Exploring the Intricate Layers of State and Local Governments: West Virginia

The Governments Division of the U.S. Census Bureau

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![Map of West Virginia showing local governments]

**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

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**State and Local Government Employment**

- **Total Full-Time Employees**: 93,358
  - State: 34,562
  - Local: 58,796

- **Total Full-Time Employee Pay**: $283,399,770
  - State: 110,953,139
  - Local: 172,386,631

**State and Local Government Finances (thousands)**

- **Total Revenues**: $14,813,561
  - State: 11,933,330
  - Local: 4,888,696

- **Total Expenditures**: $12,611,586
  - State: 9,723,945
  - Local: 4,965,741

**State and Local Debt Issued (thousands)**

- **Total**: $9,082,567
  - State: 5,628,065
  - Local: 3,454,502

**State and Local Government Cash and Security Holdings (thousands)**

- **Total**: $15,701,799
  - State: 12,479,924
  - Local: 3,221,875

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

- **Total**: $766,773
  - State: 731,741
  - Local: 35,032

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

- **Total**: $257,496
  - State: 226,757
  - Local: 30,739

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

- **Total Elementary-Secondary Revenues**: $2,897,559
  - From Federal Sources: 353,571
  - From State Sources: 1,677,212
  - From Local Sources: 866,776

- **Total Elementary-Secondary Expenditures**: $2,981,223

**Source**: 2007 Census of Governments.

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* Duplicative intergovernmental transactions are excluded, therefore subcategories do not add to total.
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>WV Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Grants</td>
<td>$439,794,255</td>
<td>$3,571,196</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health &amp; Human Services</td>
<td>252,149,602</td>
<td>2,074,738</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Transportation</td>
<td>47,955,354</td>
<td>475,739</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Education</td>
<td>35,142,474</td>
<td>272,214</td>
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<td>Department of HUD</td>
<td>47,970,959</td>
<td>222,989</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
<td>25,492,285</td>
<td>188,640</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Rankings / WV

- 37th in population.
- 38th in overall number of local governments (663).
- 28th in number of counties (55).
- 33rd in number of municipalities (232).
- 34th in number of special district governments (321).
- 38th in number of independent school districts—tied with WY (55).
- 38th in total amount of taxes collected.
- 38th in expenditures on education.

Other Facts

- There are 89,476 local governments in the United States.
- Highest number of local governments—Kanawha County area (34).
- Lowest number of local governments—Doddridge, Pendleton, and Wirt County areas (4).

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].