

Differences between working in the Private vs Public Sector

The intention of this article is to discuss some of the advantages and disadvantages related to working in the private sector (engineering firm, contractor,...) and working in the public sector (City, State, County, Federal.....).

It is not our intention to encourage colleagues to choose one or the other.

1. In general, working in the private sector provides you the opportunity to develop your technical skills in the design, construction, and study of engineering. It also demands that you be very familiar with the client's standards and requirements. The private sector exposes you to technical, interpersonal, and managerial skills.

2. In general, working in the private sectors may require additional hours to meet deadlines and/budget, to develop your skillset, and to be competitive and distinguish yourself from the competition.

3. While some employers in the private sector manage to keep their employees for long time, In some cases, the security of having a job with other employers is not attractive and the search for career opportunity from time to time may become a challenge and unpleasant.

4. The employment with public sector is more secure and has long duration.

5. While the private sector may offer 401K, the public sector orders a pension for the balance of the employee's life and additional benefits for the spouse after the death of the employee. The pension ranges from 1.67 % to 2.5 % for every year of service e after meeting their requirements of service and age.

6. The initial salary in the private sector may be the same or slightly higher.

7. There are more rules to protect the rights in the public sector than the private.

8. Many public sector employers have differed income plans for their employees, but they do not contribute to it.

9. The vacation, holidays, personal days, and sick days available for the public sector employees are more than the private.

10. The leave of absence and the family medical leave in the public sector are more available than the private.

11. Some government agencies may have residency requirements.

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