

**Maximum monthly benefit rate<sup>a</sup> under the Railroad Retirement and Social Security Acts  
December 2008 and Quarterly for 2009**

Program and type of benefit	Month in which benefit payments begin <sup>b</sup>				
	Dec. 2008	March 2009	June 2009	Sept. 2009	Dec. 2009
1. Railroad Retirement Act					
(a) Retirement benefits <sup>c</sup>					
Employee alone	\$ 4,008	\$ 4,146	\$ 4,174	\$ 4,202	\$ 4,231
Employee and spouse	5,901	6,108	6,149	6,190	6,232
(b) Survivor benefits <sup>d</sup>					
Family	6,170	6,416	6,452	6,489	6,526
Widow(er) alone at 65	3,852	3,955	3,981	4,009	4,036
Widow(er) alone at 60	3,229	3,338	3,361	3,384	3,407
2. Social Security Act					
(a) Retirement benefits <sup>e</sup>					
Employee alone	2,030	2,172	2,172	2,172	2,172
Employee and spouse	3,027	3,238	3,238	3,238	3,238
(b) Survivor benefits					
Family	3,843	4,107	4,107	4,107	4,107
Widow(er) alone at 65	2,122	2,251	2,251	2,251	2,251
Widow(er) alone at 60	1,570	1,677	1,677	1,677	1,677
3. Railroad retirement average monthly compensation based on the highest 60 months of earnings	5,824	5,879	5,937	5,996	6,055

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. 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.

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 2009 is \$106,800 for tier 1 and \$79,200 for tier 2. Maximum taxable compensation for social security during 2009 is \$106,800. Benefits are rounded to the lower dollar.

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