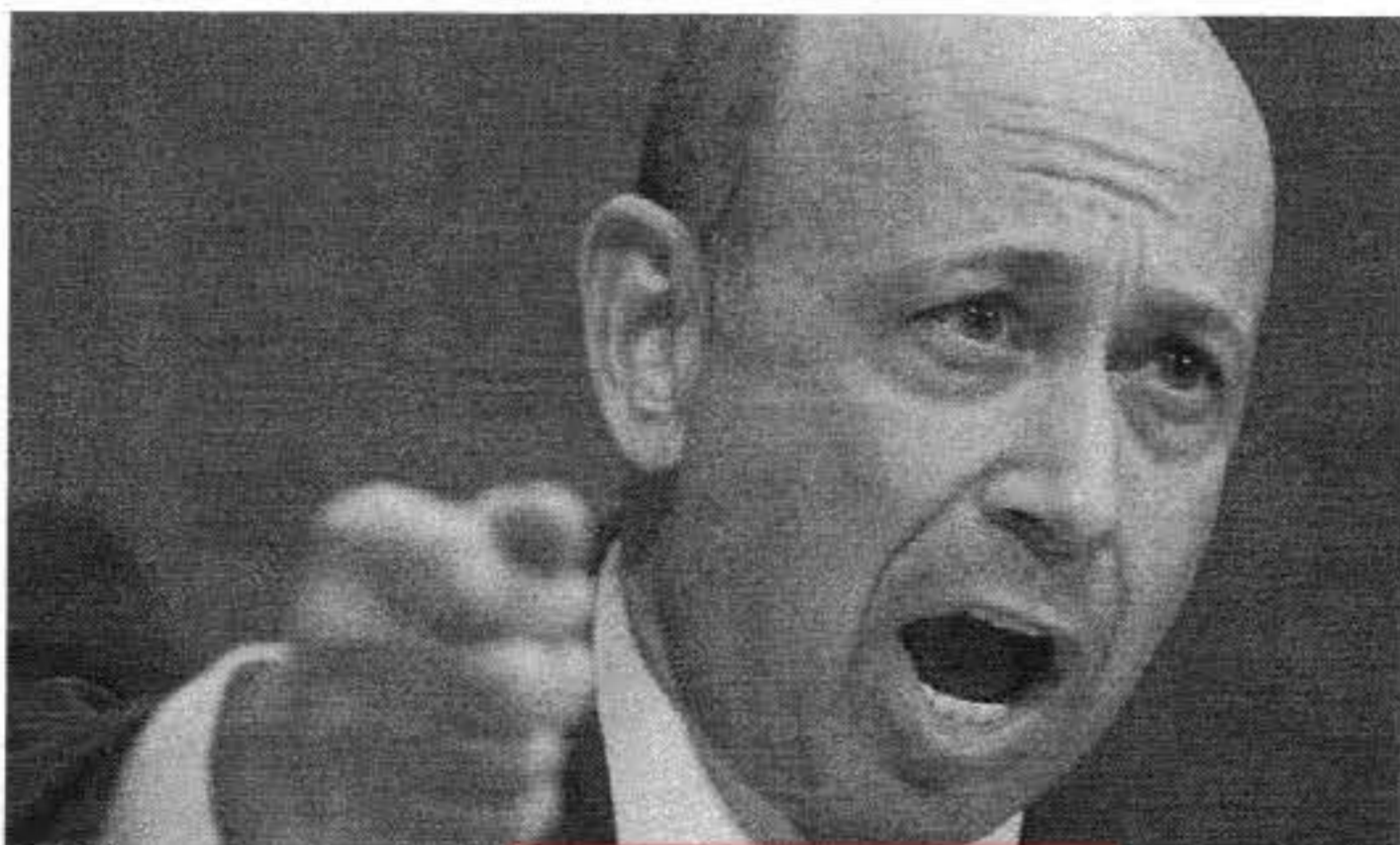


## Goldman Sachs bankers to receive \$15.3bn in pay and bonuses

- Average pay drops as number of Goldman employees rises
- 'Compensation ratio' rises to 40% from 35.8% last year



Goldman Sachs's chief executive, Lloyd Blankfein. Photograph: Jim Watson/AFP/Getty Images

**Goldman Sachs has set aside \$15.3bn (£9.5bn) to pay bonuses to its directors and staff in 2010** in a move that re-ignites the controversy over their pay and bonuses at a time when youth unemployment is hitting record highs in the UK. The \$15.3bn set aside for bonuses was down 5% on the \$16bn for the previous year but did not fall as fast as revenues, which dropped 13% to \$39.1bn in 2010. **In 2009 the bank cut this so-called compensation ratio to 35.8% – the lowest since it went public in 1999 – in an attempt to demonstrate restraint.**

The general secretary of the TUC, Brendan Barber, said: "Goldman Sachs has 'given the bird to an austerity nation by shelling out mega bonuses again'".

"Bankers are toasting their telephone-digit bonuses while the rest of the country reels from more than a fifth of young people being out of work. This government is overseeing a fast return to the worst excesses of the 1980s. They must use the upcoming G20 meeting and budget to make good the coalition agreement to tackle unacceptable bonuses."

This year has not started well for Goldman: earlier this month it was forced to pull out of a private placement deal to enable its wealthy US clients to invest in Facebook. **(They have since received a \$10 billion bail-out from American taxpayers to put them back in the game).**

In 2010, the firm was fined \$550m by the Securities and Exchange Commission in the US, and £17.5m by UK's Financial Services Authority over the Abacus sub-prime mortgage product and the activities of Fabrice Tourre, a London-based employee. Last April, Blankfein was subjected to a grilling by the US Senate over its activities in the mortgage market before the credit crunch in 2007.