

POSTAL SERVICE**Product Change—Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, & First-Class Package Service Negotiated Service Agreement****AGENCY:** Postal Service™.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Postal Service gives notice of filing a request with the Postal Regulatory Commission to add a domestic shipping services contract to the list of Negotiated Service Agreements in the Mail Classification Schedule's Competitive Products List.

DATES: *Date of notice required under 39 U.S.C. 3642(d)(1):* December 7, 2017.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Elizabeth A. Reed, 202–268–3179.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The United States Postal Service® hereby gives notice that, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3642 and 3632(b)(3), on December 1, 2017, it filed with the Postal Regulatory Commission a *USPS Request to Add Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, & First-Class Package Service Contract 30 to Competitive Product List*. Documents are available at www.prc.gov, Docket Nos. MC2018–40, CP2018–70.

Elizabeth A. Reed,

Attorney, Corporate and Postal Business Law.

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RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD**2018 Railroad Experience Rating Proclamations, Monthly Compensation Base and Other Determinations****AGENCY:** Railroad Retirement Board.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (Act), the Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) hereby publishes its notice for calendar year 2018 of account balances, factors used in calculating experience-based employer contribution rates, computation of amounts related to the monthly compensation base, and the maximum daily benefit rate for days of unemployment or sickness.

DATES: The balance in notice (1) and the determinations made in notices (3) through (7) are based on data as of June 30, 2017. The balance in notice (2) is based on data as of September 30, 2017. The determinations made in notices (5) through (7) apply to the calculation, under section 8(a)(1)(C) of the Act, of employer contribution rates for 2018. The determinations made in notices (8)

through (11) are effective January 1, 2018. The determination made in notice (12) is effective for registration periods beginning after June 30, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611–1275.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael J. Rizzo, Bureau of the Actuary and Research, Railroad Retirement Board, 844 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611–1275, telephone (312) 751–4771.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RRB is required by section 8(c)(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (Act) (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(1)) as amended by Public Law 100–647, to proclaim by October 15 of each year certain system-wide factors used in calculating experience-based employer contribution rates for the following year. The RRB is further required by section 8(c)(2) of the Act (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(2)) to publish the amounts so determined and proclaimed. The RRB is required by section 12(r)(3) of the Act (45 U.S.C. 362(r)(3)) to publish by December 11, 2017, the computation of the calendar year 2018 monthly compensation base (section 1(i) of the Act) and amounts described in sections 1(k), 2(c), 3 and 4(a–2)(i)(A) of the Act which are related to changes in the monthly compensation base. Also, the RRB is required to publish, by June 11, 2018, the maximum daily benefit rate under section 2(a)(3) of the Act for days of unemployment and days of sickness in registration periods beginning after June 30, 2018. Pursuant to section 8(c)(2) and section 12(r)(3) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (Act) (45 U.S.C. 358(c)(2) and 45 U.S.C. 362(r)(3), respectively), the Board gives notice of the following:

1. The balance to the credit of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance (RUI) Account, as of June 30, 2017, is \$97,732,177.41;
2. The September 30, 2017, balance of any new loans to the RUI Account, including accrued interest, is zero;
3. The system compensation base is \$4,042,278,849.27 as of June 30, 2017;
4. The cumulative system unallocated charge balance is (\$421,642,171.99) as of June 30, 2017;
5. The pooled credit ratio for calendar year 2018 is zero;
6. The pooled charged ratio for calendar year 2018 is zero;
7. The surcharge rate for calendar year 2018 is 1.5 percent;
8. The monthly compensation base under section 1(i) of the Act is \$1,560 for months in calendar year 2018;
9. The amount described in sections 1(k) and 3 of the Act as “2.5 times the monthly compensation base” is

\$3,900.00 for base year (calendar year) 2018;

10. The amount described in section 4(a–2)(i)(A) of the Act as “2.5 times the monthly compensation base” is \$3,900.00 with respect to disqualifications ending in calendar year 2018;

11. The amount described in section 2(c) of the Act as “an amount that bears the same ratio to \$775 as the monthly compensation base for that year as computed under section 1(i) of this Act bears to \$600” is \$2,015 for months in calendar year 2018;

12. The maximum daily benefit rate under section 2(a)(3) of the Act is \$77 with respect to days of unemployment and days of sickness in registration periods beginning after June 30, 2018.

Surcharge Rate

A surcharge is added in the calculation of each employer's contribution rate, subject to the applicable maximum rate, for a calendar year whenever the balance to the credit of the RUI Account on the preceding June 30 is less than the greater of \$100 million or the amount that bears the same ratio to \$100 million as the system compensation base for that June 30 bears to the system compensation base as of June 30, 1991. If the RUI Account balance is less than \$100 million (as indexed), but at least \$50 million (as indexed), the surcharge will be 1.5 percent. If the RUI Account balance is less than \$50 million (as indexed), but greater than zero, the surcharge will be 2.5 percent. The maximum surcharge of 3.5 percent applies if the RUI Account balance is less than zero.

The ratio of the June 30, 2017 system compensation base of \$4,042,278,849.27 to the June 30, 1991 system compensation base of \$2,763,287,237.04 is 1.46285149. Multiplying 1.46285149 by \$100 million yields \$146,285,149.00. Multiplying \$50 million by 1.46285149 produces \$73,142,574.50. The Account balance on June 30, 2017, was \$97,732,177.41. Accordingly, the surcharge rate for calendar year 2018 is 1.5 percent.

Monthly Compensation Base

For years after 1988, section 1(i) of the Act contains a formula for determining the monthly compensation base. Under the prescribed formula, the monthly compensation base increases by approximately two-thirds of the cumulative growth in average national wages since 1984. The monthly compensation base for months in calendar year 2018 shall be equal to the greater of (a) \$600 or (b) \$600 [1 + {(A – 37,800)/56,700}], where A equals