

CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

Salaries of Federal Officials: A Fact Sheet

Sharon S. Gressle
Specialist in American National Government
Government Division

The Ethics Reform Act of 1989 provides for an annual salary adjustment for all positions on the Executive Schedule as well as for Members and leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives (103 Stat. 1716, at 1769). Adjustments are based on the percent of change in the private sector wages and salaries element of the Employment Cost Index (ECI) minus 0.5%. They are to go into effect at the same time and at a rate no greater than the rate adjustments for the General Schedule (GS). By law (95 Stat. 1183, at 1200) judges' salaries must be legislated separately. Public Law 105-119, §306, authorizes payment of the 1998 2.3% adjustment to the federal judiciary (FY1998 Commerce, State, Justice, and Judiciary Appropriations, 111 Stat. 2440, at 2493).

1994. Congress legislated a freeze on the salaries of Members of Congress for calendar year 1994. The FY1994 Treasury, Post Office, and General Government Appropriations Act eliminated the January 1994 national adjustment for the General Schedule. Because there was no GS adjustment, there was no "automatic" adjustment in 1994 for top positions in the executive and legislative branches (107 Stat. 35 and 107 Stat. 1226, at 1253).

1995. Projected adjustment: 2.6%. The FY1995 Treasury Appropriations Act provided that there would be no adjustment for federal officials (108 Stat. 2328, at 2424).

1996. Projected adjustment: 2.3%. The FY1996 Treasury Appropriations Act provided that there would be no adjustment for federal officials (109 Stat. 468, at 507).

1997. Projected adjustment: 2.3%. The FY1997 Treasury Appropriations Act provided that there would be no adjustment for federal officials (110 Stat. 3009).

1998. The adjustment for January 1998 is 2.3%, a rate equal to the January 1998 adjustment for General Schedule base pay. No legislation was enacted to withhold the pay adjustment for federal officials.

Salaries of Federal Officials					
Position				Salary Rates Effective 1/1/98	
Legislative Branch					
Vice President of the United States (President of the Senate)				\$ 175,400	
Speaker of the House of Representatives				175,400	
President Pro Tempore of the Senate				151,800	
Majority & Minority Leaders—House & Senate				151,800	
Senators, Representatives, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, & Delegates				136,700	
Judicial Branch					
Chief Justice of the United States				175,400	
Associate Justices of the Supreme Court				167,900	
Judges, U.S. Courts of Appeal				145,000	
Judges, Court of Military Appeals				145,000	
Judges, U.S. District Courts				136,700	
Judges, United States Claims Court				136,700	
Judges, Court of International Trade				136,700	
Judges, Tax Court of the United States				136,700	
Bankruptcy Judges				125,700	
Executive Branch					
President of the United States ¹				200,000	
<i>Executive Schedule</i>					
Level I: Cabinet-level officials				151,800	
Level II: Deputy secretaries of departments, secretaries of military departments, & heads of major agencies				136,700	
Level III: Under secretaries of departments & heads of middle-level agencies				125,900	
Level IV: Assistant secretaries & general counsels of departments, heads of minor agencies, members of certain boards & commissions				118,400	
Level V: Administrators, commissioners, directors, & members of boards, commissions, or units of agencies				110,700	
<i>Senior Executive Service (base pay)²</i>					
ES-1	\$ 99,200	ES-2	\$103,900	ES-3	\$108,600
ES-4	\$114,500	ES-5	\$118,400	ES-6	\$118,400

¹ The President's salary remains unchanged. See: U.S. Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service. *Salary of the President Compared with That of Other Federal Officials*, by Sharon Gressle, CRS report 97-761 GOV (Washington: August 7, 1997), 6 p.

² Executive Order 13071, Dec. 29, 1997, 62 *Federal Register* 68521. The SES salaries are set by the President. The base pay rates were changed and locality-based comparability payments were extended to the SES in January 1998. SES maximum base rates are capped at Level IV of the Executive Schedule and the locality-based payments are capped at Level III of the Executive Schedule. Except for the capped rates at ES-5 and ES-6, the payable rates in the Washington Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV represent a 7.27% increase over the base rates: ES-1, \$106,412; ES-2, \$111,454; ES-3, \$116,495; ES-4, \$122,824; ES-5, \$125,900; and ES-6, \$125,900.