Salaries

Wages – or salaries – are money paid to employees in return for their labour and the quality and efficiency of their work. They are usually paid in cash and fixed by contract between the employer and employee. Salary levels will vary across industries depending on the value of the work.

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In some countries, the salaries of senior government officials are made public. These salaries can be quite high, in the belief that a comfortable salary will reduce the temptation to engage in bribery or corruption. Public officials are also fully responsible for their official actions and there is transparency in the decisions that they make and how they make them. Many also have to disclose any other income or interests they might have.

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It is this transparency of salaries, interests, and decisions, from the central to the local level, that creates public trust. Such a system – when enforced – can be powerful in controlling corruption, improving the security of society, and even promoting a strong financial system that can weather global crises and recessions.

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In what form are salaries normally paid?

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Why would a country choose to pay its leaders good salaries?

What benefits are there to a transparent government?