

## **Response Rates for the 2014 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll**

The preliminary estimates for the Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll were released on December 21, 2015. All unit response rates were above the U.S. Census Bureau's standards threshold of 60 percent. The Census Bureau also has a standard on the Total Quantity response, which is a measure of the portion of the estimate of interest that is accounted for by responses. The rate must be above 70 percent. For example, the Total Quantity Response Rate (TQRR) for the number of total employees in a state must be above 70 percent, or at least 70 percent of the estimated total number of the total employees must come from responses. Because the data for 2014 come from a sample of governments, the numerator and denominator of the TQRR must be weighted.

The TQRRs for 2014 were usually above the 70 percent standard with some notable exceptions. There are nine states (Connecticut, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, and Washington) that are noncompliant for at least one local government TQRR. See the accompanying Table A.

There are seven states (Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Jersey, Ohio, and Oregon) that have state government TQRRs that do not meet Census Bureau TQRR standards. In all states, the state government TQRRs were affected by poor response from one or two large state colleges/universities. Consequently, the data user should beware of higher education data from these states.

For the 2015 survey, more extensive non-response follow-up efforts will be taken to try to obtain data from the nonrespondents identified as critical prior to release of the survey's estimates. Further research will be conducted on local governments to identify governmental units contributing to the low TQRRs in those noncompliant states.

Table A: Noncompliant Total Quantity Response Rates for the 2014 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

State	Total Employment Quantity Response Rate	Total Payroll Quantity Response Rate
State and Local Government TQRs (in percent)		
Louisiana	68.0%	69.0%
Maryland	65.2%	66.7%
Massachusetts	62.0%	63.5%
Minnesota	65.6%	65.7%
New Hampshire	68.7%	68.2%
Washington	64.8%	67.8%
Local Government TQRs (in percent)		
Connecticut	63.7%	65.1%
Louisiana	62.1%	61.6%
Maryland	64.9%	67.4%
Massachusetts	55.9%	58.3%
Minnesota	70.1%	69.2%
Mississippi	69.2%	68.7%
New Hampshire	58.6%	57.4%
New Mexico	71.9%	68.8%
Washington	47.3%	53.3%
State Government TQRs (in percent)		
Kansas	69.4%	65.3%
Maryland	66.2%	65.1%
Minnesota	54.4%	58.3%
Nebraska	39.5%	39.1%
New Jersey	69.5%	68.8%
Ohio	68.8%	69.0%
Oregon	62.1%	73.2%