



BANK HEIST: WALL STREET BANKS GET HUGE TRUMP-GOP TAX CUTS, ENRICHING SHAREHOLDERS BUT SHARING LITTLE WITH WORKERS

On top of Bailouts, Big Banks Rewarded with Huge Tax Windfall

Washington, D.C. – America’s big Wall Street banks and financial firms, profiting handsomely from the new Trump-GOP tax law, are using the bulk of their huge tax-cut savings to further enrich their already wealthy shareholders and executives while sharing little or nothing with their rank-and-file workers, according to a new Americans for Tax Fairness analysis of corporate filings and other data.

The nation’s Big 6 Wall Street banks—Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, and Wells Fargo—are among the biggest winners from the Trump-GOP tax cuts, collectively saving an estimated \$14 billion in 2018 alone. [See table below] That’s **25 times** more than three of the six banks have promised to give their workers in pay raises and one-time bonuses purportedly related to the tax cuts. The other three big banks have not publicly announced that they will share any of their tax cuts with their employees.

In the first three months of 2018 alone, the Big 6 received a tax-cut windfall of \$2.9 billion. That’s enough to give all of America’s [3.2 million full-time public-school teachers](#) a raise of more than \$300 for each of those three months. Yet only Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, and Wells Fargo have announced plans to pass along any of that bounty to their employees. The \$550 million in estimated wage increases and one-time bonuses represent only a small fraction of the industry’s tax savings, and they pale in comparison to what the banks are showering on their shareholders and executives.

Ten years ago, many of these same banks were at the center of the financial crisis that caused [\\$6 to \\$14 trillion](#) in economic losses in the U.S. alone, cost millions of jobs and led to millions of American families losing their homes. The big Wall Street banks caused the crisis by taking irresponsible risks, using deceptive and fraudulent practices to sell "toxic" mortgage securities to investors, and exploiting home buyers through exploitative mortgage loans. Yet they were bailed out by the government—to the tune of [\\$160 billion](#) for the Big 6—and their executives paid no personal price. Now they are being rewarded by the Trump Administration through massive tax breaks and deregulation.

In this year’s first quarter, the Big 6 distributed nearly \$23 billion to their shareholders, made up of more than \$16 billion in net stock buybacks (the value of shares repurchased minus the value of new stock issued) plus another \$6.8 billion in stock dividends. Big-bank stockholders are getting **42 times** more in just three months than workers have been promised in one-time bonuses and pay raises this year. The tax cuts have fueled a surge in buybacks, with corporations announcing [\\$457 billion](#) in new planned stock buybacks since the tax law was passed. In May alone, [a record-breaking \\$200 billion on stock buybacks](#) were announced.

BIG 6 BANKS: TRUMP-GOP TAX CUTS AND SHAREHOLDER RETURNS VS. WORKER BENEFITS

Corporation	First Quarter 2018 Tax Savings (Millions)	Estimated 2018 Tax Savings (Millions)	Estimated Cost of Worker Bonuses & Pay Increases, 2018 (Millions)	First Quarter Share-holder Payouts (Millions)	CEO Pay, 2017 (Millions)	Ratio of CEO Pay to Median Worker Pay, 2017
Bank of America	\$801	\$3,500	\$145	\$6,100	\$21.8	250:1
Citigroup	\$456	\$1,824		\$3,101	\$17.8	369:1
Goldman Sachs	\$232	\$928		\$1,100	\$22	163:1
JP Morgan Chase	\$470	\$2,908	\$137	\$6,700	\$28.3	364:1
Morgan Stanley	\$279	\$1,116		\$1,694	\$24.5	192:1
Wells Fargo	\$662	\$3,700	\$268	\$4,000	\$17.6	291:1
TOTAL, BIG 6	\$2,900	\$13,976	\$550.6	\$22,695	\$132	272:1 (Average)

Sources/Notes:

- a) 1st Quarter tax savings: Savings estimates for each bank represent the difference between what it would have owed in taxes this quarter if its effective tax rate from the 1st quarter of 2017 was applied to its 1st quarter earnings in 2018 and its reported tax liability for the 1st quarter of 2018. The tax savings for Goldman Sachs was [estimated by The Wall Street Journal](#) and made adjustments for tax benefits related to employee stock awards. The estimates for the other five banks are from the [Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy \(ITEP\)](#).
- b) Estimated 2018 tax savings: Estimate for JP Morgan from [JUST Capital](#); estimates for [Bank of America](#) and [Wells Fargo](#) from Goldman Sachs; estimates for Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley assume 1st quarter tax savings are realized each quarter of 2018.
- c) Cost of worker bonuses and pay increases are estimated by ATF. See [details](#) and [methodology](#) on [TrumpTaxCutTruths.org](#).
- d) Stock buybacks and dividends based on ATF review of the corporations' 1st quarter earnings press releases, presentations, and earnings call transcripts.
- e) CEO Pay data from Institute for Policy Studies and Public Citizen, "[CEO-Worker Pay Ratios in the Banking Industry](#)."

Dividends and buybacks overwhelmingly benefit the wealthy, including CEOs, because rich people own most corporate stock: the wealthiest 10% of American households own [84% of all shares](#), the top 1% own 40%. Buybacks also embellish CEOs job performance by reducing the number of shares outstanding, leading to higher earnings per share—Wall Street's favorite measure of success—without the burdensome necessity of increasing profits. Buybacks can also [artificially inflate share prices](#), making corporate executives and other shareholders even wealthier and increasing inequality even more.

Among big banks, there's already a huge discrepancy between bloated executive compensation and the pay of everyday workers. Last year, the CEOs of the Big 6 banks enjoyed annual pay packages averaging a hefty \$22 million. The average ratio of CEO pay to median worker pay among the Big 6 was 272 to 1.

The banks' lopsided tax-cut payouts to executives and investors will only widen the economic gap with most employees. And it's not just happening in the financial industry: the structure of the Trump-GOP tax cuts, and the way corporations are using their resulting tax savings, are worsening economic inequality across America.

Contrary to the rosy projections of the new tax law's authors, corporate tax cuts are not "trickling down" to workers but instead are pooling at the top benefiting CEOs and the richest 1%. That is sure to continue in future years—you can bank on it.

For more information on how the big banks and other corporations are using their tax cuts, visit <https://americansfortaxfairness.org/trumptaxcuttruths/>.