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 February 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2008

## 37,000 FAA employees to get 3.08 percent raise

 By [STEPHEN LOSEY](#)

January 15, 2008

Most Federal Aviation Administration employees will get a larger pay increase than other federal workers in 2008, but not as much as they could have earned.

About 37,000 FAA employees who are covered by the agency's core compensation performance pay system or represented by the Professional Airways System Specialists, National Association of Air Traffic Specialists and Professional Association of Aeronautical Center Employees will get a 3.08 percent pay raise, plus their full locality pay increase, acting administrator Bobby Sturgell said in a Jan. 8 memo to employees.

But employees could have received Organizational Success Increases of 3.5 percent, had the FAA met 26 of its 29 performance targets.

FAA failed to meet five of its performance goals: It didn't receive a clean financial audit without a material weakness, it didn't cut down enough on fatal accidents involving commercial airliners, and it also missed its goals for average daily airport capacity, on-time arrivals and customer satisfaction.

Even though FAA missed those goals, Sturgell had praise for agency employees.

"Statistics alone don't tell the whole story," Sturgell said. "Controllers have made great strides in reducing the most serious operational errors. It's difficult to conclude that we have failed."

Air traffic controllers are not covered by this raise.

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NATCA opposes this because the lump-sum payment does not count in the calculation of controllers' retirements or next year's pay raises.

Federal employees under the General Schedule system this year received 2.5 percent basic pay increases, plus locality pay increases that average 1.0 percent. About 4,500 FAA employees will receive the usual GS pay raise.

#### **Maximum salaries raised**

FAA is also raising maximum salaries for its core compensation and executive compensation pay bands by 2.5 percent, Sturgell said.

Research shows the FAA's core pay bands lag behind the market by more than 2 percent, he said.

The maximum salary increase is the FAA's third in as many years, and the largest.

Last year's increase was 1.7 percent, and the 2006 increase was 2.1 percent.

The pay raises took effect Jan. 6.

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