



Are federal workers overpaid?

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On the state level, the average compensation (salary and benefits) is \$69,913. (Thinkstock Photos)
WASHINGTON - When it comes to pay, federal workers receive benefits that averaged about \$41,791 in 2009. When you factor in salaries and those benefits, which include pensions, federal civil servants earned about \$123,049 in 2009.

By comparison, private workers made \$61,051 in total compensation, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Colleen Kelley, president of the National Treasury Employees Union, tells [USA TODAY](#) the data are not useful in a direct public to private pay comparison.

Public union employees say the gap reflects the growing skill and education levels needed for most federal jobs, while the government farms out lower paid jobs to the private sector.

A budget analyst at the Cato Institute believes federal workers are overpaid.

What are your thoughts? Do you think federal workers are overpaid? If so, why? Call Talkback at 1-877-222-1035. Post a comment on the left or leave a comment on WTOP's [Facebook](#) page.

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