Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe
Payroll Volumes, 1896 to 1960

Because of the size of these records, the AT&SF Railway payroll volumes were not kept in their entirety, but were sampled. For most years only two months were kept, January and July, and there are two to five volumes for each month:

Bay 3, West side
1896-1902 January and July
1903-1904 Entire year
1905-1916 January and July
1917-1922 Entire year
1923-1941 January and July
1942-1947 Entire year
1947-1956 January and July

Bay 3, East side
1957-1960 January and July

It is very difficult to find an individual employee's payroll record, because there is no name index to these records. In order to find the individual, you have to know exactly when and where they worked for the railroad. If the employee was working for the Santa Fe in 1935, try looking at the name index to the AT&SF Prior Service Records instead.

For individual employees, the payroll record includes:
- Name
- Occupation
- Time worked
- Rate of pay
- Check number
- Date of payment
- Amount deducted for board
- Contribution to hospital fund

The records show the name of the person in charge of the department, but they do not cover salaried positions. The organization of divisions and department changes over time and so do the job titles.

Each year of the payroll records is divided by broad headings:
- Office
- Shops
- Trains
- Tracks
- Bridge & Building &Water Service
• Engineers
• Firemen
• Stations
• Chicago Lines
• Hostlers & Wiper

Each payroll volume is split by division:
• Chicago
• Southern Kansas
• Western
• Rio Grande
• Topeka Shops
• Etc…

Each division is further divided by Department and Occupation, then by rank: Foreman, Helper, Apprentice.

• Shops
  • Machinist
  • Pipefitter
  • Blacksmith
  • Boiler maker
  • Wrecker
  • Carpenter
  • Car man
  • Car repairer
  • Car inspector
  • Car cleaner
  • Car oiler
  • Air inspector
  • Truck-man
  • Upholstered
  • Painter
  • Coppersmith
  • Tinner
  • Nut tapper
  • Axle lather
  • Bolt cutter
  • Wheel press
  • Drill press
  • Fire lighter
  • Sand dryer
  • Sweeper
  • Pumper
  • Stationary engineer
- Superintendent’s Office
  - Stenographer
  - Various clerks
- Station & Telegraph
  - Station agent
  - Operator
  - Flagman
  - Car sealer
  - Copper
  - Laborer
  - Loader
  - Caller
  - Messenger
  - Truckman
  - Stock agent
  - Various clerks
- Water Service
  - Plumber
  - Mason
  - Laborer
- Train men
  - Conductor
  - Brakeman
- Dining Car
  - Conductor
  - Steward
  - Porter
  - Cook
  - Waiter
- Bridge & Building
  - Inspector
  - Carpenter
  - Teamster
  - Tinner
  - Plasterer
  - Engineer
  - Fireman
  - Watchman
  - Laborers (by gangs)
- Track (Sometimes further split by track sections)
  - Foreman
  - Laborers
• Lamplighter
• Locomotive Firemen
• Roundhouse
  • Blacksmith
  • Boiler maker
  • Machinist
  • Truckman
  • Flue cleaner
  • Ash pit
  • Boiler washer
  • Caller
  • Fire builder
  • Sweeper
  • Laborers