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Government pay, benefits top private sector by 44 percent

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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.

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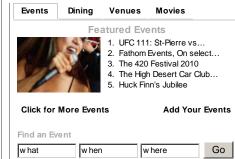


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sharpsburg w rote:

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

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sharpsburg w rote:

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

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sharpsburg w rote:

ENTERTHEUNIONS NA KEINTHEGARDEN.

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 sharpsburg wrote:

You can bet 99.99 % Ivory 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.

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Which social networking Web site do you prefer?
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Government pay, benefits top private ...

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

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patriot760 w rote:

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

3/22/2010 9:47 PM PDT

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patriot760 w rote:

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 whats destroying our country not government employees who are paid a fair wage. Why dont we fight for the same?

3/22/2010 9:46 PM PDT

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presidentadams w rote:

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 scrawny cash packet by giving out a few more benefits than private industry. Then when times get tuff, govt work starts to look purty good as private's cash pay starts evaporating.

3/22/2010 8:54 PM PDT

Recommend (1)

localsince 79 w rote:

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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)

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wobbles w rote:

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)

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avpartsguy w rote:

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

3/22/2010 4:51 PM PDT

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