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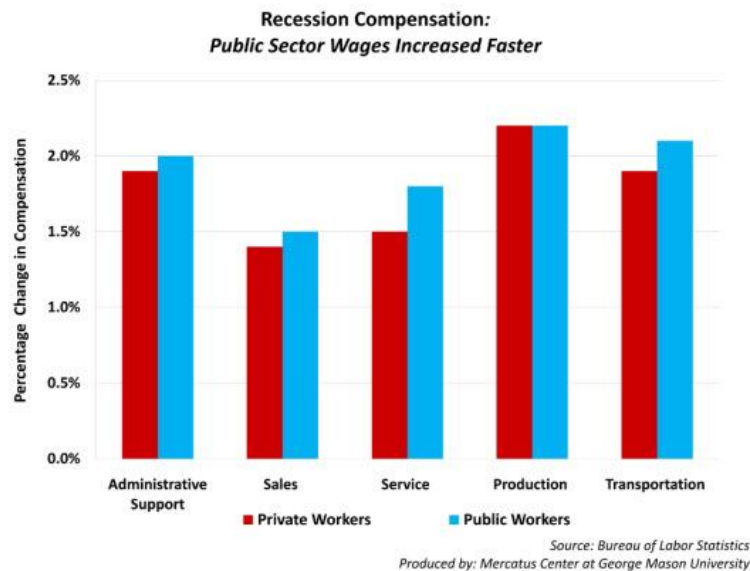
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to the Editor

The Platte Institute

# PLATTE CHAT

## Why You Want a Government Job



*The following information was recently published by the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.*

The above chart uses the Bureau of Labor Statistics' most recent Employment Cost Index to compare percent changes in public and private worker compensation within each of the five largest sectors in the United States during the 12 month period ending

strongly believes in the importance of citizens participating in the public dialogue on issues important to Nebraska. Writing a letter to the editor is an outstanding way to partake in the discussion and have your voice heard by thousands of people. To make the process easier, the Platte Institute has assembled a list of links which allow you to submit a letter to the editor to nearly all Nebraska newspapers. Simply [CLICK HERE](#) for a listing of the newspapers and follow the appropriate link to submit your letter.

## Contact Us

If you would like to contact someone at the Platte Institute, you are always welcome to give us a call, drop us an email or stop by the office. Our telephone number is 402.452.3737. We are located at 10050 Regency Circle – Suite 120 – in Omaha. Below is a list of staff email address:

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Compensation includes health and retirement benefits (roughly 30% of compensation), salary (roughly 70% of compensation), and legally required benefits such as payments for Social Security and Medicare. The sectors examined here employ over 65 million workers, or nearly half of all employed Americans. These sectors are (in order from largest to smallest by total employment): Office and Administrative Support, Sales, Food Preparation and Service, Production, and Transportation and Material Moving.

Across the sectors examined, compensation costs in the private sector increased 1.78% from March 2009 to March 2010. Public sector compensation increased by 8% more than its private counterpart at a level of 1.92%. Importantly these compensation increases occur on top of an existing public sector wage differential. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics' most recent estimate, as of September 2009, the average public sector worker received \$29.40 in hourly compensation while the average private sector worker received \$27.49 in total compensation, or \$1.91 less.

The trend in these sectors is consistent with larger trends in compensation. Across all sectors, public workers earnings increased 1.7% during the period from March 2009 to March 2010, while private workers' compensation increased 1.6%. During the preceding 12 month period, the disparity in public-private compensation increases is even more pronounced: public sector compensation increased 2.1% while private sector compensation only increased 1.9%.

These trends are consistent with public-private compensation trends throughout the economy.

In addition, the chart below was recently released by the USA Today along with the following information:

"Overall, federal workers earned an average salary of \$67,691 in 2008 for occupations that exist both in government and the private sector, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data. The average pay for the same mix of jobs in the private sector was

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\$60,046 in 2008, the most recent data available."

And to add insult to injury:

"These salary figures do not include the value of health, pension and other benefits, which averaged \$40,785 per federal employee in 2008 vs. \$9,882 per private worker, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis."

<b>Job</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>Private</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Airline pilot, copilot, flight engineer	\$93,690	\$120,012	-\$26,322
Broadcast technician	\$90,310	\$49,265	\$41,045
Budget analyst	\$73,140	\$65,532	\$7,608
Chemist	\$98,060	\$72,120	\$25,940
Civil engineer	\$85,970	\$76,184	\$9,786
Clergy	\$70,460	\$39,247	\$31,213
Computer, information systems manager	\$122,020	\$115,705	\$6,315
Computer support specialist	\$45,830	\$54,875	-\$9,045
Cook	\$38,400	\$23,279	\$15,121
Crane, tower operator	\$54,900	\$44,044	\$10,856
Dental assistant	\$36,170	\$32,069	\$4,101
Economist	\$101,020	\$91,065	\$9,955
Editors	\$42,210	\$54,803	-\$12,593
Electrical engineer	\$86,400	\$84,653	\$1,747
Financial analysts	\$87,400	\$81,232	\$6,168
Graphic designer	\$70,820	\$46,565	\$24,255
Highway maintenance worker	\$42,720	\$31,376	\$11,344
Janitor	\$30,110	\$24,188	\$5,922
Landscape architects	\$80,830	\$58,380	\$22,450
Laundry, dry-cleaning worker	\$33,100	\$19,945	\$13,155

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