

Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll Summary Report: 2020

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Released May 13, 2021

G20-ASPEP



STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

In March 2020, state and local governments employed 19.8 million people, an increase of 0.3 percent from the 2019 figure of 19.7 million. Nationally, local government workers comprised the majority of the state and local government workforce with 14.3 million employees (72.1 percent). In comparison, state governments employed 5.5 million workers (27.9 percent).

Of the total 19.8 million employed, 15.1 million were classified as full-time and 4.7 million as part-time. Full-time employment by state governments increased 0.8 percent to 3.9 million, while full-time employment by local governments increased 1.2 percent to 11.1 million. The number of part-time state government employees decreased 2.4 percent to 1.6 million, and part-time local government employees decreased 1.7 percent to 3.1 million.

State and Local Governments: Payroll

In March 2020, state and local governments paid their employees a total of \$89.3 billion, an increase of 3.6 percent from the 2019 figure of \$86.1 billion. Included in this total is a state government payroll of \$25.6 billion (up 3.6 percent) and a local government payroll of \$63.6 billion (up 3.6 percent).

Full-time state and local government payroll increased 3.7 percent to \$82.4 billion. Full-time payroll comprised 92.3 percent of the total state and local government payroll amount. Part-time employees received the remaining 7.7 percent for a total of \$6.9 billion. During the month of March 2020, full-time state employees were paid \$23.1 billion (up 3.6 percent), while their local counterparts earned \$59.3 billion (up 3.8 percent). Part-time state employees earned \$2.5 billion (up 3.7 percent). Local government part-time employees received \$4.4 billion (up 2.0 percent).

State and Local Governments: Functional Distribution

Education, hospitals, and police protection constitute the largest functional categories of state and local governments. In March 2020, 13.4 million people were employed on a full- or part-time basis in a capacity related to these functions. The remaining 6.4 million employees worked in other functional categories.

Education, the single largest functional category for state and local government (which includes elementary and secondary, higher, and other education),

employed 11.2 million people. Among those public education employees, 8.3 million worked at the local government level, primarily in elementary and secondary education. State governments employed another 2.9 million education employees, mostly in higher education.

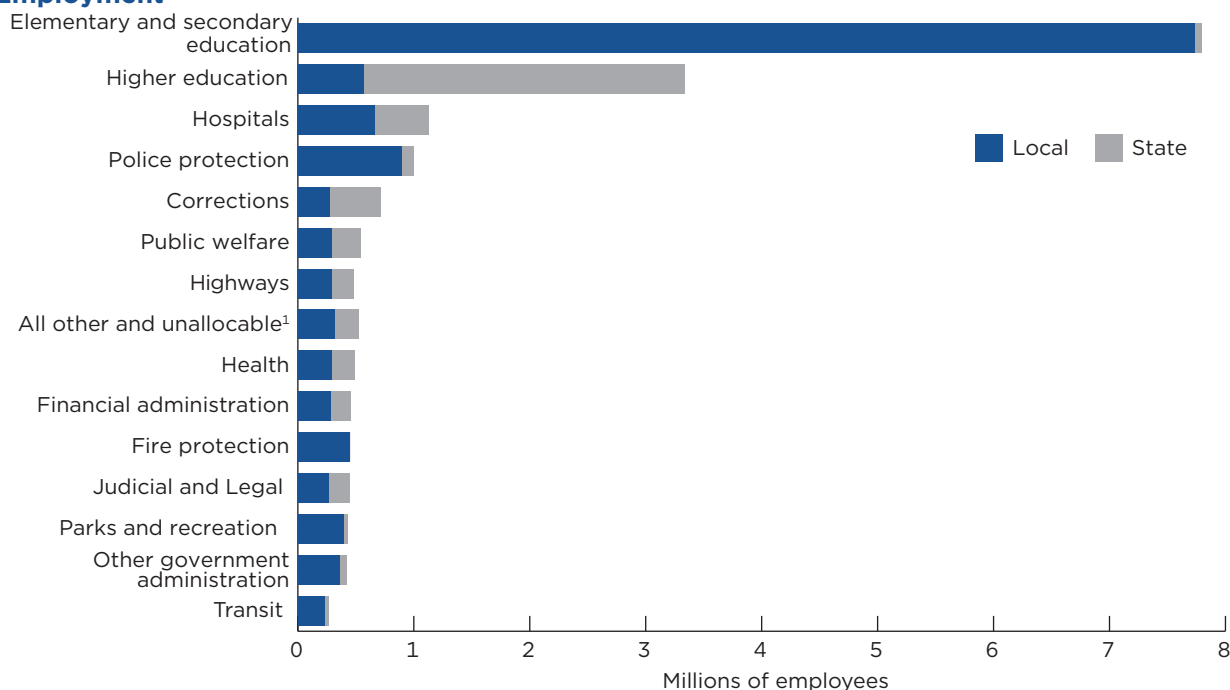
The next largest functional category, hospitals, employed 1.1 million state and local government employees. Of those employees, 0.7 million worked at the local government level, and 0.5 million worked at the state government level.

Police protection, which includes persons with power of arrest as well as other police support staff, accounted for 1.0 million workers for state and local governments. Local level governments employed 0.9 million of all police protection workers, and 0.1 million worked at the state government level.

For further information, please contact the Economy-Wide Statistics Division, U.S. Census Bureau at 1-800-642-4901 or by e-mail at ewd.employment.survey@census.gov.

Figure 1.

Top 15 Functions: Total Government Employment



¹ "All other and unallocable" is not a summation of the remaining functions shown separately in the source data, it refers only to employees not applicable to other employment functions.

Note: The survey data and technical documentation can be found at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/apes.html.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll.