



RRB News

U.S. Railroad Retirement Board

Public Affairs 844 North Rush Street Chicago, Illinois 60611-2092

312-751-4777
312-751-7154 (fax)
www.rrb.gov

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No Railroad Retirement Benefit Increase Again in 2011; Retiree Earnings Limits Remain the Same

Railroad retirement annuities, like social security benefits, will not increase in January 2011 as there was no increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) from the third quarter of last year to the corresponding period of the current year.

Also, because there is no cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), social security law prohibits an increase in the amounts social security and railroad retirement beneficiaries subject to earnings restrictions can earn in 2011 without having their benefits reduced.

For those under full retirement age throughout 2011, the exempt earnings amount remains at \$14,160. For beneficiaries attaining full retirement age in 2011, the exempt earnings amount, for the months before the month full retirement age is attained, remains at \$37,680 in 2011.

For employee and spouse annuitants, full retirement age ranges from age 65 for those born before 1938 to age 67 for those born in 1960 or later. For survivor annuitants, full retirement age ranges from age 65 for those born before 1940 to age 67 for those born in 1962 or later.

Special work restrictions continue to be applicable to disability annuitants. In 2011, the monthly disability earnings limit will also stay at the previous year's amount of \$780.

Regardless of age and/or earnings, no railroad retirement annuity is payable for any month in which an annuitant (retired employee, spouse or survivor) works for a railroad employer or railroad union.

The Department of Health and Human Services has not yet announced if there will be any Medicare premium changes for 2011. Information about Medicare changes for 2011, when available, will be found at www.medicare.gov.

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