



United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

General Government Division

B-261429

May 16, 1995

The Honorable William V. Roth, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to your request concerning the status of the FTE ceiling mandated by the Workforce Restructuring Act of 1994, we have assessed whether the workforce levels in the President's fiscal year 1996 budget comply with the Act. We examined budget data and interviewed officials from the Office of Management and Budget.

The data show that FTE targets were exceeded in fiscal year 1994 and will likely be exceeded again in fiscal year 1995. In fact, 21,400 more reductions are projected in the President's fiscal year 1996 budget proposal than were called for by the Act.

As shown in table 1, the Federal Workforce Restructuring Act limited the total number of civilian executive branch FTE positions to 2,084,600 in fiscal year 1994 and to 2,043,300 in fiscal year 1995. At the end of fiscal year 1994, total executive branch civilian employment was 2,052,700, which was 31,900 FTEs below the mandated ceiling for that time period.

Compliance with FTE Targets 1994-1996, GAO/GGD-95-168R

154270

1000

1000

1000

1000

Table 1: Executive Branch Civilian FTE Positions

| FTE level | Fiscal year | | |
|--|-------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 |
| FTE ceiling mandated by Workforce Restructuring Act | 2,084,600 | 2,043,300 | 2,003,300 |
| Total number of executive branch civilian FTE positions ^a | 2,052,700 | 2,017,800 ^b | 1,981,900 ^b |
| Number of FTEs below mandated FTE ceiling target | 31,900 | 25,500 | 21,400 |

^aThese FTE levels have been rounded to the nearest hundred.

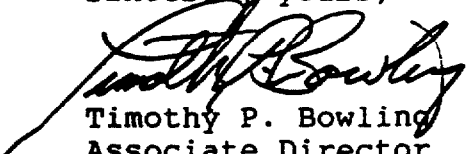
^bEstimate.

Source: The President's fiscal year 1996 budget.

The budget indicates the administration expects to meet, and probably exceed, its fiscal year 1995 FTE target. The Federal Workforce Restructuring Act requires the reduction of 41,300 FTE positions from the fiscal year 1994 ceiling to be reflected in the fiscal year 1995 ceiling. Because the fiscal year 1994 FTE level was 31,900 FTE positions below the required ceiling for that year, the government began fiscal year 1995 having already achieved 77 percent of this year's target. However, for fiscal year 1995, the administration has called for 25,500 additional reductions beyond the Workforce Restructuring Act's mandated ceiling of 2,043,300 FTEs.

If you have any questions, please call me at (202) 512-3511.

Sincerely yours,



Timothy P. Bowling
Associate Director
Federal Human Resource Management
Issues

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