



# RAILROAD RETIREMENT INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

## Let Us Know If You Change Your Address

We need your correct mailing address to mail benefit notices, tax statements and important information about changes that may affect your benefits. Please check your address on the accompanying letter. **If it is correct, you do not have to do anything.** If it is not correct, please contact your nearest Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) office to report your new address.

## Medicare Information

In 2013, the Medicare Part B premium for most beneficiaries is \$104.90. If the increase in your Part B premium is not more than your annual cost-of-living increase you may be entitled to a lower Medicare rate. This provision does not apply to individuals who do not have premiums deducted from their monthly benefits, or to beneficiaries who pay income-related monthly adjustment amounts.

Some people pay more than the standard premium because they enrolled late or because they withdrew from the program and enrolled again later. Also, Part B premiums are higher in 2013 for individuals with annual incomes above \$85,000, and for married couples with incomes above \$170,000. If you pay the higher Part B premium because of your income and have prescription drug coverage (Part D), you will receive a separate bill for the Part D income-related monthly adjustment amount regardless of how you ordinarily pay your Part B premiums and prescription drug premiums.

You can request to have your Medicare Advantage Plan (Part C) and/or your prescription drug coverage (Part D) premiums deducted from your monthly payment. Contact your plan to request withholding.

If your Medicare premium is more than your monthly benefit amount, we will bill you for the amount you owe, instead of deducting it from your benefits.

The Part B deductible for 2013 is \$147.00; up from \$140.00 in 2012. The Medicare Part A deductible in 2013 is \$1,184.00; up from \$1,156.00 in 2012. This is the amount you pay for a hospital stay before Medicare begins to pay.

To find out if you are eligible for a Medicare Savings Program, call your state medical assistance office. You can get the number for that office by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) and asking for information about the Medicare Savings Program.

If you are a Medicare beneficiary with limited income and resources, you may also be able to get extra help paying for your monthly premiums, deductibles and co-payments under the Medicare prescription drug program. You can go online at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) and file an application or call SSA at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

## Are you getting your benefits by paper check?

The Department of the Treasury (Treasury) now requires all Federal benefit and non-tax payments to be made electronically. If you receive a check, you will need to choose an electronic payment option to receive your benefit payments. **The deadline for enrolling in an electronic payment program is March 1, 2013.** There are three electronic payment options available to you:

### 1. Direct Deposit

If you have an account at a bank, credit union, or financial institution, Treasury can automatically direct deposit your benefit payment into your account. If you do not already have an account, consider opening one. Switching from checks to Direct Deposit is fast, easy, and free at [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org), by calling Treasury's toll-free helpline at 1-800-333-1795, or by visiting your bank or other financial institution. You can also contact your nearest RRB office to sign up.

### 2. Direct Express® Debit MasterCard®

The Direct Express® Debit MasterCard® is a prepaid debit card you can use to get your benefit payment. It's safer and more convenient than paper checks, and you do not need a bank account to sign up. Your benefit payment will be deposited directly to your card account. You can use your card to make purchases, pay bills, or get cash. There is no sign-up fee or monthly fees, and most services are free. You can call 1-800-333-1795 or visit [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org) to enroll.

### 3. Electronic Transfer Account

If you do not qualify for a checking or savings account, you may open an Electronic Transfer Account (ETA<sup>sm</sup>). ETA<sup>sm</sup> is a low-cost account designed by Treasury to ensure that individuals who are required to receive federal payments electronically have access to an account at a reasonable cost, and with the same consumer protections available to other account holders at the same financial institution. For more information, call **1-800-333-1795** or visit [www.eta-find.gov](http://www.eta-find.gov).

## Payment Schedule

Banks are required to post railroad retirement benefits to direct deposit recipients' account no later than the first business day of each month. To view a complete payment schedule for 2013, visit our web page at <http://www.rrb.gov/pands/info/paydates.asp>.

**(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR MORE INFORMATION)**

## Tax Information

The RRB will mail a tax statement for your 2012 railroad retirement benefits by January 31, 2013. If you do not receive a statement by February 15, 2013 contact your nearest RRB office.

The tax statement issued by RRB will only show the total Part B, Part C and/or Part D Medicare premiums that were deducted from railroad retirement benefits. Medicare premiums deducted from Social Security benefits paid by the RRB, paid by a third party, paid through direct billing, or refunded to you are not shown on the tax statements issued by RRB. Contact your nearest RRB office if your Medicare premiums are deducted from your Social Security Benefit and you need documentation for filing your taxes.

If the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) revises the income tax withholding rates used to calculate Federal income taxes for U.S. citizens, the new IRS tax rates will apply to benefit payments you receive beginning in January 2013. Your monthly benefit payment amount may change because of the new IRS tax rates. You can start, change or cancel the amount of taxes withheld from your railroad retirement benefit by filing Form RRB W-4P and/or IRS Form W-4V with the RRB. Contact your nearest RRB office or visit [www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov) for the forms.

If your monthly benefit amount includes Social Security benefits, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will mail you a separate tax statement. **If you want taxes withheld from Social Security benefits paid by the RRB you must contact SSA to request the withholding.** If you changed your address in the past year and have not reported the change to SSA, you must call them at 1-800-772-1213 or visit [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov) as soon as possible to report your new address.

## Retiree Earnings Limits for 2013

The earnings limit for 2013 for railroad retirement beneficiaries who are under full retirement age (age 66 for individuals born in 1943 through 1954) and who work after retirement has been increased for 2013. For those under full retirement age throughout 2013, the exempt earnings amount is \$15,120. Benefits are reduced \$1.00 for each \$2.00 of earnings over the exempt amount of \$15,120.

For beneficiaries attaining full retirement age in 2013, the exempt amount is \$40,080 and **only earnings in the months before the month you attain full retirement age are counted.** We must deduct \$1.00 from benefits for each \$3.00 earned over \$40,080. Let us know if you need help determining your full retirement age.

There is no limit on earnings for beneficiaries who are full retirement age or older for the entire year.

Keep in mind that there are additional earnings rules that apply to some beneficiaries. Those rules are:

- ✓ No railroad retirement benefits are payable for any month you **work for a railroad or railroad labor organization.** This rule applies to all beneficiaries, regardless of age or amount of earnings.

- ✓ **Retired employees and spouses who** work for their last pre-retirement non-railroad employer, **regardless of their age or the amount of their earnings, are subject to an earnings deduction.**

There are also special rules and earnings limits that apply to individuals who receive railroad retirement disability benefits. **Contact us if you receive disability benefits and are thinking about going to work.**

## Help Prevent Identity Theft

Be aware of scams through the mail, Internet, telephone and in person. You should be careful when someone asks for personal information, including your Social Security number or railroad retirement claim number.

If you call or write to the RRB, we generally need you to provide your RRB claim number or Social Security number. We need this information in order to find you on our records. If you call us about your benefits, to update your address or to change your Direct Deposit information, we will ask you some questions to help us make sure that you are who you say you are. While this may seem inconvenient, we do not want to release information about your benefits to someone else unless you give us your permission.

## Help for Elders

The Eldercare Locator is a free public service of the U.S. Administration on Aging. Call 1-800-677-1116 to speak with a specialist about programs that provide financial, employment, legal and care giving assistance to seniors.

## RRB Nationwide Telephone Service

If you have a touch-tone telephone, recorded information and automated services are available 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays by calling the RRB at 1-877-772-5772. Through our automated services, retirees can request a letter showing their current monthly annuity rate, request a duplicate tax statement, or request a replacement Medicare card. In addition, RRB representatives are available through the toll-free service to speak with you from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

## Computer Matching and Privacy Protection

The Computer Matching and Privacy Protection Act of 1988 requires the RRB to periodically let you know that information you provide to us may be used, without your consent, in automated matching programs. These matching programs are a computer comparison of RRB records with records kept by other Federal, state or local government agencies. Information from these matching programs can be used to establish or verify a person's eligibility for benefits and to help in the collection of debts.

Computer matching programs are conducted under strict guidelines designed to ensure that confidential information is protected and only used for the limited purpose of the matching program.

*U.S. Railroad Retirement Board*  
[www.rrb.gov](http://www.rrb.gov)  
RL-6 (12-12)