

# CRS Report for Congress

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## Brief Facts About Congressional Pensions

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### Summary

This report lists the number of retired Members of Congress and the average amount of congressional pension they receive in retirement. It is updated annually.

## Brief Facts About Congressional Pensions

(as of October 1, 2002)

	Number of members <sup>a</sup>	Average annual pension <sup>b</sup>	Average years of creditable service <sup>c</sup>	Average age <sup>d</sup>	Average contributions <sup>e</sup>
Members/former Members with annuity beginning in FY2002					
Under CSRS <sup>f</sup> . . . . .	2	\$35,544	13.7	63.9	\$36,547
Under FERS <sup>g</sup> . . . . .	3	\$17,592	12.9	58.7	\$26,116
Members/former Members with annuity beginning in FY2001					
Under CSRS <sup>f</sup> . . . . .	13	\$71,112	24.3	68.2	\$113,168
Under FERS <sup>g</sup> . . . . .	18	\$31,500	15.8	64.1	\$29,048
All retired Members (as of 10/1/2002)					
Under CSRS <sup>f</sup> . . . . .	340	\$55,788	20.0	77.0	\$60,186
Under FERS <sup>g</sup> . . . . .	71	\$41,856	18.7	69.2	\$34,341

**Source:** U.S. Office of Personnel Management.

<sup>a</sup> Data include only former Members currently receiving congressional pensions.  
<sup>b</sup> For Members retiring in 2001, amount shown is 2001 pension. For all others, amount is 2002 pension.  
<sup>c</sup> Creditable service includes congressional, active duty military, and other federal civilian service.  
<sup>d</sup> For newly retired Members, average age at retirement; for all retired Members, average age on 10/1/02.  
<sup>e</sup> Total lifetime contributions the Member paid into the retirement system, including payments to both CSRS and FERS for Members who switched from CSRS to FERS.  
<sup>f</sup> CSRS is the Civil Service Retirement System. Congress enacted the CSRS for executive branch employees in 1920 and extended it to Members of Congress in 1946. The CSRS was closed to new participants as of January 1, 1984, when P.L. 98-21 required Social Security coverage for all Members of Congress and new federal workers first hired on or after that date.

<sup>8</sup> FERS is the Federal Employees' Retirement system. Congress enacted the FERS to coordinate with Social Security coverage. Members who had been covered under the CSRS could elect to switch to the new FERS during "open seasons" held in 1987 and 1998, or could remain in the CSRS.