Exploring the Intricate Layers of State and Local Governments: Nebraska

The Governments Division of the U.S. Census Bureau

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Importance of the Data

Government is an intricate and perplexing subject to understand at every level. Traditional federalism is no longer the case. We now live in a time when all the layers of government are intertwined and dependent upon one another. Providing every American with the most comprehensive, comparable, and precise account of government financial activity is what the U.S. Census Bureau strives to accomplish with the release of every product. With the release of each product from the Governments Division, we provide policy analysts, researchers, and the general public with a more complete and clearer picture of the U.S. government. Whether it is public employment, government finance, or federal government grants, the picture is complete with the cooperation of thousands of federal, state, and local governments and dependent agencies who supply their data to the Census Bureau quarterly or annually for our surveys, or quinquennially for the Census of Governments. By providing us with these data, we can address the issues that concern state and local governments as well as their relationships to each other and the federal government.

How the Data Are Used

Governments Division’s data are used to account for about 12 percent of the nation’s Gross Domestic Product and are the basis for the Flow of Funds for the Federal Reserve and the National Income and Product Accounts for the Bureau of Economic Analysis. These data serve as important indicators for national economic and public policy. Governments Division’s data serve as the foundation for developing national policy and analysis by a variety of entities—

State and Local Governments: Policy Research and Analysis, Allocating Funds, Comparative Analysis

U.S. Congress: Policy Research and Analysis

Private Sector: Research and Comparative Analysis

Teachers and Students: Educational Purposes

Academic Professionals: Policy Research and Analysis, Public Finance

Federal Reserve: Development of the Flow of Funds Accounts

Bureau of Economic Analysis: Development of the Public Sector Component of Gross Domestic Product

Other Federal Agencies: Measure Government Activities, Policy Research and Analysis

General Public: Research and Comparative Analysis

State and Local Government Employment

Total Full-Time Employees 100,175

State: 27,116

Local: 73,059

Total Full-Time Employee Pay $351,650,269

State: 95,653,882

Local: 255,996,387

State and Local Government Finances (thousands)*

Total Revenues $18,271,097

State: 9,792,790

Local: 10,287,736

Total Expenditures $16,838,897

State: 7,834,295

Local: 10,771,562

State and Local Debt Issued (thousands)

Total $11,491,222

State: 2,331,711

Local: 9,159,511

State and Local Government Cash and Security Holdings (thousands)

Total $23,131,719

State: 14,484,767

Local: 8,646,952

State and Local Receipts From Public-Employee Pension Systems (thousands)

Total $1,802,768

State: 1,463,222

Local: 339,546

State and Local Expenditures on Public-Employee Pension Systems (thousands)

Total $481,436

State: 314,896

Local: 166,540

Public School System Finances for Elementary-Secondary Education (thousands)

Total Elementary-Secondary Revenues $3,128,888

From Federal Sources: 298,196

From State Sources: 992,032

From Local Sources: 1,838,660

Total Elementary-Secondary Expenditures $3,073,412

Source: 2007 Census of Governments.

* Duplicative intergovernmental transactions are excluded, therefore subcategories do not add to total.

Source: 2007 Census of Governments.
Federal Government Grants and Other Payments to State and Local Governments (by selected department, in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>U.S. Total</th>
<th>NE Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health &amp; Human Services</td>
<td>252,149,602</td>
<td>1,252,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Transportation</td>
<td>47,955,354</td>
<td>302,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education</td>
<td>35,142,474</td>
<td>244,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of HUD</td>
<td>47,970,959</td>
<td>155,968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>25,492,285</td>
<td>154,167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Federal Aid to States.

Rankings / NE

- 38th in population.
- 14th in overall number of local governments (2,659).
- 10th in number of counties (93).
- 16th in number of municipalities (530).
- 13th in number of townships (454).
- 8th in number of special district governments (1,294).
- 19th in number of independent school districts (288).
- 39th in total amount of taxes collected.
- 37th in expenditures on education.

Other Facts

- There are 89,476 local governments in the United States.
- Highest number of local governments—Douglas County area (214).
- Lowest number of local governments—McPherson County area (3).

State and Local Direct General Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Governmental Administration</td>
<td>$21 Million</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$29 Million</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment and Housing</td>
<td>$925 Million</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Safety</td>
<td>$933 Million</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>$1.1 Billion</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Welfare</td>
<td>$2.1 Billion</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals and Health</td>
<td>$1.2 Billion</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on General Debt</td>
<td>$275 Million</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$4.7 Billion</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Data Products

State and Local Government Finances
- State Government Finances Summary and Individual State Tables
- State and Local Government Finances Summary Tables by Level of Government
- Local Government Finance Summary Tables by Type of Government
- State by Type of Government Unit-Level File

Government Employment and Payroll

Federal, State, And Local Government Employment Tables and Files include:
- Number of Employees
- Payroll by Function
- Part-Time/Full-Time Equivalents

Tax Statistics
- State Government Tax Collections by Type of Tax
- Quarterly State and Local Government Tax Revenues
- State Government Tax Collections Summary Report

Notes: Since the data in these tables are from a census of all governments, the data are not subject to sampling variability, but are subject to coverage, response, and processing errors as well as errors of nonresponse. For more information on the data limitations, definitions, and methodology, see <www.census.gov/govs>.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENTS DIVISION DATA, PLEASE VISIT US AT <WWW.CENSUS.GOV/GOVS>.

U.S. Census Bureau