Exploring the Intricate Layers of State and Local Governments: United States

The Governments Division of the U.S. Census Bureau

Government Employment
Total Full-Time Employees 14,681,997
State: 3,775,705
Local: 10,906,292

Total Full-Time Employee Pay $59,170,994,989
State: 16,146,025,198
Local: 43,024,969,791

Government Finances (thousands)*
Total Revenues $3,072,644,555
State: 2,000,366,153
Local: 1,539,014,448

Total Expenditures $2,665,881,094
State: 1,635,746,924
Local: 1,499,268,400

Debt Issued (thousands)
Total $2,411,298,345
State: 936,523,700
Local: 1,474,774,645

Cash and Security Holdings (thousands)
Total $5,470,664,127
State: 3,922,371,315
Local: 1,548,292,812

Receipts From Public-Employee Pension Systems (thousands)
Total $532,153,635
State: 456,789,127
Local: 75,364,508

Expenditures on Public-Employee Pension Systems (thousands)
Total $166,974,509
State: 135,759,777
Local: 31,214,732

Public School System Finances for Elementary-Secondary Education (thousands)
Total Elementary $556,860,590
From Federal Sources: 46,433,892
From State Sources: 264,801,609
From Local Sources: 245,625,089

Total Elementary Secondary Expenditures $559,852,377

Source: 2007 Census of Governments.

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

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
Federal Government Grants and Other Payments to State and Local Governments
(by selected department, in thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Human Services</td>
<td>252,149,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of HUD</td>
<td>47,970,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Transportation</td>
<td>47,955,354</td>
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<td>Department of Education</td>
<td>35,142,474</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>25,492,285</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

U.S. Total $439,794,255

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

Did You Know?
- There are 89,476 local governments in the United States.
- Illinois has the most local governments overall (6,994), the most special district governments (3,249), and the most municipalities (1,299) in the United States.
- Cook County area in Illinois has the highest number of local governments (543); more than any other county area in the United States.
- Alaska, Hawaii, Maryland, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia do not have any independent school districts, while Virginia has only one independent school district.
- Texas has the most county governments (254) and independent school districts (1,081).
- Only 20 states have townships as a type of government.
- Minnesota has the highest number of township governments (1,788) in the United States.

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

State and Local Government Employee Public Pension Systems
- Annual State and Local Government Employee Public Pension Systems Files
- Quarterly State and Local Government Employee Public Pension Systems Files

Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finances
- Public Education Finances Report
- State-Level Education Tables
- Government Unit-Level Education Tables

Federal Spending
- Consolidated Federal Funds Report
- Online Query System for Consolidated Federal Funds
- Federal Aid to States 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>.