



RRB News

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board

844 North Rush Street Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092

www.rrb.gov
877-772-5772 general information

Public Affairs
312-751-4777 media inquiries

No. 12-7

For Immediate Release
June 2012

RRB Issuing Statements of Service

Each year, the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) prepares a “Certificate of Service Months and Compensation” (Form BA-6) for every railroad employee who received creditable railroad compensation in the previous calendar year. The forms will be mailed to employees by the RRB during the first half of June. While every effort has been made to maintain current addresses for all active railroad employees, anyone with compensation reported in 2011 who has not received Form BA-6 by July 1, or needs a replacement, should contact the nearest RRB field office by calling the agency’s toll-free number, 1-877-772-5772.

Form BA-6 provides employees with a record of their railroad retirement service and compensation. While the form has no cash value, the information shown is used to determine whether an employee qualifies for benefits and the amount of those benefits.

It is important that employees review their Form BA-6 to see whether their own records of service months and creditable compensation agree with the figures shown on the form. In checking the 2011 compensation total, employees should be aware that only annual earnings up to \$106,800 were creditable for railroad retirement purposes in that year, and that \$106,800 is the maximum amount shown on the form. To assist employees in reviewing their service credits, the form also shows service credited on a month-by-month basis for 2010, 2009, and 2008, when the creditable compensation maximums were \$106,800 for those first two years and \$102,000 in 2008. The form also identifies the employer(s) reporting the employee’s 2011 service and compensation.

Besides the months of service reported by employers, Form BA-6 shows the number of any additional service months deemed by the RRB. Deemed service months may be credited under certain conditions for an employee who did not work in all 12 months of the year, but had creditable tier II earnings exceeding monthly prorations of the creditable tier II earnings maximum for the year. However, the total of reported and deemed service months may never exceed 12 in a calendar year; and no service months, reported or deemed, can be credited after retirement, severance, resignation, discharge, or death.

Form BA-6 shows the number of months of verified military service creditable as service under the Railroad Retirement Act, if the service was previously reported to the RRB. Employees are encouraged to submit proofs of age and/or military service in advance of their actual retirement.

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Filing these proofs with the RRB in advance will streamline the benefit application process and prevent payment delays.

For employees who received separation or severance payments, the section of the form designated “Taxable Amount” shows the amounts reported by employers of any separation allowance or severance payments that were subject to railroad retirement tier II taxes. This information is shown on the form because a lump sum, approximating part or all of the tier II taxes deducted from such payments made after 1984 which did not provide additional tier II credits, may be payable by the RRB upon retirement to qualified employees or to survivors if the employee dies before retirement. The amount of an allowance included in an employee’s regular compensation is shown under “Compensation Amount.”

Form BA-6 also shows, in the section designated “Employee Contributions,” the cumulative amount of tier II railroad retirement payroll taxes paid by the employee over and above tier I social security equivalent payroll taxes. While the RRB does not collect or maintain payroll tax information, the agency computes this amount from its compensation records in order to advise retired employees of their payroll tax contributions for Federal income tax purposes.

Employees should check their name, address, birth date and sex shown at the top of the form. If the form shows the birth date as 99- 9999 and the gender code is “U” (for unknown), it means the RRB is verifying his or her social security number with the Social Security Administration. Otherwise, if the personal identifying information is incorrect or incomplete (generally a case where the employee’s surname has more than 10 letters and the form shows only the first 10 letters) or the address is not correct, the employee should contact an RRB field office. The field office can then correct the RRB’s records. This is important in order to prevent identity or security-related problems that could arise if the employee wants to use certain Internet services available on the RRB’s website at **www.rrb.gov**.

Employees may view their railroad retirement service and compensation records; get annuity estimates; apply for or claim railroad unemployment benefits; claim sickness benefits; and access their railroad unemployment insurance account statements through the RRB’s website. To use these online services, an employee must first establish an RRB Internet Services account. For security purposes, first time users must apply for a Password Request Code, which they will receive by mail in about 10 business days. To do this, employees should click on “requesting a Password Request Code (PRC)” in the “Benefit Online Services Login” section on the home page.

Employees can also request that printouts of their individual railroad retirement records of service months and compensation be mailed to them. A PIN/Password is not required to use this service. It can be accessed by visiting **www.rrb.gov**, moving the cursor over the “Beneficiaries & RR Employees” category and then clicking on “Request Service & Compensation History.”

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If the employee's name was incomplete on Form BA-6, and he or she has not yet contacted an RRB field office to correct it, the employee should enter his or her first and middle initials and his or her surname **just as it appears on the Form BA-6 or a previously furnished printout of service and compensation**, along with the other requested information.

Any other discrepancies in Form BA-6 should be reported promptly in writing to: Protest Unit-CESC, U.S. Railroad Retirement Board, 844 North Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092. The employee must include his or her social security number in the letter. Form BA-6 also explains what other documentation and information should be provided. The law limits to four years the period during which corrections to service and compensation amounts can be made.

For most employees, the address of the RRB office serving their area is provided on the form along with the RRB's nationwide toll-free number (1-877-772-5772). Most RRB offices are open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on Federal holidays.

(Sample BA-6 next page)

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U.S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD
M. S. SCHWARTZ, W. A. BARROWS, J. F. KEVER
MEMBERS

CERTIFIED 06-01-2012

2011 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
MONTHS AND COMPENSATION
 SERVICE AND COMPENSATION REPORTED
 FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011

BA 9999 8282

JJ JONES
 12 CENTRAL AV
 CENTRAL CITY, IL

BIRTH DATE	SEX
06-1974	M

SERVICE AND COMPENSATION ON RECORD FOR REVIEW PERIOD

YEAR	CREDITABLE COMPENSATION	SEPARATION ALLOWANCE/ SEVERANCE PAYMENT		SERVICE MONTHS PROFILE*													
		TAXABLE AMOUNT	COMPENSATION AMOUNT	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	TOTAL	
2011	81,500.00			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
2010	78,000.00			1	1	1	1	1	1	D	D	1	1	1	1	12	
2009	63,200.00			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	10	
2008	12,300.00			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	02	

*1 = A reported month; 0 = A month not reported; D = A "deemed" month.

CAREER TOTAL RETIREMENT RECORD

CREDITABLE COMPENSATION	SEPARATION ALLOWANCE/ SEVERANCE PAYMENT		SERVICE MONTHS				EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTIONS
	TAXABLE AMOUNT	COMPENSATION AMOUNT	REPORTED	DEEMED	MILITARY	TOTAL	
898,000.00			201	2	12	215	41,300.00

YOUR 2011 REPORTING EMPLOYER(S)

The service and compensation shown on this form for 2011 were gathered from a report(s) received from the following employer(s): **MIDWESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY**

RRB OFFICE SERVING YOUR AREA

122 MAIN STREET
 CENTRAL CITY, IL 60000

PHONE (877) 772-5772

Always notify the Railroad Retirement Board if your address changes during the year.