

FISCAL YEAR 2025
BUDGET JUSTIFICATION



Office of Inspector General
Railroad Retirement Board



UNITED STATES RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
President of the Senate
S-212 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Madam President:

We respectfully submit the fiscal year 2025 Congressional Budget Justification for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB). This justification was prepared per Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-11. The President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 will provide \$14,600,000 to the Limitation on the OIG for audit and investigative activities.

The OIG provides audit services to the RRB and operates a nationwide investigative program focused on protecting the integrity of the RRB's trust funds and improving the delivery of benefits to the railroad community. The OIG provides comprehensive oversight of all RRB operations and programs.

We request your support for the fiscal year 2025 funding level of \$14,600,000 to continue our oversight of agency programs. In fiscal year 2025, we will conduct audits of agency programs and perform investigations of allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse.

This office will continue to use all available resources efficiently to improve agency program operations, reduce fraud against benefit programs, and help ensure the agency provides the highest level of service to its constituents.

Thank you for your support of this proposed budget.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Martin J. Dickman, Inspector General

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Shalanda D. Young
Director, Office of Management and Budget

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Susan Collins
Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies



UNITED STATES RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 11, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We respectfully submit the fiscal year 2025 Congressional Budget Justification for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB). This justification was prepared per Office of Management and Budget Circular No. A-11. The President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 will provide \$14,600,000 to the Limitation on the OIG for audit and investigative activities.

The OIG provides audit services to the RRB and operates a nationwide investigative program focused on protecting the integrity of the RRB's trust funds and improving the delivery of benefits to the railroad community. The OIG provides comprehensive oversight of all RRB operations and programs.

We request your support for the fiscal year 2025 funding level of \$14,600,000 to continue our oversight of agency programs. In fiscal year 2025, we will conduct audits of agency programs and perform investigations of allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse.

This office will continue to use all available resources efficiently to improve agency program operations, reduce fraud against benefit programs, and help ensure the agency provides the highest level of service to its constituents.

Thank you for your support of this proposed budget.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Martin J. Dickman, Inspector General

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Shalanda D. Young
Director, Office of Management and Budget

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health
and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies

**JUSTIFICATION OF BUDGET ESTIMATES
FISCAL YEAR 2025**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary.....	1
Proposed Appropriation Language	2
Explanation of Proposed Appropriation Language	3
Authorizing Legislation	4
Budget Authority and Staffing by Activity	5
Budget Authority by Object Classification	6
Contractual Services	7
Personnel Summary	8
Amounts Available for Obligation.....	9
Appropriations History Table	10
Staffing History	11
Explanation of Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request	12
Office of Audit.....	13
Office of Investigations	17
Fiscal Year 2025 Performance Budget.....	21

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fiscal year 2025 President's budget for the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) provides \$14,600,000 in budget authority for 56 full-time equivalents (FTEs) staff and miscellaneous expenses. With this funding, the RRB-OIG will endeavor to meet the productivity goals set forth in its Performance Budget.

The RRB-OIG will focus its efforts relating to agency programs and operations on: (1) conducting independent audits and investigations; (2) promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; (3) detecting fraud and abuse; and (4) keeping the Board Members and the Congress informed about problems and recommending corrective actions concerning RRB operations.

The RRB-OIG requests \$14,600,000 in fiscal year 2025 to continue audit and investigative coverage of the RRB benefit programs, identify program weaknesses and reduce fraud in agency programs. Investigative resources will be devoted to maintaining the integrity of RRB programs by investigating waste, fraud, and abuse. The office will focus resources on operational areas with the greatest impact on RRB activities and related customer service.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

PROPOSED APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE

LIMITATION ON THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General for audit, investigatory and review activities, as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, not more than \$14,600,000, to be derived from the railroad retirement accounts and railroad unemployment insurance account.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Explanation of Proposed Appropriation Language

<u>Appropriation Language</u>	<u>Explanation</u>
<i>For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General for audit, investigatory and review activities, as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, not more than \$14,600,000 to be derived from the railroad retirement accounts and railroad unemployment insurance account.</i>	This budget requests funding for audit, investigation, and review of the railroad retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs. The Limitation on the Office of Inspector General draws on the following trust fund accounts for funding: Railroad Retirement Account, Social Security Equivalent Benefit Account, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Authorizing Legislation

Authorizing Legislation	FY 2024		FY 2025	
	Authorized	Continuing Appropriation	Authorized	Appropriation Requested
Inspector General Act of 1978, as Amended	Indefinite	\$14,000,000 <u>a/</u>	Indefinite	\$14,600,000

a/ A full-year 2024 appropriation for this account was not enacted at the time the Budget was prepared; therefore, the Budget assumes this account is operating under the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (Division A of Public Law 118-15, as amended). The amounts included for 2024 reflect the annualized level provided by the continuing resolution.

Note: The 1988 amendments to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (P.L. 100-504) included the Railroad Retirement Board as an “establishment” covered by the Inspector General Act. Previously, the Railroad Solvency Act of 1983 (P.L. 98-76) amended the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-445) to provide for an Office of Inspector General at the Railroad Retirement Board.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Budget Authority and Staffing by Activity

<u>Program by Activity</u>	FY 2023		FY 2024		FY 2025	
	<u>Actual FTEs</u>	<u>Budget Amount</u>	<u>Projected FTEs</u>	<u>Budget Amount</u>	<u>Projected FTEs</u>	<u>Budget Amount</u>
Office of Inspector General Audit and Investigation	41.5	\$14,000,000	46	\$14,000,000	56	\$14,600,000
Authorizing Legislation		\$14,000,000 <u>a/</u>		\$14,000,000 <u>b/</u>		\$14,600,000

a/ Represents the level of funding provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328).

b/ Represents the continuing level of funding provided by the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (H.R. 2872).

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Budget Authority by Object Classification

Limitation on the Office of Inspector General <u>a/</u>	FY 2023 ACTUAL EXPENSES	FY 2024 ESTIMATE	FY 2025 BUDGET ESTIMATE	FY 2025 vs. FY 2024 INCREASE/ (DECREASE) <u>d/</u>
<u>Direct Obligations by Object Class</u>				
Personnel Compensation:				
Full-time permanent	\$4,479,480	\$5,500,000	\$6,600,000 <u>b/</u>	\$1,100,000
Other than full-time permanent	61,394	25,000	50,000	<u>25,000</u>
Other personnel compensation	96,925	<u>175,000</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>25,000</u>
Total Personnel Compensation	4,637,799	5,700,000	6,850,000	1,150,000
Personnel Benefits: Civilian				
Travel and transportation of persons	363,662	400,000	400,000	0
Rental payments to GSA	300,000	300,000	300,000	0
Communications, utilities, and miscellaneous charges	45,433	50,000	50,000	0
Other services	5,415,171	4,540,000	3,430,000	(1,110,000)
Supplies and materials	55,680	60,000	62,000	2,000
Equipment	<u>183,315</u>	<u>200,000</u>	<u>208,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Total Direct Obligations	\$13,155,478	\$14,000,000	\$14,600,000	\$600,000
Unobligated Balance	<u>844,522</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Total Budget Authority	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000 <u>c/</u>	\$14,600,000	\$600,000
Total Full-Time Equivalent Usage	41.5	46	56	10

a/ The Limitation on the Office of Inspector General excludes reimbursable funding the RRB-OIG expects to receive from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

b/ Fiscal year 2025 salary and benefit estimates include a cost of living adjustment of 2% per annum from January, 2025 through September, 2025.

c/ Represents the continuing level of funding provided by the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (H.R. 2872).

d/ Fiscal year 2025 versus fiscal year 2024 personnel compensation and benefits change represents fully-staffed salary and benefit costs for 56 FTEs.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Contractual Services

	<u>FY 2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY 2024 ESTIMATE</u>	<u>FY 2025 ESTIMATE</u>
<u>Contracts</u>			
Security investigations	\$45,000	\$45,000	\$45,000
OPM personnel consulting	77,100	80,000	100,000
Federal Occupational Health	20,000	20,000	20,000
Information technology support services	137,171	138,000	138,000
IT Licenses & Maintenance*	272,332	285,000	300,000
Data analytics	359,000	360,000	360,000
Other Services	79,500	60,000	60,000
Contract Audits	4,117,545	1,510,000	1,525,000
Contract Program Total	5,107,648	2,498,000	2,548,000

*Total cybersecurity spending is estimated as \$44,239 for each fiscal year and composed of the following NIST categories: (a) Identify- \$14,137, (b) Protect - \$6,310, (c) Detect - \$14,137, (e) Respond - \$5,310 and (f) Recover - \$4,345.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Personnel Summary

		<u>FY 2023 ACTUAL</u>	<u>FY 2024 ESTIMATE</u>	<u>FY 2025 ESTIMATE</u>
IG		1	1	1
	IG Subtotal	1	1	1
ES-00		1	3	3
	ES Subtotal	1	3	3
GS-15		2	2	2
GS-14		9	9	9
GS-13		8.5	14	14
GS-12		15	13	13
GS-11		0	2	10
GS-10		0	0	0
GS-09		3	12	4
GS-08		0	0	0
GS-07		3	0	0
GS-06		0	0	0
GS-05		0	0	0
GS-04		0	0	0
GS-03		0	0	0
GS-02		0	0	0
GS-01		0	0	0
	GS Subtotal	40.5	52	52
End of Year: Total full-time permanent employment		42.5	56	56
Full-time equivalent (FTE) usage		41.5	46	56

END OF YEAR

Average ES salary	\$212,100	\$200,910	\$204,925
Average GS grade	12.2	12.0	12.3
Average GS salary without premium pay	\$120,166	\$116,944	\$120,732
Average GS salary with premium pay	\$127,823	\$126,171	\$130,858

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Amounts Available for Obligation

<u>Financing</u>	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Continuing	FY 2025 Estimate
Obligations from new authority	\$13,155,478	\$14,000,000	\$14,600,000
Plus: Unobligated balance	844,522	0	0
Limitation on the Office of Inspector General	\$14,000,000 <u>a/</u>	\$14,000,000 <u>b/</u>	\$14,600,000
<u>Relation of direct obligations to outlays</u>			
Obligations incurred	\$13,155,478	\$14,000,000	\$14,600,000
Obligated balance, start of year	---	2,243,845	2,243,845
Obligated balance, end of year	(2,243,845)	(2,243,845)	(2,243,845)
Direct Outlays	\$10,911,633	\$14,000,000	\$14,600,000

a/ Represents the level of funding provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328).

b/ Represents the continuing level of funding provided by the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (H.R. 2872).

Note: Funding for the audit and investigative activities of the Railroad Retirement Board – Office of Inspector General is transferred from the Railroad Retirement Account (RRA), the Social Security Equivalent Benefit (SSEB) Account, and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account (RUIA). The President’s budget reflects budget authority for administrative expenses in the RRA, SSEB Account, and the RUIA. The Limitation on the Office of Inspector General receives its spending authority from offsetting collections equal to the appropriation amount.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

APPROPRIATIONS HISTORY TABLE

FISCAL YEAR	PRESIDENT'S BUDGET	APPROPRIATION
2009	\$7,806,000	\$7,806,000 <u>a/</u>
2010	\$8,186,000	\$8,186,000 <u>b/</u>
2011	\$8,936,000	\$8,169,628 <u>c/</u>
2012	\$9,259,000	\$8,154,559 <u>d/</u>
2013	\$8,820,000	\$7,973,686 <u>e/</u>
2014	\$8,877,000	\$8,272,000 <u>f/</u>
2015	\$8,750,000	\$8,437,000 <u>g/</u>
2016	\$9,450,000	\$8,437,000 <u>h/</u>
2017	\$10,499,000	\$10,000,000 <u>i/</u>
2018	\$8,437,000	\$11,000,000 <u>j/</u>
2019	\$8,437,000	\$11,000,000 <u>k/</u>
2020	\$11,000,000	\$11,000,000 <u>l/</u>
2021	\$11,500,000	\$11,500,000 <u>m/</u>
2022	\$12,650,000	\$12,650,000 <u>n/</u>
2023	\$13,269,000	\$14,000,000 <u>o/</u>
2024	\$14,000,000	<u>p/</u>

- a/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2009 (P.L. 111-8).
- b/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (P.L. 111-117).
- c/ Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011 (P.L. 112-10), less \$16,372 rescinded in accordance with P.L. 112-10.
- d/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 (P.L. 112-74) amount of \$8,170,000, less \$15,441 rescinded in accordance with P.L. 112-74.
- e/ Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013 (P.L. 113-6).
- f/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-76).
- g/ Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (P.L. 113-235).
- h/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (P.L. 114-113).
- i/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (P.L. 115-31).
- j/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (P.L. 115-141).
- k/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (P.L. 116-6).
- l/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (P.L. 116-94).
- m/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260).
- n/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 (P.L. 117-103).
- o/ Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (P.L. 117-328).
- p/ Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2024 (H.R. 2872)

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

STAFFING HISTORY

Actual and Projected Full-Time Equivalent Employment

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Total FTEs</u>	<u>Change from previous year</u>	<u>Percent change from previous year</u>	<u>Cumulative FTE changes</u>	<u>Cumulative percent change since fiscal year 1993</u>
1993	99	---	---	---	---
1994	93	-6	-6.1%	-6	-6.1%
1995	88	-5	-5.4%	-11	-11.1%
1996	74	-14	-15.9%	-25	-25.3%
1997	62	-12	-16.2%	-37	-37.4%
1998	59	-3	-4.8%	-40	-40.4%
1999	59	0	0.0%	-40	-40.4%
2000	54	-5	-8.5%	-45	-45.5%
2001	51	-3	-5.6%	-48	-48.5%
2002	51	0	0.0%	-48	-48.5%
2003	53	2	3.9%	-46	-46.5%
2004	51	-2	-3.8%	-48	-48.5%
2005	50	-1	-2.0%	-49	-49.5%
2006	51	1	2.0%	-48	-48.5%
2007	48	-3	-5.9%	-51	-51.5%
2008	47	-1	-2.1%	-52	-52.5%
2009	48	1	2.1%	-51	-51.5%
2010	53	5	10.4%	-46	-46.5%
2011	53	0	0.0%	-46	-46.5%
2012	52	-1	-1.9%	-47	-47.5%
2013	48	-4	-7.7%	-51	-51.5%
2014	49	1	2.1%	-50	-50.5%
2015	48	-1	-2.0%	-51	-51.5%
2016	47	-1	-2.1%	-52	-52.5%
2017	48	1	2.1%	-51	-51.5%
2018	48	0	0.0%	-51	-51.5%
2019	48	0	0.0%	-51	-51.5%
2020	48	0	0.0%	-51	-51.5%
2021	47	-1	-2.1%	-52	-52.5%
2022	45	-2	-4.3%	-54	-54.5%
2023	41.5	-3.5	-7.8%	-57.5	-58.1%
2024	46 ^{a/}	4.5	10.8%	-46.7	-47.2%

^{a/} Reflects projected FTEs.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

EXPLANATION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET REQUEST

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) is responsible for promoting economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; and identifying and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in agency programs. The RRB administers comprehensive retirement/survivor and unemployment/sickness insurance benefit programs for the nation's railroad workers and their families. It is the RRB's mission to pay accurate and timely benefits. As of September 30, 2023, the RRB was 28th in Federal Government spending with a total obligated amount of \$17,008,964,703.

During fiscal year 2023, which ended September 30, 2023, the RRB paid approximately \$14.0 billion in benefit payments, net of recoveries and offsetting collections. Of this amount, benefit payments for the railroad retirement and survivor benefits program totaled \$13.9 billion (including \$847,995,000 in disability annuities), for the railroad unemployment and sickness insurance benefits program totaled \$54.7 million, for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) programs totaled (\$0.4) million, and for the vested dual benefits program totaled \$7.7 million, net of recoveries and offsetting collections. During fiscal year 2023, the RRB also paid benefits on behalf of the Social Security Administration (SSA) (for which the RRB is reimbursed), amounting to \$2.4 billion for about 127,000 beneficiaries. During this period, the RRB made payments to approximately:

- 493,000 beneficiaries for retirement and survivors' benefits,
- 3,000 beneficiaries for unemployment insurance benefits,
- 12,000 beneficiaries sickness insurance benefits, and
- 4,000 beneficiaries vested dual benefits.

The RRB contracts with a separate Medicare Part B carrier to process the Medicare Part B claims of qualified railroad retirement beneficiaries. As of September 30, 2023, approximately 437,496 beneficiaries were enrolled in the Medicare Part B program through the RRB. During fiscal year 2023, the RRB's separate Part B carrier paid approximately \$937,961,947 in benefits and processed 7,859,038 Medicare Part B claims.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

The OIG conducts audits and management reviews of RRB operations and provides recommendations for improvement to agency management. The OIG also identifies and investigates waste, fraud, and abuse in RRB programs and makes referrals for prosecution and monetary recovery actions.

The fiscal year 2025 Performance Budget, including the President's proposed administrative budget and projected performance statistics for fiscal years 2024 through 2025, is included in this budget justification.

The OIG is requesting \$14,600,000 in fiscal year 2025 to conduct its independent oversight of agency operations and the agency's potential obligations of approximately \$17 billion. The OIG will continue to perform fraud investigations, identify operational weaknesses, review RRB's financials, and detect internal control deficiencies in RRB benefit programs. The OIG will also continue its work with agency managers to ensure the implementation of corrective actions.

The OIG conducts its operation through two major components: the Office of Audit and the Office of Investigations. A discussion of fiscal year 2025 priority areas for audit and investigative activities follows.

OFFICE OF AUDIT

The mission of the Office of Audit (OA) is to (1) promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the administration of RRB programs, and (2) detect and prevent fraud and abuse in such programs. OA provides auditing services by conducting audits with its own audit resources and overseeing audit work by independent public accounting firms. Through the Inspector General, OA informs the Board Members and the Congress of current and potential problems and deficiencies in RRB operations, financial management and progress towards corrective action.

During fiscal year 2025, in addition to its congressionally mandated work, OA will focus on areas affecting program performance, financial accountability, mismanagement, the efficiency and effectiveness of agency operations, and areas of potential fraud, waste, and abuse. OA will continue its emphasis on long

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

term systemic problems and solutions and will address major issues that affect the RRB's service to rail beneficiaries and their families. OA has identified seven broad areas of potential audit coverage:

- Financial Accountability
- Railroad Retirement Act and Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act Benefit Program Operations
- Information Technology
- Railroad Medicare Program Operations
- Disability Program Integrity
- Compliance Audits
- Effectiveness and Efficiency of Agency Operations

During fiscal year 2025, OA must accomplish the following mandated activities:

- Audit of the RRB's financial statements pursuant to the requirements of the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002
- Evaluation of information security pursuant to the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA)
- Audit of the RRB's compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019
- Review of IG requirements for Government Charge Card Abuse and Prevention Act of 2012
- Identification of performance and management challenges for fiscal year 2024
- Semiannual reporting and audit follow-up in accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended
- Completion of continuing professional education hours as required by Government Auditing Standards
- Summarization of the Office of Audit's quality monitoring process, including internal quality assurance reviews, as required by Government Auditing Standards
- Peer review of another federal OIG, as required by Government Auditing Standards and scheduled by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE).

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

The portion of OA resources dedicated to conducting mandated work continues to be significant. In fiscal year 2023, approximately 55 percent of direct auditor time was spent completing mandated audits, overseeing mandated contracted audits, mandated reviews, Railroad Medicare work, and other required work. This percentage is expected to remain consistent in fiscal year 2025.

It is important to note that our mandated work limits the conduct of discretionary, RRB program-specific audits.

Placed in context, the OA reports on these six major challenges facing the RRB:

1. Agency Disability Program Integrity Improvement
2. Information Technology Security Improvement and System Modernization Completion
3. Improving the Management and Transparency of Railroad Medicare
4. Payment Accuracy and Transparency Improvement
5. Achieving a Clean Opinion on Agency Financial Statements and Internal Controls over Financial Reporting
6. Improving Compliance with Various Laws and Regulations, including Timely Implementation of Audit Recommendations.

Consequently, with increased resources, the OA could meet all congressional mandates and provide additional audit oversight requested by the RRB, the railroad community, and internal OIG generated through risk-based audit planning.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

During fiscal year 2025, OA will complete the audit of the RRB's fiscal year 2024 financial statements and begin its audit of the agency's fiscal year 2025 financial statements. OA contracts with a consulting actuary for technical assistance in auditing the RRB's Statement of Social Insurance and the Statement of Changes in Social Insurance Amounts and will continue to use an independent public accounting firm to conduct the financial statement audit in fiscal year 2025. For the FISMA audit, OA hired an independent public accounting firm for fiscal year 2024 and for fiscal year 2025 to evaluate and audit the RRB's information security program. As resources become available, OA conducts audits of individual information systems that are required to support an evaluation of federal information system controls. Our work in this area is targeted toward identifying and eliminating security deficiencies and control weaknesses in the RRB's information security systems, including controls over sensitive personally identifiable information.

OA undertakes additional projects to allocate available audit resources to areas where they will have the greatest value. In making that determination, OA uses a strategic planning process to focus on areas affecting program performance, efficiency and effectiveness of agency operations, and areas of potential fraud, waste, and abuse. OA also considers staff availability, current trends in management, and Congressional and Presidential concerns. The OA annual work plan is the primary tool for directing and controlling OA activities.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

The Office of Investigations (OI) focuses on identifying, investigating and presenting cases for prosecution, throughout the United States, concerning fraud in RRB benefit programs. OI conducts investigations relating to the fraudulent receipt of RRB sickness, unemployment, disability, or retirement benefits. OI investigates railroad employers and unions when there is an indication that they have submitted false reports to the RRB. OI also conducts investigations involving fraudulent claims submitted to the Railroad Medicare program. These investigative efforts can result in criminal convictions, civil judgments, or the recommendation for administrative recovery of program benefit funds.

OI initiates cases based on information from a variety of sources. For example, the RRB conducts computer matching of employment and earnings information reported to state governments and the Social Security Administration with RRB benefits paid data. Fraud referrals are made to OI if a match is found. OI also receives allegations of fraud through the OIG Hotline; contacts with state, local and federal agencies; and information developed through audits conducted by the OIG's OA.

The Inspector General Empowerment Act of 2016 strengthened an OIG's ability to identify fraudulent or improper government payments through data analytics. In addition to identifying potential targets previously undetected through the RRB's standard program integrity measures, OIG will make the necessary recommendations to resolve identified program weaknesses and prevent future occurrences. The OIG will continue our commitment to proactively design investigative projects to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the RRB's program and operations.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

OI Investigative Results for Fiscal Year 2023

Civil			Financial
<u>Judgments</u>	<u>Indictments/Informations</u>	<u>Convictions</u>	<u>Accomplishments</u>
13	13	19	\$101.2 million*

During fiscal year 2023, OI opened 120 new cases and closed 110 cases. As of September 30, 2023, OI had 325 cases open in 44 states and the District of Columbia. This potential fraud amount reflects programs administered exclusively by the RRB and potential fraud amounts from other federal programs, such as Medicare, which have been identified during OI's joint investigative work. Potential fraud amounts associated with joint casework may not necessarily be delineated by agency. OI anticipates an ongoing caseload of at least 300 investigations in both fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

OI will concentrate its resources on cases with the highest fraud losses. Typically, these cases are related to the RRB's disability and Medicare programs. Disability fraud cases currently constitute approximately 26 percent of OI's total caseload. These cases involve more complicated schemes and often result in the recovery of substantial funds for the agency's trust funds. OI will continue to dedicate considerable time and resources to the investigation of nationwide schemes to defraud the RRB disability program. These cases usually require sizeable resources, including travel by special agents, more sophisticated investigative techniques, and numerous witness interviews. Additionally, these cases usually require very sophisticated financial analysis, since the schemes are often cloaked in what could appear to be legitimate business practices.

*The total amount of financial accomplishments may reflect fraud amounts related to programs administered exclusively by the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) and fraud amounts from other federal programs, such as Medicare, which were included in the disposition resulting from the investigation. Judicial sentences associated with joint casework are not necessarily delineated by agency. If delineated, the associated RRB loss amount will be reflected in the calculation.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

OI's collaborative joint investigative efforts ensure that RRB beneficiaries are protected from sham medical practitioners and that the Railroad Medicare program's interests are safeguarded from fraudulent schemes. In fiscal year 2023, Railroad Medicare fraud investigations represented approximately 11 percent of OI's total caseload. OI will continue to work joint cases with other offices of Inspectors General and federal law enforcement agencies responsible for healthcare fraud matters.

OI will continue to investigate fraud allegations of railroad employees collecting unemployment or sickness insurance benefits while working and receiving wages from an employer. Unemployment/sickness insurance fraud cases constituted about 45 percent of our fiscal year 2023 investigative caseload. This increase is attributed to fraud referrals involving CARES Act funds. OI will also investigate retirement fraud, typically involving the theft and fraudulent cashing of U.S. Treasury checks or the withdrawal of electronically deposited RRB benefits.

OI will continue to use the Department of Justice's Affirmative Civil Enforcement program to prosecute cases that do not meet criminal prosecution thresholds.

In fiscal year 2025, OI will continue coordinating its efforts with agency program managers to address vulnerabilities in benefit programs that allow fraudulent activity to occur and will recommend changes to ensure program integrity. OI plans to continue proactive projects to identify fraud matters not detected through the agency's program policing mechanisms. OI will also continue to work with RRB program managers to ensure the appropriate and timely referral of all fraud matters to the OIG.

OI will also investigate complaints involving administrative irregularities and any alleged misconduct by agency employees.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Conclusion

In fiscal year 2025, the OIG will continue to focus its resources on reviewing and improving RRB operations and conduct activities to ensure the integrity of agency trust funds. This office will continue working with agency officials to ensure the agency provides quality service to railroad workers and their families. The OIG will also aggressively pursue all individuals who engage in activities to receive fraudulently obtained RRB funds, including Railroad Medicare funds.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

FISCAL YEAR 2025 PERFORMANCE BUDGET

The audit and investigative programs of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) are dedicated to protecting the integrity of the Railroad Retirement Board's (RRB) trust funds and improving the delivery of benefits to the railroad community. The OIG has developed the Fiscal Year 2025 Performance Budget to support our mission by establishing performance measures for our strategic goals.

The OIG is aware that external factors may significantly affect planned activities and the allocation of resources during any given fiscal year. New legislative mandates may necessitate the delay of scheduled projects to ensure that we meet new statutory requirements.

MISSION STATEMENT

The OIG promotes economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the RRB's programs and operations by focusing our audit and investigative efforts on protecting the integrity of the RRB's trust funds and improving the delivery of benefits to the railroad community.

VISION STATEMENT

The OIG employs a skilled and professional workforce dedicated to the goals and mission of the Office. The OIG:

- conducts audits and management reviews of the RRB's programs and operations;
- provides recommendations for improvement to RRB management;
- prevents and detects fraud, waste, and abuse in the RRB's programs and operations;
- reviews and makes recommendations regarding existing and proposed legislation and regulations relating to the RRB's programs and operations; and
- informs RRB Board Members and the Congress of problems in the RRB's programs and operations.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

STRATEGIC GOALS

This plan establishes the following three strategic goals.

1. Add value to the RRB's programs and operations.
2. Protect the integrity of the RRB's programs, operations, and trust funds.
3. Ensure quality and excellence in the OIG's work and products.

The first goal addresses our independent oversight of the RRB's programs and operations. In support of this goal, we evaluate agency program functions, assess program efficiency, and advise management regarding necessary actions to improve agency performance.

The second goal involves compliance reviews and enforcement activities to identify systemic weaknesses in the RRB's programs and operations. We aim to reduce the potential for waste, fraud, and abuse in the RRB's programs and operations and to deter future fraudulent activities.

The third goal focuses on the OIG's internal operations. We will identify ways to streamline audits and investigations by utilizing new technologies, providing staff training, and improving planning processes.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Goal 1 – Add value to the RRB’s programs and operations.

The RRB, the Congress, and other interested parties use the OIG's products and services to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the RRB’s programs and operations.

We will achieve this goal by:

- Focusing the OIG’s work on major RRB programs and operations. Major areas include the annual financial statement audit, information systems and security, improper payments, and e-Government initiatives. We will review operating performance in both program and administrative functions to ensure that agency activities promote efficiency and minimize the potential for fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Providing accurate, objective, and timely information to the RRB, the Congress, and other interested parties.
- Promoting actions on OIG recommendations.

Goal 2 – Protect the integrity of the agency’s programs, operations, and trust funds.

This goal addresses the OIG’s vision statement's third element: to prevent and detect fraud and abuse in the RRB’s programs and operations. To achieve this goal, we will review and investigate allegations of fraud referred to our Office through various internal and external sources. We will also develop proactive strategies to identify systemic fraud and abuse and make recommendations to address the causes. Based on the recommendations issued by this Office, the agency has the responsibility to establish the necessary controls in its programs and operations.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

We will achieve this goal by:

- Analyzing RRB programs and operations to identify those that are most susceptible to fraud and abuse and those programs for which the agency's policing mechanisms are ineffective. We will continue to develop traditional information sources, both within and outside the agency, that provide information concerning allegations of fraud and abuse.
- Taking timely actions in response to allegations of fraud and abuse. We will take a proactive approach to developing electronic information sources and methodologies that will allow us to conduct our investigations and analysis in the most efficient manner. We will provide the necessary support for prosecutors to conduct appropriate criminal or civil actions to address allegations of fraud or abuse.
- Providing all interested parties, i.e., prosecutors, agency officials, the Congress, and others as warranted, with complete, accurate, and timely reports concerning the results of our audit and investigative activities. We will alert agency officials and the Congress regarding significant issues that will impact agency programs and operations. We will encourage publication of judicial results by prosecutors to strengthen the deterrent effect of those actions.
- Conducting timely follow-up actions to ensure the agency addresses our systemic issue recommendations.
- Monitoring progress for all matters referred for judicial action.
- Encouraging prosecutors to complete a satisfaction survey at the conclusion of all judicial proceedings to provide honest feedback regarding OI's investigative activities.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Goal 3 – Ensure quality and excellence in the OIG’s work and products.

To carry out its mission competently and efficiently, the OIG must have a skilled and motivated workforce. All staff members must have the knowledge and skills required to perform their duties. The OIG’s management will support its staff by providing the means to carry out the mission of the office and implementing a comprehensive quality assurance program.

We will achieve this goal by:

- Focusing on recruiting and retaining a highly skilled and appropriately developed professional staff.
- Ensuring that the staff is fully supported with the necessary training, tools, services, and direction to carry out their oversight duties effectively and efficiently.
- Implementing a comprehensive quality assurance program that ensures compliance with OIG policies and procedures; Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards; the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency quality standards for federal Offices of Inspector General; and other requirements.

PERFORMANCE BUDGET

The Annual Performance Budget for fiscal year 2025 provides performance indicators consistent with our strategic goals. Actual performance is provided in the following exhibit for fiscal years 2020 through 2023. Performance for fiscal year 2024 reflects the appropriated level of resources provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (P.L. 117-328). Fiscal year 2025 performance reflects the President’s proposed budget level of \$14,600,000.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Railroad Retirement Board Office of Inspector General FY 2025 Performance Budget	<u>FY 2020</u> Actual (\$11.00M)	<u>FY 2021</u> Actual (\$11.50M)	<u>FY 2022</u> Actual (\$12.65M)	<u>FY 2023</u> Actual (\$14.00M)	<u>FY 2024</u> Estimate (\$14.00M)	<u>FY 2025</u> Request (\$14.60M)
Strategic Goal I: Add value to the RRB's programs and operations.						
The OIG will solicit suggestions for audits and reviews for the annual audit work plan from 100% of the agency's organizational components.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
For discretionary audits, seventy-five percent of draft reports will be issued to agency management within 240 days of entrance.				0%	75%	75%
For all mandated work products, ninety percent will be issued by the reporting deadline.			100%	100%	90%	90%
For audit follow-up, eighty percent of requests to close an audit recommendation will be evaluated and responses sent within thirty business days of receipt.			71%	81%	80%	80%
Reports on the progress of corrective actions for audit recommendations will be issued to the RRB Chairman within 35 days of the six-month reporting period.	35 days	35 days	35 days	35 days	35 days	35 days

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Railroad Retirement Board Office of Inspector General FY 2025 Performance Budget	FY 2020 Actual (\$11.00M)	FY 2021 Actual (\$11.50M)	FY 2022 Actual (\$12.65M)	FY 2023 Actual (\$14.00M)	FY 2024 Estimate (\$14.00M)	FY 2025 Request (\$14.60M)
Strategic Goal II: Protect the integrity of the RRB's programs, operations, and trust funds.						
Percentage of allegations evaluated and reviewed for investigative action within 30 days of receipt.	99%	95%	93%	93%	93%	95%
Percentage of investigative cases closed during fiscal year to total cases open during the fiscal year.	38%	24%	20%	25%	25%	25%
The OIG will complete four projects to identify fraud cases that are not detected through agency policing procedures.	8	7	7	6	6	8

Note: Historical figures have been recalculated using updated numbers from the case management system and an improved methodology. Estimated figures have also been calculated using the same methodology.

Office of Inspector General for the Railroad Retirement Board

Railroad Retirement Board Office of Inspector General FY 2025 Performance Budget	<u>FY 2020</u> Actual (\$11.00M)	<u>FY 2021</u> Actual (\$11.50M)	<u>FY 2022</u> Actual (\$12.65M)	<u>FY 2023</u> Actual (\$14.00M)	<u>FY 2024</u> Estimate (\$14.00M)	<u>FY 2025</u> Request (\$14.60M)
Strategic Goal III: Ensure quality and excellence in the OIG's work and products.						
Percentage of employees meeting the training requirements of their profession.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All auditors hold the appropriate credentials to satisfy government, CIGIE and applicable standards.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
All auditors will receive 80 hours of continuing professional education over 2 years.	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Eighty percent of audits are subject to an internal quality assurance review.	100%	100%	100%	100%	80%	80%

