

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 and Finance 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 as, and at a rate no greater than, the base pay rate adjustments for the General Schedule (GS). By law (95 Stat. 1183, at 1200), judges' salaries must be authorized separately.

1994. Congress legislated a freeze on the salaries of Members of Congress for calendar year 1994. With no GS base salary adjustment, there was no "automatic" adjustment in 1994 for officials in the three 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. 3009-364).

1998. Adjustment: 2.3%, a rate equal to the January 1998 adjustment for GS base pay. No legislation was enacted to withhold the pay adjustment for federal officials.

1999. Projected adjustment: 3.1%. The FY1999 Treasury Appropriations Act provided that there would be no adjustment for federal officials (112 Stat. 2681, at 2681-58).

2000. Adjustment: 3.4%. P.L. 106-113 authorized the pay adjustment for federal judges.

2001. Per Employment Cost Index data, the January 2001 adjustment would have been 3.0%. However, the rate was limited to the rate of adjustment in GS base pay, 2.7%. No legislation was enacted to withhold the pay adjustment for federal officials. P.L. 106-553 authorized the judicial salary adjustment. Executive Order 13182, December 23, 2000, established the schedules and pay rates.

Table 1. Salaries of Federal Officials

Position	Rates Jan. 2001
Legislative Branch	
Vice President of the United States (President of the Senate)	\$186,300
Speaker of the House of Representatives	186,300
President Pro Tempore of the Senate	161,200
Majority & Minority Leaders—House & Senate	161,200
Senators, Representatives, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, & Delegates	145,100
Judicial Branch	
Chief Justice of the United States	\$186,300
Associate Justices of the Supreme Court	178,300
Judges, U.S. Courts of Appeal	153,900
Judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces	153,900
Judges, U.S. District Courts	145,100
Judges, United States Claims Court	145,100
Judges, Court of International Trade	145,100
Judges, Tax Court of the United States	145,100
Bankruptcy Judges	133,492
Executive Branch	
President of the United States ¹	\$400,000
<i>Executive Schedule</i>	
Level I: Cabinet-level officials	\$161,200
Level II: Deputy secretaries of departments, secretaries of military departments, & heads of major agencies	145,100
Level III: Under secretaries of departments & heads of middle-level agencies	133,700
Level IV: Assistant secretaries & general counsels of departments, heads of minor agencies, members of certain boards & commissions	125,700
Level V: Administrators, commissioners, directors, & members of boards, commissions, or units of agencies	117,600

Senior Executive Service (SES) Base Pay Rates Effective January 2001					
ES-1	\$109,100	ES-2	\$114,200	ES-3	\$119,400
ES-4	\$125,500	ES-5	\$125,700	ES-6	\$125,700

¹ Effective noon, January 20, 2001.

² Executive Order 13182, Dec. 23, 2000, 65 *Federal Register* 82879. 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 2001. 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. Payable rates in the Washington Baltimore, DC-MD-VA-WV area—ES-1, \$120,261; ES-2, \$125,883; ES-3, \$131,615; ES-4, \$133,700; ES-5, \$133,700; and ES-6, \$133,700.