

Retirement

What you should know and how to proceed when you are nearing retirement under the provisions of the Railroad Retirement Act

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Eligibility

- The first full month in which you are age 60 with at least 360 months of railroad service
- Age 62 with 120 to 359 months of railroad service
- Age 62 with 60 to 119 months of railroad service after 1995

When to start preparing for retirement

6 months before you retire:

- Obtain your original or certified copy of your birth certificate, your spouse's birth certificate and birth certificates for any minor children living with you.
- Obtain your original or certified copy of your marriage license/certificate
- If you were in the military, obtain the original or certified copy of your DD-214.
- If divorced, and was married at least ten years, obtain the original or certified copy of your divorce decree and marriage license/certificate

If you are working a non-railroad job and wish to work at that job after you retire from the railroad. You must stop working the non-railroad job at least 6 months prior to your retirement from the railroad.

Three months prior to your retirement

Under advance filing procedures, you may file for railroad retirement one of three ways:

- Make an appointment for a personal interview
- Call 877-772-5772, or 312-751-4500 and ask for a telephone interview
- Fill out application via U.S. Mail

After you receive your retirement application

- You will receive Form OMB-3220, a 5-page form from the Railroad Retirement Board
- Booklets RB-1 (Age and Service Employee Annuity) and RB-9 (Employee and Spouse Annuities – Events that Must Be Reported)
- **Read Both Books**
- Make sure all entries on the application form are correct, sign & date the form
- Attach all birth certificates, marriages certificates & DD-214.
- Make copies of everything.
- Return originals to RRB using envelope provided
- Recommendation – Mail the envelope via U.S. Certified Mail

Within 14 days from the date you mailed your retirement application, you will receive a receipt (Form AA-1) for your application.

- You will also receive an estimate of your monthly retirement annuity and a report of how your benefits were calculated

Important

Once you provide the RRB with your expected retirement date, and you sign, date and mail the application, do not work on or after the date you stated on the form to be your retirement date, without first notifying the RRB.

Your First RRB monthly check

- Will be electronically deposited in your bank account on the first business day of each month and available to you on the second business day of the same month
- All monthly annuities are paid the following month, i.e., if you retire June 1, your first RRB monthly check will be deposited July 1

Railroad Retirement Award Notice

Within 14 days after you receive your first retirement check, you will receive Form RL-20E. This is your official Railroad Retirement Award Notice.

- RL-20E confirms your actual monthly annuity amount and informs you how and when monthly annuities are adjusted.

If you disagree with the Retirement Board's Award Notice

You may appeal your award in writing within 60 days from the date of your award

- Appeal information is provided on the Award Notice

That's it!

If you apply on time and submit all of your supporting documentation as requested, the process is easy, friendly and the payments to you are on time.

Other Earnings

- After you retire, you may not earn more than \$1,180 per month, during any month in the calendar year in which you retire
- In subsequent years you may not earn more than \$14,160 per year until you reach full retirement age (FRA), adjusted annually
- After FRA you can earn \$37,680 per year

Retirement Healthcare Options

Once you retire, your GA-23000 healthcare insurance will expire at the end the month following the month you retired.

- As a retired railroad employee you are entitled to certain healthcare benefits
- Some of the benefits are at no cost to you
- You must apply for all benefits, even the free benefits
- You must apply for healthcare benefits no later than 60 days after you retire

It is recommended that you:

- Apply for retirement healthcare benefits 60 days prior to your expected retirement date
- If you have United Healthcare insurance call 800-842-5252
- If you have another healthcare provider call the phone number on your healthcare ID card
- Inform your insurance provider that you are a railroad employee who will be retiring and you are interested in applying for Retiree & Dependent healthcare insurance under GA-46000 and GA-23111
- You may also apply for extended dental and vision COBRA insurance through your healthcare provider. COBRA is available for 18 months after you retire

GA-46000 healthcare insurance

In general, eligibility for coverage on the basis of age under GA-46000 is limited to Employees who apply for a "60/30" annuity under the Railroad Retirement subject to the following requirements:

- Application for the "60/30" annuity is made on or after the date the Employee attains age 60
- The Employee was covered under the Health & Welfare Plan on the day before the application for the "60/30" annuity is made.
- If the previous eligibility requirements are met the cost of GA-46000 is paid in full by the railroad

GA-23111 healthcare insurance

In general, if you qualify for GA-46000 you are eligible for GA-23111, Plan E

GA-23111 healthcare insurance cost:

- \$160 per person, per month (effective 6-1-09)
- Coverage is limited to the railroad employee, spouse, widow/widower, dependent children under age 19, students age 19 to 25
- Incapacitated child age 19 and over

COBRA insurance:

You may also maintain dental and vision care insurance under COBRA for up to 18 months

- Dental cost is \$29.18 per month, per person
- Vision cost is \$5.04 per month, per person
- You may also apply for Hospital Association healthcare insurance in lieu of GA-23111, or in addition to it, i.e., Wabash Memorial Hospital Association
- Applications for all healthcare insurance must be received by the provider within 60 days from your retirement date
- You will receive new healthcare insurance cards
- GA-46000 is the primary coverage
- GA-23111 is the secondary coverage
- Retirees Prescription Drug Card (RRW0000) from Medco