



# **Legislators' Salaries and Allowances – A Cross-Country Comparison**

Research of the National Institute for Legislative Studies,  
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## Salaries and Allowances of Legislators: A Comparative Overview

### Summary Sheet<sup>1</sup>

	US Members	US Senators	UK	India	Tanzania	Singapore	Nigeria Members	Nigeria Senators	Kenya	Philippines (Senate)	Australia
Annual Basic Salary	\$174,000	\$174,000	£67,060	\$25,758	\$84,000	\$116,986	\$9,926	\$10,132	\$61,964	\$23,414	\$195,130
Other Allowances (average)	\$1,255,909	\$3,235,422	£427,225.43	\$27,936	\$133,200	\$136,483	\$156,813	\$174,829	\$111,585	\$204,543	\$451,100
Constituency Development Fund (CDF) <sup>2</sup>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	\$420,790	\$13,761	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	\$794,464	\$4,270,000	Not Applicable
Total	\$1,429,909	\$3,409,422	£494,285.43	\$474,484	\$230,961	\$253,469	\$166,739	\$184,961	\$968,013	\$4,497,957	\$646,230

<sup>1</sup> For breakdown, see detailed analysis attached

<sup>2</sup> Source: Baskin, Mark, (2010) *Constituency Development Funds (CDFs) as a Tool for Decentralized Development*, Nairobi: State University of New York Centre for International Development (SUNY/CID)

## Annual Budgets (US Congress)<sup>3</sup>

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO RUN CONGRESS? \*\*

Year	Description	Amount
2008	Appropriated	\$4,330,451,000
	Senate	\$869,300,000
	House of Representatives	\$1,200,000,000
	Common Services <sup>4</sup>	\$2,261,151,000
2009	Appropriated	\$4,402,000,000
	Senate	\$895,030,000
	House of Representatives	\$1,301,267,000
	Common Services	\$2,205,703,000
2010	Appropriated	\$4,668,987,000
	Senate	\$926,160,000
	House of Representatives	\$1,369,025,000
	Common Services	\$2,373,802,000
2011	Appropriated	\$4,543,914,000
	Senate	\$914,153,000
	House of Representatives	\$1,311,396,000
	Common Services	\$2,318,365,000
2012	Appropriated	\$4,306,999,000
	Senate	\$868,592,000

<sup>3</sup> Source Petersen, R. Eric & Brudnick, Ida A. *Legislative Branch: FY2008-2015 Appropriations*. Congressional Research Service

<sup>4</sup> Joint Items; Capitol Police; Office of Compliance; Congressional Budget Office; Architect of the Capitol; Library of Congress, Including CRS; Congressional Research Service, Lib. of Cong.; Government Printing Office; and Government Accountability Office

	House of Representatives	\$1,225,680,000
	Common Services	\$2,212,727,000
2013	Appropriated	\$3,346,223,000
	Senate	-
	House of Representatives	\$1,225,680,000
	Common Services	2,120,543,000
2014	Appropriated	\$4,258,347
	Senate	\$859,293,000
	House of Representatives	\$1,180,908,000
	Common Services	\$2,035,942,653
2015	Appropriated	\$4,300,000,000
	Senate	\$864,286,000
	House of Representatives	\$1,180,735,000
	Common Services	

US Congress<sup>5</sup>

S/N	Parliament	Amount
	<b>House</b>	
1.	Base Salary	\$174,000
2.	Allowances:	
3.	<i>Breakdown of some of the expenses</i>	\$1,195,554 to \$1,370,009 <i>average of \$1,255,909</i>
	Tax Deductions	\$3,000 per annum
	Health and Life Insurance Provisions	
	Retirement Provisions	
	<b>Members' Representational Allowance</b>	
	Personnel	\$944,671
	Official Office Expense	
	Official (franked) mail	
4.		
5.	Average Total <i>(just base salary and allowances)</i>	\$1,429,909.00 <del>₦ 285,981,800.00</del> (@\$1 = ₦ 200)
6.	<b>Senate</b>	
7.	Base Salary	\$174,000
8.	Allowances	range of \$2,984,433 to \$4,722,299 <i>average of \$3,235,422</i>
9.	Administrative and clerical assistance allowance	varies from \$2,385,439 to \$3,791,151
10.	Official Office Expense Allowance	ranges from \$121,120 to \$453,274
11.	Legislative assistance allowance	\$477,874
12.	Furniture in home-state offices	\$40,000
13.	Average Total <i>(just base salary and allowances)</i>	\$ 3,409,422 <del>₦ 681,884,400</del> (@\$1 = ₦ 200)

<sup>5</sup> Brudnick, Ida A., 2014, *Congressional Salaries and Allowances: In Brief*, Congressional Research Service.  
[http://library.clerk.house.gov/reference-files/114\\_20150106\\_Salary.pdf](http://library.clerk.house.gov/reference-files/114_20150106_Salary.pdf)

## UK Parliament<sup>6</sup>

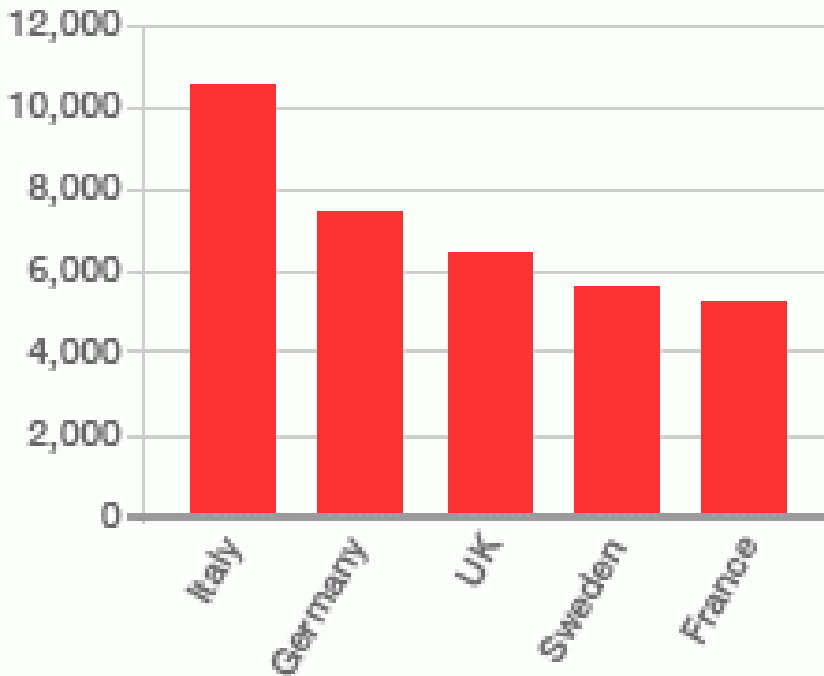
S/N	UK Parliament	Members pay per annum
1.	Basic Pay	£67,060
2.	Accommodation Expenses	
3.	London area (rent)	£20,100
	Caring responsibility	£2,425
4.	London Area Living Payment	£3,760
	London Area Living Payment (addition)	£1,330
5.	Staffing Expenditure	
6.	London Area MPs	£144,000
	non-London Area MPs	£137,200
7.	Office Costs Expenditure	
8.	London Area MPs	£25,350
9.	non-London Area MPs	£22,750
10.	Start Up Expenses	£6,000
11.	Winding-up Expenditure	
	London Area MPs	£56,450
	non-London Area MPs	£53,350
12.	Total (for London)	£325,145.00 \$494,285.43 <del>£148,285,629.00 (@£1=<del>£</del>300)</del>

<sup>6</sup> Source: *Members' pay and expenses – current rates from 1 April 2013*, RESEARCH PAPER 13/33 31 May 2013, Library of Commons

Monthly Salaries of other MPs in Europe

**MPs' MONTHLY SALARIES**

€ (euros)



The basic pay of UK MPs is already higher than Spain (£44,618), France (£52,028) and Sweden (£53,376). Within Europe however, Germany (£72,294) and Italy pay their MPs higher salaries.

## Indian Parliament<sup>7</sup>

Monthly fixed Salary	50,000.00	
Constituency Allowance	45,000.00	
Office Expense	45,000.00	
Total Fixed –Per Month	140,000.00	
Total Fixed –Annual	1,680,000.00	
DA		2,000.00
Total DA	380,000.00	190 days
Air Travel		34
Assuming 4 person x 3k		12,000.00
Total Air travel	408,000.00	
Rail Travel	5,000.00	Lump sum
Water	4,000.00	4000KL
Electricity	400,000.00	50000 units free
Furniture	75,000.00	Minimum assumption
Telephone	90,000.00	150,000.00
House Rent		35,000.00
Total House Rent	420,000.00	
Medical	40,000.00	Including Family
Total Annual Allowance	1,822,000.00	
Total Allowance –per month	151,833.33	
Annual Constituency Development Fund	\$420,790	
TOTAL PER MONTH	291,833.33	
TOTAL ANNUAL	3,502,000.00 \$474,484 <del>₹94,896,800</del>	

<sup>7</sup> Pay and perks of Indian MP, MLA and Prime Minister, 2015. <http://www.bemoneyaware.com/blog/pay-and-perks-of-indian-mp-mla-and-prime-minister/> . cf. Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 and the rules/amendment of it



## Tanzanian Parliament<sup>8</sup>

S/N	Description	Monthly
1.	Basic salary	\$7,000 x12 = \$84,000.
2.	Care allowance	\$13,000
3.	Committee Meeting/parliamentary sessions	\$22,200
4.	Constituency Allowance	\$13,761
5.	Severance package	\$98,000
6.	Constituency Development Fund	\$13,761
7.	Total	\$230,961 ₴ 46,192,200

## Singapore Parliament<sup>9</sup>

S/N	Description	Amount
1.	Basic salary	SG\$13,750 x 12 = 165,000
2.	Total Annual allowance	SG\$192,500
3.	Total	SG\$357,500 \$ 253,469 ₴ 50,693,800 (@\$1 = ₴ 200)

## Kenyan Parliament<sup>10</sup>

S/N	Description	Amount
1.	Basic salary	Sh532,500 x12 = 6,390,000
2.	Sitting allowance	Sh80,000 per month x12 = 960,000
3.	Contributory pension	Sh135,255 per month x 12 = 1,623,060
4.	Car Allowance	Sh5,000,000
5.	Travel allowances	Sh327,000 per month x12 = 3,924,000
6.	Constituency Allowance	\$794,464
7.	Constituency Development Fund	\$794,464
8.	Total	Sh17,897,060 \$173,549+\$794,464 = \$968,013 ₴ 193,602,600 (@\$1 = ₴ 200)

<sup>8</sup> BBC, 2014, Tanzanian shock at MPs' \$98,000 pay-off. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-25985744>

<sup>9</sup> Legislative Council Secretariat, 2012, *Remuneration of Members of Parliament in Singapore* (Information Note), <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/sec/library/1112in08-e.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> Source: Herbling, David, *Kenyan legislators emerge second in global pay ranking*, Business Daily, July 23 2013, <http://www.businessdailyafrica.com/Kenya-MPs-come-second-in-global-salary-ranking/-/539546/1924534/-/24knfiz/-/index.html>

## Australian Parliament<sup>11</sup>

S/N	Description	Monthly
1.	Basic salary	\$195,130
2.	Electorate	\$32,000
3.	Printing Allowance	\$100,000
4.	Communications (postage & website)	\$40,000
5.	Stamps	\$1800
6.	Transport Allowance (for MPs with no cars)	\$19,500
7.	Charter Flights	\$44,462 (average)
8.	Travel Allowance	\$ 326 (average per night)
9.	Staff Allowance	\$53,334.5 (average) x 4 = \$ 213,338
10.	Total	\$646,230 ₱ 129,246,000

## Congress of Philippines<sup>12</sup>

S/N	Description	Amount
1.	Salary	P90,000
2.	If chair of two oversight committees	P70,000
3.	As member of 7 oversight committees	P210,000
4.	As member of Commission on Appointments	P200,000
5.	Approximate Total Monthly Income	P570,000
6.	Approximate Total Annual Income	P6,840,000
7.	Budget for Office of the Senator	P1,522,240 to P2,302,425
8.	Budget for the Permanent Committee	P1,228,995 to P2,295,732
9.	Approximate Total Monthly Discretionary Funds	P2,751,235 to P4,598,157
10.	Approximate (average) Total Annual Discretionary Funds	P3,674,696
11.	Constituency Development Fund	\$4,270,000
12.	Total	P 10,514,696 \$ 4,497,957 ₱ 899,591,400

<sup>11</sup> Source: Madden, Cathy and McKeown, Deirdre (2013) *Parliamentary Remunerations and Entitlements*, Research Paper, Parliamentary Library. [http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/library/prspub/1854082/upload\\_binary/1854082.pdf fileType=application/pdf](http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/download/library/prspub/1854082/upload_binary/1854082.pdf fileType=application/pdf). See also: *Full list of federal MPs entitlements* (2009), The Sydney Morning Herald

<sup>12</sup> Casauay, Angela (2013), *Senators get from P600k to P5M a month*, <http://www.rappler.com/nation/37515-senators-income-miriam-defensor-santiago>



## Nigerian Legislators<sup>13</sup>

ANNUAL	SENATORS (N)	HOUSE OF REPS (N)
Basic Salary	2,026,400.00	.50
Vehicle Fuelling/Maintenance	1,520,000.00	1,489,000.00
Constituency	5,000,000.00	1,985,000.00
Domestic Staff	1,519,000.00	1,488,000.00
Personal Assistant	506,600.00	493,303.00
Entertainment	607,920.00	595,563.00
Recess	202,640.00	198,521.00
Utilities	607,920.00	397,042.00
Newspapers/Periodicals	303,960.00	297,781.00
House Maintenance	101,320.00	99,260.00
Wardrobe	506,600.00	496,303.00
Estacode	950.00**	\$900.00**
Tour Duty	37,000.00	35,000.00**
TOTAL	12,902,360.00	9,525,985.50

\*\*\* Not added to total

~~₦~~12,902,360.00 x 109 Senators = ~~₦~~1,406,357,240.00

~~₦~~9,524,985.50 x 360 House of Rep Members = ~~₦~~3,428,994,780.00

## OTHERS

TENURE (EVERY 4 YEARS)	SENATORS (N)	HOUSE OF REPS (N)
Accommodation	4,000,000.00	3,970,000.00
Vehicle Loan	8,000,000.00	7,940,000.00
Furniture	6,000,000.00	5,956,000.00
Severance Gratuity	6,090,000.00	5,956,000.00
TOTAL	24,090,000.00	23,822,000.00

~~₦~~24,090,000.00 x 109 Senators = ~~₦~~ 2,625,810,000.00

~~₦~~23,822,000.00 x 360 House of Reps Members = ~~₦~~8,575,920,000.00

## GRAND TOTAL

SENATE: 36,992,360 = \$184,962.00

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: 33,347,985.5 = \$166,740.00

<sup>13</sup> Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) (2015), Salaries And Allowances Of National Assembly, <http://www.rmafc.gov.ng/>

## Cost of Running the US Congress - Detailed Breakdown

Senate Appropriations (Fiscal Year, 2010)<sup>14</sup>

S/N		Appropriated	Outlay ( <i>amount spent, expended, &amp; paid expenditures</i> )	Fund Balance ( <i>invested and gains each year</i> )	Gain for this fund over fiscal year 2009
1.	Senate Hair Care Revolving Fund		<b>\$33,387</b> <b>\$333.87</b> per senator	<b>\$261,117.19</b>	\$36,000 over fiscal year 2009
2.	Senate Restaurant Fund		<b>\$72,370.12</b> <b>\$723.70</b> per Senator	<b>\$49,859.53</b>	
3.	Senate Health And Fitness Facility, Architect Of The Capitol		<b>\$123,856.74</b> <b>\$1,238.56</b> per Senator	<b>\$256,380.37</b>	
4.	Official Mail Costs, Senate	\$300,000  In adding to the existing balance already appropriated for Senate mailing services of \$345,430.58	<b>\$115,546.71</b> - used for mail  <b>\$161,082.59</b> - other transactions <b>\$2,766.29</b> per senator	<b>\$368,801.28</b>	\$22,000.
5.	Senate Gift Shop Revolving Fund, Senate		<b>\$166,673.26</b> <b>\$1,666.73</b> per Senator	<b>\$2,939,413.53</b>	

<sup>14</sup> Fiscal Service, 2015: US: Combined Statement of Receipts, Outlays, and Balances. [https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsreports/rpt/combStmt/current\\_rpt.htm](https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/fsreports/rpt/combStmt/current_rpt.htm)

6.	Senate Photographic Studio Revolving Fund, Senate		\$65,915.24 <i>\$659.15 per Senator</i>	\$798,690.53	
7.	Senate Recording Studio Revolving Fund, Senate		\$22,722.52 <i>\$227.22 per Senator</i>	\$1,945,771.10.	
8.	Contingent Expenses, Stationery (paper), Revolving Fund, Senate		<b>\$298,821.41</b> <b>\$2988.21 per senator</b>	<b>\$1,078,465.74</b>	
9.	Personal expense accounts	\$422,000,000	<b>\$400,590,512.37</b> (personal and office expenses of these Senators) <b>\$4,005,900</b> per Senator for “personal” and “office” expenses	<b>\$81,448,251.53</b>	\$13,600,000
10.	Contingent Expenses, Expenses Of Inquiries And Investigations, Senate	\$140,500,000.00	<b>\$125,780,268.65</b> \$254,644.79 – Withdrawn or other transactions. <b>\$1,257,802</b> per senator	<b>\$26,704,079.70</b>	The ending account balance, a gain of about \$2 million over 2009.
11.	Contingent Expenses, Miscellaneous Items, Senate	\$19,909,500.00	<b>\$13,524,922.79</b> <b>\$135,249.22</b> per senator	<b>\$49,225,568.72</b>	The ending account balance, a gain of about \$1.2 million over 2009.

12.	Compensation Of Members And Related Administrative Expenses, Senate	\$23,603,773.00	<b>\$20,708,164.76</b> <b>\$207,081.64</b> per senator	<b>\$4,230,079.21</b>	The ending account balance, a gain of about \$1.1 million over 2009
13.	Contingent Expenses, Secretary Of The Senate, Senate	\$1,990,000.00	<b>\$756,508.92</b> <b>\$7,565.08</b> per senator	<b>\$9,557,875.92</b>	
14.	Contingent Expenses, Sergeant At Arms And Doorkeeper Of The Senate, Senate	\$141,601,000.00 (2011-2014) \$10,000,000 – Appropriated for 2010	<b>\$90,719,432.93</b> <b>\$907,194.32</b> per senator	<b>\$60,881,567.07</b>	
15.	Settlements And Awards Reserve, Contingent Expenses, Senate		<b>\$10,000</b> per senator	<b>\$1,000,000</b>	
16.	Congressional Use Of Foreign Currency, Senate	\$4,000,000.00 (2010)	<b>\$4,416,425.52</b> <b>\$44,164</b> per senator	<b>\$27,613,635.88</b>	
17.	Senate Office Of Public Records, Revolving Fund, Senate		<b>\$22,907.00</b> <b>\$229</b> per senator	<b>\$204,092.08</b>	
18.	Daniel Webster Senate Page Resident Revolving Fund, Senate		<b>\$41,173.33</b> <b>\$411.73</b> per senator	<b>\$268,265.96</b>	

19.	Salaries And Expenses, Office Of The Legislative Counsel Of The Senate, Senate	\$7,154,000	<b>\$6,394,041.59</b> <b>\$63,940.41</b> per Senator	<b>\$939,136.37</b>	
20.	Salaries, Officers And Employees, Senate	\$168,217,500.00 (2010)	<b>\$150,017,546.99</b> <b>\$1,500,175</b> per senator	<b>\$27,053,492.09</b>	Account balance end of 2010 fiscal year, an increase of about 5.1 million over 2009
21.	Salaries And Expenses, Office Of Senate Legal Counsel, Senate	\$1,544,000.00 (2010)	<b>\$1,050,722.89</b> <b>\$10,507.22</b> per senator	<b>\$877,105.95</b>	Account balance end of 2010 fiscal year, an increase of about \$18,000 over 2009
22.	Payment To Widows And Heirs Of Deceased Members Of Congress, Senate	\$174,000.00 (2010)	<b>\$174,000.00</b> <b>\$1740.00</b> per senator		
23.			<b>\$8,162,563.35</b> per Senator (in blue above) <b>\$815,257,003.33</b> spent/outlay (in purple above)		
24.	<b>Over \$815 million dollars, and well over \$1 billion if all related expenses were taken into account</b>				



