

TOPICS

- NEWS HEADLINES
- PAY AND BENEFITS
- RETIREMENT
- TELEWORK
- PER DIEMS AND TRAVEL
- NSPS
- ENERGY
- GREEN
- GOVERNMENT
- FISCAL 2010 BUDGET
- THE BASICS
- THE MAILBAG
- GOVEXEC ON TWITTER

Opening line on 2012 pay raise: 1.6 percent

By Brittany Ballenstedt | October 29, 2010

If history is a guide, federal employees could be in line for an average pay increase of 1.6 percent in 2012, based on [figures](#) released Friday by the [Labor Department](#).

From September 2009 to September 2010, the change in the Employment Cost Index was 1.6 percent, a figure President Obama could use as a basis for his pay raise recommendation when he releases his 2012 budget proposal in February.

Under a 2004 law, military salaries must be increased annually at a rate equal to the change in the ECI for the private sector's wages. Past presidents often have backed the notion that federal employees should receive pay raises equal to those given to their military counterparts. But it's unclear whether Obama will advocate pay parity in his 2012 budget proposal.

While Obama's [2011 budget blueprint proposed equal raises](#) for both groups, his [2010 proposal called for](#) a 2 percent raise for civilians and a 2.9 percent raise for military members.

In addition, given the upcoming midterm elections on Nov. 2, it's unclear how the House and Senate would look at federal employee pay in the 2012 appropriations bills next year. If Republicans take over the House and/or the Senate, for example, the federal employee pay raise could be on the chopping block. This year, House Republicans [proposed freezing federal raises](#) as a way to save money and trim the budget deficit.

- E-MAIL THIS ARTICLE
- PRINTER-FRIENDLY VERSION
- COMMENT ON THIS STORY

RELATED STORIES

- Pentagon pay transition remains on track, data shows** 10/28/10
- Bill with 1.4 percent federal pay raise clears Senate committee** 07/30/10
- Pay-freeze pitches are 'demoralizing,' says Virginia Democrat** 06/10/10
- Obama opposes 1.9 percent pay raise for military members** 05/27/10
- Senators suggest a federal pay freeze to help fund wars** 05/26/10

COMMENTS

VIEW ALL COMMENTS | POST COMMENT

So I just read the article at the Govexec entitled "Public-private pay gap is widening" It says, "The gap between federal government and private sector workers' pay has increased 2 percentage points since last year. Bureau of Labor Statistics data indicate federal employees were paid 24 percent less on average than their private sector counterparts in 2010, compared to 22 percent less in 2009." So why 1.4% this year and a opening line of 1.6% in 2012? Federal employees continue to fall further and further behind. This is ridiculous. We have been asked to do more with less for so long we are now expected to just suck it up and accept it I suppose. Errrrrrgh!

Max Power | Posted November 1, 2010 | 7:35 AM

The old axiom, in the Marines, is "when in combat don't do things that attract enemy fire, it tends to annoy those around you." The issue is not whether the feds do, or do not deserve a raise. The real issue is that proposing a 1.6 percent raise, on top of this year's 1.4 percent raise, simply isn't going to play in Peoria. It will, in all probability, create a bigger public backlash against federal employees than we are

TODAY'S MOST POPULAR

E-MAILED READ

1. Trick or Treat
2. Pentagon pay transition remains on track, data shows
3. Suspect in bomb plot sought to kill soldiers
4. Education likely will escape the ax
5. Official says Army must expedite civilian hiring process

HEALTH IT
UPDATE

now live!

▶ click here



Advancing the business of government through analysis, insight and the sharing of