

# Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll Summary Report: 2021

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## STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

In March 2021, state and local governments employed 18.8 million people, a decrease of 4.6 percent from the 2020 figure of 19.7 million. Nationally, local government workers comprised the majority of the state and local government workforce with 13.6 million employees (72.1 percent). In comparison, state governments employed 5.2 million workers (27.9 percent). Of the total 18.8 million employed, 14.9 million were classified as full-time and 4.0 million as part-time. Full-time employment by state governments decreased 1.6 percent to 3.9 million, while full-time employment by local governments decreased 1.2 percent to 11.0 million. The number of part-time state government employees decreased 11.6 percent to 1.4 million, with the largest decrease in higher education. Part-time local government employees decreased 17.3 percent to 2.6 million, with the largest decreases in elementary and secondary education, higher education, and parks and recreation.

### State and Local Governments: Payroll

In March 2021, state and local governments paid their employees a total of \$89.8 billion, an increase of 0.2 percent from the 2020 figure of \$89.6 billion. Included in this

total is a state government payroll of \$25.8 billion (no change from 2020) and a local government payroll of \$64.0 billion (up 0.4 percent).

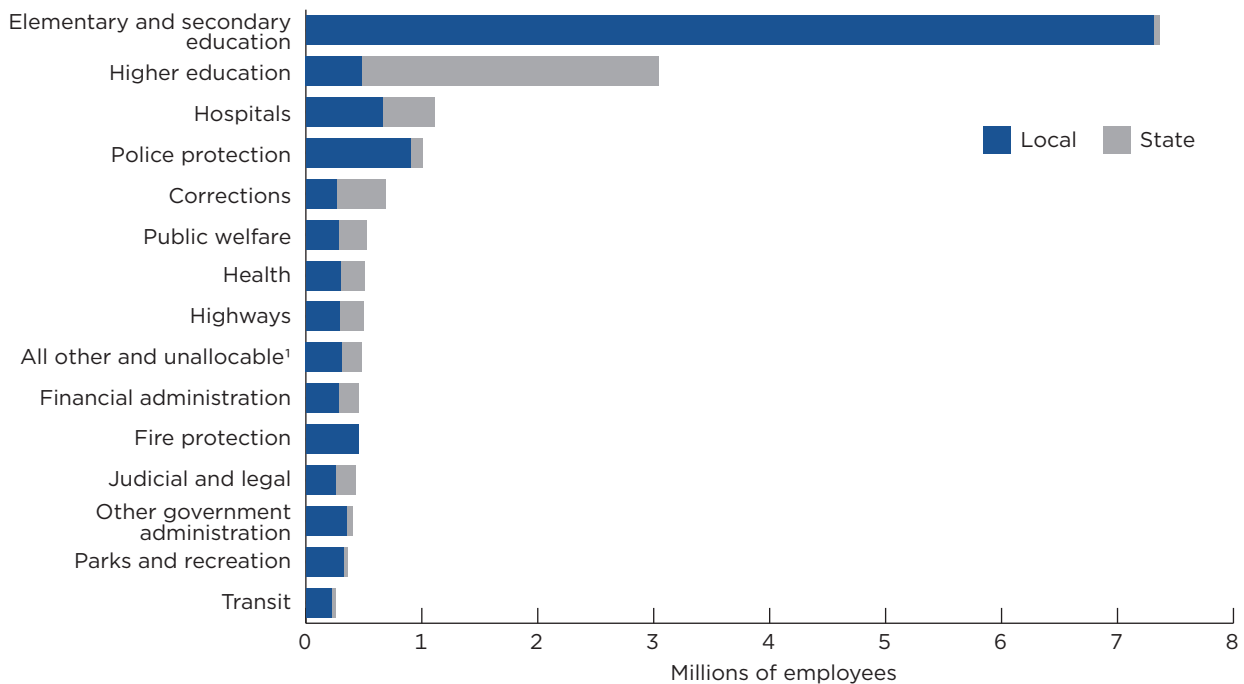
Full-time state and local government payroll increased 0.9 percent to \$83.4 billion. Full-time payroll comprised 92.9 percent of the total state and local government payroll amount. Part-time employees received the remaining 7.1 percent for a total of \$6.4 billion. During the month of March 2021, full-time state employees were paid \$23.3 billion (up 0.1 percent), while their local counterparts earned \$60.1 billion (up 1.2 percent). Part-time state employees earned \$2.5 billion (down 1.6 percent). Local government part-time employees received \$3.9 billion (down 10.6 percent).

### State and Local Governments: Functional Distribution

Education, hospitals, and police protection constitute the largest functional categories of state and local governments. In March 2021, 12.6 million people were employed on a full- or part-time basis in a capacity related to these functions. The remaining 6.2 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 10.5 million people. Among those public education employees, 7.8 million worked at the local government level, primarily in elementary and secondary education. State governments employed another 2.7 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 people 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, 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 State and Local Government Employment**



<sup>1</sup> "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](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/apes.html)>.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll.