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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 judicial pay adjustment.)

2001. Adjustment: 2.7%. Projected 3.0% adjustment limited by GS base pay rate. No legislation was enacted to withhold the pay adjustment for federal officials. (P.L. 106-553 authorized the judicial salary adjustment.)

2002. Adjustment: 3.4%. (P.L. 107-77 authorized the judicial salary adjustment.)

2003. Adjustment: 3.1%. Projected 3.3% adjustment limited by GS base pay rate. Judicial adjustment authorized through passage of H.R. 16, January 2003.

Table 1. Salaries of Federal Officials

| Position | Jan. 2003 |
|---|-----------|
| Legislative Branch | |
| Vice President of the United States (President of the Senate) | \$198,600 |
| Speaker of the House of Representatives | 198,600 |
| President Pro Tempore of the Senate | 171,900 |
| Majority and Minority Leaders—House and Senate | 171,900 |
| Senators, Representatives, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, and Delegates | 154,700 |
| Judicial Branch ^a | |
| Chief Justice of the United States | 198,600 |
| Associate Justices of the Supreme Court | 190,100 |
| Judges, U.S. Courts of Appeal | 164,000 |
| Judges, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces | 164,000 |
| Judges, U.S. District Courts | 154,700 |
| Judges, United States Claims Court | 154,700 |
| Judges, Court of International Trade | 154,700 |
| Judges, Tax Court of the United States | 154,700 |
| Bankruptcy Judges | 142,300 |
| Executive Branch | |
| President of the United States ^b | \$400,000 |
| <i>Executive Schedule</i> | |
| Level I: Cabinet-level officials | \$171,900 |
| Level II: Deputy secretaries of departments, secretaries of military departments, & heads of major agencies | 154,700 |
| Level III: Under secretaries of departments & heads of middle-level agencies | 142,500 |
| Level IV: Assistant secretaries & general counsels of departments, heads of minor agencies, members of certain boards & commissions | 134,000 |
| Level V: Administrators, commissioners, directors, & members of boards, commissions, or units of agencies | 125,400 |

| Senior Executive Service (SES) Base Pay Rates Effective January 2002^c | | | | | |
|---|-----------|------|-----------|------|-----------|
| ES-1 | \$116,500 | ES-2 | \$122,000 | ES-3 | \$127,500 |
| ES-4 | \$133,800 | ES-5 | \$134,000 | ES-6 | \$134,000 |

- a. As of January 9, 2003, both the House and Senate had approved H.R. 16 (108th Congress), to authorize the pay adjustment for the judiciary. It is expected that the President will sign the measure.
- b. Effective noon, January 20, 2001.
- c. Executive Order 13282, December 31, 2002, 68 *Federal Register* 1133. 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 2003. 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, \$129,874; ES-2, \$136,006; ES-3, \$142,137; ES-4, \$142,500; ES-5, \$142,500; and ES-6, \$142,500.