
Quarterly Benefit Statistics

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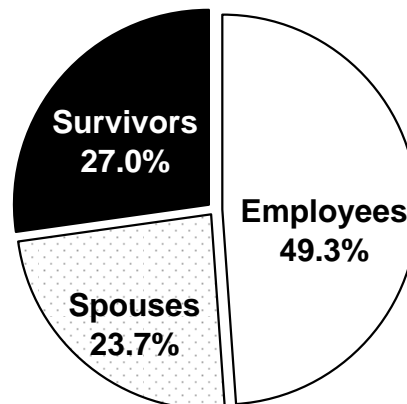
Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs

Selected Current Statistics for **October - December 2008**

- List of Tables:**
- Table 1 - Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
 - Table 2 - Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics
 - Table 3 - Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics
 - Table 4 - Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics
 - Table 5 - Benefits and Beneficiaries
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Railroad Retirement and Survivor Beneficiaries on the Rolls, by Type, December 2008

(558,000 beneficiaries)



NOTE.--Some 4,600 employees also received spouse annuities and about 2,600 employees also received survivor annuities.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
October - December 2008**

Period	Total ¹		Employee annuities				Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries	Age	Disability ²		Supplemental		
				Under full retirement age	Full retirement age and over			
Number in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2008	686,244	557,956	191,062	49,893	34,158	120,999	132,996	3,622
November 2008	686,027	557,802	191,058	49,694	34,275	120,964	132,778	3,610
October 2008	686,335	558,165	191,126	49,544	34,476	120,922	132,727	3,606
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period								
December 2008	.....	.....	\$2,081.96	\$2,378.02	\$1,876.31	\$41.66	\$786.64	\$482.92
November 2008	.....	.....	1,990.64	2,269.50	1,791.19	41.66	753.92	457.76
October 2008	.....	.....	1,986.25	2,268.77	1,790.66	41.66	751.91	457.08
Number awarded during period								
December 2008	2,311	1,969	463	261	.....	342	680	36
November 2008	3,056	2,475	772	206	.....	581	837	38
October 2008	3,437	2,781	903	277	.....	656	876	53
10/08 - 12/08	8,804	7,225	2,138	744	.....	1,579	2,393	127
10/07 - 12/07	8,971	7,334	2,109	892	.....	1,637	2,322	114
Average amount awarded during period³								
December 2008	.....	.....	\$2,645.58	\$2,230.78	.....	\$40.61	\$981.70	\$463.38
November 2008	.....	.....	2,673.72	2,480.11	.....	41.40	964.92	492.57
October 2008	.....	.....	2,652.43	2,352.19	.....	41.42	944.44	400.41
Benefit payments during period (thousands)								
December 2008	\$845,446	.....	\$380,939	\$115,907	\$61,305	\$4,969	\$100,971	\$1,699
November 2008	845,588	.....	381,103	115,658	61,599	5,052	101,049	1,709
October 2008	846,224	.....	380,703	116,761	61,351	5,045	100,805	1,712
10/08 - 12/08	2,537,258	.....	1,142,745	348,326	184,255	15,066	302,825	5,120
10/07 - 12/07	2,468,183	.....	1,100,797	343,633	174,846	15,189	290,963	4,853

¹Includes 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.

²Full retirement age, also known as normal retirement age, is gradually increasing from age 65 to age 67 over a 22 year period. For those born 1/2/1943-1/1/1955, the normal retirement age is 66.

³Regular employee and spouse annuity averages are preliminary estimates.

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. Data are on a cash basis (unaudited) and are partly estimated.

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics
October - December 2008 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits									
Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments	Divorced partition payments ⁴
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers				
Number in current-payment status at end of period									
December 2008	123,282	4,440	814	4,534	9,585	10,727	.....	.....	91
November 2008	123,449	4,443	816	4,544	9,570	10,698	.....	.....	88
October 2008	123,708	4,450	831	4,552	9,553	10,714	.....	.....	86
Average amount in current-payment status at end of period									
December 2008	\$1,265.61	\$1,063.98	\$1,553.26	\$864.39	\$852.94	\$928.06	.....	.....	\$325.92
November 2008	1,226.71	1,027.61	1,533.84	816.94	805.82	880.24	.....	.....	321.02
October 2008	1,224.27	1,026.57	1,529.19	816.56	805.51	880.46	.....	.....	320.80
Number awarded during period									
December 2008	433	9	8	8	40	30	310	2	.....
November 2008	528	12	8	7	44	23	269	1	.....
October 2008	512	18	13	20	55	54	349	---	.....
10/08 - 12/08	1,473	39	29	35	139	107	928	3	.....
10/07 - 12/07	1,501	42	33	47	149	125	898	10	.....
Average amount awarded during period³									
December 2008	\$1,623.89	\$1,926.50	\$1,539.99	\$939.38	\$868.90	\$1,160.33	\$906	\$2,579	.....
November 2008	1,616.49	1,221.32	1,479.32	1,136.43	826.66	1,044.43	870	3,076	.....
October 2008	1,630.94	1,256.16	1,494.98	792.74	913.16	1,151.41	881	---	.....
Benefit payments during period (thousands)									
December 2008	\$151,923	\$4,711	\$1,316	\$3,731	\$7,835	\$9,772	\$287	\$5	\$28
November 2008	151,848	4,674	1,342	3,730	7,806	9,707	246	3	28
October 2008	151,863	4,724	1,354	3,754	7,823	9,916	321	---	25
10/08 - 12/08	455,634	14,109	4,012	11,215	23,464	29,395	854	8	81
10/07 - 12/07	455,626	14,023	4,065	11,168	22,483	29,516	860	15	4

⁴Effective August 17, 2007. Limited to post employee death tier II partition payments to divorced spouses.

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 22nd of each month.

Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics
October - December 2008 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)

Item	December 2008	November 2008	October 2008	October 2008 - December 2008	October 2007 - December 2007
RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period¹	\$372,526	\$570,719	\$632,019	\$632,019	\$616,854
Income, total	457,178	262,486	400,737	1,120,402	1,083,878
Payroll taxes ²	166,715	156,645	169,545	492,905	476,094
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	22,000	22,000	83,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	102,574	104,591	103,897	311,062	306,761
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust ⁴	187,000	.....	104,000	291,000	215,000
Transfer from SSEB Account ⁴	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ⁵	44	93	85	222	13
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury ⁶	34	32	29	95	134
Interest on investments ⁷	812	1,125	1,181	3,118	2,876
Outgo, total	458,552	460,679	462,037	1,381,268	1,331,116
Benefit payments-regular	345,645	345,268	345,230	1,036,142	992,046
Benefit payments-supplemental	4,969	5,052	5,045	15,066	15,189
Payments of SSA benefits	102,695	104,510	103,848	311,053	306,963
Administrative expenses ⁸	5,063	5,488	7,398	17,950	15,787
Funding for Office of Inspector General	181	361	516	1,058	1,130
Balance at end of period¹	371,152	372,526	570,719	371,152	369,617
NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST					
Cash and investment balance at end of period⁹	\$20,723,321	\$20,122,905	\$21,260,848	\$20,723,321	\$31,942,593
DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT¹⁰					
Balance at beginning of period	-\$12,142	-\$6,096	.....	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments ¹¹	(12)	(12)	(12)	(12)	-\$1,999
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	.....	.....	2,000
Vested dual benefit payments	5,992	6,046	\$6,096	\$18,135	20,266
Balance at end of period	-18,134	-12,142	-6,096	-18,134	-20,266

Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics
October - December 2008 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued

Item	December 2008	November 2008	October 2008	October 2008 - December 2008	October 2007 - December 2007
SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$804,566	\$812,008	\$791,230	\$791,230	\$744,247
Income, total	531,732	484,592	514,659	1,530,983	1,463,259
Payroll taxes ²	222,833	193,577	197,347	613,757	600,505
Income tax transfers ³	.....	.....	18,000	18,000	34,000
Financial interchange advances ¹³	307,479	289,333	297,882	894,693	824,722
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments ⁷	1,421	1,683	1,429	4,533	4,032
Outgo, total	491,510	492,034	493,880	1,477,424	1,457,873
Benefit payments	488,840	489,222	489,853	1,467,915	1,440,681
Repayment of financial interchange advances ¹³	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account ⁴	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses ⁸	2,578	2,627	3,763	8,968	16,606
Funding for Office of Inspector General	92	185	264	541	586
Balance at end of period	844,788	804,566	812,008	844,788	749,634

¹Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of December 2008, liabilities were \$11,163,000. ²Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. ³Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. ⁴Under 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. ⁵Net of amounts distributed by account. ⁶Net of returns of uncashed check credits. Includes undistributed canceled checks under 1-year limited payability. ⁷Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 2). ⁸Reflects adjustments for prior periods. ⁹Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. ¹⁰Total 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 for fiscal year 2009 is expected to be \$72.0 million, including income tax transfers. The appropriation for fiscal year 2008 was \$79.0 million, including income tax transfers. Funds for October through December 2007 and 2008 were provided under a partial year continuing resolution. ¹¹Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. ¹²Less than \$500. ¹³Includes interest.

NOTE.--Data relate to CALENDAR month.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

**Table 3: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Benefit Statistics
October - December 2008**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
Unemployment						
December 2008	2,769	1,215	58	4,587	4,568	38
November 2008	1,012	607	38	3,119	3,108	21
October 2008	948	629	21	2,891	2,872	37
7/08 - 12/08	9,254	5,688	240	6,911	6,835	243
7/07 - 12/07	7,305	5,227	225	6,040	5,993	220
Sickness						
December 2008	1,203	1,084	44	5,391	5,371	40
November 2008	1,049	942	30	5,315	5,296	34
October 2008	1,534	1,335	29	5,695	5,642	96
7/08 - 12/08	13,258	10,540	342	11,267	11,092	634
7/07 - 12/07	14,294	11,257	418	12,132	11,952	707
Period	Number of payments			Averages ¹		
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week	Benefit payments (thousands)
Unemployment						
December 2008	7,700	7,626	74	8.5	\$301.85	\$4,501
November 2008	4,749	4,702	47	8.9	302.15	2,884
October 2008	5,487	5,429	58	9.0	302.90	3,214
7/08 - 12/08	31,314	30,360	954	8.8	301.75	17,353
7/07 - 12/07	29,339	28,436	903	9.0	291.45	13,727
Sickness						
December 2008	10,521	10,441	80	9.0	\$302.40	\$3,941
November 2008	8,683	8,617	66	9.1	302.15	3,844
October 2008	11,100	10,937	163	9.1	301.75	5,384
7/08 - 12/08	59,382	56,818	2,564	9.0	302.45	24,947
7/07 - 12/07	63,091	60,409	2,682	9.0	292.50	25,937

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

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.

(Continued on next page.)

Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics
October - December 2008 (In thousands)
Cash Basis (Unaudited)

Item	December 2008	November 2008	October 2008	October 2008 - December 2008	October 2007 - December 2007
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT					
Balance at beginning of period	\$107,280	\$113,418	\$105,287	\$105,287	\$104,316
Income, total	1,333	744	16,949	19,025	19,490
Contributions	11	522	16,946	17,478	16,885
Interest on investments	1,291	17	14	1,322	2,639
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments ¹	31	205	-11	225	-34
Transfers from Administration Fund	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Outgo, total	8,519	6,882	8,818	24,219	23,358
Unemployment benefit payments	4,501	2,884	3,214	10,599	9,889
Sickness benefit payments	3,941	3,844	5,384	13,169	12,985
Funding for Office of Inspector General	77	154	220	451	484
Balance at end of period	100,093	107,280	113,418	100,093	100,447
RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND					
Balance at beginning of period	\$13,114	\$14,250	\$10,427	\$10,427	\$9,907
Income, total	149	150	5,661	5,960	5,837
Contributions	4	150	5,661	5,815	5,585
Interest on investments	145	.....	.....	145	252
Outgo, total	1,259	1,285	1,839	4,383	4,953
Administrative expenses	1,259	1,285	1,839	4,383	4,953
Transfers to RUI Account	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Balance at end of period	12,004	13,114	14,250	12,004	10,791

¹Net of distributed amounts.

NOTE--(Continued from previous page.)

BENEFIT PAYMENTS are on a cash basis (unaudited) and represent amounts paid during the period including retroactive payments, less recoveries distributed to beneficiary accounts, refunds, and cancellations of previous payments.

ADMINISTRATION FUND balances reflect current adjustments to income and disbursements for previous years.

All unemployment and sickness data relate to CALENDAR MONTHS.

Detail may not add to totals shown because of rounding.

Table 5: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- December 2008

RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR

Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)	\$845,446,000
Regular benefits	834,484,000
Vested dual benefits	5,992,000
Supplemental annuities	4,969,000

	Number	Average
Total benefits being paid at end of month	686,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	275,000	\$2,110
Supplemental	121,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	137,000	779
Aged widows' and widowers'	123,000	1,266
Other survivors'	30,000	930
Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month	558,000	.....

UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS

	Unemployment	Sickness
Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)	\$4,501,000	\$3,941,000
Beneficiaries	4,600	5,400
Average payment per week	\$302	\$302
