

Census of Governments

Presented to the
Association of Public Data Users
Annual Meeting

September 24, 2009

Disclaimer: This report is released to inform interested parties of research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. The views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Overview

- Introduction to the Census of Governments
- Historic Census of Governments Data, Products, and Usability
- 2007 Census of Governments – A Transition Year
- Beyond 2007 and Towards 2012

Introduction to Census of Governments

- Purpose of Census of Governments Program:
 - Provide comprehensive uniform economic statistics about state & local governments
 - Organization
 - Employment
 - Finance
 - Public sector counterpart to business, industry, and service economic data
- Conducted every 5 years ending '2' and '7'
- Virtually no confidentiality restrictions
- All surveys are voluntary

Introduction to Census of Governments (continued)

- Government Organization
 - Determine number and types of governments
 - State & local government classification/type
 - General Purpose
 - State
 - County
 - Municipal
 - Township
 - Special Purpose
 - Special District
 - School District
 - ...and all of their dependent agencies and activities
 - Intergovernmental relationships

Introduction to Census of Governments (continued)

- Government Employment
 - Full-time/Part-time
 - Employees
 - Payroll
 - By Function/Activity
- Governments as Employers
 - 14.7% of civilian labor force
 - 1.8 % from Federal Government
 - 12.9% from state and local governments

(March 2007) Source: BLS

Introduction to Census of Governments (continued)

- Government Finance
 - Revenues by Type
 - Expenditures by Characteristic & Function
 - Indebtedness by Term
 - Cash & Securities Holdings
- Finance Composed of “Nested” Surveys
 - State Government Taxes
 - State Government Finance
 - State & Local Government Pension Systems
 - Local Government Finance

Introduction to Census of Governments (continued)

- Governments as Producers
 - Share of real GDP (2009 Q2)
 - 19.9% for all governments
 - Source of Personal Income (2009 Q2)
 - 27.6% derived from government sources
 - Compared with Fortune 500
 - All States (CA = 5, NY = 8, SD = 350)
 - Fifty-nine local governments

Sources: BEA and Fortune

Historic CoG Data, Products, Uses

- Geographic Distinctions
 - State Government vs. State-Area
 - County Government vs. County-Area
- 1957-2002 Fixed Presentation Format
 - Volume series
 - Organization
 - TPV
 - Employment
 - Finance
 - State-Area
 - State-by-Type
 - Individual Unit (flat file)

Historic CoG Data, Products, Uses Annual & Quarterly Surveys

- Annual Employment
 - Federal, State, and Local
 - State-Area
 - Individual Unit
- Annual Finance
 - State & Local
 - State-Area
 - Individual Units (upon request)
- Quarterly Tax
 - National Estimates
 - State Government Taxes
 - Quarterly and Year-to-Year trends
- Quarterly Retirement
 - Largest 100 Defined Benefit Systems
 - Types of Holdings
 - Quarterly and Year-to-Year trends

2007 Census of Governments

A Transition Year

- Organization
- State Descriptions
- Employment
 - State-Area
 - State-by-Type
 - Build-A-Table
- Finance
 - State, State & Local Pensions, State & Local
 - State-Area
 - State-by-Type
- Graphical Summary (First since 1982 CoG)

2007 Census of Governments Build-A-Table

U.S. Census Bureau
Public Employment and Payroll Build-a-Table

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts an annual survey of government employment as authorized by Title 13, United States Code. This survey measures the number of government civilian employees and their gross payrolls for one year, as of the first day of March.

The Build-a-Table system will allow you to query the Census of Government Employment data for governments across the country were surveyed for the Census years.

There are three basic categories of data:

- Level of Government:** State government data (all 50 states), local government data (county, special district, and school district data) or state and local government data combined.
- State:** Data for a specific state or DC.
- Government Function:** Data on a specific government function e.g., education, health, or...

[Example | Definitions](#)

Please select which category you would like to base your table on. You must make one selection from one of the three basic categories.

Level of Government State

Next

Select category

U.S. Census Bureau
Public Employment and Payroll Build-a-Table

BACK to Build-a-Table Main

Please select the variables you would like the table to display

Year

2002 1997 2007

Add All >> Add > < Remove << Remove All

Variables

Full-Time Employees Add All >> Total Employees
Full-Time Pay Add >
Part-Time Employees < Remove
Part-Time Pay << Remove All
Total Pay
Full-Time Equivalent

Level of Government

State and All Local Add All >> State
All Local Add >
< Remove
<< Remove All

Government Function

Add All >> Total
Add > Education Total
< Remove Higher Education Instructional Employees
<< Remove All All Other Higher Education
Elementary and Secondary Instructional
All Other Elementary and Secondary Education

Submit

Select variables

U.S. Census Bureau
Public Employment and Payroll Build-a-Table

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Click your browser's back button to update selection criteria or [Start Over](#)

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US Total Government Employment and Payroll Data
By Level of Government and By Government Function: 2007
SOURCE: This table was generated from the Census Bureau's Build-a-Table tool with data from the [Census of Government Employment](#). For information about the data's sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, select the appropriate link.
Note: Data is in whole numbers.

| Function | 2007 Total Employees |
|--|----------------------|
| Total | 5,201,871 |
| Education Total | 2,538,370 |
| Higher Education Instructional Employees | 768,228 |
| All Other Higher Education | 1,607,066 |
| Elementary and Secondary Instructional Employees | 45,622 |
| All Other Elementary and Secondary Education | 18,013 |
| Other Education | 99,441 |
| Libraries | 778 |
| Public Welfare | 239,824 |
| Hospitals | 444,148 |
| Health | 189,970 |
| Social Insurance Administration | 81,376 |
| Highways | 241,463 |
| Air Transportation | 3,443 |
| Water Transport and Terminals | 4,993 |
| Police Protection Total | 108,672 |
| Police Officers Only | 67,724 |
| State Other Police Employees | 40,948 |
| Fire Protection Total | N/A |
| Firefighters Only | N/A |
| Other Fire Employees | N/A |
| Corrections | 475,022 |
| Natural Resources | 159,216 |
| Parks and Recreation | 40,725 |
| Housing and Community Development | 0 |
| Sewerage | 1,769 |
| Solid Waste Management | 1,975 |
| Financial Administration | 177,339 |
| Judicial and Legal | 177,423 |
| Other Government Administration | 61,811 |
| Water Supply | 721 |
| Electric Power | 4,073 |
| See Census | 0 |
| T | |
| T | |
| S | |
| A | |

N/A: Data is not applicable

Retrieve data

Beyond 2007 Towards 2012

- CNSTAT: *State & Local Government Statistics at a Crossroads*
- Twenty-one Recommendations
 - Dissemination & Timeliness
 - Data Quality
 - Statistical
 - Operational
 - User Outreach
 - Strategic Planning
 - Research Program – Add Additional Value to Data

Beyond 2007 Towards 2012

Move from fixed presentation to interactive use

– Build-A-Table

- Expand to State Finance
- Reinstate Federal Finance
- Add Annual Sample Years for Employment
- Develop for Local Finance

– Other

- Data Ferrett
 - Employment
 - Consolidated Federal Funds Report (CFFR)
 - State & Local Finance
- American Fact Finder (after 2012)

Beyond 2007 Towards 2012

- Committed to CNSTAT recommendations
 - Reengineering
 - Data User Workshops
 - Research Program
- To be successful we need:
 - Your patience & support;
 - Your input as we propose and recommend suggestions and changes; and
 - Your assistance both in terms of input and helping to keep our response rates high

Thank You

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