

Government Statistics

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Governments Division
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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.



Statistics About Governments

- Main purposes
 - Provide economic statistics about governments
 - Serve as public-sector counterpart to private sector
 - Track activity of governments over time
- Response is voluntary
- Public nature of the data

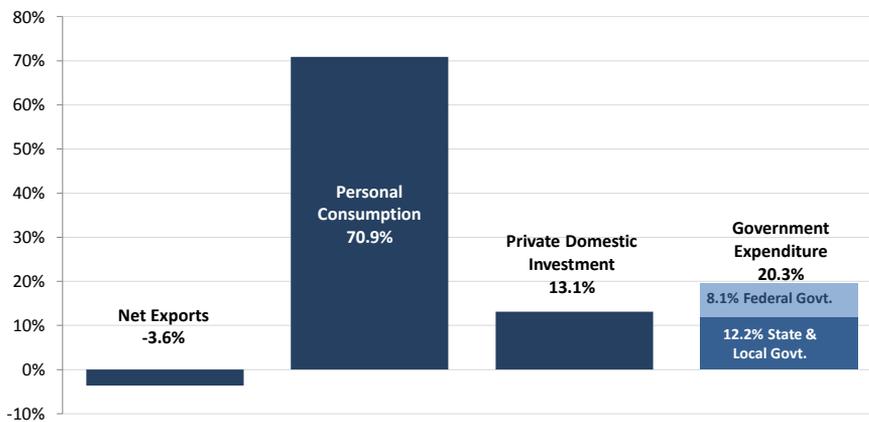


State and Local Government Data: Uses

- Calculation of important economic measures
 - GDP: Bureau of Economic Analysis
 - Flow of Funds: Federal Reserve Board
- Time series analysis
- Comparative analysis
- Public Policy
 - Tax, health, education, welfare, transit, etc.



Governments as Producers



Components of Gross Domestic Product

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2012



Governments as Economic Entities

- Governments as employers:
 - 14.5% of civilian labor force
 - 1.9% Federal government
 - 12.6% state & local government
 - 3.5% state government
 - 9.2% local government

(March, 2011)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011 Current Employment Statistics Survey/ U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 Annual Survey of Public and Employment and Payroll



Government Statistics in the News

HUFF POST BUSINESS

State And Local Government Revenues Rose Last Quarter



Bloomberg

U.S. State, Local Tax Revenue Rises 2.1%, Slowest Pace in a Year

U.S. state and local government tax collections grew during the last three months of 2012 as the dollar gains to a year, marking a step back from gains that helped lower the strain on public agencies.

The Census Bureau said today that state and local government tax revenues rose for a sixth straight quarter, climbing 2.1 percent from a year earlier to \$169.6 billion in the fourth quarter. The increase was the smallest since the end of 2010, the data show. Property taxes rose one percent from a year before, the second straight gain.

The pickup in the economy has lifted government tax revenues since late 2010, after the official end of the recession. The influx of cash over the past year allowed budget deficits to drop and, in some cases, turning the trend for years in spending will be reversed.

State and local revenues are gradually improving, despite cuts, through U.S. Government's RED DATA.

The current fiscal year will be one of many challenges. State and local governments will have to...

REUTERS

Public pension holdings highest since 2007 peak: U.S. Census

By Mar 29 2013

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Public pensions reached a milestone in the fourth quarter of 2012 when assets rose to the highest since a peak just before the financial crisis, according to Census data released on Thursday.

Assets in 100 of the largest funds, including...



...in the fourth quarter of 2012, the census data show. Property taxes rose one percent from a year before, the second straight gain.

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State and local revenues are gradually improving, despite cuts, through U.S. Government's RED DATA.

The current fiscal year will be one of many challenges. State and local governments will have to...

60 MINUTES

THE DAY OF RECKONING

Produced by James Jacoby



...the day of reckoning...

LIVE 8:20 am PT

6:30 PM

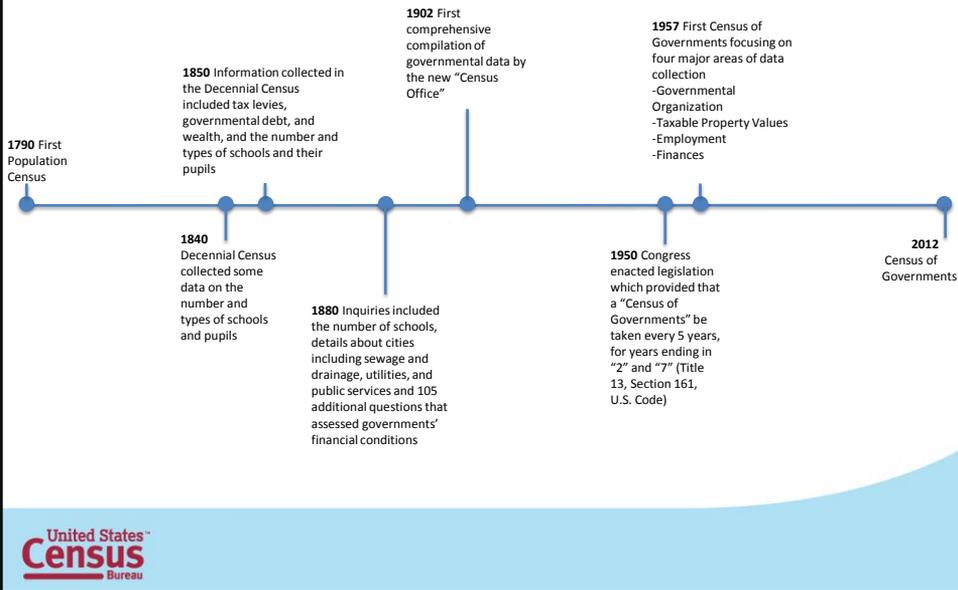
LISA BILLESKAM
U.S. Census Bureau
Governmental Division Chief



...the day of reckoning...



History of Statistics on Governments



Government Organization

- Why is understanding government structure important?
- What is included and what isn't?
- How are basic services provided?
- Which comparisons are valid?

Defining a Government

3 criteria for defining a government:

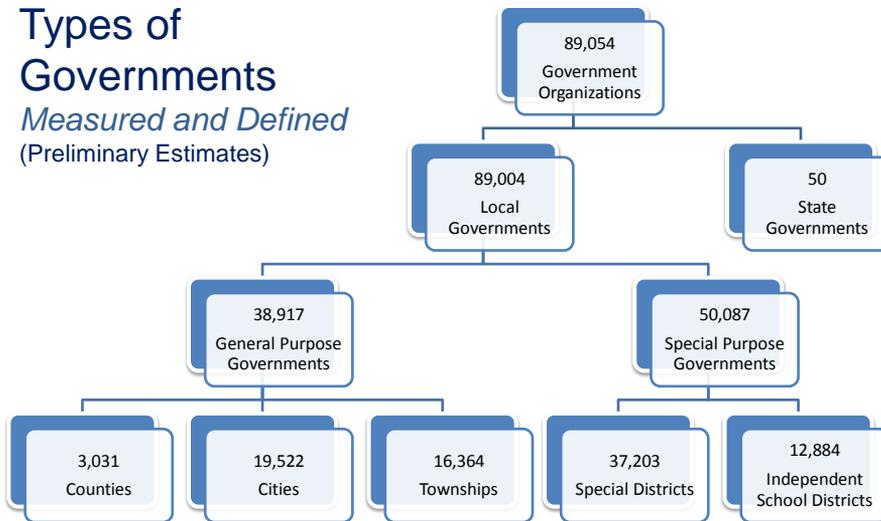
- Existence as an organized entity
- Governmental character
- Substantial autonomy
 - Fiscal independence
 - Administrative independence

Government Structure

- Core government
 - Executive, legislative, and sometimes judicial
- Dependent agencies
- Jointly governed activities

Types of Governments

Measured and Defined
(Preliminary Estimates)



Source: 2012 Census of Governments (preliminary estimates)



Examples

Government

- Water systems
- Cities
- Counties
- Pest control districts
- States

Non-Government

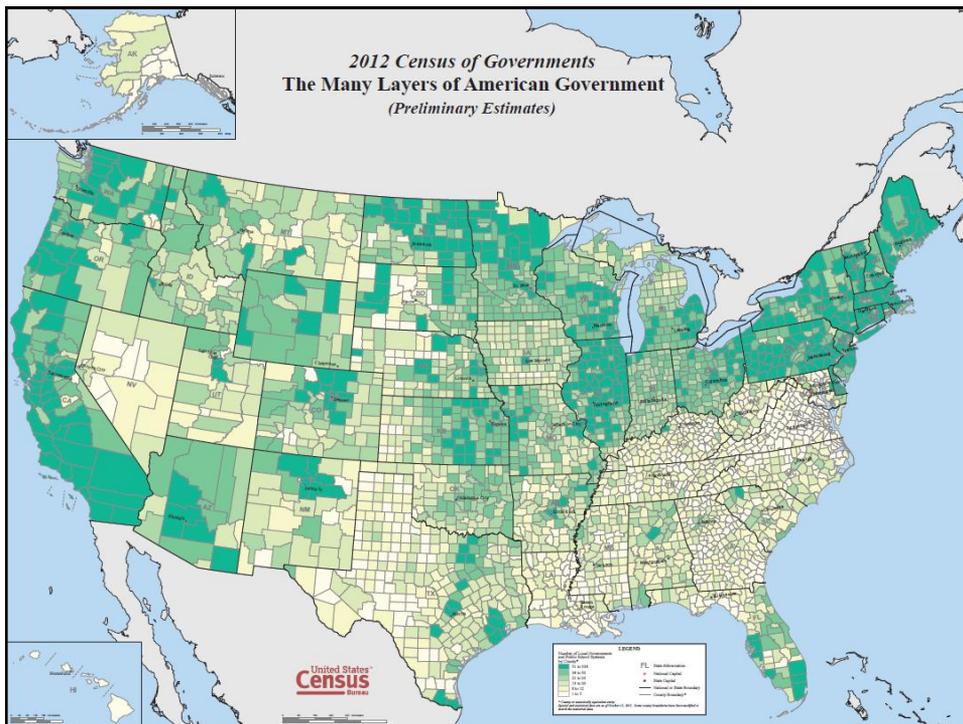
- Homeowners' associations
- Most charter schools



School Systems – Example

- Florida
 - Independent governments
 - Coterminous with county area
- Virginia
 - Dependent governments
 - Coterminous with county (city) area
- New York – Mix
 - Dependent on city for five largest cities
 - Independent, with no standard geography, rest of state

United States[™]
Census
Bureau



Illinois vs. Indiana?

Counts of Governments
Are These Two Areas Comparable?

Illinois

- 102 Counties
- 1,298 Cities
- 1,431 Townships
- 3,232 Special Districts
- 905 School Districts

Indiana

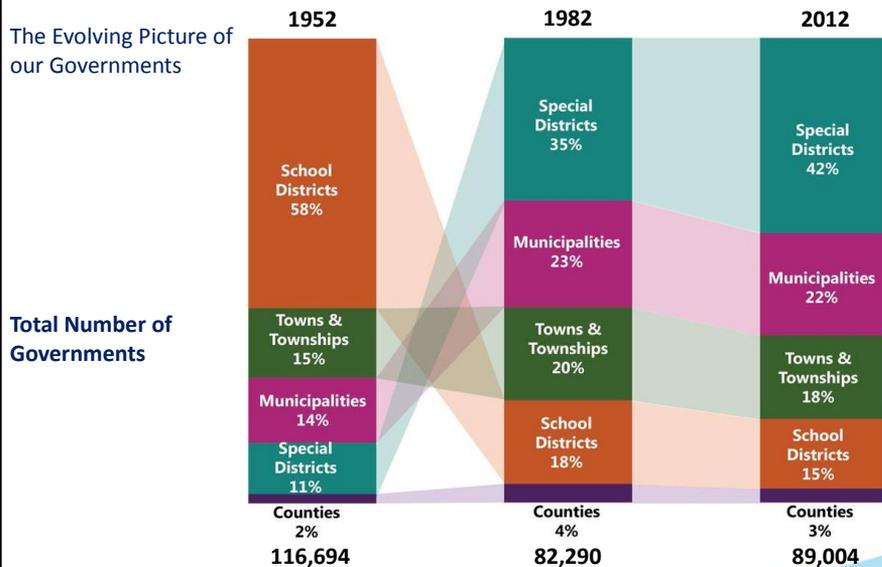
- 91 Counties
- 569 Cities
- 1,006 Townships
- 737 Special Districts
- 291 School District

2012 Census of Governments (Preliminary Estimates)



Number of Local Governments

The Evolving Picture of
our Governments



Source: 1952, 1982, & 2012 Census of Governments (preliminary estimates)



Census Bureau's Statistics on Governments



Statistics on Governments

Frequency	Survey/Program	Data Available For:				Data Items Included	Sponsoring Agency
		US	State	County	Place		
Every 5 Years	Census of Governments	X	X	X	X	Number of Units, Employment, Finance, etc.	Census Bureau
	Government Units Survey	X				Functions performed, authorizing legislation, etc.	Census Bureau
Annual	Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll	X	X	X	X	Employment, wages, etc.	Census Bureau
	Annual Survey of State Government Finances	X	X			Revenue, expenditures, etc.	Census Bureau
	Annual Survey of School System Finances	X	X	X	X	Revenue, expenditures, etc.	Census Bureau/NCES
	Annual Survey of Public Pensions	X	X	X	X	Contributions, assets, etc.	Census Bureau
	Annual Survey of Local Government Finances	X	X	X	X	Revenue, expenditures, debt, assets	Census Bureau
	Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections	X	X			Tax revenue	Census Bureau
Quarterly	Quarterly Survey of Public Pensions	X				Contributions, assets, etc.	Census Bureau
	Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenues	X	X			Tax revenue	Census Bureau



Census of Governments

- First conducted in 1957
- Conducted every 5 years – ending 2 & 7
- Content:
 - Counts & structure of governments
 - Employment measures
 - Financial measures

Census vs. Annual Surveys

- For Public Employment & Government Finance programs:
 - No difference in data elements
 - No difference in content
 - Only difference between annual and Census of Government programs is number of units surveyed

Content

- Government Finances
 - Revenue by type
 - Expenditure by character object & function
 - Debt term
 - Cash and Securities by type of holding
 - Pensions

Fiscal Years

- Fiscal year patterns are by:
 - State
 - Type of government
- Calendar Year does not always equal fiscal year
- Fiscal years are identified by their end date

Fiscal Years

The number of local governments whose fiscal year ends in the month of....

- Jan 0.4%
- Feb 1.8%
- Mar 4.5%
- April 2.9%
- May 1.0%
- June 38.1%
- July 0.6%
- Aug 2.8%
- Sept 6.8%
- Oct 0.5%
- Nov 0.3%
- Dec 40.2%



Sources of Tax Revenue – Variety Among States

Percent Distribution of State Government Tax Revenue											
Fiscal Year 2012	Total %	Sales and Gross Receipts			License Taxes	Income Taxes			All Other Taxes		
		Sales Total	General Sales	Selective Sales	License Taxes Total	Income Taxes Total	Individual Income	Corporation Income	All Other Taxes Total	Property Taxes	Other Taxes
U.S. Average	100	47.2	30.5	16.6	6.8	40.5	35.3	5.3	5.5	1.6	3.9
Alaska	100	3.5	X	3.5	1.9	9.4	x	9.4	85.2	3.1	82.1
Delaware	100	14.6	X	14.6	36.6	46.8	39.0	7.8	1.9	X	1.9
Florida	100	82.6	58.8	23.8	6.7	6.1	x	6.1	4.6	>.01	4.6
Maryland	100	42.0	23.9	18.1	4.4	46.9	41.7	5.2	6.6	4.4	2.2
Virginia	100	32.3	19.2	13.0	4.3	61.0	56.3	4.6	2.5	0.2	2.3

Source: 2012 Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections



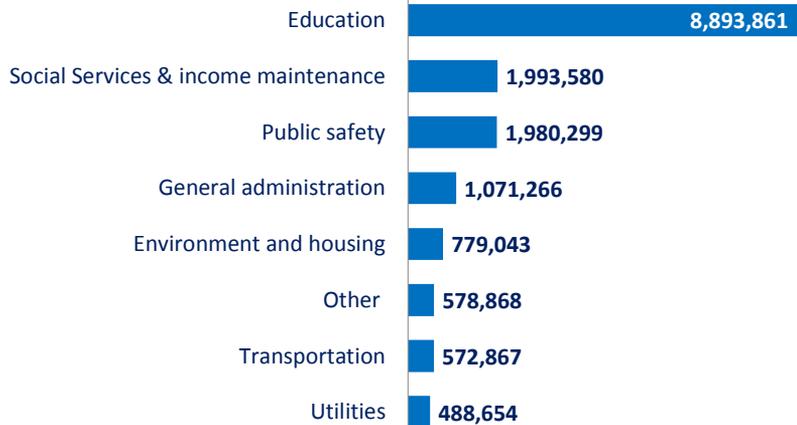
Content

- Government Employment
 - Full-time employees
 - Full-time gross payroll
 - Part-time employees
 - Part-time gross payroll
 - Computed FTE



State & Local Public Employment

Number of Employees by Government Function



SOURCE: 2011 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll



Response Rates

- 2007 Census of Governments response rates
 - Unit response
 - Employment Component = 88.5%
 - Finance Component = 81.2%
- 2012 Census of Governments response rates
 - Unit response
 - Government Units Survey = 75%
 - Employment Component = 76%
 - Local Finance = 32%



Reimbursable Programs

Frequency	Survey/Program	Data Available For:				Data Items Included	Sponsoring Agency
		US	State	County	Place		
Every 5 Years	Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities (Prison Census)	X	X			Staffing, facility size, capacity, programs offered, basic prisoner information	BJS (DOJ)
	Census of Jail Inmates	X	X	X	X	Staffing, facility size, capacity, programs offered, inmate characteristics	BJS (DOJ)
Biennial	Academic Libraries Survey	X	X			Expenditures, staffing, circulation, etc.	NCES (Dept. of Education)
	Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement	X	X			Demographic, offense, etc.	OJJDP (DOJ)
	Juvenile Residential Facility Survey	X	X			Facility characteristics	OJJDP (DOJ)
	Survey of Government Research and Development Expenditures	X	X			Type of R&D, funding, etc.	NSF
Annual	Annual Survey of Jails	X		X	X	Jails and inmates	BJS (DOJ)
	Criminal Justice Expenditure and Employment Survey	X				Finance and employment	BJS (DOJ)
	Annual Survey of School System Finances	X	X	X	X	Revenue, expenditures, etc.	Census Bureau/NCES
	Federal Audit Clearinghouse					Finance	OMB
	Medical Expenditure Panel Survey - Public	X	X	X	X	Health plans, premiums, benefits, and enrollment	AHRQ
	National Public Education Financial Survey	X	X			Revenue, expenditures	NCES (Dept. of Education)
	Common Core of Data - Non-fiscal	X	X			Directory, membership, teachers, staff, dropouts, graduates	NCES (Dept. of Education)
	Education Demographic and Geographic Estimates	X	X			Demographic and geographic support	NCES (Dept. of Education)
	Public Libraries Survey	X	X			Circulation, visits, staffing, etc.	IMLS
	Survey of Sexual Violence	X	X	X		Allegations, demographics	BJS (DOJ)
	National Prisoner Statistics 8	X	X			Characteristics of persons under sentence of death and of execution	BJS (DOJ)
	Teacher Compensation Survey*	X	X			Salaries, expenditures, degree earned, etc.	NCES (Dept. of Education)
	Biannual	National Prisoner Statistics 1B	X	X			Characteristics of population
School Attendance Boundary Survey		X	X			Geographic school boundaries	NCES (Dept. of Education)



Conclusion

- The Governments Division collects information on state and local governments including their characteristics, finances, employment, and pensions
- The Governments Division also collects information for other agencies on topics including on libraries, education, and criminal justice

QUESTIONS

Thank you!

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