

Overtime Fact Sheet

This fact sheet provides general information concerning the application of the overtime pay provisions to General Schedule (GS) based on their position designation. The pay rates cited here apply to the DC locality area in 2025.

Definition

Overtime pay is for hours of work officially ordered and approved in writing, in advance, in excess of 8 hours in a day OR 40 hours in a workweek.

Employee Coverage

GS employees who are covered by the provisions of the Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA) are eligible for overtime pay, and must receive overtime pay for all hours worked in excess of 8 hours in a day OR 40 in a workweek. Employees in positions whose primary duties are executive, administrative or professional in nature are exempt from FLSA, and have different overtime entitlements. Please see the [Overtime Decision Tree](#) for more information about the compensation that must or may be granted to an employee for additional hours worked, based on their FLSA status, work schedule, and salary.

Overtime Rates

For **FLSA-nonexempt** employees, the overtime rate is the employee's hourly rate multiplied by 1.5.

For **FLSA-exempt** employees with pay equal to or less than the GS-10, step 1, (currently \$77,001) the overtime hourly rate is the employee's hourly rate multiplied by 1.5.

For **FLSA-exempt** employees with pay greater than the GS-10, step 1, the overtime hourly rate is the **greater** of—

- (1) the hourly pay for GS-10, step 1, multiplied by 1.5, or
- (2) the employee's hourly rate of pay.

Pay Limitations/Cap

For FLSA-exempt employees, there is a biweekly limit on the amount of premium pay that can be paid during a pay period. Premium pay includes base pay, overtime, compensatory time **earned** (valued at the overtime rate) and balance carried over, night pay, Sunday premium pay, and holiday premium pay. GS employees can be paid up to the biweekly pay limit, which is the equivalent of the GS-15, step 10, biweekly rate (currently \$7,482.40). Overtime pay for FLSA-nonexempt employees is not subject to this biweekly limit because overtime pay is paid under FLSA. However, the sum of basic pay and other forms of premium pay earned by these employees may not exceed the biweekly rate of GS-15/10.

The biweekly pay limitation is also a ceiling on compensatory time off. Compensatory time off is merely an alternative form of payment for overtime work. As such, the value of an hour of compensatory time off is equal to the overtime hourly rate that is payable in dollars, and is paid out to the employee if not used within 26 pay periods. Thus, the number of hours for which an

employee may receive monetary overtime pay is also the number of hours of compensatory time off that may be credited in a pay period. An employee may not exceed the biweekly pay limitation by choosing compensatory time off as a substitute for monetary overtime pay.

Employees in certain health-care occupations covered by Title 38 premium pay provisions are not subject to these pay caps, and receive overtime at their hourly rate multiplied by 1.5. Additional information is available via the [Premium Pay Entitlement Tool](#).

Calculating Overtime and/or Compensatory Time Earned

Assume the employee is a GS-13, step 10, with an annual salary of \$156,755, hourly salary of \$75.11, and biweekly gross pay of \$6,008.82. With the biweekly pay cap of \$7,482.40 the employee can earn up to \$1,473.69 in overtime or other premium pays each pay period. This difference equates to 19.50 hours of additional pay that could be earned by this employee. Anything over 19.50 hours would exceed the cap and would be forfeited. Additionally, the carryover of compensatory time is included in this total amount. So, if the employee is currently carrying 19.50 hours of compensatory time, they are not eligible to earn any further overtime or compensatory time. If the hours are reported in ITAS, either as overtime or compensatory time earned, DFAS will drop them when calculating pay.

Employees Under Alternative Work Schedules

Employees authorized to work flexible work schedules, and for whom credit hours are applicable, receive overtime pay only for excess hours which are not credit hours.

Employees authorized to work compressed work schedules earn overtime only for work in excess of the scheduled tour of duty (i.e., over 8 hours if their scheduled day is an 8-hour day, 9 hours if it is a scheduled 9-hour day, etc.) or for time over 80 hours for the pay period.

Employees on flexible tours may earn credit hours instead of overtime/compensatory time, but full-time employees are only allowed to carry over 24 credit hours at the end of each pay period – additional hours will be dropped by both ITAS and DFAS.

Please note: ITAS will allow employees to earn overtime/compensatory time although the hours will be capped by DFAS; ITAS is a time and attendance system, capturing hours worked and leave taken – the system does not contain pay data.

References

[OPM Title 5 Overtime Factsheet \(FLSA Exempt\)](#)

[How to Calculate FLSA Overtime Pay](#)

[OPM Handbook on Flexible Tours](#)

[5 U.S.C. 5542](#) and [5 U.S.C. 5547](#)

[5 CFR 550.101-113](#)