

Most GAO employees to get larger raises than most feds

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About 1,100 Government Accountability Office analysts were determined to have exceeded expectations on the job and likely are to receive 2008 pay raises larger than the 4.49 percent raise most Washington-area federal employees received.

About 280 employees were judged to have met all expectations and will receive raises of exactly 4.49 percent.

And 20 employees were judged to have performed below expectations and will not receive raises this year.

GAO is still calculating raises and could not say what the average performance-based raise will be for its employees covered by the performance-based pay system.

Employees are rated in six to eight categories, depending on their pay bands. Those who were judged to have exceeded expectations or performed as role models in some or all of those categories will receive higher raises.

GAO reached a tentative agreement on pay raises with its new union Feb. 7, and it must now be ratified by bargaining unit employees. If approved, the adjustments will be retroactive to the first full pay period of 2008, which began Jan. 6.

Paul Shearon, secretary-treasurer for the International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers, which represents GAO analysts, said the union is happy with the agreement and expects employees will ratify it.

About 400 other bargaining unit analysts are under a professional development program and are not covered under this pay raise.