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OMB chief calls reports federal employees are overpaid 'misleading'

By Tom Shoop | tshoop@govexec.com | March 9, 2010

Reports that federal employees are overpaid relative to their private sector counterparts are "misleading," Office of Management and Budget Director Peter R. Orszag said Tuesday.




Speaking at a *Government Executive* Leadership Briefing, Orszag addressed recent [media reports](#) showing that for certain occupations, average salaries are higher in the federal government than in the private sector.

"I think the key thing to remember about that is the federal workforce is more highly educated than the private workforce," Orszag said. "Roughly a third of the private workforce has a college degree, for example, [while] well over 50 percent of the federal workforce [does]."

Orszag also noted that "as people gain more experience, pay tends to increase," and the federal government has a highly experienced workforce. "Basically the entire delta between private sector and public sector federal government average pay can be explained by education and experience," he said.

"While there may be some remaining disparities," Orszag added, "I think some of the more dramatic newspaper stories I've seen about that disparity are somewhat misleading."

Orszag said Obama administration officials considered freezing federal pay in the fiscal 2011 budget proposal, but ultimately decided against the idea.

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This comment is meant for "Taxpayer". I've got news for you... you are an idiot! I have worked for the DOD for over 30 years. I am just now making over 50k a year. I work very hard for my pay and so do 90% of the people here at Tinker AFB. You have some nerve talking about things you know nothing about. Yes we do get some extra holidays that the private sector doesn't but we more than make up for it in other ways. I have also worked for the private sector on a part time basis because I needed the extra money. The company I worked for gave their employees most of the same benefits that the federal government does. You might not have to pay for your retirement but I do! I also have to contribute to Medicare but I'll never be allowed to use it! And exactly what subsidies do you think we get? All federal employees have performance standards that we have to surpass to even keep our jobs. How about you? We also have to contribute to TSP if we want to have it. In fact in the last couple of years I have lost a great deal of "my money" in TSP. Trust me the government is not going to give me back that money. As for "snow days", there have been people here killed trying to get to work when the base refused to close a few years ago, but the roads were shut down. So shut up, and go back to