Access and Use of Governments Statistics

Governments Division
Economic Programs Directorate
U.S. Census Bureau

Presented at
the Annual New Mexico State Data Center/Business and Industry Data Center Affiliates Meeting and Workshop

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Disclaimer: This report is released to inform interested parties of research and to encourage discussion of work in progress. The views expressed are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.
Introduction

Government Statistics Data

Main Purposes of Government Statistics

• Provide Economic Statistics about Governments
• Act as a Public-sector Counterpart to Economic Data of Business, Industry, and Services
• Track Activity of Governments over Time

Response is Voluntary

Virtually no Confidentiality Restriction
Government Statistics Programs

Provide Information on the Structure, Function, Finances, Taxation, Employment, and Retirement Systems Within our Nation's Almost 90,000 State and Local Governments

Data are Publicly Available and Used by Other Federal Agencies, State and Local Legislators, Researchers, Academia, Businesses, and Individuals

Of Primary Importance is the Timely Delivery of These Data to the Bureau of Economic Analysis for use in Estimating the Gross Domestic Product
Government Statistics Data

Quinquennial – Every 5 Years

- Census of Governments – Years Ending in ‘2’ and ‘7’ (Government Organization, Government Employment, Government Finance)

Annual

- Federal, State, and Local Government Employment
- State and Local Government Finance
- Includes Individual Products on Taxes, Public Pensions, and School Finances

Quarterly

- State and Local Government Tax Revenues
- Revenues, Benefits, and Financial Holdings of Public-Employment Retirement Systems
What is a Government?
Census Bureau Definition

Existence as an Organized Entity

- Right of Perpetual Succession
- Right to Make Contracts
- Right to Sue and be Sued

Governmental Character

- Public Accountability
- Power to Tax

Substantial Autonomy

- Fiscal Independence
- Administrative Independence
Types of Governments
Measured and Defined

89,526 Government Organizations

89,476 Local Governments

50 State Governments

39,044 General Purpose Governments

3,033 Counties

19,492 Cities

16,519 Townships

50,432 Special Purpose Governments

37,381 Special Districts

13,051 Independent School Districts

Source: 2007 Census of Governments
Government Structure

State Government

Core Government
- Public Regulatory Commission
- Court of Appeals
- House of Representatives

Dependent Agencies
- Department of Cultural Affairs
- Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
- Economic Development Department

Semi-Autonomous Authorities
- New Mexico Lottery Authority
- New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority
- New Mexico Exposition Center Authority

Note: Government examples are illustrative and not meant to be an exhaustive list of all governmental entities.
Census of Governments

Data Collected Through the Census of Governments Programs
Census of Governments

Three Main Components

Government Organization
- Number of and Type
- Characteristics of Local Governments by State and Type

Government Employment
- Number of Employees Part-Time and Full-Time
- One Month Payroll

Government Finance
- Revenues
- Expenditures
- Debt
- Cash and Securities
- Taxes
- Pensions
- Education Finances
Milestones:
2012 Census of Governments

Organization

• Initial Mail: October 2011 → Preliminary Publication: August 2012

Employment

• Initial Mail: March 2012 → Preliminary Publication: December 2013

Finance

• State and Local Finances
  • Initial Mail: October 2012 → Preliminary Publication: December 2014
• Retirement
  • Initial Mail: October 2012 → Preliminary Publication: February 2014
• Education Finances
  • Initial Mail: January 2013 → Preliminary Publication: June 2014
Accessing the Data
www.census.gov/govs
In 2007, how many Special Districts were in the State of New Mexico?

Hint: Lists and Structure of Governments

633 Special Districts
Accessing the Data

www.census.gov/govs

Which State Received more Revenue from their Individual Income Tax in 2010:
New Mexico or Arizona?

Hint: State Government Tax Collection

Arizona 2,416,324  New Mexico 956,600
Accessing the Data
www.census.gov/govs

Find the Number of Firefighters Employed by New Mexico Governments in 2007.

Hint: Government Employment and Payroll

Full-Time Employees: 2,193  Part-Time Employees: 152
Accessing the Data

www.census.gov/govs

What was the Percent Distribution of Total Public Elementary-Secondary School System Revenue from Federal, State, and Local Sources for New Mexico in 2009?

Hint: Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finance

Federal: 14.0%
State: 70.6%
Local: 15.4%
Accessing the Data

google.com

State Government Finances in the United States
http://www.google.com/publicdata/overview?ds=i6b2dd9bq9ljq_
## Data Releases

**Over the Next 12 Months**

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Accessing the Data

Data Products
Government Statistics in the News

Pension Fund Losses Hit States Hard, Data Show

By Michael Cooper
Published: January 5, 2011

When total state government revenues across the nation plummeted by a record 4.4% in 2010, it offered the data role:

States fell trillion 2

Pensions & Investments

Top 100 public funds up 6.2% in Q3

By Doug Hildeman
Sources: Pension & Investments
Date: January 19, 2011

Total assets of the 100 largest public pension funds were $2.495 trillion in the third quarter, up 6.2% from three months earlier and up 5.2% from a year earlier, according to a report issued by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The third-quarter asset amount is the highest level in two years, since the third quarter of 2008, the report said.

Investments in corporate stocks among the 100 funds totaled $79.8 billion for the quarter ended Sept. 30, up 9.8%, while corporate bonds investments were $142.7 billion, a 3.2% gain, the report said.
Thank You

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