



FULL-TIME OFFICIAL TIME

A SPECIAL REPORT
EXPOSING TAXPAYER-FUNDED
UNION EMPLOYEES

SUMMER 2016

AMERICANS FOR
LIMITED GOVERNMENT
FOUNDATION

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INTRODUCTION

Since 2009 Americans for Limited Government Foundation (ALGF) has actively used the provisions of the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and similar state laws, as a part of our research work.

We have filed hundreds of FOIA requests. Requests have been filed with every federal executive department, a number of independent agencies, and several state government entities.

One subject area we have focused on is the practice of federal agencies paying staff on a full-time basis to perform work for a labor union instead of working for the taxpayers. This practice, known as “official time,” is unfortunately permitted under federal law, 5 U.S.C. § 7131. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), has previously published a report providing data on the total hours and dollar amounts spent by agencies for official time, but the report does not indicate how many personnel are permitted to use official time on a full-time basis. The last such report is for fiscal year 2012.

To bring to light how widespread this practice is we have filed a series of FOIA requests seeking information on how many personnel are permitted to use official time on a full-time basis. The information included in this report comes as a result of those FOIA requests.

This report contains data regarding the 487 individuals that have been disclosed, so far, to us as working full-time for a union on the taxpayers’ dime.

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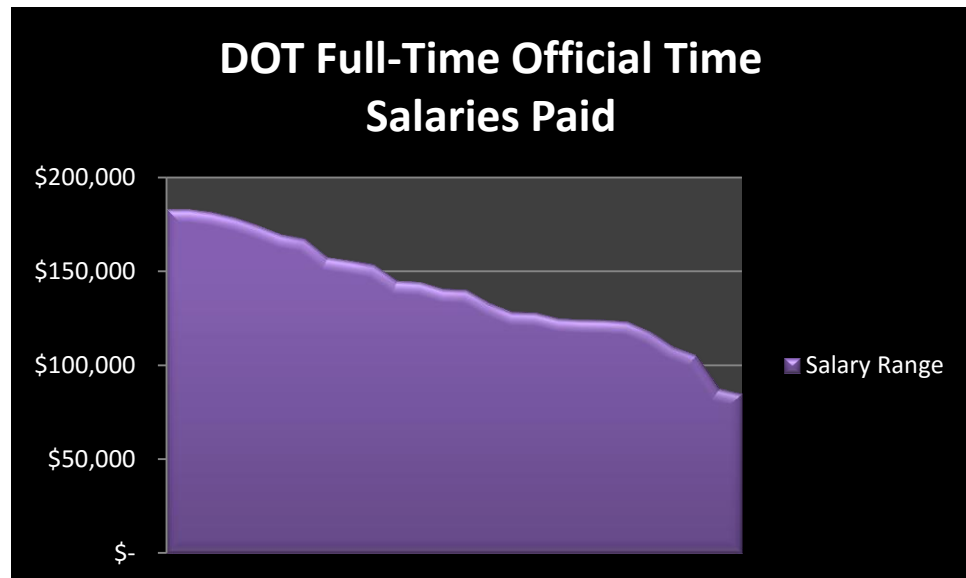
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Of all the agencies that have disclosed to us that they have employees on full-time official time status, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the U. S. Department of Transportation reports the highest salaries for such employees.

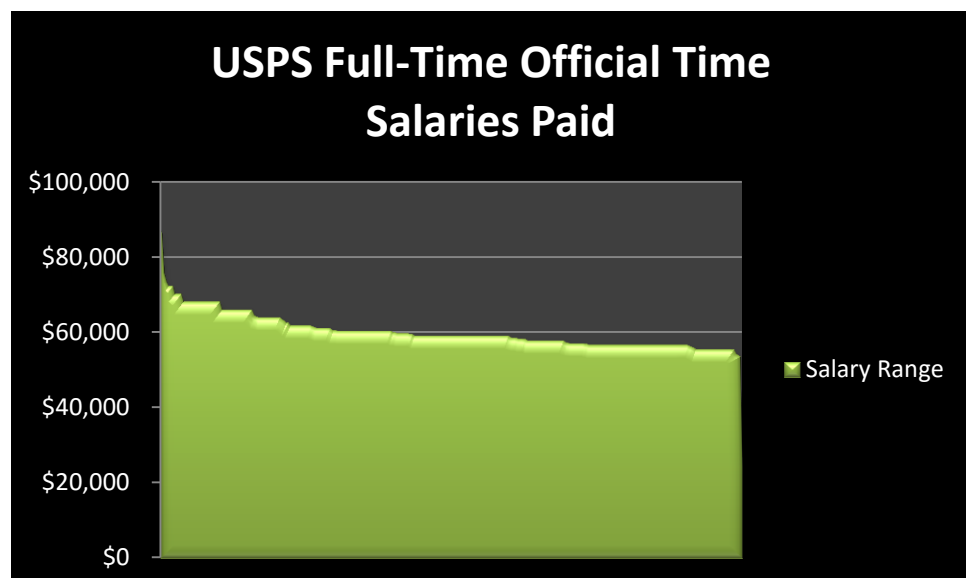
The FAA reports twenty-six individuals on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$183,300 and the lowest is \$84,871. The average salary of these twenty-six employees is \$141,221. Twenty-four of these employees have salaries above \$100,000. The total salary cost for these employees is over \$3,6 million.



U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

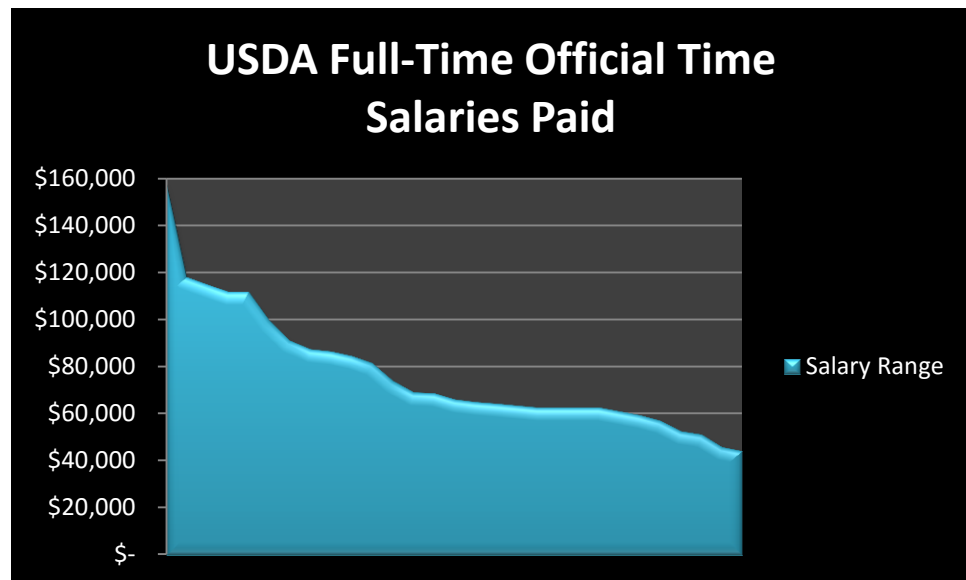
The U.S. Postal Service reports 274 employees on full-time official time status, at a salary cost of over \$16.5 million. The highest salary reported is \$87,449 and the lowest is \$24,461.

All but one employee on full-time official time status makes over \$50,000 per year. The average salary of these employees is \$60,394.



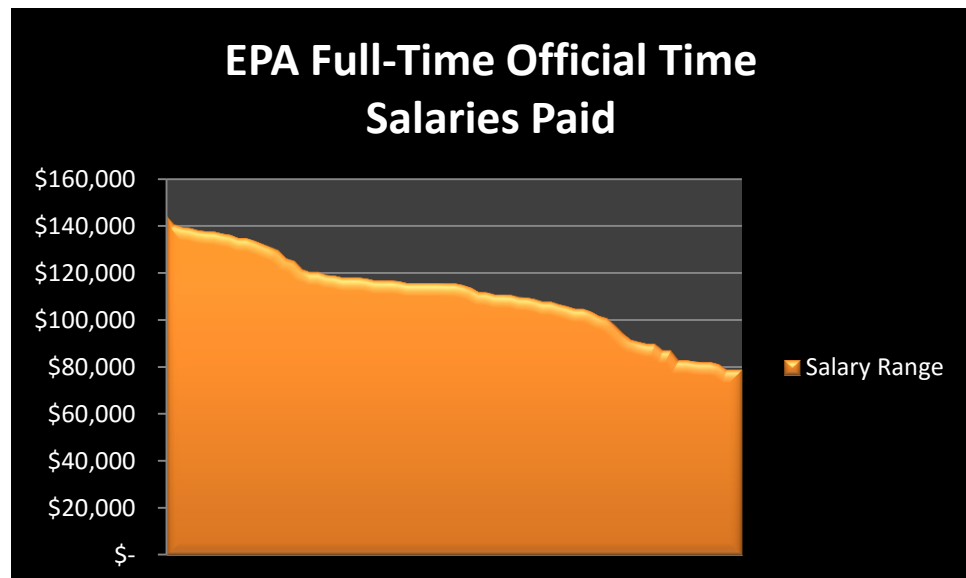
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports twenty-nine employees on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$158,700 and the lowest is \$44,403. The average salary of these twenty-nine employees is \$77,398. The total salary cost for these employees is over \$2.2 million.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports sixteen employees on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$144,581 and the lowest is \$83,128. The average salary of these sixteen employees is \$117,674. The total salary cost for these employees is over \$1.8 million.



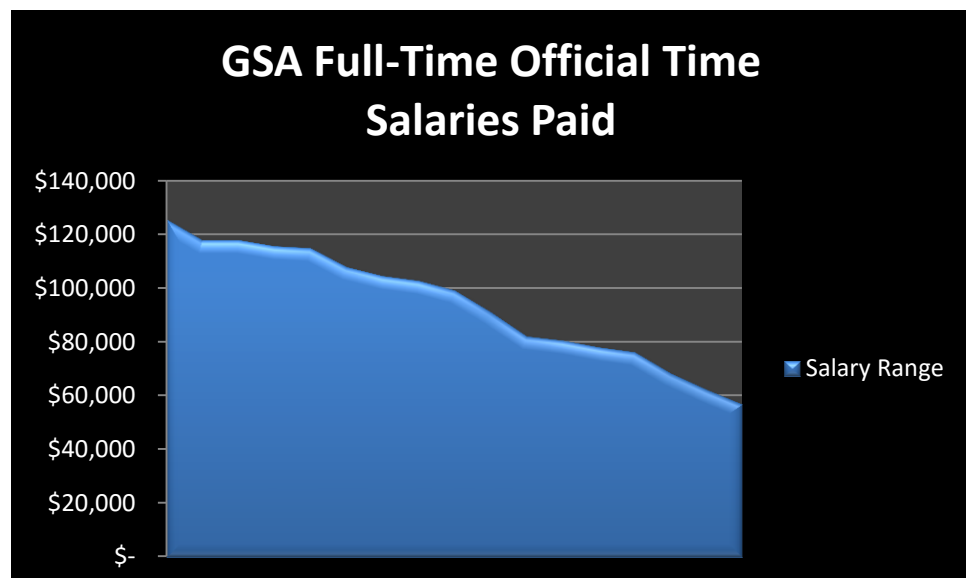
U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Small Business Administration reports two employees on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$102,894 and the lowest is \$96,750. The average salary of these two employees is \$99,822. The total salary cost for these employees is \$199,644.



U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. General Services Administration reports seventeen salaried employees on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$125,797 and the lowest is \$56,974. The average salary of these seventeen employees is \$94,369. The total salary cost for these employees is over \$1.6 million.



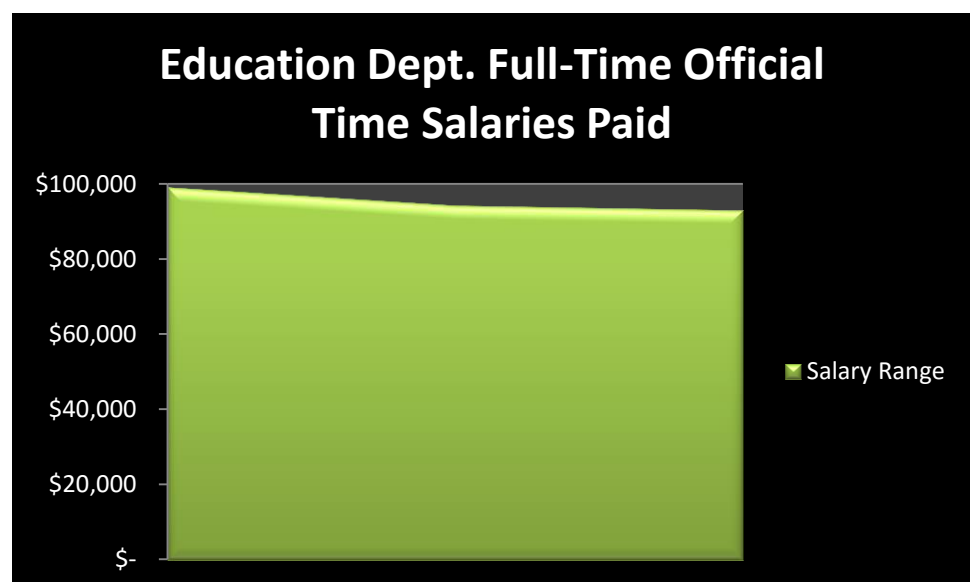
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The U.S. Department of Energy reports two employees on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$155,695 and the lowest is \$146,006. The average salary of these two employees is \$152,351. The total salary cost for these employees is \$304,701.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

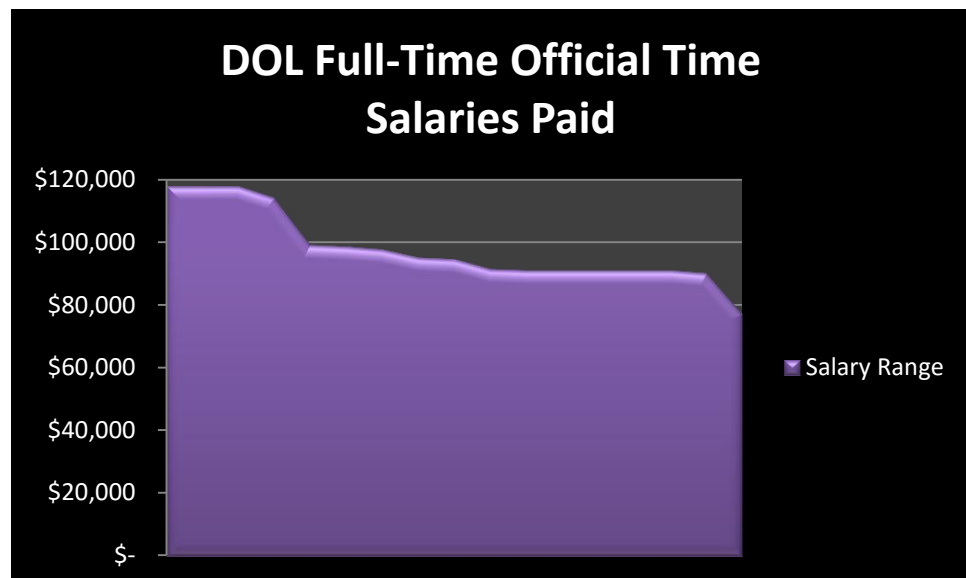
The U.S. Department of Education reports three employees on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$99,002 and the lowest is \$92,910. The average salary of these three employees is \$95,372. The total salary cost for these employees is \$286,115.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The U.S. Department of Labor reports seventeen employees on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$118,069 and the lowest is \$77,213.

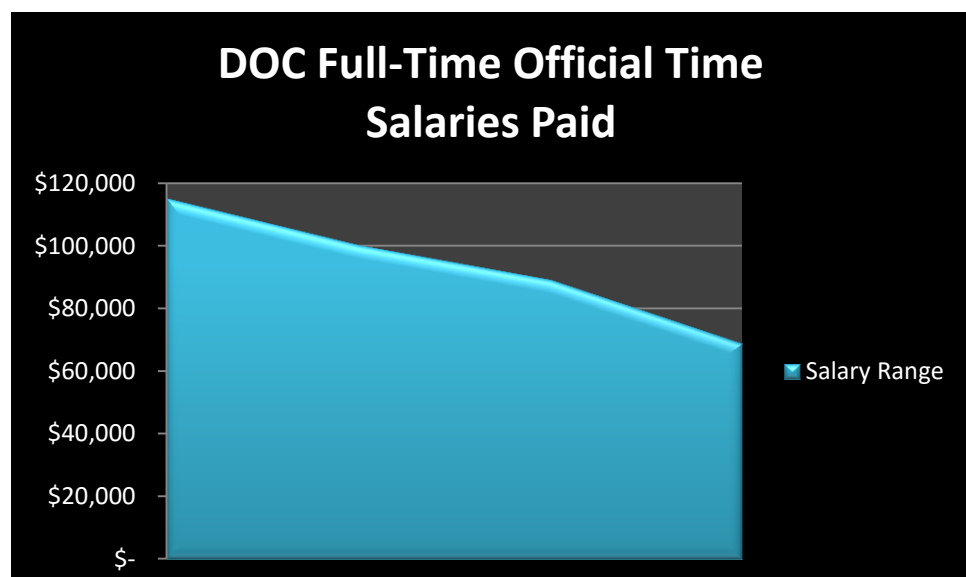
With the exception of one employee, all of these employees make over \$90,000. The average salary of these seventeen employees is \$98,254. The total salary cost for these employees is over \$1.6 million.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

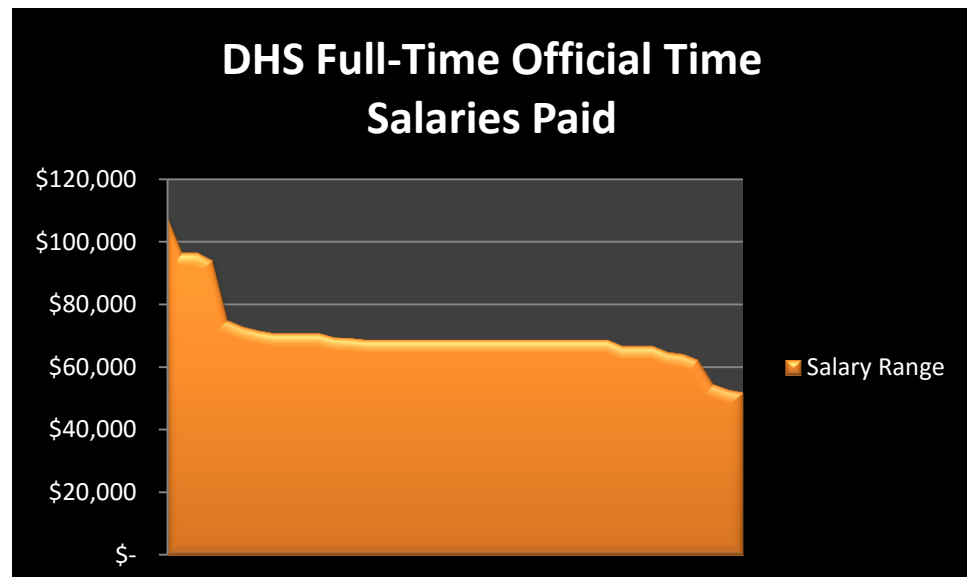
The U.S. Department of Commerce reports four employees on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$115,072 and the lowest is \$68,712.

The average salary of these four employees is \$93,264. The total salary cost for these employees is \$373,055.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security reports thirty-nine employees on full-time official time status. The highest salary reported is \$108,352 and the lowest is \$52,067. The average salary of these thirty-nine employees is \$70,880. The total salary cost for these employees is over \$2.7 million.



PREVIOUSLY COLLECTED DATA

ALGF through its FOIA program has previously collected data indicating that other agencies have substantial numbers of employees on full-time official time status. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) disclosed to us in 2013 that they have more than 200 employees on full-time official status. Likewise, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disclosed to us that they have over 250 employees on full-time official time status. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) previously disclosed to us that they had two employees on full-time official time status, both of which were paid over \$100,000 per year. That must have changed because in response to the instant FOIA request, the NLRB has informed us that they do not have any employees on full-time official time status. We'll consider that progress. We are waiting on updated responses from the IRS and the VA.

CONCLUSION

The figures referenced above are but a small piece of the total cost associated with the practice of federal agencies providing labor unions with free employees. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management reports that for fiscal year 2012, the latest year for which they have published such data, the federal government spent over \$157 million on official time.¹ This is a large problem. Labor organizations, like other advocacy organizations, should not have their operations subsidized through the use of free labor. If they need employees then the labor organization itself should pay for them, not taxpayers.

Using taxpayer dollars to subsidize labor unions is just one of many areas of waste in the federal government.

The next time an agency claims poverty and that a lack of funding is hindering its ability to get things done perhaps they should take a hard look at how they are spending our money and cut unnecessary expenses like those associated with official time.

¹ *Labor-Management Relations in the Executive Branch*, U.S. Office of Personnel Management, at p. 10. Available online at: <https://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/labor-management-relations/reports/labor-management-relations-in-the-executive-branch-2014.pdf> (accessed June 23, 2016).