

EMPIRE CENTER

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CITY OF ITHACA POLICE, FIRE ARE HIGHEST-PAID IN SOUTHERN TIER

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 Southern Tier region, which includes Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties, for general employees and police or firefighters:

General Employees			Police or Firefighters		
Employer	#	Avg.	Employer	#	Avg.
Ithaca (town)	79	\$50,674	Ithaca (city)	123	\$83,284
Erwin (town)	25	\$50,240	Vestal (town)	32	\$73,170
Lansing (village)	6	\$48,519	Binghamton (city)	253	\$71,177
Tompkins (county)	895	\$45,963	Elmira (city)	138	\$70,644
Delhi (village)	15	\$44,538	Elmira Heights (village)	10	\$68,166

The highest-paid local government employee in the region was Mary S. Nobilski, a psychiatrist who was paid \$220,920 by Steuben County. The second highest-paid employee was SUNY Broome Community College President Kevin E. Drumm, who was paid \$213,365. The names, employers and pay of the 10 highest-paid 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 Southern Tier April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014

Employee	Employer	Pay
Mary S. Nobilski	Steuben County	\$220,920
Kevin E. Drumm	Broome County	\$213,365
Gerard P. Lippert	Tompkins County	\$182,368
Michael A. Talarico	Delaware County	\$181,410
John B. Bezirgianian	Tompkins County	\$172,730
Brooks T. Baker	Steuben County	\$166,596
Gerald F. Mollen	Broome County	\$152,672
David E. Carr	Chenango County	\$152,524
Gwendolyn P. Wilkinson	Tompkins County	\$149,661
Joseph G. Fazzary	Schuyler County	\$147,253

Source: *SeeThroughNY.net*