GAO
Management News

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GAO Ranks 3rd in Best Places to Work; 1st in Diversity!

GAO was again named one of the best places to work in the federal government, according to the latest rankings released in December by the Partnership for Public Service. GAO placed 3rd among mid-size agencies, up one from last year and was the only agency in the top 5 spots in that category to increase its rating over 2018. GAO also once again ranked number one for diversity among mid-size agencies.

"This year's list of the best places to work confirms GAO's reputation as an employer of choice in the federal government," said Comptroller General (CG) Gene Dodaro. "The ratings reflect the high regard our employees have for the agency and their willingness to recommend GAO to others interested in public sector work. Another point of pride is our continuing high score on diversity and inclusion."

The Partnership's rankings provide insights into federal employees' satisfaction with their jobs and offices. GAO has consistently placed among the top five overall since 2005; it placed third among mid-size agencies this year with a score of 81.8, up 1.1 from 2018. The 2019 ratings reflect survey results of federal workers across the federal government.

Best Places to Work Agency Rankings

The index score is not a combined average of an agency's category scores. It is calculated using a proprietary weighted formula that looks at responses to three different questions in the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey.

SORT: RANK ↑

Rank ↑	Agency	2019	2018	Change (2018-19)
1	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	82.8	83.9	-1.1
2	Federal Trade Commission	82.4	84.0	-1.6
3	Government Accountability Office	81.8	80.7	1.1
4	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	78.1	80.5	-2.4
5	Securities and Exchange Commission	77.4	82.1	-4.7

Support for Diversity

The Support for Diversity category measures the extent to which employees believe that actions and policies of leadership and management promote and respect diversity.

Large Agencies | Midsize Agencies | Small Agencies | Agency Subcomponents

Click on the links below to view an agency's full report. Click on the column headings to sort by rank, agency name, score or change.

SORT: RANK ↑

Rank ↑	Agency	2019	2018	Change (2018-19)
1	Government Accountability Office	79.5	80.5	-1.0
2	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	75.4	74.1	1.3
3	Federal Trade Commission	74.2	71.6	2.6
4	Consumer Financial Protection Bureau	71.4	74.2	-2.8
5	Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	70.8	71.6	-0.8

Find more information on GAO's ranking: https://bestplacestowork.org/rankings/detail/GA00.

Coolest New Place to Visit in 2020: GAO's Galley located on the 2nd floor near the G Street elevators!

The new Galley opened in December, is available to all employees and escorted visitors on an unreserved basis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Photo: **CG Gene Dodaro** opens GAO's new Galley, Dec. 9.

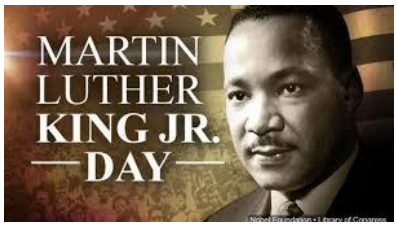
Galley amenities include

- ✓ a self-serve mini market with beverages and prepared foods,
- ✓ a casual dining area with varied seating options,
- ✓ several comfortable seating areas for informal collaboration,
- ✓ a zero client device with a wall-mounted monitor display, and
- ✓ connectivity to GAO's secure WiFi network.

Crystal Ball: A Look Ahead at Key Events in 2020

To help you plan ahead, *Management News* has assembled this calendar of significant dates in 2020. In addition to key events in GAO's annual calendar, important administrative activities, and special commemorations, the calendar includes key dates in the congressional calendar and major holidays. Dates are subject to change.

JANUARY 2020



Wed.Jan.1: New Year's Day (federal holiday)
Fri. Jan. 3: 2nd Session of the 116th Congress convenes: 2020 Congressional Calendar
Sun. Jan 12: Combined Federal Campaign ends
Mon. Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Day (federal holiday)
Mon. Jan. 20 – Feb. 21: Telework Application Yearly Renewal Season

FEBRUARY 2020

All month: *National African American History Month; ASALH's 2020 theme* ***African Americans and the Vote*** *The year 2020 marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War. Watch notices for GAO's annual Black History Month events*

Tues. Feb 4: State of the Union Address
Wed. Feb. 12 – Thurs. Feb. 13: Association of Government Accountants National Leadership Training, Washington, DC
Mid-Feb.: Annual internal inspection begins
Mon. Feb. 17: President's Day (federal holiday)
Fri. Feb. 28: GAO issues Financial Report of the United States Government (CFR)

MARCH 2020

All Month*: National Women's History Month: Valiant Women of the Vote*

Mar. TBD: GAO issues **The Fiscal Health of Our Government Report**
Mar. TBD: CIGIE/GAO Annual Coordination Meeting, D.C.
Sun. Mar. 1: Pacific Northwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum 2020, Olympia WA
Sun. Mar.8: Daylight Savings Time begins
Mid-Mar. to mid-May: Performance appraisal mid-point feedback discussions
Tues. Mar. 17 – Thurs. Mar. 19: National Association of State Comptrollers Annual Conference, Branson, MO
Wed. Mar. 18: International Auditor Fellowship Program Begins

Left: Last year's International Auditor Fellows, Class of 2019: From back row left to right: Faisal Al Nahdy (Oman); Avinash Nilankar (India); Celestin Ndzo (Cameroon); Meeli Saksing (Estonia); Bik Ram Gurung (Bhutan); Zakaria Kajee (South Africa); Don Dieta (Philippines); Ibrahim Al Muaini (UAE); Jessica Mkony (Tanzania); Terry Mok (Hong Kong); Abdulrahman Al Matooq (Kuwait); Tiago Dutra (Brazil)
Front row, left to right: Kimberley Lord (Belize); Tashi Lhamo (Bhutan); Ermira Vojka (Albania); Mariam Zaalishvili (Georgia); U.S. Comptroller General, Mr. Gene Dodaro; Nikisha Ack (Belize); Magdalena Alabi (Argentina); Mai Alsaeid (Saudi Arabia); Cherrie Ng (Singapore)
Not pictured: Ebead Alrasheedi (Saudi Arabia)

APRIL 2020

All Month: *Financial Literacy Month at GAO*

During Take Your Kids to Work Day in 2019, one of the attendees, Aisha, made this sign and presented it to the CG.

Tues. Apr. 7: World Health Day 2020
Wed. April 8: Passover begins; ends Thurs. April 16
Wed. Apr. 15: Federal income taxes due
Sun. Apr. 12: Easter
Wed. Apr. 22: Earth Day
Thurs. Apr. 23 Take Your Kids to Work Day

MAY 2020

All Month: *Asian Pacific American Heritage Month; National Military Appreciation Month*

Memorial Day decorations at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

TBD: GAO issues **Annual Fragmentation, Overlap, and Duplication Report**

Fri. May 1: New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum Meeting 2020
Week of May 3-9: Public Service Recognition Week
Sun. May 3 – 6: Association of Local Government Auditors (ALGA) annual meeting, Greensboro, NC
Sun. May 12: Mother's Day
Fri. May 15: GAO employees' financial disclosure reports are due
Sat. May 16: Armed Forces Day
Mon. May 25: Memorial Day (federal holiday)

JUNE 2020

All Month*: GAO's Diversity Month; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month; National Caribbean-American Heritage Month*

TBD: International Auditor Fellowship Cross-Cultural Day
Tues. June 2 – 5: National State Auditors Association Annual Conference, Boston,MA
Wed. June 10: Appropriations Law Forum
Sun. June 14: Flag Day
Sun. June 21: Father's Day
Late June: Final report from annual internal inspection

JULY 2020

Sat. July 4: Independence Day (federal holiday)
Fri. July 10: International Auditor Fellowship Program graduation
Sat. July 18 – 22: Association of Government Accountants (AGA) Professional Development Training (PDT) Conference, Grapevine, TX

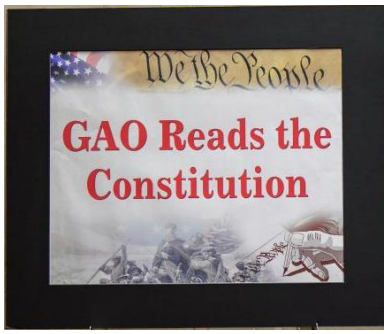
AUGUST 2020

Sat. Aug. 1: Mountain and Plains Intergovernmental Audit Forum 2020, Denver, CO
Sat. Aug. 1: Southwest Intergovernmental Audit Forum Meeting 2020, Austin, TX

Sat. Aug. 22 – Wed. Aug. 26: National Association of State Auditors, Controllers, and Treasurers (NASACT), Burlington, VT

SEPTEMBER 2020

All Month: *National Preparedness Month (Make an Emergency Plan)*



Tues. Sept. 1: Mid-Western Intergovernmental Audit Forum Meeting 2020, Chicago, IL
Tues. Sept. 1: Western Intergovernmental Audit Forum Meeting 2020, Phoenix, AZ
Mon. Sept. 7: Labor Day (federal holiday)
Tues. Sept.15 – Thurs. Oct. 15: National Hispanic Heritage Month
Tues. Sept.15: Close out of transit benefits for fiscal year end 2020
Thurs. Sept.17: Constitution Day
Wed. Sept. 30: End of fiscal year 2017

OCTOBER 2020

All Month: *National Disability Employment Awareness Month*

Mid-Oct: CFC starts (through the end of the year)
Mid-Oct: Performance appraisal self-assessments due
Mon. Oct. 12: Columbus Day (federal holiday)
Sat. Oct. 31: Halloween

Left: The Tiny Findings annual event is always enjoyable

NOVEMBER 2020

All Month: *National Native American Heritage Month*

Sun. Nov. 1: Daylight Savings Time ends
Tues. Nov. 3: Election Day
Wed. Nov. 11: Federal Holiday (Veterans Day)
Mon. Nov. 16 – Mon. Dec. 7: Annual Federal Employees Health Benefits program open season
Mon., Nov. 16: Annual Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) issues
Thurs. Nov. 26: Thanksgiving (federal holiday)

A member of the Four Winds Dance Troupe performs at GAO during National Native American Heritage Month.

DECEMBER 2020

Early Dec: Performance appraisals released & feedback sessions begin

Tues. Dec. 1: World AIDS Day
Thurs. Dec 10: GAO Honor Awards
Thurs. Dec. 10 – Fri. Dec. 18: Hanukkah
Fri. Dec. 25: Christmas Day (federal holiday)
Thurs. Dec. 31: New Year's Eve

GAO Honor Awards

From Here and There

Arrivals and Departures

Welcome to recently hired GAO employees:
ISTS: Scharita L Lacey
NRE: Lidiana Cunningham
STAA: Cindy C. Korir-Morrison

Welcome to Student Volunteer:
PA: Terrence J. Kane

Good luck to recently retired GAO employees or employees retiring this month:
EWIS: Deborah Bland, Martin Scire
ISTS: Melvin Williams
PI: Robert G Homan
SI: Robert N Goldenkoff

Goodbye and best wishes to employees leaving GAO:
DCM: Jared A Sippel
FAIS: Camille Keith, Albert Sim
FMA: Dong (Richard) Liu
IAT: Joseph O Hackett
ISTS: Radut Tanasescu

Job Market

GAO is seeking applicants for the following position. Detailed information may be found at USAjobs. GAO Analyst Student Intern (Student Trainee), GS 04, closes 1/8

GAO PRODUCTS

GAO products are available daily on GAO's website, through the daily email, and on a variety of social media platforms:

- **WatchBlog:** Highlights from GAO's work tracking taxpayer dollars and promoting accountability
- **Facebook:** New reports, testimonies, podcasts, and other materials
- **Twitter:** GAO tweets new reports, testimonies, podcasts, legal decisions and opinions
- **YouTube Channel:** All agency videos, including report excerpts, are viewable on GAO's YouTube channel, as well as GAO.gov.
- **Flickr:** Report graphics can be viewed and downloaded
- **LinkedIn:** Job updates, product descriptions, and other information
- **Podcast:** GAO Watchdog Report, interviews with GAO officials on significant issues/new reports
- **Intranet:** Daily list and link to reports and testimonies

Office of the Inspector General

GAO OIG products are available daily on oversight.gov, as well as through the OIG publications page on the GAO intranet, and quick links on GAO's website.

Speakers' Platform

Johana Ayers and **Latesha Love**, FAIS, presented on "Data Analytics to Identify Potential Fraud: The U.S. GAO Experience" as panelists at the Annual International Conference for Integrity - CAII 2019 in Lima, Peru, Dec 2-3. The event was hosted by the Controller of Peru, opened by the President of Peru, and attended by about 3,000 government officials and leaders from over 20 countries. GAO's presentation provided examples and lessons learned on using data from various public and private sources to: identify instances of fraud, and gain insight into internal control weaknesses that create fraud risks. A video from **Comptroller General Gene Dodaro** on GAO's efforts to improve the integrity of U.S. programs was also highlighted at the conference.

Kathryn Larin, EWIS, presented on unregulated child custody transfers before the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, in Washington, D.C., Dec. 9.

Grant Simmons, FMA, presented "Update on Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book)" for the Association of Government Accountants Montgomery/Prince George's County Chapter Winter Workshop, in Washington, D.C., Dec. 12.

Christie Pugnetti, FMA, presented "Update on Government Auditing Standards (Yellow Book)" for the Interagency Fraud Risk Data Mining Group, Washington, D.C., Dec.13.

Comptroller General Gene Dodaro spoke at these events in 2019:

- Delivered remarks on public budgeting and management at a conference honoring Allen Schick, University of Maryland, School of Public Policy in Hyattsville, MD on November 15, 2019.
- Delivered Gilbert A. Cuneo Lecture, U.S. Army JAG School in Charlottesville, VA on November 8, 2019.
- Remarks for Government Executive's Federal Workforce Management Summit in Washington, DC on October 9, 2019. View a video of the presentation.
- Presentation to National Intergovernmental Audit Forum in Washington, DC on September 18, 2019. View a video of this presentation.
- Presentation delivered to the American Accounting Association annual meeting in San Francisco, CA on August 13, 2019.
- Presentation on the U.S. government's financial position, key GAO initiatives, and GAO's future priorities delivered to the Association of Government Accountants (AGA) for professional development training in New Orleans, LA on July 22, 2019.
- Convocation speech to Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse, NY on June 28, 2019. Related, listen to the Comptroller General's interview with WRVO Radio in New York State.

- Presentation on dimensions of accountability and current accountability challenges to Annual Global Training Conference for Navy Inspectors General, Joint-Base Andrews, MD on June 25, 2019.
- Presentation delivered to the Joint Financial Management Improvement Program (JFMIP) Conference in Washington, DC on May 20, 2019.
- Presentation on GAO's oversight activities in federal acquisitions to Legislative Branch Procurement Council, Washington, DC on April 17, 2019.
- Presentation on dimensions of accountability and GAO's work in serving Congress and the American people delivered to the New England Intergovernmental Audit Forum in Boston, MA on April 9, 2019.
- Presentation town hall event delivered to Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, and Spelman College in Atlanta, GA on March 26, 2019.
- Delivered the Getzen Lecture on the many dimensions of accountability and GAO's mission for Congress and the nation, University of Georgia School Public Policy and International Affairs in Athens, GA on March 25, 2019. View a video of the presentation.
- Presentation on preparing for the future and major challenges in government accountability delivered to the AGA DC chapter in Washington, DC on March 20, 2019.
- Presentation on trends and challenges in government delivered to Arizona State University Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions in Tempe, AZ on January 10, 2019.

On the Air

Elizabeth Field, DCM, appeared on WJLA-TV's Government Matters to discuss her testimony on military housing privatization (GAO-20-280T, December 3), December 12.

Lori Rectanus, PI, was interviewed by Federal News Network about the team's report on federal buildings (GAO-20-144, December 12), December 16.

Greg Wilshusen, ITC, spoke with Federal News Network about the team's report on cloud computing security (GAO-20-126, December 12), December 18.

About *Management News*

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