

Railroad Retirement Board

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based upon non-covered service in accordance with section 215(a)(7) of the Social Security Act. The tier I of a disability annuity may also be adjusted for other benefits based on disability, as shown in §§ 226.70–226.74 of this part. Except in the case of an employee who retires at age 60 with 30 years of service, if the result is not a multiple of \$1, it is rounded to the next lower multiple of \$1. In the case of an employee who retires with an age reduced annuity based upon 30 years of service (see § 216.31 of this chapter) the tier I is not rounded until all reductions have been made.

(b) If the employee is entitled to a reduced age annuity (see § 216.31 of this chapter), the rate from paragraph (a) of this section is multiplied by a fraction for each month the employee is under retirement age on the annuity beginning date. The result is subtracted from the rate in paragraph (a) of this section. At present the fraction is $\frac{5}{100}$ of 1% (or $\frac{1}{200}$). If the employee retires before age 62 with at least 30 years of service, the employee is deemed age 62 for age reduction purposes and a 20% reduction is applied. This reduction remains in effect until the first full month throughout which the employee is age 62, at which time the tier I is recomputed to reflect interim increases in the national wage levels and the age reduction factor is recomputed, if necessary, in accordance with this paragraph.

(c) The amount from paragraph (a) or (b) of this section is reduced by the amount of any monthly benefit payable to the employee under title II of the Social Security Act, including any social security benefit payable under a totalization agreement between the Social Security Administration and another country. The social security benefit used to reduce the tier I may be an age or disability benefit on the employee's own earnings record, a benefit based on the earnings record of another person, or the total of two types of benefits. The amount of the social security benefit used to reduce tier I is before any deduction for excess earnings. It is after any reduction for other benefits based on disability. The result cannot be less than zero.

(d) The tier I is subject to automatic annual increases as provided for in subpart E of part 225 of this chapter.

Example: An employee born on November 3, 1919, becomes entitled to an age annuity effective October 1, 1982. Retirement age for individuals born in 1919 is age 65. He has less than 30 years of service. His tier I PIA is \$712.60, which is rounded down to \$712. Since the employee is 25 months under age 65 when his annuity begins, \$712 is multiplied by $\frac{25}{180}$ ($\frac{1}{180}$ for each month under age 65), to produce an age reduction of \$98.89, and a tier I rate after age reduction of \$613.11. The employee is also entitled to a social security benefit of \$190 a month. The employee's final tier I rate is \$423.11.

§ 226.11 Employee tier II.

The tier II of an employee annuity is based only on railroad service. For annuities awarded after September 1981, the tier II benefit is computed as follows:

(a) The product obtained by multiplying the employee's creditable years of service by the average monthly compensation, determined as shown in subpart E of this part, is multiplied by seven-tenths of 1 percent (.007).

(b) If the employee is entitled to a vested dual benefit (see § 226.12 of this part), the result from paragraph (a) of this section is reduced by 25 percent of the vested dual benefit amount. This reduction is made before reduction of the tier II benefit for age. The result cannot be less than zero.

(c) If the railroad retirement family maximum applies, as shown in §§ 226.50–226.52 of this part, the amount from paragraph (a) or (b) of this section is reduced by the smaller of—

(1) The difference between the total railroad retirement maximum reduction amount and the reductions in the spouse and supplemental annuities; or

(2) The total tier II amount from paragraph (a) or (b) of this section.

(d) If the employee is entitled to a reduced age annuity (see § 216.31 of this chapter), the rate from paragraph (a) through (c) of this section is reduced in the same manner as the tier I as provided for in § 226.10 of this part. In the case of an employee with 30 years of service who is entitled to a reduced age annuity (see § 216.31 of this chapter), the age reduction only applies to the

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tier I component; no age reduction applies to the tier II component.

(e) The total tier II amount (paragraphs (a) through (d) of this section), is increased by 32.5 percent of the percentage increase in the cost-of-living increase to the tier I annuity component. Each cost-of-living increase is paid only to an employee whose annuity begins on or before the effective date of the increase. The increases are effective on the same date as any cost-of-living increase to the tier I annuity component.

§ 226.12 Employee vested dual benefit.

(a) *General.* An employee vested dual benefit is payable, in addition to tiers I and II, to an employee who meets one of the following requirements:

(1) *Employee worked in the railroad industry in 1974.* An employee who worked for a railroad in 1974 and retired after 1974 is considered vested if on December 31, 1974, he or she had both 10 years of railroad service and sufficient quarters of coverage under the Social Security Act to qualify for a social security benefit. An employee qualified on this basis is eligible for vested dual benefit amounts computed on his or her railroad and social security credits through December 31, 1974.

(2) *Employee who did not work for a railroad in 1974.* An employee who did not work in the railroad industry in 1974, but who had 25 or more years of railroad service before 1975 or a current connection with the railroad industry on December 31, 1974, as defined in part 216 of this chapter, or a current connection when he or she retired, is also considered vested under the same conditions as an employee who had worked in the railroad industry in 1974.

(3) *An employee who completed 10 years or more years of railroad service (but less than 25) before 1975 but left the industry before 1975 and did not have a current connection on December 31, 1974 or when he or she retired.* Such an employee is considered vested only if he or she had sufficient social security quarters of coverage to qualify for a social security retirement benefit as of the end of the year prior to 1975 in which he or she left the railroad industry. The vested dual benefit amount is based only on credits acquired through the last year

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of pre-1975 railroad service instead of through December 31, 1974.

(b) *Computation.* The employee vested dual benefit is computed as follows:

(1) The combined earnings dual benefit PIA is subtracted from the total of the railroad earnings dual benefit PIA and the social security earnings dual benefit PIA (see part 225 of this chapter for an explanation of these PIA's).

(2) The result from paragraph (b)(1) of this section is adjusted for any applicable cost-of-living increase, as shown in § 226.13 of this part.

(3) If the employee is entitled to a reduced age annuity (see § 216.1 of this chapter), the rate from paragraph (b)(2) of this section is reduced in the same manner as the tier I as provided for in § 226.10 of this part. In the case of an employee with 30 years of service who is entitled to an annuity reduced for age, the age reduction applies only to the tier I component; no age reduction applies to the vested dual benefit.

(4) The vested dual benefit payable in a given year may also be reduced for insufficient funding as shown in part 233 of this chapter.

Example: An employee born on November 3, 1919, becomes entitled to an annuity including a vested dual benefit on October 1, 1982. His combined earnings dual benefit PIA is \$254.90, his railroad earnings dual benefit PIA is \$93.80, and his social security earnings dual benefit PIA is \$244.70. The vested dual benefit before cost-of-living increase is \$83.60 ($\$93.80 + \$244.70 - \$254.90 = \83.60). A cost-of-living increase of \$67.72 (81 percent of \$83.60. See § 226.13 of this part) results in a vested dual benefit of \$151.32. Retirement age for a person born in 1919 is age 65. Since the employee is 25 months under age 65 when the annuity begins, \$151.32 is multiplied by 25/180, to produce an age reduction of \$21.02 and a vested dual benefit rate after age reduction of \$130.30.

§ 226.13 Cost-of-living increase in employee vested dual benefit.

If the employee's annuity begins June 1, 1975 or later, a cost-of-living increase is added to the total vested dual benefit amount. This increase is based on the cost-of-living increases in social security benefits during the period from January 1, 1975, to the earlier of the date the employee's annuity begins or January 1, 1982. The increases are effective on June 1 of each year through