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“RAILROADS REPORT RECORD PROFITS”

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The railroads have reported record profits for the third quarter 2010 as follows:

* Canadian National reported its third quarter profit rose by 21 percent, and its operating ratio declined from almost 63 percent in the third quarter 2009 to 60.7 percent for the third quarter 2010. Operating ratio is the railroad's operating expenses expressed as a percentage of operating revenue, and is considered by economists as a basic measure of carrier profitability.

* CSX reported its third quarter profit climbed by 43 percent, and its operating ratio improved from 73.9 in the third quarter 2009 to 69.1 for the third quarter 2010.

* Kansas City Southern reported its third quarter profit doubled, and its operating ratio improved from 78.3 percent in the third quarter 2009 to 73.5 percent for the third quarter 2010.

* Norfolk Southern reported its third quarter profit increased by 47 percent, and its operating ratio improved from 72.8 percent in the third quarter 2009 to 69.6 percent for the third quarter 2010.

* Union Pacific reported its third quarter profit soared by 51 percent -- its most profitable quarter ever -- and its operating ratio improved from 73.8 percent in the third quarter 2009 to 68.2 percent for the third quarter 2010.

As BNSF is now privately held, it no longer reports quarterly earnings. Meanwhile, the Railway Supply Institute reported that railroads are significantly increasing orders for new freight cars; while the Association of American Railroads reported that rail freight traffic for 2010 through early November is running 7.3 percent higher than for the same period in 2009.

RRB BENEFITS AVAILABLE ONLINE:

The Railroad Retirement Board announced this week that one can apply online for sickness benefits. Sick or injured railroad workers are entitled to receive sickness benefits of \$66.00 per day (5 days per week) for up to 39 weeks in a calendar year.

First-time users must request a password request code (PRC), which they will receive by regular mail within 10 days. Those who have already established online accounts do not need to do so again.

Railroad employees who miss work due to illness or injury will still have to file a paper

form that serves as their initial application for sickness benefits. Once the application is received, they will continue to receive paper-based claim forms, generally for specific 2-week periods, by regular mail.

Go to www.rrb.gov and click on “Benefit Online Services.”



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