



Railroad Retirement Information

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board

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One-Time Economic Recovery Payments

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) was signed into law by President Obama on February 17, 2009. The Recovery Act contains a number of provisions that affect railroad retirement annuitants and railroad workers. Among these is a provision for a one-time economic recovery payment of \$250 to be paid to most adults (including disabled adult children) who receive railroad retirement benefits. The following questions and answers provide information about these one-time payments.

1. Who will receive a one-time economic recovery payment from the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB)?

Nearly 540,000 railroad retirement beneficiaries will receive a one-time payment of \$250 each. To receive a payment, the beneficiary's address of record must be in one of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, or the Northern Mariana Islands.

2. Are beneficiaries from other Federal programs eligible for this one-time economic recovery payment?

Yes, individuals receiving certain benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) may be eligible for these one-time payments.

3. Are individuals entitled to more than a single one-time economic recovery payment?

No, individuals may receive only one \$250 payment regardless of how many types of benefits they receive.

4. Who decides whether I get a one-time economic recovery payment?

The RRB, VA and SSA will determine who's eligible under their respective programs.

5. If I receive railroad retirement benefits as well as social security benefits, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments or VA benefits, who decides whether I get an economic recovery payment?

If you receive benefits from the RRB and another Federal agency, the RRB will determine if you are entitled to the payment. Remember, you will receive only one payment regardless of how many different benefits you currently receive.

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6. When can I expect to receive my one-time economic recovery payment?

We plan to pay all eligible railroad retirement beneficiaries by late May 2009, so you should expect to receive your payment no later than the first week of June 2009. The one-time payment will be a separate payment, which will not be included in your regular monthly benefit payment.

7. How will I receive my one-time economic recovery payment?

We will deliver your payment in the same way we currently deliver your railroad retirement benefit. If you are enrolled in direct deposit, that is how you will receive your one-time payment. If we deliver your monthly benefit by check, we will deliver your one-time payment by check.

8. What must I do to receive my one-time economic recovery payment?

No action is necessary. We have all the information we need to get your payment to you.

9. My spouse and I both receive railroad retirement benefits; will we each get a one-time recovery payment?

Yes, if you are married and both you and your spouse are receiving benefits from the RRB, you will each get the one-time payment.

10. I became eligible for benefits in February 2009. Will I receive the one-time economic recovery payment?

No. Only individuals eligible for railroad retirement, social security, SSI or veteran's disability benefits at any time during the months of November 2008, December 2008, or January 2009 can receive the one-time payment.

11. Are children who receive railroad retirement benefits eligible for the one-time economic recovery payment?

No, children under the age of 18 (19 if still in high school) who receive railroad retirement benefits are NOT eligible for the one-time payment. However, disabled adult children will receive a payment.

12. Will the one-time economic recovery payment count as gross income for Federal income tax purposes?

No, it will not. The amount of the one-time payment will not appear on your RRB-1099 tax statement.

13. Will the one-time economic recovery payment count as income when determining eligibility for extra help with Medicare prescription drug plan costs?

No, it will not.

14. Will I receive a one-time economic recovery payment if I have a delinquent Federal debt?

The law requires the U.S. Department of the Treasury to offset the one-time payments to collect delinquent child support and debts owed to State and Federal agencies.

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15. Will the one-time economic recovery payment change the amount or delivery date of my regular railroad retirement benefit?

No, the one-time payment will have NO effect on your regular railroad retirement benefit. We will deliver the one-time payment separately from your regular benefit.

16. If I have a representative payee, who will receive my one-time economic recovery payment?

If you have a representative payee, we will deliver your one-time payment to your representative payee. Your representative payee is required by law to use the payment for your benefit.

17. If I don't receive my one-time economic recovery payment during the first week of June, what should I do?

After June 8, 2009, you may call the RRB toll-free at 1-877-772-5772 (1-877-RRB-5RRB) to tell us your payment has not arrived. Please wait until then to ask about your payment because earlier calls may slow our service to you.

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