

You've likely heard railroad company representatives claim railroad workers:

-- FALSEHOODS --	-- FACTS --
Are paid \$160,000.00 a year.	Even the highest earners who were hired before 1981 receive \$30,000. annual productivity fund payments don't earn that much! The average rail worker earns around \$70,000. to \$90,000. gross wages annually.
Receive 11 Personal Leave (PL) Days every year.	It takes 20 years of service to obtain 11 PL days annually. What the carriers conveniently don't tell you is that for every PL day a rail worker receives, they LOSE one paid holiday , PL days are NOT additional paid time off, they're actually just floating holidays. A new rail employee assigned to a 24-7-365 on-call board will receive just 3 PL days each year in their first 5 years of service.
Receive at least 3-weeks of paid vacation each year.	Railroaders must work enough shifts each year to qualify for a vacation and do so for eight years before receiving 3 weeks of paid vacation. Many new employees earn ZERO vacation weeks their first few years with the railroad because of seasonal furloughs, so they may not earn 3 vacation weeks until their 9 th to 11 th year! The first year a new employee works enough shifts to qualify for a vacation they receive just one vacation week for use the next year.
Have flexible work schedules.	If rail workers get off work at noon, they have to be available to return to work at 10 pm. <i>What wild false assertion this is!</i> Railroads DON'T provide flexible work schedules, they REQUIRE & DEMAND flexibility by their rail workers, who MUST be available at their beck and call, they are REQUIRED by the carriers to report for duty whenever called for duty, with absolutely no predictability! RAILROAD COMPANIES DO NOT ALLOW EMPLOYEES ANY FLEXIBILITY WHATSOEVER!
Receive 60% of their wages whenever they are out sick.	<p>Federal Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) sickness benefits are a minimal <u>subsistence-only</u> program. A requisite one-week zero-pay waiting period must elapse, then a rail worker must be off at least 4 days in the following week to qualify. The <u>maximum</u> RRB sickness benefit is just *\$85. per day x 5 days per week = \$425.00 per week.</p> <p>RRB subsistence benefits are only for the rail worker themselves. NO benefits whatsoever exist for a railroad worker's absence to care for an ill family member, not even for terminal end-of-life care!</p> <p>The railroad's outrageous and fallacious claim that RRB subsistence Sickness benefits provide rail workers with 60% of our wages is absurd. At 60%, *\$85. per day calculates out to the top wages of a working railroad employee of just \$750. per week = \$3,000. per month = \$36,000. per year!</p> <p>Please note that new rail employees hired on or after September 1st each year won't be eligible for RRB sickness or unemployment benefits until July 1st of the 2nd year after they were hired. (i.e., hired on 9/1/22, NOT RRB benefit eligible until 7/1/2024).</p> <p>*This subsistence benefit amount will be reduced pursuant to the Federal budget sequester act 30 days after the COVID-19 pandemic officially ends.</p>
Receive 52 weeks of wage replacement earnings each year if they are unable to work due to medical issues.	Railroad workers are eligible for up to 26 weeks of RRB subsistence sickness benefits in the RRB benefit year (July 1 st to June 30 th). If a rail worker exhausts these benefits; but has worked at least 10 years (120 months of creditable service) they may be eligible for extended benefits of up to 65 additional days of subsistence sickness benefits payable over 14 weeks.