

EMPIRE CENTER

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GREECE EMPLOYEES ARE HIGHEST-PAID IN REGION

The Empire Center for Public Policy today released the 2014 edition of “What They Make,” an overview of local government payrolls (outside New York City) for the period of April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

The following table shows the five highest-paying employers in the Finger Lakes region, which includes Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontario, Orleans, Seneca, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates counties, for general employees and police or firefighters:

General Employees			Police or Firefighters		
Employer	#	Avg.	Employer	#	Avg.
Greece (town)	298	\$45,868	Greece (town)	98	\$97,716
Geneva (town)	18	\$45,329	Brighton (town)	39	\$92,946
Canandaigua (city)	77	\$44,742	Gates (town)	30	\$90,982
Waterloo (village)	25	\$44,604	Ogden (town)	11	\$88,979
Phelps (village)	8	\$43,713	Irondequoit (town)	51	\$86,955

The highest-paid local government employee in the region was Odysseus Adamides, Jr., a psychiatrist who was paid \$224,138 by Wayne County. The second highest-paid employee was Genesee Community College President James M. Sunser, who was paid \$205,598. The names, employers and pay of the 10 highest-paid local government employees in the region are attached.

The amounts listed in the report do not include fringe benefits such as health insurance or pension contributions, which can add more than 35 percent to the cost for taxpayers.

“The Empire Center produces this report because it is committed to protecting the right of taxpayers to know how their money is being spent,” said Executive Director Tim Hofer. “Employee compensation is the single largest component of most municipal budgets. Pairing this pay data with the localized spending data in SeeThroughNY’s Benchmarking NY tool, taxpayers can get a real sense of how their local governments are spending their tax dollars.”

The Empire Center is an independent, non-partisan, 501(c)3 think tank based in Albany. Each year, the Empire Center obtains and processes payroll information from public employers across the state. To read the full report, visit empirecenter.org/publications/wtm14. The Benchmarking New York tool, as well as individual payroll records, are posted at the Empire Center’s transparency website SeeThroughNY.net.

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Top 10 Municipal Employee Pay in the Finger Lakes Region April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

Employee	Employer	Pay
Odysseus Adamides, Jr.	Wayne County	\$224,138
James M. Sunser	Genesee County	\$205,598
Caroline R. Dignan	Monroe County	\$180,530
Syed I. Mustafa	Wayne County	\$169,359
R. Michael Tantillo	Ontario County	\$167,168
Sandra J. Doorley	Monroe County	\$166,731
Daniel M. De Laus, Jr.	Monroe County	\$156,019
William J. Curran	City of Rochester	\$155,767
Richard C. Downs	Town of Greece	\$151,703
Todd K. Baxter	Town of Greece	\$150,211

Source: *SeeThroughNY.net*