

Understanding Government Finances: An Overview of Public Sector Statistics

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What We Will Cover

- Definition of Public Sector Statistics
- How data is collected
- Where to find data on Census website
- Examples of data visualizations
- Difference between Total and General Revenue
- Public Sector data in AFF
- Contact information

Public Sector Statistics Defined

- The best way to define public sector statistics is by explaining what the data includes:
 - State and local government finances – revenues, expenditures, debt and assets for all of the state and local governments within the U.S.
 - Government employment and payroll – statistics on the number of federal, state, and local government civilian employees and their gross payrolls by functional category

Public Sector Statistics Defined (cont'd)

- Public education finances – revenues, expenditures, debt and assets of elementary and secondary public school systems
- Public pensions data – revenues, expenditures, financial assets, and membership information for the defined benefit public pension systems

Surveys within Public Sector area

- Annual Survey of State Government Finances (ASFIN)
- Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections (STC)
- Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue (QTAX)
- Annual Survey of Local Government Finances (ALFIN)

Surveys within Public Sector area (cont'd)

- Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll (ASPEP)
- Annual Survey of Public Pensions: State & Local Data (ASPP)
- Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions (QSPP)
- Annual Survey of School System Finances (F-33)

How is Public Sector Data Collected?

- E-basics – electronic data files containing revenue and expenditure information sent to Census Bureau directly from state and local governments
- Administrative records – some data must be found by searching online
- CAFRs – Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports

No Questionnaire for ASFIN

- There is no questionnaire sent to respondents for the Annual Survey of State Government Finances (ASFIN)
- All of the data must be compiled and classified into the proper categories by the analysts that work on the survey
- Other surveys within the Public Sector area do have questionnaires

ALFIN has a questionnaire

- The Annual Survey of Local Government Finances has an online questionnaire, but it is only a portion of the data collection required.
- The survey also involves the use of CAFRs, other administrative data records and some supplemental data files.

Image of online questionnaire

CMB No. 307-000 Approval Expires: 03/31/2017

 **2015 Annual Survey of Local Government Finances**

 SURVEY of GOVERNMENTS

Website: [Survey of Local Government - Finance](http://www.surveyoflocalgovernmentfinance.com)
Email: swd.local.finance@census.gov
Telephone: 1-800-242-4523 weekdays, 7 AM to 5 PM ET

Welcome to the Survey of Local Government Finances

- The due date is **December 31, 2015**.
- This is the web collection system that enables public entities to respond to the U.S. Census Bureau's Survey of Local Government Finances via the Internet.

Login

- To log in, please enter the User ID and Password indicated on the letter and press the "Login" button.
- User ID and Password are case sensitive.
- If you forgot your User ID and/or Password, contact us at 1-800-832-2839 weekdays between 7AM to 5PM ET.

Please note: You will be logged out of the system after 45 minutes of inactivity. No data will be lost.

User ID:

Password:

REPORT ONLINE: It's fast and secure. Respond to this survey via the Internet at the following Web address using the supplied User ID and Password: respond.census.gov/fin

User ID:

Password:

**** WARNING ****

You have accessed a UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT computer. Use of this computer without authorization or for purposes for which authorization has not been intended is a violation of Federal law and can be punished with fines or imprisonment (PUBLIC LAW 93-474). System usage may be monitored, recorded, and subject to audit. Any information you enter into this system may be used by the Census Bureau for statistical purposes, including but not limited to improving the efficiency of our data collection programs. For information regarding the use of this system, and how your privacy is protected, visit our online privacy webpage at <http://www.census.gov/privacy/>. Use of this system indicates consent to the collection, monitoring, recording, and use of information provided inside this system.

[Burden Statement](#) [Accessibility](#) [Privacy](#) [Security](#)

Where to find the data:

- Follow these steps from www.census.gov
 - Click on **Topics** tab
 - Select **Public Sector**
 - Click on link to **Public Sector main**

Search and Navigation

www.census.gov

The screenshot shows the homepage of the U.S. Census Bureau website. The browser address bar displays "http://www.census.gov/". The navigation menu includes the following categories:

- Topics (Population, Economy)
- Geography (Maps, Products)
- Library (Infographics, Publications)
- Data (Tools, Developers)
- Surveys/Programs (Respond, Survey Data)
- Newsroom (News, Blogs)
- About Us (Our Research)

The main content area features a grid of topic links, each with a dropdown arrow:

- Population
- Economy
- Business
- Education
- Emergency Preparedness
- Employment
- Families & Living Arrangements
- Health
- Housing
- Income & Poverty
- International Trade
- Public Sector

A red arrow points from the "Topics" menu item to the "Public Sector" link.



2016 Hurricane Season

The North Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1 and lasts through Nov. 30. The U.S. Census Bureau produces timely local statistics that are critical to emergency planning, preparedness and recovery efforts.



Topics/Subtopics

The screenshot shows the U.S. Census Bureau website with the 'Public Sector' dropdown menu open. A red arrow points from the 'Public Sector' button to the 'Public Sector Main News' link in the dropdown menu.

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce | Blogs | Index A-Z | Glossary | FAQ

Search

Topics
Population, Economy

Geography
Maps, Products

Library
Infographics, Publications

Data
Tools, Developers

Surveys/Programs
Respond, Survey Data

Newsroom
News, Blogs

About Us
Our Research

Population ▾

Economy ▾

Business ▾

Education ▾

Emergency Preparedness

Employment ▾

Families & Living Arrangements ▾

Health ▾

Housing ▾

Income & Poverty ▾

International Trade ▾

Public Sector ▾

The U.S. Census Bureau provides data for the Federal, state and local governments as well as voting, redistricting, apportionment and congressional affairs.

Public Sector Main News

Building Permits
Census of Governments
Congressional and Intergovernmental
Congressional Apportionment
Criminal Justice
Government Employment & Payroll

Government Finances
Government Organization
Government Taxes
Redistricting Data
Voting and Registration

Public Sector main page

The screenshot shows the U.S. Census Bureau website's main page for 'Federal, State, & Local Governments'. The browser address bar shows 'http://www.census.gov/govs/index.html'. The page features a navigation menu with categories like 'Topics', 'Geography', 'Library', 'Data', 'Surveys/Programs', 'Newsroom', and 'About Us'. A search bar is located in the top right. The main content area is titled 'Federal, State, & Local Governments' and includes a sub-menu with 'Governments Main', 'Get Forms', 'Definitions', and 'FAQs'. On the left, there are sections for 'Site Resources', 'Reference Documents', 'Census of Governments' (listing years 2012, 2007, 2002, 1997, 1992), and 'Respondent Tools'. The main content area features several PDF links: 'Investing Now for the 2012 Census of Governments [PDF, 1.2MB]', 'Government Employment Snapshot [PDF, 348KB]', 'State & Local Government Finance Snapshot [PDF, 124KB]', and 'State Finance Revenue Snapshot [PDF, 87KB]'. There is also a 'Sign Up for Email Updates' section. Below this, there are two boxes: '2012 Census of Governments' which describes the survey and lists key points, and 'Tax Statistics' which describes the annual survey of state government tax revenue. At the bottom, there are sections for 'Government Employment & Payroll' and 'Lists & Structure of Governments'.

United States[™] Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce | Blogs | Index A-Z | Glossary | FAQs

Search

Topics: Population, Economy
Geography: Maps, Products
Library: Infographics, Publications
Data: Tools, Developers
Surveys/Programs: Respond, Survey Data
Newsroom: News, Blogs
About Us: Our Research

You are here: [Census.gov](#) > [Business & Industry](#) > Federal, State, & Local Governments

Federal, State, & Local Governments

Governments Main | **Get Forms** | **Definitions** | **FAQs**

Site Resources

- What's New
- Press Releases
- Build-a-Table
- Program Overview

Reference Documents

- Government Finance & Employment Classification Manual
- Reports & References

Census of Governments

- 2012
- 2007
- 2002
- 1997
- 1992

Respondent Tools

- Federal Audit Clearinghouse Submission
- Get Forms

Contact Information

Federal, State, & Local Governments Main

- [Investing Now for the 2012 Census of Governments \[PDF, 1.2MB\]](#)
- [Government Employment Snapshot \[PDF, 348KB\]](#)
- [State & Local Government Finance Snapshot \[PDF, 124KB\]](#)
- [State Finance Revenue Snapshot \[PDF, 87KB\]](#)

GET EMAIL UPDATES
Sign Up for Email Updates Get the latest news by subscribing to [Email Updates](#) from the Census Bureau.

2012 Census of Governments

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a [Census of Governments](#) of all state and local government organization units every 5 years, for years ending in 2 and 7, as required by law under Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 161. The collection of these data will

- Identify the scope and nature of the nation's state and local governments.
- Classify local government organizations, powers, and activities.
- Provide authoritative benchmark data on public finance and public employment.
- Measure state and local governments' fiscal relationships.
- [Video: Factfinder for the Nation -- Census of Governments](#)

Tax Statistics

Annual survey of state government tax revenue and quarterly survey of tax revenue for state & local governments. Annual data are available online from 1992 and on. Quarterly data are available online from 1993 and on:

- Annual: [State Government Tax Collections](#)
- Quarterly: [State & Local Government Tax Revenue](#)
- [Current Forms and Information Collected](#)

Lists & Structure of Governments

Information about state & local governments, including the number of governments in the U.S.

- [2012 State](#) by type counts
- [2007 edition of Governments Integrated Directory](#)

Government Employment & Payroll

Links to Public Sector data

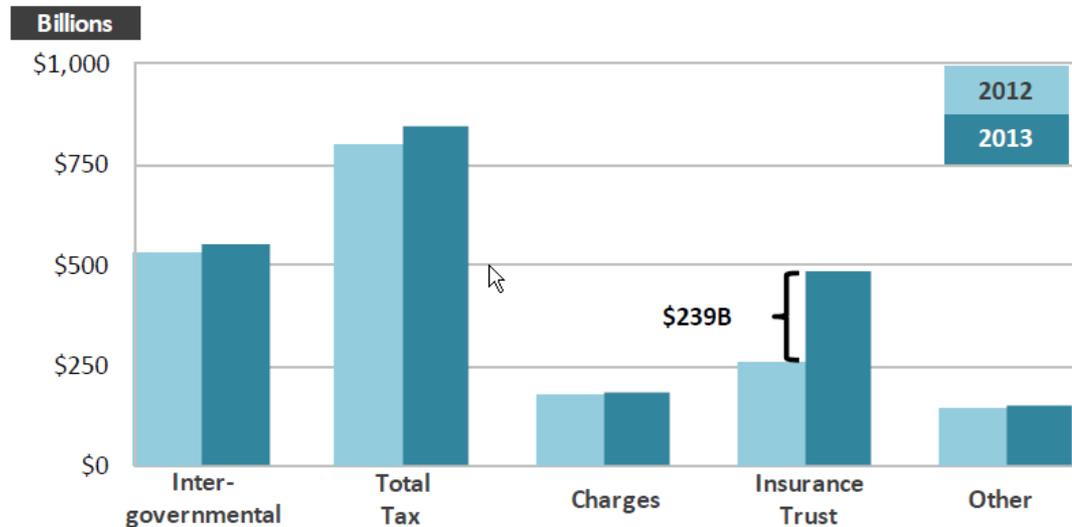
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/state/>
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/local/>
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/apes/>
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/retire/>
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/school/>
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/statetax/>
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/ntax/>
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/qpr/>

Some Data Visuals with Public Sector Data

Components of Total Revenue

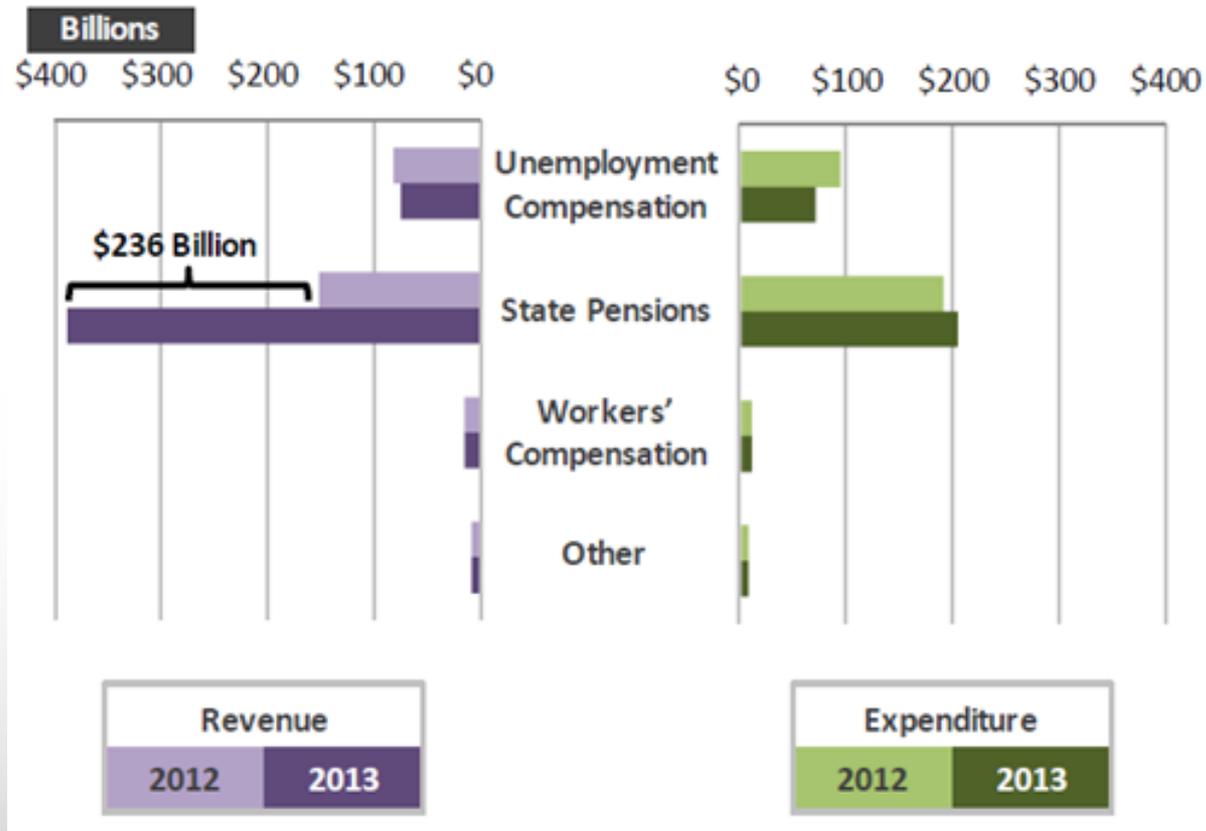
The components of the total revenue are fairly similar from 2012 to 2013 except for the sharp increase in insurance trust revenue, which nearly doubled from \$256 billion in 2012 to \$485 billion in the following year.

What Do We Learn When We Contrast Revenue Components from 2012 to 2013?



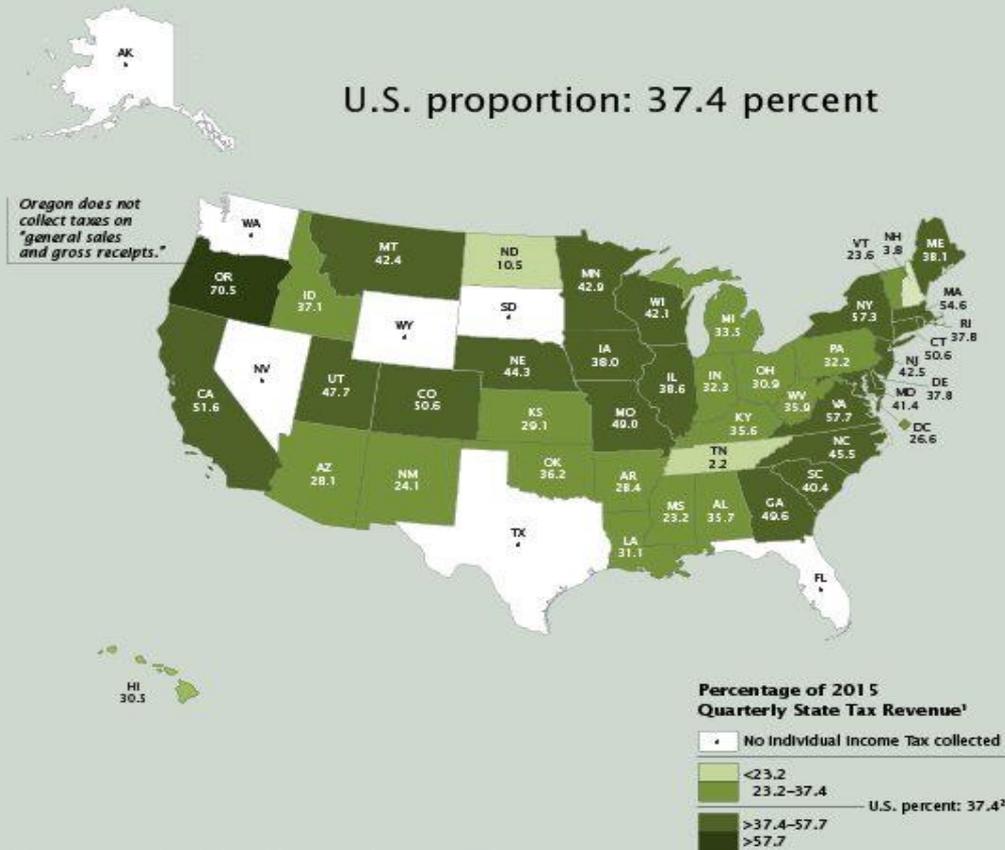
SOURCE: 2012 & 2013 Annual Survey of State Government Finances

Insurance Trust Revenue Components



SOURCE: 2012 & 2013 Annual Survey of State Government Finances

Individual Income Tax as a Proportion of State Tax Revenue



¹ Percentages cumulatively derived from Quarterly State Tax Totals: 2015 Q1–Q4.
² U.S. percentage derived from state tax revenue total including the District of Columbia.



U.S. Department of Commerce
 Economics and Statistics Administration
 U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue
www.census.gov/govs/qtax

Employment Data Snapshot

Where do state and local government employees work?

A focus on how education jobs vary between state and local governments

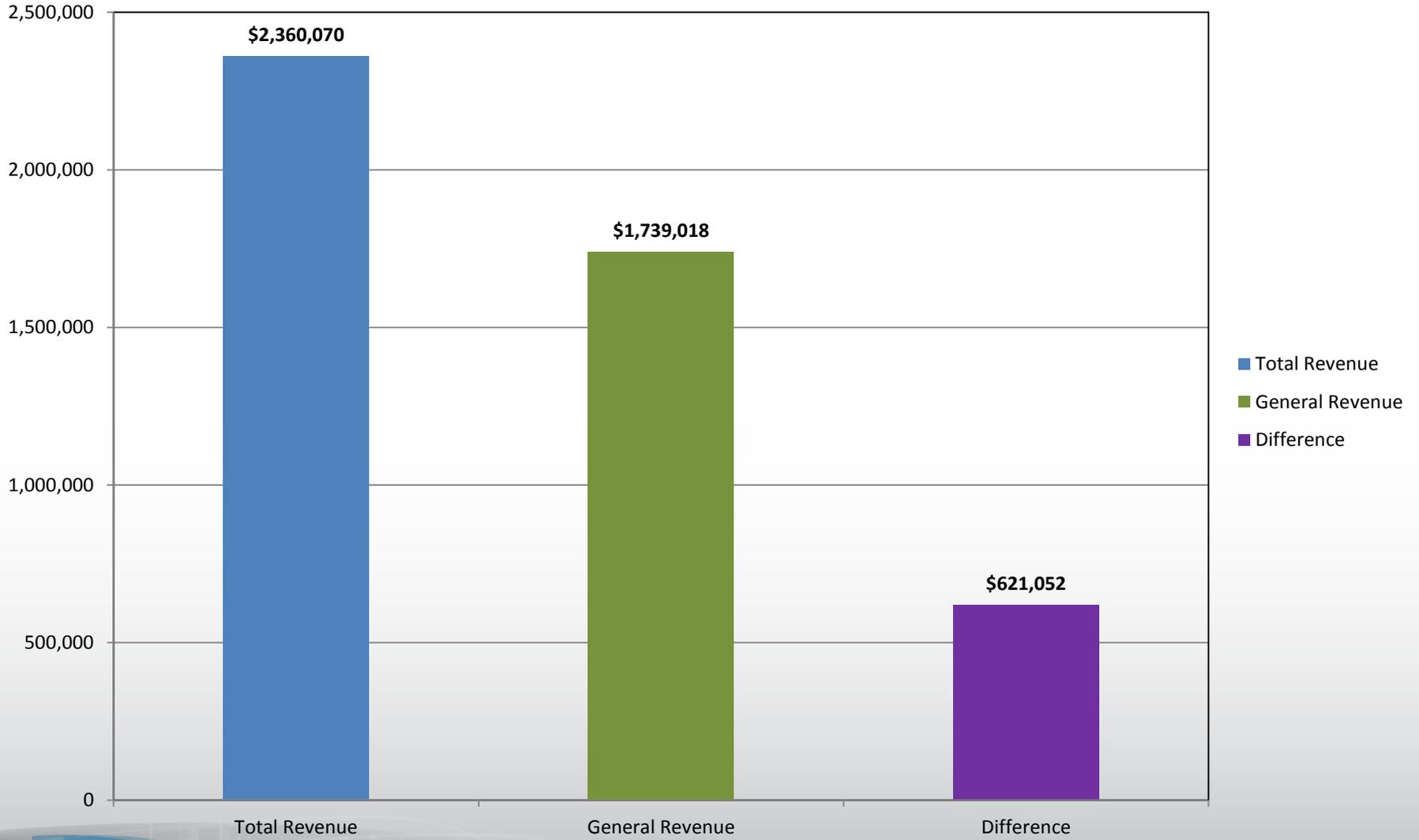
Top 10 categories



Education has 10 times the employees of the 2nd largest category of employment, hospitals.

SOURCE: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll.

2014 State Government Finances Total Revenue Compared to General Revenue (in millions of dollars)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Annual Survey of State Government Finances.

Difference between Total Revenue and General Revenue

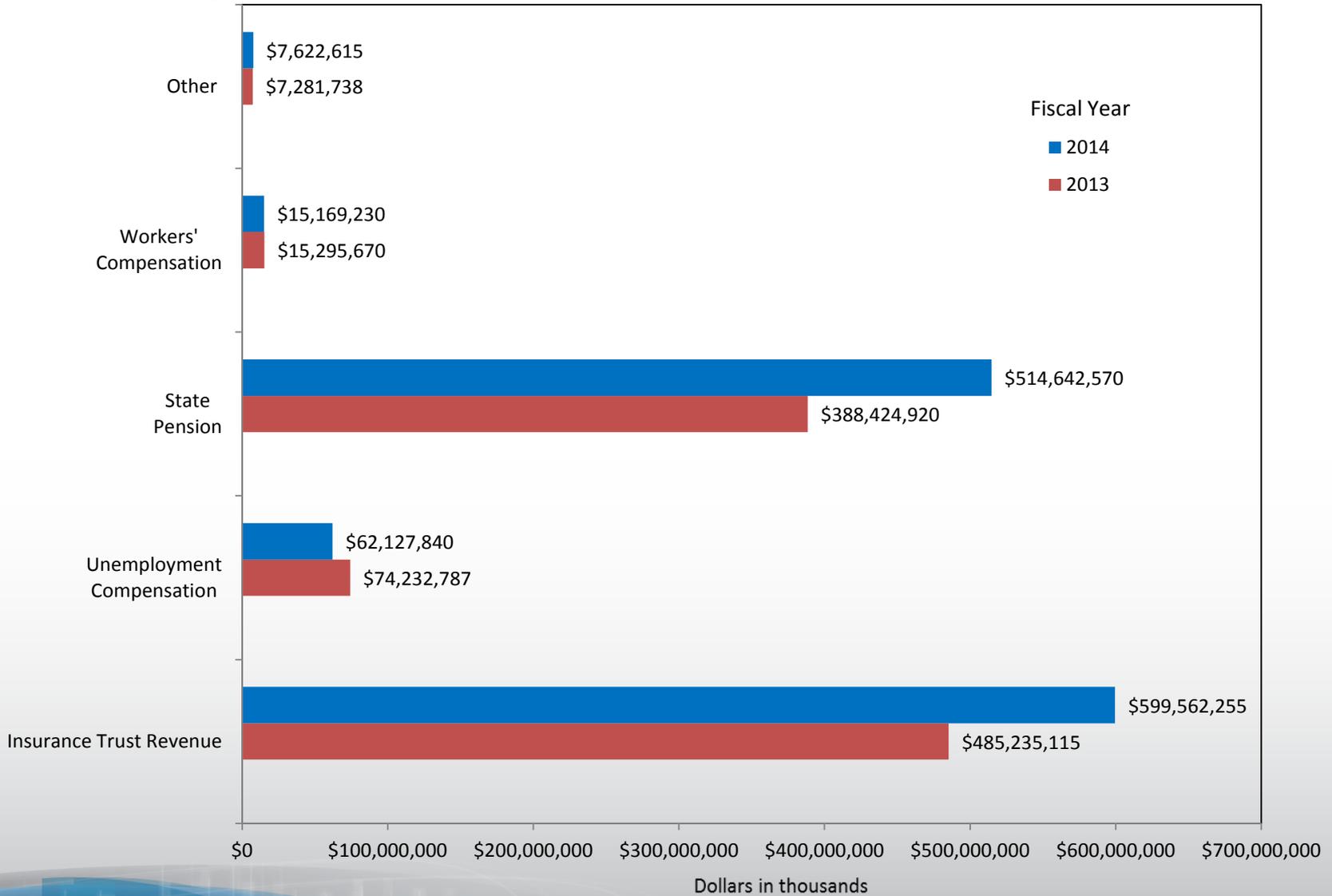
What is included in Total Revenue

- General revenue
- Utility revenue
- Liquor stores revenue
- Social Insurance trust systems revenue

What is included in General Revenue

- Tax revenue
- Intergovernmental revenue
- Current charges
- Miscellaneous general revenue

Comparison of the Social Insurance Trust Revenue Components by Fiscal Year



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, 2013 Annual Survey of State Government

What does a large total revenue really mean?

- Large total revenue does not necessarily mean more state spending money for the state to put towards expenditures.



General revenue is best way to measure state's fiscal health

- Since it is the state's general revenue that is the funding that is available for state's expenditures or spending, then the general revenue is the best measure of determining a state's fiscal health.



Let's take a tour within AFF

- Here's the link to the State Government Finances: 2014 data in AFF:
<http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>
- I will take you to the latest State Government Finances data table to show you the various options for viewing the data tables.

American FactFinder

The screenshot shows the American FactFinder website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the United States Census Bureau logo and the 'AMERICAN FactFinder' title. Below this is a blue navigation bar with links for 'MAIN', 'COMMUNITY FACTS', 'GUIDED SEARCH', 'ADVANCED SEARCH', and 'DOWNLOAD CENTER'. The main content area is titled 'Advanced Search - Search all data in American FactFinder'. It shows a search result for 'SG1400A1 State Government Finances: 2014 2014 State Government Finances'. The interface includes a 'Table View' button, a 'BACK TO ADVANCED SEARCH' button, and a list of actions: 'Modify Table', 'Add/Remove Geographies', 'Bookmark/Save', 'Print', 'Download', and 'Create a Map'. A note indicates that the table is displayed with default geographies and contains 2,754 data rows. A release date of 06/07/2016 is also shown. A detailed table of revenue data is provided at the bottom.

Advanced Search - Search all data in American FactFinder

1 Advanced Search 2 Table Viewer

Result 1 of 1 VIEW ALL AS PDF

SG1400A1 State Government Finances: 2014 2014 State Government Finances

Table View

BACK TO ADVANCED SEARCH

Actions: Modify Table Add/Remove Geographies Bookmark/Save Print Download Create a Map

This table is displayed with default geographies.

The table contains a total of 2,754 data rows.

Release Date : 06/07/2016

Note: Data users who create their own estimates using these data should cite only the U.S. Census Bureau as the source of the original data. Data in this table are based on information from public records and contain no confidential data. Although the data in this table come from a census of governmental units and are not subject to sampling error, the census results may contain nonsampling error. Additional information on nonsampling error, response rates, and definitions may be found within the [survey methodology](#) and [technical documentation](#).

Geographic area name	Year	Meaning of Finance Type	Meaning of Finance Source	Amount (\$1,000)
United States	2014	Revenue	Total Revenue	2,360,070,090
United States	2014	Revenue	General Revenue	1,739,017,976
United States	2014	Revenue	Intergovernmental Revenue	551,273,793
United States	2014	Revenue	From Federal	536,391,415
United States	2014	Revenue	From Local	14,882,378
United States	2014	Revenue	Total Taxes	865,752,089
United States	2014	Revenue	General Sales and Gross Receipts Taxes	271,286,848
United States	2014	Revenue	Selective Sales and Gross Receipts Taxes	140,127,327
United States	2014	Revenue	License Taxes	51,120,024
United States	2014	Revenue	Individual Income Taxes	310,828,815
United States	2014	Revenue	Corporation Net income Taxes	46,275,970
United States	2014	Revenue	All Other Taxes	46,113,105
United States	2014	Revenue	Current Charges	190,841,392
United States	2014	Revenue	Miscellaneous General Revenue	131,150,702

Link to C-Span presentation

- For more information related to government finance statistics, see my C-Span presentation from last year on “Fiscal Health of State Government Finances” <https://www.c-span.org/video/?325684-5/washington-journal-cheryl-hill-lee-tracy-gordon-state-fiscal-health>

Contact information

Customer Services Call Center

1-800-923-8282

Visit ask.census.gov or chat with us

Training Area:

clmso.training@census.gov

301-763-4308

<http://www.census.gov/mso/www/training/>