

Exploring the Intricate Layers of State and Local Governments: California

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 1,571,201
State: 334,432
Local: 1,236,769

Total Full-Time Employee Pay \$8,569,118,537
State: 1,901,011,259
Local: 6,668,107,278

State and Local Government Finances (thousands)*

Total Revenues \$473,951,106
State: 299,447,883
Local: 266,702,112

Total Expenditures \$390,451,809
State: 232,450,325
Local: 247,177,851

State and Local Debt Issued (thousands)

Total \$330,358,707
State: 114,701,797
Local: 215,656,910

State and Local Government Cash and Security Holdings (thousands)

Total \$926,829,623
State: 579,171,352
Local: 347,658,271

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

Total \$118,294,528
State: 90,967,666
Local: 27,326,862

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

Total \$26,120,607
State: 18,764,418
Local: 7,356,189

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

Total Elementary-Secondary Revenues \$70,076,641
From Federal Sources: 7,200,297
From State Sources: 42,333,590
From Local Sources: 20,542,754
Total Elementary-Secondary Expenditures \$70,487,984

Source: 2007 Census of Governments.

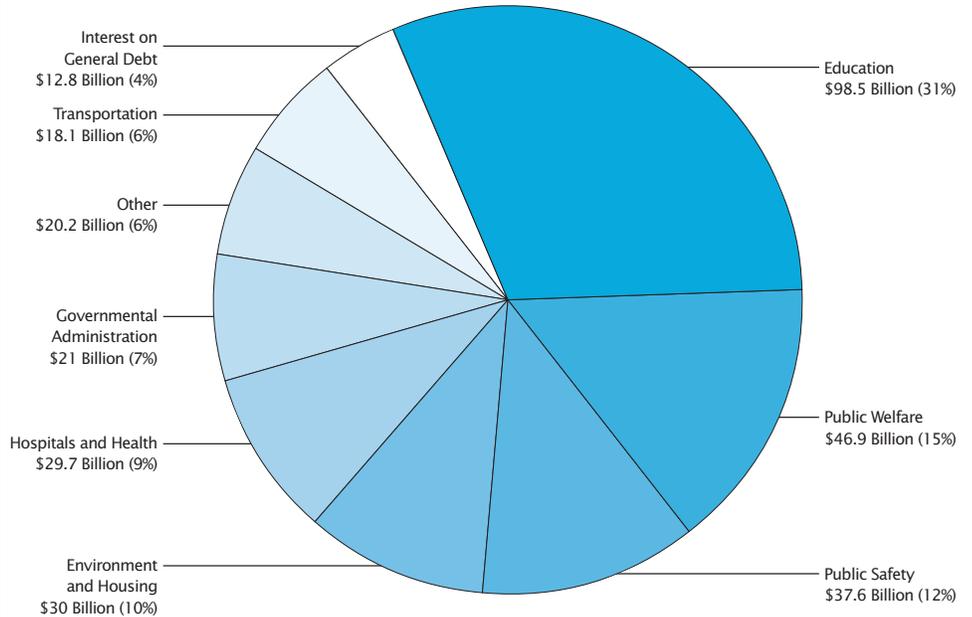
* Duplicative intergovernmental transactions are excluded, therefore subcategories do not add to total.

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

	U.S. Total	CA Total
Total Grants	\$439,794,255	\$49,976,123
Department of Health & Human Services	252,149,602	29,909,693
Department of HUD	47,970,959	4,985,346
Department of Education	35,142,474	4,905,156
Department of Transportation	47,955,354	4,411,096
Department of Agriculture	25,492,285	3,152,968

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

State and Local Direct General Expenditures



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Census of Governments—Finance Component.

Rankings / CA

- **1st** in population.
- **4th** in overall number of local governments (4,344).
- **26th** in number of counties—tied with NY (57).
- **18th** in number of municipalities (478).
- **2nd** in number of special district governments (2,765).
- **2nd** in number of independent school districts (1,044).
- **1st** in total amount of taxes collected.
- **1st** in expenditures on education.

Other Facts

- There are 89,476 local governments in the United States.
- Highest number of local governments—Los Angeles County area (324).
- Lowest number of local governments—Alpine county area (7).

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>.

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