

UNDERSTANDING FEDERAL STATISTICS

Statistics About Governments

March 8, 2011

Overview

- Introduction
- Organization of state and local governments
- Governments as economic entities
- Collection and production of data
 - State and local governments
 - Federal programs
- Other data collected on a reimbursable basis
- Website activities
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Main purposes of governments 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

What makes the Governments Division special?

- Governments Division provides timely, relevant, uniform, and accurate data on the characteristics and activities of federal, state, and local governments
- Data supply a unique profile of the public sector that helps us to understand federalism and its effects on how governments provide public services.

Core Programs

Frequency	Survey/Program	Data Available For:				Data Items Included
		US	State*	County*	Place	
Every 5 Years	Census of Governments	X	X	X	X	Number of Units, Employment, Finance
	Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll	X	X	X	X	Employment, wages, etc.
Annual	Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances	X	X		X	Revenue, expenditures, etc.
	Annual Survey of State Government Finances	X	X			Revenue, expenditures, etc.
	Consolidated Federal Funds Report	X	X	X		Federal expenditures, obligations, & contingent liabilities
	Federal Aid to States Report	X	X			Federal expenditures
	Public Elementary-Secondary Education Finance Survey	X	X	X	X	Revenue, expenditures, etc.
	State and Local Government Public-Employee Retirement System Survey	X	X	X	X	Contributions, assets, etc.
	State Government Tax Collections Survey	X	X			Tax revenue
Quarterly	Quarterly Public-Employee Retirement Systems Survey	X				Contributions, assets, etc.
	Quarterly Tax Survey	X	X			Tax revenue

Governments Data on the Census Bureau's Website

U.S. Census Bureau

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Federal, State, & Local Governments

You are here: [Census.gov](#) | [Business & Industry](#) | Federal, State, & Local Governments

Governments Main

Get Forms

Definitions

FAQs

Site Resources

- What's New
- Press Releases
- Build-a-Table
- Program Overview
- Census of Governments
- Modernization & Re-engineering
- Summary Reports

Reference Documents

- Government Finance & Employment Classification Manual
- Publications

Census of Governments

- 2007
- 2002
- 1997
- 1992

Respondent Tools

- Single Audit Submission
- Get Forms

Contact Information

Government Employment & Payroll

Statistics on the number of federal, state, and local government civilian employees and their gross payrolls by functional category. Data are available online from 1992 and on:

- Annual: [Government Employment & Payroll](#)
- Customize a data table with [Build-a-Table](#)

Government Finance Statistics

Financial activity of governments including revenues, expenditures, debt and assets. Data are available online from 1992 and on:

- Annual: [State Government Finances](#)
- Annual: [State & Local Government Finances](#)

Financial statistics of public school systems, including data on revenues, expenditures, debt, and assets. Data are available online from 1992 and on:

- Annual: [Public Elementary – Secondary Education Finances](#)

Financial statistics on state and local government employee retirement systems. Annual data are available online from 1993 and on. Quarterly data for the last five years are available online.

- Annual: [State & Local Government Employee Retirement Systems](#)
- Quarterly: [Finances of Selected Public Employee Retirement Systems](#)

Federal Spending

Federal spending on selected programs:

- Annual: [Consolidated Federal Funds Report \(CFFR\)](#)
- Quarterly: [Federal Assistance Award Data System \(FAADS\)](#)
- [Federal Audit Clearinghouse](#)

Tax Statistics

Annual survey of state government tax revenue and quarterly survey of tax revenue for state & local governments. Annual data are available online from 1992 and on. Quarterly data are available online from 1993 and on:

- Annual: [State Government Tax Collections](#)
- Quarterly: [State & Local Government Tax Revenue](#)

Lists & Structure of Governments

Information about state & local governments, including the number of governments in the U.S.

- [2007 edition](#) of Governments Integrated Directory
- [Descriptions by state](#) of how governments are organized [PDF, 2.94MB]

Special Topics

The Census Bureau also conducts surveys about special topics related to government activity for other federal agencies.

- [Criminal Justice Statistics](#)
- [Elementary – Secondary Education Statistics](#)
- [Library Statistics](#)

[PDF] or  denotes a file in Adobe's [Portable Document Format](#). To view the file, you will need the [Adobe® Acrobat® Reader](#)  available free from Adobe.

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau | Governments Division | (800) 242-2184 | [govs.cma.inquiry@census.gov](#) | Last Revised: May 26, 2010

Government Organization

- Why is understanding government structure important?
- What is included, and what isn't?
- How are basic services provided in each state, and sometimes each locality?
- Which comparisons are valid and which are not?

Defining a Government

3 criteria for defining a government:

- Existence as an organized entity – legal organization & corporate powers
- Governmental character – public officers & accountability
- Substantial autonomy
 - Fiscal independence
 - Administrative independence

Examples

Government

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

Non Government

- Homeowners' associations
- Most charter schools
- Tourism development authorities
- Pest control districts

Types of Governments

- Federal Government
- 50 State Governments
- 5 Local Governments
 - County
 - Municipalities
 - Towns/Townships
 - Special Purpose Districts
 - School Districts

Chicago and New York: Are They Comparable?

Chicago

- Cook County= 539 governments:
 - 1 County
 - 121 Cities
 - 29 Townships
 - 236 Special Districts
 - 152 School Districts

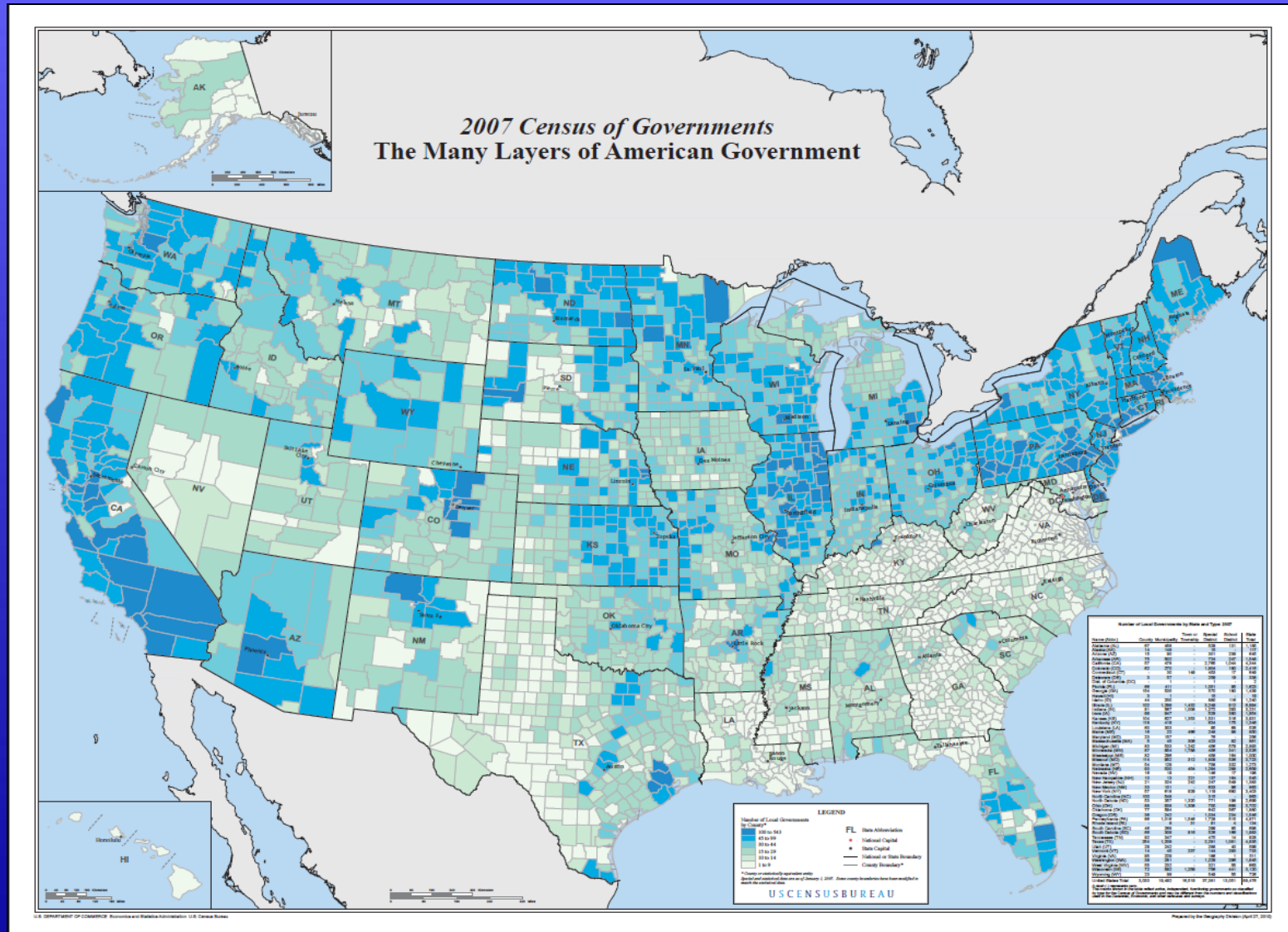
New York City

- New York City= 3 governments:
 - 0 Counties
 - 1 City
 - 0 Townships
 - 2 Special Districts
 - 0 School Districts
(dependent on city)

Diversity Across States

- There are about 90,000 local governments in the U.S. (2007 official count = 89,476)
- Illinois had the most governments (6,994) and Hawaii the fewest (19)
- Cook County, Illinois, had more governments than any other county (543)
- Texas led nation with 254 county governments, Connecticut and Rhode Island have none

Diversity Across States: Map



Government Structure

- Core government
 - Executive, legislative, and sometimes judicial
- Dependent agencies
- Jointly governed activities
- Note: Core government alone does not reflect all public-sector activity for a government! For example....

Example: New York City

- Over 40 dependent agencies in NYC, including:
 - City Ferries to Staten Island
 - Fashion Institute of Technology, Manhattan
 - New York City Off-Track Betting Corporation
 - Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority
 - United Nations Development District and Corporation

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Website Activity

- How many special districts are in the state of Washington?
- Hint: Lists and Structure of Governments
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/cog/GovOrgTab03ss.html>
 - 1,229 special districts

Change in Number of Governments by Type

	2007	1952
Total governments	89,527	116,805
U.S. Government	1	1
State government	1,000	1,000
Local government	87,526	114,804
General purpose	67,355	79,695
County	3,882	3,882
Municipal	19,492	16,807
Township	16,519	17,202
Special Purpose	50,432	79,695
School District	13,051	67,355
Special District	37,381	12,340

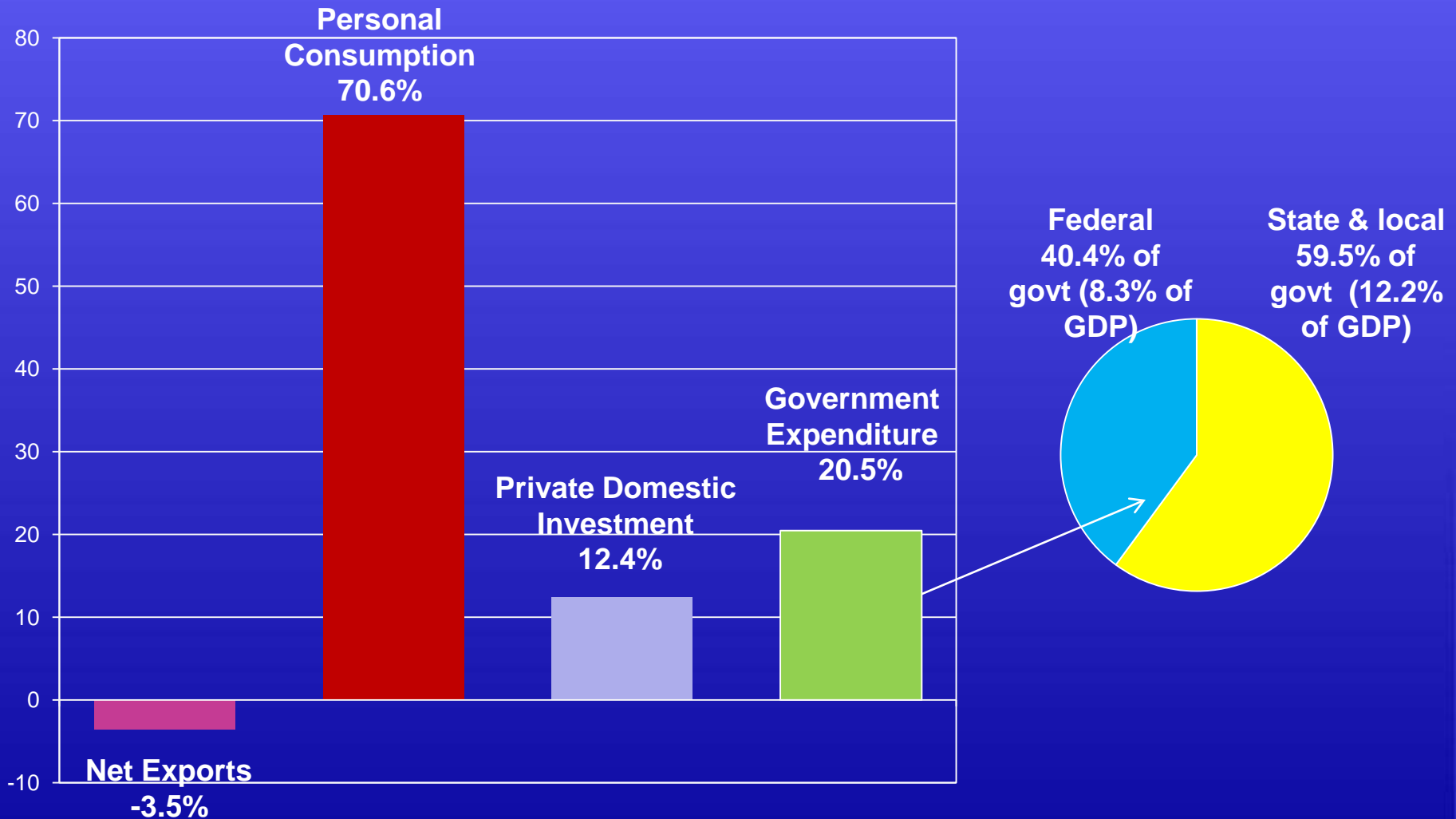
Available Information

- Data we collect
 - State and local information on finance, employment, retirement, and organization
 - Statistics on federal spending
- Data collected for other agencies on a reimbursable basis
 - Information on libraries, education, and criminal justice

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: Percent of Gross Domestic Product



Website Activity

- Which state received more revenue from their individual income tax in 2009: Ohio or Pennsylvania?
- Hint: State tax collections
- <http://www.census.gov/govs/statetax/>
 - Ohio: \$8,323,352
 - Pennsylvania: \$9,550,2380

State & Local Government Finance

- Main categories:
 - Revenues (by type)
 - Expenditures (by character and function)
 - Indebtedness (by term)
 - Cash and securities

Revenues of State Governments

- If government revenue were measured in the Fortune 500, 47 states would make the list (2009):
 - California and New York among the top twenty
 - South Dakota (state government with lowest revenue) would rank 792nd
- Large local governments (2008), including:
 - New York City
 - Washington, D.C.
- School districts (2008), including:
 - Chicago Public Schools
 - Los Angeles Unified School District

Sources of Tax Revenue – Variety Among States

Percent Distribution of State Government Tax Revenue

Fiscal Year 2009		Sales and Gross Receipts			License Taxes	Income Taxes			All Other Taxes		
			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	48	32	16	7	40	34	6	5	2	3
Alaska	100	5		5	3	13		13	80	2	77
North Carolina	100	41	24	17	7	51	47	4	1		1
Florida	100	84	60	24	6	6		6	4	>.01	4
California	100	36	29	7	8	53	44	9	2	2	>.03
Delaware	100	17		17	41	39	32	7	2		2

Source: 2009 Annual Survey of State
Government Tax Collections

Website Activity

- How much money did the federal government spend on the Postal Service in fiscal year 2009?
- Hint: CFFR
- <http://www.census.gov/prod/2010pubs/cffr-09.pdf>
- Figure 3
 - \$71.9 billion

3 Steps to Build-A-Table

The image displays three overlapping screenshots of the U.S. Census Bureau's "Build-a-Table" tool, illustrating the process of generating a table from census data.

Top Screenshot: Shows the main "Build-a-Table" interface. The user is currently selected: "All Local". The "Variables" section is empty, and the "Geography" dropdown is set to "Alabama". The "Government Function" section is also empty. A "Submit" button is visible at the bottom.

Middle Screenshot: Shows the "Output Table" section. The table is titled "All Local Employment and Payroll Data" and is for "March 2007". The table is organized by "Government Function" and "Full-Time Employees". The data is presented in a table with columns for "Full-Time Employees", "Full-Time Pay", "Part-Time Employees", "Part-Time Pay", "Total Employees", "Total Pay", and "Full-Time Equivalent".

Bottom Screenshot: Shows the "Output Table" section with the following data:

		March 2007						
	Government Function	Full-Time Employees	Full-Time Pay	Part-Time Employees	Part-Time Pay	Total Employees	Total Pay	Full-Time Equivalent
US Total	Police Protection Total	787,616	\$3,788,653,784	100,939	\$102,886,703	888,555	\$3,891,540,487	826,594
	Police Officers Only	610,361	\$3,137,843,652	37,085	\$44,644,379	647,446	\$3,182,488,031	624,873
	Firefighters Only	294,292	\$1,596,060,588	88,824	\$33,059,648	383,116	\$1,629,120,236	309,463
California	Police Protection Total	89,208	\$620,362,978	7,029	\$10,126,717	96,237	\$630,489,695	92,282
	Police Officers Only	62,212	\$482,313,498	1,333	\$2,134,368	63,545	\$484,447,866	62,670
	Firefighters Only	30,545	\$277,347,280	3,605	\$2,367,649	34,150	\$279,714,937	31,439

N/A: Data are not applicable

Source: U.S. Census Bureau | Government Employment and Payroll | govs.empayroll@census.gov | Last Revised: June 9, 2009

Website Activity

- Find the number of firefighters employed by California governments in 2007
- Hint: Government employment and payroll
- <http://www2.census.gov/govs/apes/07stlca.txt>
 - 30,545 full time
 - 3,605 part time

Reimbursable Programs

- Conduct surveys for other federal agencies
 - Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS)
 - National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
 - Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
 - Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS)
 - National Science Foundation (NSF)

Reimbursable Programs

Frequency	Survey/Program	Data Available For:				Data Items Included	Sponsoring Agency
		US	State *	County *	Place		
Biennial	Academic Libraries Survey	X	X			Expenditures, staffing, circulation, etc.	NCES - (Dept of Education)
	Juvenile Residential Facility Census	X	X			Facility characteristics	OJJDP - (DOJ)
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)
	Medical Expenditure Panel Survey Health Insurance Cost Study	X	X	X	X	Health plans, premiums, benefits, and enrollment	AHRQ
	National Public Education Financial Survey	X	X	X	X	Revenue, expenditures	NCES - (Dept of Education)
	Non-fiscal surveys of the Common Core of Data	X	X			Directory, membership, teachers, staff, dropouts, graduates	NCES - (Dept of Education)
	State Library Agencies Survey	X	X			Expenditures, staffing, governance, etc.	Institute of Museum and Library Services
Quarterly	Federal Assistance Award Data System	X	X	X	X	Federal expenditures or obligations.	OMB

Website Activity

- What percentages of their money did school districts receive from federal, state, and local sources in 2008?
- <http://www2.census.gov/govs/school/08f33pub.pdf>
- Figure 1a
 - Federal sources: 8.1%
 - State sources: 48.3%
 - Local sources: 43.7%

Source: Public Education Finances, 2007

Conclusion

- Government statistics are:
 - important
 - timely
 - significant
- These statistics are critical to understanding the fiscal welfare of state and local governments
- Government data is essential to assemble GDP and Federal Fund accounts

Questions?

Outreach and Education Branch

Governments Division

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