

December 16, 2024

Subject: Railroad Retirement

TO: ALL NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES,
ASSISTANT NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES,
AND LOCAL LODGE OFFICERS
WITH MEMBERS UNDER THE RAILWAY LABOR ACT

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Please find attached copies of four releases issued by the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board.

Release No. 24-6 Railroad Retirement Benefits to Increase

Most Railroad Retirement benefits will increase for the 2025 calendar year. Tier I benefits increased by 2.5 percent and Tier II benefits by 0.8 percent. If a railroad retirement or survivor annuitant also receives a Social Security or other government benefit, such as a public service pension, any cost-of-living increase in the benefit will offset the increased tier I benefit. However, Tier II cost-of-living increases are not reduced by increases in other government benefits.

Release No. 24-7 Earnings Limit Increase for Railroad Retirees in 2025

Release number 24-7 indicates that annuitants who work after retirement can earn more in 2025 before deductions are made for excess earnings. For those under full retirement age throughout 2025, the exempt earnings amount rises to \$23,400. For beneficiaries attaining full retirement age in 2025, the exempt earnings amount, for the months before the month full retirement age is attained, increases to \$62,160 in 2025.

Special work restrictions continue to be applicable to disability annuitants in 2025. The monthly disability earnings limit increases to \$1,260 in 2025.

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Release No. 24-10 Medicare Part B Premiums for 2025

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced that the standard monthly Part B premium will be \$185.00 in 2025, an increase of \$10.30 from 174.70 in 2024. The annual deductible for all Medicare Part B enrollees in 2025 will be \$257, an increase of \$17 from the 2024 deductible of \$240.

**Release No. 24-11 Railroad Retirement and
Unemployment Insurance Taxes**

This release states that the Railroad Retirement Tier I payroll taxes for rail employers and employees remains the same in 2025 at 7.65 percent. The Tier II tax rate for employees remains at 4.9 percent and 13.1 percent for the employers. The earnings base will increase for Tier I to \$176,100 and for Tier II, increases to \$130,800. The release also states that the employers' RUIA contribution rates continue to range from 0.65 percent to a maximum of 12 percent for monthly compensation up to \$2,065.

In solidarity,



Arthur P. Maratea
National President

Attachments

cc: Executive Council
Carmen Officers
Department Heads