



I was up and around in no time with robotic surgery.

St. Mary Medical Center  Robotic Surgery is here.



Subscribe to Paper Online Edition

Publish your Staff  
Log in | Become a Member



Need Help? Click Here

Sign Up for Newsletters/Alerts/Mobile



Search:

Site Web

Search

powered by Google™

Home Local Sports Crime Opinion Entertainment Life Coupons Customer Service Place An Ad

Jobs Autos Real Estate Classifieds

Home > Local News

# Government pay, benefits top private sector by 44 percent

Comments 19 | Recommend 3

March 22, 2010 1:38 PM

The Orange County Register

Average pay and benefits in December for state and local government workers cost 44.4 percent more than for private-industry employees, reports the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Total compensation for public employees averaged \$39.60 compared to \$27.42 for their private counterparts. Government wages averaged \$6.70 an hour higher and benefits were \$5.49 more.

In benefits, the biggest difference was in average health insurance costs: \$4.45 for government vs. \$2.01 for private industry. State and local governments also paid more to its workers in leave and in the retirement and savings categories than private employers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government compensation outstripped private pay and benefits in every category except in so-called supplemental pay, which covers overtime, shift differentials and non-production bonuses. In that category, private-worker costs were 82 cents versus 33 cents for government employees.

One way to determine if government sector pay is too high is in comparing voluntary quit rates, according to Chris Edwards, director of tax policy studies at the Cato Institute. Workers for state and local government is one-third that of the private sector, according to federal statistics. That suggests, according to Edwards, that state and local pay is higher than needed to attract qualified workers.

Another factor accounting for the higher government pay is that government workers are more likely to be unionized compared to private sector workers, according to a recent analysis by Edwards. Government workers also tend to have defined benefit pensions — packages that typically are far more generous than private sector workers.

Print Story | E-Mail Story | Font Size 

### Related Stories/Links

#### Other Articles in this Category

- Violent head-on crash shuts down part of Main St.
- Schwarzenegger signs energy bill at local solar plant
- AV woman trains Siberian huskies to pull scooters, sleds
- Local deputy in the running for America's Most Wanted's All Star
- Request for VV investigation stalls with grand jury

### Most Viewed Stories

- Violent head-on crash shuts down part of Main St.
- Big rig crashes into funeral procession for woman found in aqueduct
- Security guard shot at Karma Nightlife
- Investigators looking into Hesperia man's shooting death
- Local deputy in the running for America's Most Wanted's All Star

### Most Commented Stories

- McKeon warns of fed takeover of health care, student loans
- Big rig crashes into funeral procession for woman found in aqueduct
- Security guard shot at Karma Nightlife
- Government pay, benefits top private sector by 44 percent
- Violent head-on crash shuts down part of Main St.

### Most Recommended Stories

- Investigators looking into Hesperia man's shooting death
- Big rig crashes into funeral procession for woman found in aqueduct
- Area Roundup 3-22-10: Locals fill all-CIF soccer squads
- Violent head-on crash shuts down part of Main St.
- Government pay, benefits top private sector by 44 percent

### Save & Share this Article What is this?

- |                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <a href="#">Digg</a>        | <a href="#">Google</a>      |
| <a href="#">StumbleUpon</a> | <a href="#">del.icio.us</a> |
| <a href="#">Facebook</a>    | <a href="#">Newsvine</a>    |
| <a href="#">Reddit</a>      | <a href="#">Slashdot</a>    |

[See archived 'Local News' stories »](#)

Victorville Ontario Riverside Santa Ana

Click

ADVERTISEMENT

St. Mary Medical Center  Visit Our Online Hospital Gift Shop Open 24/7

- GET WELL & NEW BABY Gifts
- SPECIALTY & CUSTOM HOSPITAL Gifts

SAME DAY HOSPITAL DELIVERY Home Delivery Available

OPEN 24 HOURS! Gift Shop browse gifts

### Things to do in Victorville

Events Dining Venues Movies

#### Featured Events



1. UFC 111: St-Pierre vs...
2. Fathom Events, On select...
3. The 420 Festival 2010
4. The High Desert Car Club...
5. Huck Finn's Jubilee

Click for More Events

Add Your Events

Find an Event

what when where Go

### Publish Your Stuff

Log In Join Now Explore



you photos blogs forums explore

ADVERTISEMENT

**DO YOU NEED A JOB?**  
PROFESSIONAL, INDUSTRIAL, TECHNICAL AND LABOR

Ads by Google

[Employee Payroll Services](#)

Strategize More, Administrate Less With Our Custom Payroll Services!  
www.Ceridian.com

[Easy Payroll Online](#)

The most popular online payroll. Print checks instantly. No software  
PayCycle.com/freetrial

[Reverse Mortgage](#)

Guidance & Tools to Help You Make The Choice That is Right For You.  
bankofamerica.com/reversemortgage

[Gov. Grants - Free Money](#)

Receive Gov Funding To Pay Bills, Start A Business or Get Education!  
GovernmentGrantApproval.com

SPONSORED LINKS

[Auto Rental](#) [Hotel](#) [Airline Ticket](#) [Vacation](#) [Discount Travel](#)

Reader Comments

From the editor: Many of you have expressed concerns about some of the harsh anonymous comments from readers. To remedy that, we are introducing new features. You can create your own blog, publish your news and share your photos with the community. Once you fill out a simple form and leave a verifiable e-mail address, you can set up your profile page. It will display all of your contributions and allow you to track issues and easily connect with others.

We want our site to be a place where people discuss and debate ideas that foster stronger communities. We built this for you. Please take care of it. Tolerate broad thinking, but take action against obscene or hateful material. Make it a credible and safe place worth preserving and sharing.

[Oldest First](#) | [Newest First](#)

POWERED BY Pluck

ADVERTISEMENT



**Hot Stock Alert - EHSI**

Profit From Healthcare Explosion New Millionaires Created Today  
[EmergingHealthcareSolutionsInc.com](#)



**sharpsburg** wrote:

It is my opinion that most UNIONS today are Mafia controlled, and the United States Government knows this, but you will never read about this in the paper or hear this on radio or T.V.....

3/23/2010 7:11 AM PDT

[Recommend](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



**sharpsburg** wrote:

There is one more factor to add to this equation that is Very disturbing. And that is why our Government is allowing these high wages to be paid.

It may suggest some very bad times are coming here to America. And our Government is buying loyalty to them. Such as a hired mercenary.

3/23/2010 3:09 AM PDT

[Recommend](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



**sharpsburg** wrote:

ENTER THE UNIONS IN THE GARDEN.

If you wonder why or how such a difference in pay and benefits between government and the private work sector occurred it can be said in one word. ....UNIONS.....

When the Unions were allowed by law to enter and organize government workers and bite the apple, that's where it all began. As there is no real defense in government from UNIONS demanding and getting what they want, our governments have unlimited deep pockets that Unions can pick. As opposed to the private sector where the pickings are slim.

Every time a raise and better benefits is handed out to the government workers, their bosses or management makes more money and better benefits, and the Union Cashes in again by raising the Union dues.

And the Tax Payer has the privilege of paying for this chicanery.

3/23/2010 2:56 AM PDT

[Recommend](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



**sharpsburg** wrote:

You can bet 99.99% I'm sure every comment here in favor, or pro-government of the existing wage structure between government and Private work areas are coming from people who are in Some Way, dependent on money from local, state or Federal Government.



Yellow Pages

Search Yellow Pages:

Search input field with a Search button.

Popular Searches  
Powered by Local.com

Poll

Which social networking Web site do you prefer?

- Facebook
- Twitter
- MySpace
- Other
- None

Enter The Code To Vote

Code input field.

c839c

Vote!

It was only two years ago that people started losing their jobs in mass. So how could that explain a 44% increase in government pay and benefits, well it don't and won't. Also.....The numbers being given here (44%) were taken from a Government Study....Let me say that again, these numbers were generated from a Government Body of given information.

Just like our unemployment rates our given by government, other reliable non-government sources claim it is much higher. That being said, it would be logical to believe the 44% in Wage and Benefits is much Higher than being reported by our Government.

3/23/2010 1:56 AM PDT

[Recommend](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



**patriot760** wrote:

...In other words they are not overpaid, we are UNDERPAID.

3/22/2010 9:47 PM PDT

[Recommend \(1\)](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



**patriot760** wrote:

I think government employees are paid a fair wage, the problem is that wages among the private sector have been stagnant for years, maybe decades. Production has increasingly gone up but greedy corporations pocket the money for themselves instead of sharing the wealth in the form of increased wages and benefits. Greed and fraud are what's destroying our country not government employees who are paid a fair wage. Why don't we fight for the same?

3/22/2010 9:46 PM PDT

[Recommend \(1\)](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



**presidentadams** wrote:

This report may be valid now, during Obama's big recession, but during the good times, private industry makes more in cash and gets better raises than public service. Govt tries to make up for the screwy cash packet by giving out a few more benefits than private industry. Then when times get tough, govt work starts to look pretty good as private's cash pay starts evaporating.

3/22/2010 8:54 PM PDT

[Recommend \(1\)](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



**localsince79** wrote:

There is no private sector counterpart for my (county) job, and many other county positions. Many county employees do realize the severity of the current economic situation, and voted to give up current and future COLA's. I'm sure pretty soon they will vote to have furloughs to try and avoid layoffs.

You can't blame it all on us...

3/22/2010 7:11 PM PDT

[Recommend \(1\)](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



**wobbles** wrote:

Government wages are a drop in the bucket besides the ocean of fraud that is government handouts.

That 20 billion is going to your new neighbors every month. You know, the ones that sit around in a big house we pay for and don't work and watch you leave to go to work so they can burglarize your house. Can't go more than half a block in Victorville before you find one of the people that illustrates my point.

3/22/2010 6:10 PM PDT

[Recommend \(5\)](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)



**avpartsguy** wrote:

And they just can't figure out why we are \$20B in the hole???

3/22/2010 4:51 PM PDT

[Recommend \(2\)](#) [Report Abuse](#) [Permalink](#)

1 2 >> [Last](#)

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) | [Register](#)

Ads by Google

**Employee Payroll Services**  
Strategize More, Administrate Less  
With Our Custom Payroll Services!  
[www.Ceridian.com](http://www.Ceridian.com)

**Easy Payroll Online**  
Paychecks, direct deposit & taxes.  
No software to buy.  
[PayCycle.com](http://PayCycle.com)

**Refinance Your Home Loan**  
Refinance Your Home With America's  
#1 Online Lender - Quicken Loans®  
[www.QuickenLoans.com](http://www.QuickenLoans.com)

Search:   Web  Site

powered by Google™

[Advertising Info](#)

[Archives](#)

[Subscriber](#)

[Online Services](#)

[High Desert Sites](#)

[Place An Ad](#)  
[Yellow Pages](#)

[Story Archive](#)  
[Obituary Archive](#)  
[Photo Archive](#)

**Services**  
[E-Paper Help](#)  
[Home Delivery](#)  
[Report a Problem](#)

[RSS Feeds](#)   
[Newsletters/Alerts](#)  
[Coupons](#)

[Freedom High Desert](#)  
[Desert Dispatch](#)  
[Hesperia Star](#)  
[El Mojave](#)  
[High Desert Jobs](#)  
[freshInk](#)

---

Copyright © 2010 Freedom Communications

[Contact Us](#) | [Local Business](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Cars & Autos](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Obituaries](#) | [N.I.E.](#) | [Health](#) | [Dining](#) | [Site Map](#)  
[Privacy Policy](#) | [User Agreement](#)



Freedom Communications, Inc.