How Does Pay at NYC Transit Compare With Other Metropolitan Transportation Authority Agencies?

NYC Transit runs the city's subways as well as buses in Manhattan and the Bronx and is one of several agencies that comprise the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. NYC Transit employs nearly 50,000 workers and 44,000 of them are union members. Most of these union employees are members of Transit Workers Union Local 100, whose contract with the transit agency expires on January 15. As contract negotiations proceed, IBO has compared average pay at NYC Transit with other transportation authority affiliates, including the Metro-North and Long Island commuter railroads.



NOTES: Average compensation per employee includes union and non-union staff and comprises wages and salaries, plus longevity payments, overtime, and back pay. The NYC Transit total includes employees of the Staten Island Railway and Access-a-Ride. The MTA Headquarters total includes employees of the Capital Construction Company.



- Average compensation per employee at NYC Transit was \$75,891 in 2015 compared with average compensation of \$80,158 for all MTA employees. Average compensation was higher at the Long Island Rail Road (\$95,652), Metro-North Railroad (\$93,640), and MTA headquarters (\$88,025). Compensation at MTA Bus and MTA Bridges and Tunnels was slightly below NYC Transit: \$72,799 and \$71,569, respectively.
- Average gross pay for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's police force was \$132,803 in 2015, well above the pay level for the authority's other entities. But the effect on the transportation authority's budget was relatively small because the police force makes up less than 1 percent of the authority's labor force.

- Compared with the commuter railroads, compensation for NYC Transit employees is much more concentrated in the \$50,001-\$100,000 range.
- Only 1.3 percent of NYC Transit employees earned more than \$150,000 in 2015, compared with 10.4 percent of Long Island Rail Road and 15.4 percent of Metro-North Railroad employees.
- Compensation for some hourly employees includes a substantial amount of overtime.
- NYC Transit staff received 64.6 percent of the total gross pay disbursed by the transit authority in 2015, slightly below their 68.3 percent share of the total number of Metropolitan Transportation Authority employees.

SOURCE: IBO calculations from data compiled by the Empire Center for Public Policy

