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# Quarterly Benefit Statistics

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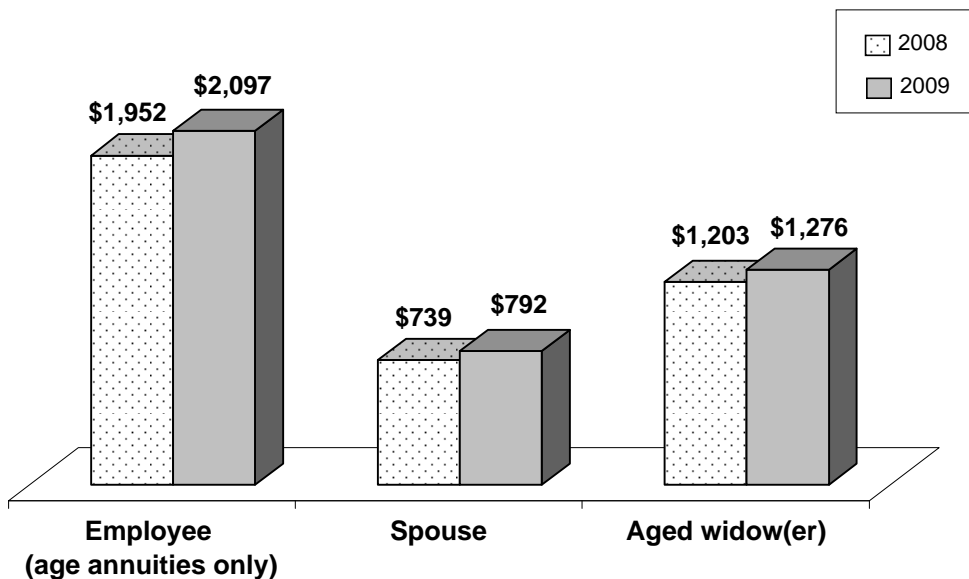
## Railroad Retirement and Unemployment Insurance Programs

Selected Current Statistics for January - March 2009

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**Average annuity amounts being paid,  
March 2008 and March 2009**



**Note.--Includes cost-of-living increase payable in January.**

**Table 1: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Benefit Statistics  
January - March 2009**

Period	Total <sup>1</sup>		Employee annuities				Spouse annuities	Divorced spouse annuities
	Monthly benefits	Monthly beneficiaries	Age	Disability <sup>2</sup>		Supplemental		
				Under full retirement age	Full retirement age and over			
<b>Number in current-payment status at end of period</b>								
March 2009	682,045	554,124	190,182	49,550	34,254	120,587	132,503	3,646
February 2009	682,911	554,916	190,462	49,664	34,177	120,699	132,510	3,640
January 2009	682,789	554,907	190,309	49,678	34,083	120,631	132,430	3,623
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>								
March 2009	.....	.....	\$2,096.90	\$2,386.49	\$1,888.15	\$41.65	\$792.06	\$489.81
February 2009	.....	.....	2,092.48	2,383.57	1,883.90	41.66	790.16	485.89
January 2009	.....	.....	2,088.25	2,380.81	1,880.17	41.66	788.71	484.54
<b>Number awarded during period</b>								
March 2009	3,267	2,739	783	274	.....	528	927	52
February 2009	3,621	3,009	987	285	.....	612	910	52
January 2009	3,650	2,922	1,021	246	.....	728	898	66
10/08 - 3/09	19,342	15,895	4,929	1,549	.....	3,447	5,128	297
10/07 - 3/08	19,263	15,812	4,827	1,750	.....	3,451	4,823	251
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>3</sup></b>								
March 2009	.....	.....	\$2,567.26	\$2,587.84	.....	\$40.99	\$924.77	\$580.91
February 2009	.....	.....	2,514.19	2,599.17	.....	41.56	895.88	526.07
January 2009	.....	.....	2,708.53	2,549.80	.....	41.23	909.89	603.86
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)</b>								
March 2009	\$885,521	.....	\$400,168	\$123,151	\$64,269	\$5,043	\$106,077	\$1,873
February 2009	882,029	.....	398,821	122,513	63,901	5,059	105,855	1,859
January 2009	883,241	.....	399,346	122,889	63,770	5,065	105,882	1,902
10/08 - 3/09	5,188,048	.....	2,341,079	716,876	376,195	30,233	620,638	10,754
10/07 - 3/08	4,984,263	.....	2,225,789	696,435	353,834	30,346	589,019	9,951

<sup>1</sup>Includes 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.

<sup>2</sup>Full 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. <sup>3</sup>Regular 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  
January - March 2009 -- Continued**

Survivor benefits

Period	Annuities					Children	Insurance lump sums	Residual payments	Partition payments <sup>4</sup>
	Aged widows and widowers	Disabled widows and widowers	Widowed mothers and fathers	Remarried widows and widowers	Divorced widows and widowers				
<b>Number in current-payment status at end of period</b>									
March 2009	121,387	4,391	778	4,445	9,478	10,682	.....	.....	122
February 2009	121,838	4,405	763	4,467	9,470	10,663	.....	.....	114
January 2009	122,091	4,406	745	4,479	9,478	10,689	.....	.....	107
<b>Average amount in current-payment status at end of period</b>									
March 2009	\$1,275.75	\$1,071.27	\$1,544.27	\$867.94	\$855.61	\$935.33	.....	.....	\$320.23
February 2009	1,271.74	1,068.00	1,543.93	866.09	854.73	933.01	.....	.....	324.10
January 2009	1,267.80	1,065.92	1,538.88	863.98	850.14	929.82	.....	.....	328.07
<b>Number awarded during period</b>									
March 2009	538	14	24	14	62	51	375	1	.....
February 2009	624	18	12	15	68	37	280	2	.....
January 2009	572	14	14	11	49	31	285	----	.....
10/08 - 3/09	3,207	85	79	75	318	226	1,868	6	.....
10/07 - 3/08	3,305	80	77	98	342	258	1,978	19	.....
<b>Average amount awarded during period<sup>3</sup></b>									
March 2009	\$1,724.84	\$1,724.02	\$1,208.61	\$974.71	\$883.93	\$1,269.01	\$904	\$2,696	.....
February 2009	1,671.34	1,352.40	1,271.40	1,333.73	1,038.12	1,348.89	930	2,774	.....
January 2009	1,736.47	1,394.61	1,721.78	767.27	973.02	1,267.40	889	----	.....
<b>Benefit payments during period (thousands)</b>									
March 2009	\$155,625	\$4,924	\$1,294	\$3,911	\$8,300	\$10,450	\$351	\$3	\$37
February 2009	155,107	4,864	1,204	3,917	8,268	10,309	268	6	35
January 2009	155,377	4,811	1,392	3,903	8,232	10,343	261	----	31
10/08 - 3/09	921,743	28,708	7,902	22,946	48,264	60,497	1,734	17	189
10/07 - 3/08	913,183	28,110	7,870	22,479	45,404	59,630	1,886	46	23

<sup>4</sup>Limited to payments to partitioned spouses and partitioned divorced spouses where the employee is deceased or not otherwise entitled to an annuity. Partitioned 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 22nd of each month.

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**January - March 2009 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	March 2009	February 2009	January 2009	October 2008 - March 2009	October 2007 - March 2008
<b>RAILROAD RETIREMENT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period<sup>1</sup></b>	\$508,879	\$472,292	\$371,152	\$632,019	\$616,854
<b>Income, total</b>	502,022	507,136	581,303	2,710,864	2,568,218
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	207,088	273,916	187,564	1,161,472	1,125,450
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	76,000	98,000	169,000
Reimbursements for payment of SSA benefits	109,895	110,191	110,890	642,037	622,190
Transfers from National RR Investment Trust <sup>4</sup>	184,000	122,000	206,000	803,000	645,000
Transfer from SSEB Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>5</sup>	38	(6)	-26	234	110
Uncashed check credits from U.S. Treasury <sup>7</sup>	31	32	47	204	315
Interest on investments <sup>8</sup>	971	997	829	5,916	6,153
<b>Outgo, total</b>	479,572	470,549	480,164	2,811,553	2,689,707
Benefit payments-regular	357,981	355,371	356,762	2,106,256	2,007,313
Benefit payments-supplemental	5,043	5,059	5,065	30,233	30,346
Payments of SSA benefits	109,797	110,118	110,915	641,884	622,090
Administrative expenses <sup>9</sup>	6,234	.....	7,022	31,206	27,899
Funding for Office of Inspector General	516	.....	400	1,974	2,059
<b>Balance at end of period<sup>1</sup></b>	531,330	508,879	472,292	531,330	495,365
<b>NATIONAL RAILROAD RETIREMENT INVESTMENT TRUST</b>					
<b>Cash and investment balance at end of period<sup>10</sup></b>	\$19,083,583	\$18,471,756	\$19,631,895	\$19,083,583	\$29,655,535
<b>DUAL BENEFITS PAYMENTS ACCOUNT<sup>11</sup></b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	-\$29,969	-\$24,040	-\$18,134	.....	.....
Congressional apportionments <sup>12</sup>	37,371	(6)	-1,000	\$36,372	\$38,165
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	1,000	1,000	3,000
Vested dual benefit payments	5,815	5,928	5,906	35,784	40,052
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	1,587	-29,969	-24,040	1,587	1,113

**Table 2: Retirement and Survivor Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**January - March 2009 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited) -- Continued**

Item	March 2009	February 2009	January 2009	October 2008 - March 2009	October 2007 - March 2008
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY EQUIVALENT BENEFIT ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$876,846	\$861,587	\$844,788	\$791,230	\$744,247
<b>Income, total</b>	505,363	530,929	536,098	3,103,373	2,975,194
Payroll taxes <sup>2</sup>	201,987	267,690	190,169	1,273,603	1,241,769
Income tax transfers <sup>3</sup>	.....	.....	40,000	58,000	70,000
Financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	301,822	261,579	304,275	1,762,369	1,654,481
RRB-SSA financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Interest on investments <sup>8</sup>	1,555	1,660	1,655	9,402	8,943
<b>Outgo, total</b>	520,116	515,670	519,299	3,032,510	2,930,556
Benefit payments	516,681	515,670	515,508	3,015,774	2,906,552
Repayment of financial interchange advances <sup>13</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
RRB-CMS financial interchange transfer	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Transfer to Railroad Retirement Account <sup>4</sup>	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Administrative expenses <sup>9</sup>	3,171	.....	3,587	15,725	22,943
Funding for Office of Inspector General	264	.....	205	1,010	1,061
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	862,093	876,846	861,587	862,093	788,885

<sup>1</sup>Balances include liabilities for uncashed checks. As of the end of March 2009 liabilities were \$11,273,000. <sup>2</sup>Net of U.S. Treasury adjustments for payroll tax refunds to certain carriers and their employees for prior periods. <sup>3</sup>Amounts include U.S. Treasury adjustments for prior period income tax reconciliations. <sup>4</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>5</sup>Net of amounts distributed by account. <sup>6</sup>Less than \$500. <sup>7</sup>Net of returns of uncashed check credits. Includes undistributed canceled checks under 1-year limited payability. <sup>8</sup>Net of adjustments for payroll tax refunds (see note 2). <sup>9</sup>Reflects adjustments for prior periods. <sup>10</sup>Source: National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust. <sup>11</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 for fiscal year 2009 was \$72.0 million, including income tax transfers. The appropriation for fiscal year 2008 was \$79.0 million, including income tax transfers. Funds for October 2008 through February 2009 were provided under a partial year continuing resolution. <sup>12</sup>Includes a small amount of interest on uncashed checks. <sup>13</sup>Includes 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  
January - March 2009**

Period	Normal benefit accounts			Beneficiaries		
	Applications received	Opened	Exhausted	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits
			<b>Unemployment</b>			
March 2009	2,359	2,217	303	10,038	9,780	322
February 2009	2,566	3,264	303	8,845	8,649	267
January 2009	4,368	2,590	809	7,451	7,421	192
7/08 - 3/09	18,547	13,759	1,655	15,563	15,487	539
7/07 - 3/08	10,204	8,068	1,434	8,920	8,872	568
			<b>Sickness</b>			
March 2009	1,366	1,207	422	5,141	4,414	976
February 2009	1,271	982	525	4,992	4,472	795
January 2009	1,348	1,006	954	5,278	5,245	417
7/08 - 3/09	17,243	13,735	2,243	14,503	14,336	1,684
7/07 - 3/08	18,360	14,539	2,308	15,523	15,347	1,689
	Number of payments			Averages <sup>1</sup>		Benefit <sup>2</sup> payments (thousands)
	Total	Normal benefits	Extended benefits	Benefit days	Benefit per week	
			<b>Unemployment</b>			
March 2009	18,456	17,790	666	8.6	\$303.10	\$10,666
February 2009	14,077	13,557	520	8.4	302.55	8,282
January 2009	11,830	11,559	271	8.1	303.00	6,938
7/08 - 3/09	75,677	73,266	2,411	8.6	302.75	43,239
7/07 - 3/08	51,628	49,009	2,619	8.9	292.00	25,901
			<b>Sickness</b>			
March 2009	10,588	8,433	2,155	8.8	\$301.60	\$4,251
February 2009	9,203	7,685	1,518	8.7	303.05	3,599
January 2009	10,860	10,359	501	8.8	302.75	3,969
7/08 - 3/09	90,033	83,295	6,738	8.9	303.20	36,766
7/07 - 3/08	95,015	88,309	6,706	8.9	293.30	37,745

<sup>1</sup> Benefit days--average benefit days per registration period. Benefit per week=equal to 5 times average daily benefit. <sup>2</sup> For July 2007 - September 2007, unemployment benefit payments reflect a \$3.8 million accounting adjustment.

**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.

**Table 4: Unemployment and Sickness Programs, Financial Statistics**  
**January - March 2009 (In thousands)**  
**Cash Basis (Unaudited)**

Item	March 2009	February 2009	January 2009	October 2008 - March 2009	October 2007 - March 2008
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACCOUNT</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$104,226	\$107,028	\$100,093	\$105,287	\$104,316
<b>Income, total</b>	1,704	9,079	18,010	47,818	46,064
Contributions	200	9,383	7,822	34,883	33,295
Interest on investments <sup>1</sup>	1,258	26	355	2,961	4,071
Undistributed recoveries of benefit payments <sup>2</sup>	246	-330	25	166	-12
Transfers from Administration Fund <sup>1</sup>	.....	.....	9,808	9,808	8,711
<b>Outgo, total</b>	15,126	11,881	11,076	62,302	47,737
Unemployment benefit payments	10,666	8,282	6,938	36,485	22,064
Sickness benefit payments	4,251	3,599	3,969	24,988	24,793
Funding for Office of Inspector General	209	.....	168	828	880
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	90,804	104,226	107,028	90,804	102,644
<b>RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION FUND</b>					
<b>Balance at beginning of period</b>	\$6,352	\$3,369	\$12,004	\$10,427	\$9,907
<b>Income, total</b>	153	2,982	2,390	11,485	12,521
Contributions	71	2,982	2,733	11,601	12,178
Interest on investments <sup>1</sup>	82	.....	-343	-116	343
<b>Outgo, total</b>	1,556	.....	11,025	16,963	16,715
Administrative expenses	1,556	.....	1,216	7,155	8,004
Transfers to RUI Account <sup>1</sup>	.....	.....	9,808	9,808	8,711
<b>Balance at end of period</b>	4,949	6,352	3,369	4,949	5,712

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with Section 11(d) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, \$9,808,145, along with \$343,072 in attributable interest, was transferred from the RUI Administration Fund to the RUI Account in January 2009. The transfer represents the amount in the RUI Administration Fund in excess of \$6 million (on an accrual basis of accounting) at the end of fiscal year 2008. <sup>2</sup> Net 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.**

<b>Table 5: Benefits and Beneficiaries -- March 2009</b>
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**RETIREMENT - SURVIVOR**

<b>Total benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$885,521,000
Regular benefits	874,662,000
Vested dual benefits	5,815,000
Supplemental annuities	5,043,000

	<b>Number</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Total benefits being paid at end of month</b>	682,000	.....
Retired employees':		
Regular	274,000	\$2,123
Supplemental	121,000	42
Spouses' and divorced spouses'	136,000	784
Aged widows' and widowers'	121,000	1,276
Other benefits	30,000	933
<b>Total beneficiaries being paid at end of month</b>	554,000	.....

**UNEMPLOYMENT-SICKNESS**

	<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>Sickness</b>
<b>Benefit payments - cash basis (unaudited)</b>	\$10,666,000	\$4,251,000
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	10,000	5,100
<b>Average payment per week</b>	\$303	\$302

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