Selected National and Railroad Data

Year or month	Index of Industrial Production[1] (2017 = 100)	Consumer Price Index[2] (1982-84 = 100) CPI-W	CPI-U	U.S. Civilian Labor Force (millions) Employed	Unemployed	Railroad Labor Force (thousands) Employed Number[3]	Percent Change[4]	Unemployed	Benefit Payments ($ millions)[5] RRA[6]	RUIA[7]	U.S. Rail Total Traffic[8] (thousands)	Railroad Payrolls ($ billions) Creditable[9] Total	RRA Tier I	RRA Tier II	RUIA
2015	101.0	231.810	237.017	148.8	8.3	247	2.1	3	12,231	93[10]	27,977	21.4	19.99	18.38	4.30
2016	98.8	234.076	240.007	151.4	7.8	231	-6.5	5	12,385	137[10]	26,588	19.5	18.32	16.92	4.00
2017	100.0	239.051	245.120	153.3	7.0	225	-2.6	3	12,501	98	27,123	19.7	18.50	17.23	4.14
2018	103.2	245.146	251.107	155.8	6.3	224	-0.4	2	12,752	87	28,113	20.7	19.66	18.05	4.17
2019	102.3	249.222	255.657	157.5	6.0	217	-3.1	3	13,029	128	26,705	19.2	19.02	17.74	4.15
2020	95.1	252.248	258.811	147.8	12.9	195	-10.1	9	13,199	237[11]	24,743	18.0	17.48	16.31	3.84
2021	99.3	265.510	270.970	152.6	8.6	186	-4.6	5	13,116	165[11]	26,149	17.9	17.11	16.01	3.78
2022	101.0	287.984	292.655	158.3	6.0	190	2.2	1	13,526	112[11]	24,945	19.5	18.64	17.23	3.98
2023	100.8	298.990	304.702	161.0	6.1	200	5.3	1	14,187	90	24,347	22.8	21.74	19.87	4.51
2024	100.1	307.552	313.689	161.3	6.8	201	0.5	1	14,357	97	25,179	22.8	21.93	20.37	4.75
2025	101.2	315.285	321.943	163.5	7.3	198	-1.5	2	14,648	125	25,548				
2025-January	100.1	311.172	317.671	162.3	7.5	199	-1.0	2	1,211	11					
February	101.1	312.460	319.082	162.5	7.6	199	-1.5	2	1,213	9					
March	101.0	313.250	319.799	163.4	7.2	199	-1.5	1	1,209	9	6,396				
April	101.1	314.243	320.795	164.1	6.6	199	-2.0	1	1,213	9					
May	101.0	314.839	321.465	163.4	6.8	199	-2.0	1	1,209	9					
June	101.5	315.945	322.561	163.9	7.5	198	-2.0	1	1,279	10	6,315				
July	101.9	316.349	323.048	163.8	7.8	198	-1.5	2	1,252	12					
August	101.6	317.306	323.976	163.3	7.7	197	-2.0	2	1,218	10					
September	101.7	318.139	324.800	163.9	7.3	197	-2.0	2	1,216	11	6,598				
October	101.2	N/A[12]	N/A[12]	N/A[12]	N/A[12]	197	-2.0	2	1,211	12					
November	101.0	317.414	324.122	164.1	7.4	196	-2.5	2	1,208	10					
December	101.5	317.014	324.054	163.7	7.0	196	-2.5	2	1,208	13	6,239				
2026-January	101.0	317.942	325.252	161.7	7.9	194	-2.5	2	1,231	13					
February	101.9	319.422	326.785	162.2	8.1	194	-2.5	3	1,227	11					
March	101.7	323.500	330.213	162.8	7.3	194	-2.5	2	1,228	12	6,497				
April	102.6	326.541	333.020	162.8	6.8	194	-2.5	2	1,229	11					
May	102.7	328.829	335.123	162.9	6.9	194	-2.5	2	1,222	9					
June	103.0	327.075	333.952	162.7	7.5	194	-2.0	1	1,226	9	6,652				
July	103.2	327.104	333.918	162.8	7.4	194	-2.0	2	1,221	11					
August	103.3	328.481	334.980	162.7	7.4	194	-1.5	2	1,223	11					
September	104.0	330.654	336.940	163.4	6.9	194	-1.5	2	1,221	13	6,840				

See footnotes at end of table.

[1] Monthly index numbers are seasonally adjusted. Annual index totals are the average of not seasonally adjusted data.

[2] CPI-W based on wage-clerical worker spending patterns, CPI-U on expanded population sample covering all urban consumers.

[3] Employment data for 2024 was revised and finalized in November 2025. Employment data for 2025 was also revised and is preliminary. Employment data for 2025 is expected to be finalized in November 2026. Employment data is based on mid-month numbers from the Surface Transportation Board.

[4] Increase (+) or decrease (-) from previous year or from same month in previous year.

[5] Prior to 2019, net benefit payment amounts were provided by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board's Bureau of Fiscal Operations. Beginning in January 2019, RRA net benefit payment amount is provided by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Monthly Treasury Statement, and RUIA benefit payments reflect gross amounts.

[6] The Social Security Fairness Act, signed January 5, 2025, and effective retroactively to months after December 2023, ends the reduction of Tier I retirement benefits paid to rail employees, spouses, or widow(er)s who qualify for both a railroad retirement annuity and a federal, state, or local government pension. After the implementation of this law, cases started to be manually reviewed in January 2025, with the first mass adjustment occurring in June 2025 followed by a second mass adjustment in July 2025.

[7] Amounts reflect a reduction of 9.2% under sequestration for days of unemployment and sickness after February 28, 2013, a reduction of 7.2% for days 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, 6.6% for days 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. Beginning January 3, 2021, the Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act of 2020 temporarily suspended sequestration through May 9, 2023, 30 days after the Presidential declaration of an end to the national emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. The Railroad Employee Equity and Fairness Act of 2024 (REEF Act), enacted December 23, 2024, ended sequestration retroactively to May 9, 2023, but benefit amounts reflect the legislation in place at time of payment. Manual review of payments began soon after, with daily mechanical adjustments occurring from late May into August 2025.

[8] Source: The Association of American Railroads (AAR). U.S. rail total traffic consists of carloads and intermodal units and excludes the U.S. operations of Canadian National and Canadian Pacific. Effective 2018, U.S. rail total traffic also excludes the U.S. operations of Grupo México Transportes.

[9] Tier I and Tier II creditable payrolls, which became effective with the Railroad Retirement Act of 1974, have annual earnings bases. RUIA payroll has a monthly earnings base. Tier I payroll includes miscellaneous compensation.

[10] 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 by the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010, the Temporary Payroll Tax Cut Continuation Act of 2011, the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, and the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Benefits had to begin by December 31, 2013.

[11] Beginning in May 2020, RUIA claimants were paid under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020, as amended by the Continued Assistance to Rail Workers Act of 2020, and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, with no benefits payable under these acts for registration periods beginning after September 6, 2021. The total amount from the Treasury's Monthly Treasury Statement is $263.5 million.

[12] Data unavailable due to the source agencies' inability to collect data during the lapse in federal appropriations.

NOTE:---Annual figures are averages of available monthly figures. Mid-month employment count is estimated number of employees in active pay status on carrier reporting date, excluding strikers and other employees whose absence from duty is strike-related, and without regard to whether such excluded employees are qualified for or receiving RUIA unemployment benefits. Railroad unemployed represents number claiming benefits in week including the 15th of the month. Benefits are net amounts paid during the month and do not necessarily relate to the period in which accrued. RRA benefits include payments from the Dual Benefits Payments Account. Quarterly figures shown opposite last month of quarter. Changes from preceding month's report reflect revisions based on later data. Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
Bureau of the Actuary and Research