

Economist Conferences 

Friday, October 2nd 2009

The Hilton,
Tower Bridge, London

The Performance CFO:

Excellence in an exceptional climate

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August

20:56 GMT +00:00

31st

Federal workers

Posted by: Lexington

Categories: Economy

CHRIS EDWARDS, the author of "Downsizing the Federal Government", points out that the average compensation (pay plus benefits) of a federal worker is now nearly \$120,000 a year, twice what private-sector workers make.

And that's in addition to cast-iron job security. A federal employee has only a 1 in 5,000 chance of being fired in any given year.

Just a thought, as the deficit explodes: can we afford such generosity?

Less than an hour after I made this post, I received an email from the White House press office. President Obama is telling Nancy Pelosi that pay hikes for many federal workers will not be 19% or so, as planned, but a more reasonable 2%. Good for him.

It makes you wonder, though: who on earth thought that 19% was a fair pay raise in the middle of an economic crisis?

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