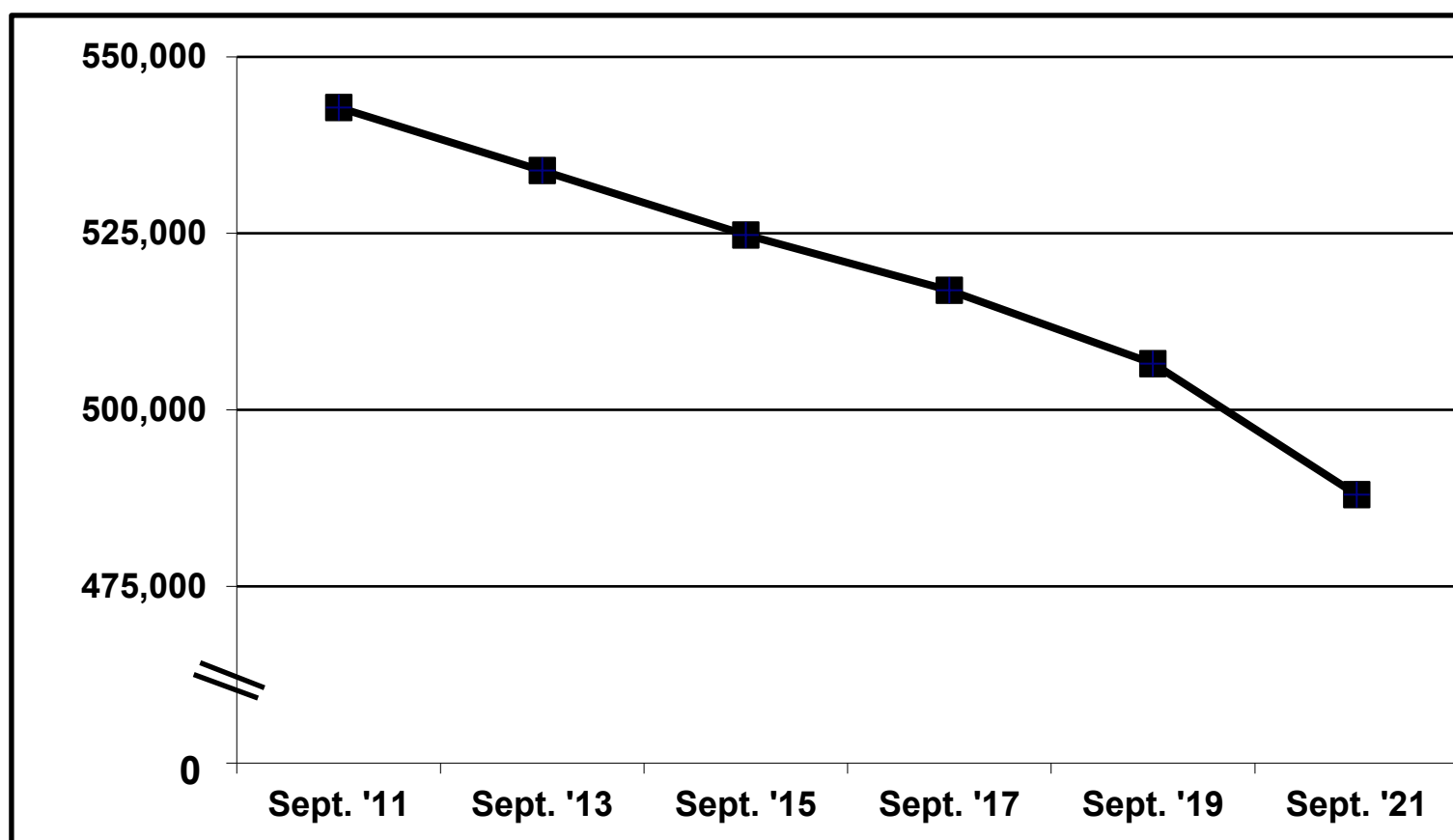
## Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs Selected Current Statistics for July - September 2021

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### Total Monthly Railroad Retirement Beneficiaries, September 2011 through September 2021



**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
July - September 2021**

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>								
September 2021	606,960	488,002	182,672	48,572	18,554	109,827	139,342	5,047
August 2021	608,060	488,661	182,910	48,575	18,710	110,260	139,575	5,040
July 2021	608,872	489,160	183,051	48,567	18,846	110,569	139,717	5,070
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>								
September 2021	.....	.....	\$3,046.88	\$2,677.53	\$2,926.37	\$41.50	\$1,122.07	\$718.56
August 2021	.....	.....	3,044.85	2,675.55	2,924.79	41.50	1,121.65	719.20
July 2021	.....	.....	3,042.53	2,673.72	2,922.60	41.50	1,120.93	719.37
<b>Number awarded during period</b>								
September 2021	2,163	2,034	582	.....	182	129	612	62
August 2021	1,985	1,859	578	.....	134	126	578	48
July 2021	2,213	2,058	618	.....	166	155	710	44
10/20 - 9/21	24,648	22,925	6,306	.....	1,719	1,723	7,047	547
10/19 - 9/20	26,511	24,130	7,248	.....	1,686	2,381	8,155	602
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>4</sup></b>								
September 2021	.....	.....	\$3,170.73	.....	\$3,207.29	\$39.60	\$1,080.42	\$707.31
August 2021	.....	.....	3,203.02	.....	3,022.49	41.09	1,109.78	765.67
July 2021	.....	.....	3,292.20	.....	3,173.72	41.29	1,108.74	796.64
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)<sup>5</sup></b>								
September 2021	\$1,095,993	.....	\$557,737	\$129,655	\$62,585	\$4,574	\$157,513	\$3,779
August 2021	1,092,768	.....	557,663	129,529	60,523	4,585	157,708	3,798
July 2021	1,096,758	.....	558,109	129,276	63,186	4,602	158,209	3,798
10/20 - 9/21	13,150,238	.....	6,697,522	1,553,134	751,167	55,874	1,897,388	45,877
10/19 - 9/20	13,115,287	.....	6,657,362	1,522,939	806,982	57,932	1,884,324	45,854

<sup>1</sup>Includes 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. <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  
July - September 2021 -- 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>									
September 2021	77,214	3,043	586	2,413	9,773	7,469	.....	.....	2,437
August 2021	77,276	3,045	571	2,433	9,772	7,471	.....	.....	2,409
July 2021	77,401	3,047	568	2,441	9,719	7,470	.....	.....	2,393
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>									
September 2021	\$1,904.26	\$1,471.57	\$2,049.34	\$1,222.73	\$1,237.06	\$1,235.92	.....	.....	\$323.54
August 2021	1,899.28	1,467.51	2,045.99	1,223.15	1,235.88	1,232.50	.....	.....	323.26
July 2021	1,895.34	1,465.99	2,029.15	1,222.11	1,235.60	1,228.52	.....	.....	323.60
<b>Number awarded during period</b>									
September 2021	441	17	9	8	75	46	135	1	.....
August 2021	406	7	7	8	60	33	148	----	.....
July 2021	392	10	9	13	71	25	118	----	.....
10/20 - 9/21	5,754	90	117	92	780	471	1,950	2	.....
10/19 - 9/20	5,154	85	90	78	654	378	1,822	2	.....
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>4</sup></b>									
September 2021	\$2,510.08	\$2,135.21	\$1,647.03	\$1,637.63	\$1,422.15	\$1,617.10	\$842	\$8,530	.....
August 2021	2,402.51	1,904.60	2,955.34	1,222.50	1,421.20	1,714.39	823	----	.....
July 2021	2,524.54	1,925.90	1,827.82	1,615.00	1,360.48	1,550.33	907	----	.....
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)<sup>5</sup></b>									
September 2021	\$147,430	\$5,268	\$1,277	\$2,993	\$12,295	\$9,944	\$118	\$9	\$804
August 2021	147,089	4,714	1,316	2,991	12,159	9,755	126	----	800
July 2021	147,597	4,914	1,250	3,033	12,073	9,762	112	----	825
10/20 - 9/21	1,766,388	57,516	14,677	36,406	143,642	119,391	1,812	11	9,256
10/19 - 9/20	1,760,460	57,670	13,786	37,800	140,331	119,337	1,769	1	8,523

<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.

**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 2021 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis**

Item	September 2021	August 2021	July 2021	October 2020 - September 2021	October 2019 - September 2020
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Payroll taxes <sup>1</sup>	\$206,129	\$222,184	\$201,472	\$2,394,456	\$2,310,991
General Revenue transfers <sup>2</sup>	227,969	110,107	212,976	551,052	.....
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	80,000	281,000	283,000
Financial interchange advances <sup>4</sup>	422,821	355,379	415,712	5,040,553	4,793,023
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,987,747
Interest on investments <sup>5</sup>	2,428	2,161	676	19,615	-9,352
<b>Outgo</b>					
Benefit payments	\$626,083	\$625,912	\$627,639	\$7,531,670	\$7,509,808
Repayment of financial interchange advances <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	4,951,591	4,458,194
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	568,162	606,449
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account <sup>6</sup>	356,000	212,975	.....	102,975	-83,000
Administrative expenses	1,899	1,899	1,899	24,279	26,979
Funding for Office of Inspector General	192	192	192	2,256	2,388
<b>RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
Payroll taxes <sup>1</sup>	\$238,313	\$260,261	\$238,459	\$2,874,561	\$2,716,955
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	106,000	499,000	403,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	171,771	171,200	170,849	2,036,612	1,982,327
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust <sup>6</sup>	.....	95,000	254,000	2,838,000	2,280,000
Transfer from SSEB Account <sup>6</sup>	356,000	212,975	.....	102,975	-83,000
Loan Repayments from RUIA <sup>4</sup>	.....	17,500	.....	17,500	.....
Interest on investments <sup>5</sup>	1,320	1,399	33	9,244	-18,616
<b>Outgo</b>					
Benefit payments	\$469,053	\$465,986	\$468,234	\$5,607,239	\$5,591,512
Payments of SSA benefits	171,698	171,129	170,850	2,035,777	1,981,278
Loans to Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account (RUIA)	.....	.....	.....	98,000	22,000
Administrative expenses	6,505	6,505	6,505	83,195	81,218
Funding for Office of Inspector General	661	661	661	7,761	7,202
<b>NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
<b>Cash and investment balance at end of period<sup>7</sup></b>	<b>\$28,289,568</b>	<b>\$28,890,704</b>	<b>\$28,164,710</b>	<b>\$28,289,568</b>	<b>\$24,468,552</b>
<b>DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT<sup>8</sup></b>					
<b>Vested dual benefit payments</b>	<b>\$857</b>	<b>\$869</b>	<b>\$884</b>	<b>\$11,329</b>	<b>\$13,967</b>

<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>Transfers were made from the General Revenue Fund under the COVID-19 related legislation. <sup>3</sup>Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. <sup>4</sup>Includes interest. <sup>5</sup>Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 1). <sup>6</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>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 2020 and 2021 was \$16.0 and \$13.0 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  
July - September 2021**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
<b>Unemployment</b>						
September 2021	2,807	359	7	2,141	2,014	152
August 2021	1,225	649	7	1,762	1,517	249
July 2021	1,672	948	198	2,039	1,721	376
7/21 - 9/21	5,704	1,956	212	2,599	2,329	405
7/20 - 9/20	13,173	13,705	368	16,697	16,339	478
<b>Sickness</b>						
September 2021	2,735	1,440	16	5,972	5,792	272
August 2021	2,783	2,679	38	5,216	4,897	408
July 2021	5,457	2,268	204	4,819	4,346	624
7/21 - 9/21	10,975	6,387	258	8,543	8,275	715
7/20 - 9/20	11,268	6,424	281	8,423	8,207	702
Period	Number of payments			Averages <sup>1</sup>		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week <sup>2</sup>	Benefit payments <sup>2</sup> (thousands)
<b>Unemployment</b>						
September 2021	4,136	3,849	287	8.9	\$405.85	\$2,924
August 2021	3,634	3,162	472	9.2	405.95	2,671
July 2021	4,237	3,506	731	9.1	399.10	2,979
7/21 - 9/21	12,007	10,517	1,490	9.1	403.45	8,574
7/20 - 9/20	68,542	66,699	1,843	8.2	376.60	46,005
<b>Sickness</b>						
September 2021	13,033	12,437	596	8.2	\$405.40	\$9,003
August 2021	10,951	10,132	819	8.1	404.55	7,610
July 2021	10,401	9,108	1,293	8.1	398.20	6,984
7/21 - 9/21	34,385	31,677	2,708	8.1	403.90	23,596
7/20 - 9/20	33,360	30,508	2,852	7.6	374.50	20,726

<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 6.6% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2017, 6.2% for days after September 30, 2018, 5.9% for days after September 30, 2019, and 5.7% for days after September 30, 2020 and before January 3, 2021. Beginning January 3, 2021, the Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act (CARWA) of 2020 temporarily suspended sequestration until 30 days after a Presidential declaration of an end to the national emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOTE** -- Additional unemployment and sickness benefits were also paid under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. CARWA and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 extended all benefits until September 6, 2021 while reducing the enhanced benefit payments from \$1,200 to \$600 per claim period under CARWA and ARPA.

Special Extended Unemployment Benefits and Enhanced Benefits were paid to unemployment beneficiaries, and Waived Waiting Period Benefits were paid to unemployment and to sickness beneficiaries, as follows:

- In July 2021, \$5.0M to 3,000 beneficiaries, \$6.2M to 4,900 beneficiaries, and \$0.1M to 300 unemployment and \$0.4M to 1,600 sickness beneficiaries.
- In August 2021, \$4.2M to 2,700 beneficiaries, \$5.3M to 4,300 beneficiaries, and \$0.1M to 400 unemployment and \$0.4M to 1,700 sickness beneficiaries.
- In September 2021, \$3.4M to 2,400 beneficiaries, \$4.1M to 3,900 beneficiaries, and \$0.1M to 200 unemployment and \$0.4M to 1,500 sickness beneficiaries.

**GENERAL NOTES** --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 -- September 2021

### RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

<b>Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)<sup>1</sup></b>	\$1,095,993,000
Regular and Supplemental benefits	1,095,136,000
Vested dual benefits	857,000

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Total benefits being paid at end of month</b>	607,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	250,000	\$2,966
Supplemental	110,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	144,000	1,108
Aged widows' and widowers'	77,000	1,904
Other benefits	26,000	1,195
<b>Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month</b>	488,000	.....

### UNEMPLOYMENT - SICKNESS

	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Sickness</b>
<b>Gross benefit payments<sup>1</sup></b>	\$2,924,000	\$9,003,000
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	2,100	6,000
<b>Average payment per week<sup>1</sup></b>	\$406	\$405

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as amended, amounts reflect a reduction of 6.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after September 30, 2018, 5.9% for days after September 30, 2019, 5.7% for days after September 30, 2020 and before January 3, 2021. Beginning January 3, 2021, the Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act (CARWA) of 2020 temporarily suspended sequestration until 30 days after a Presidential declaration of an end to the national emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOTE.**--Additional unemployment and sickness benefits were also paid under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. The Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act (CARWA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 extended all benefits until September 6, 2021 while reducing the enhanced benefit payments from \$1,200 to \$600 per claim period under CARWA and ARPA. In September 2021, the gross amount paid was \$7.9 million.