Utilizing the Census of Governments

Governments Division
Economic Programs Directorate
U.S. Census Bureau

Presented at
the Nebraska State Data Center
22nd Annual Summer Data Conference
August 16, 2011

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, 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 Programs

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

United States Census Bureau
Economic Statistics
Census of Governments Programs

Background

• Provide the Only Source for Comprehensive Uniform Statistics on the Economic Activity of State and Local Governments
• Tell the Story of the Fiscal Condition of State and Local Government
• Follow the Activity of Governments Over Time
• Scope of Programs Compliment Other Operations
• “Gold Standard” of Government Statistics Data
Aggregate and Local Statistics

• Governments Division Data Serve two Main Communities:
  – Users of Aggregate Estimates (Macro-Data)
  – Users of Individual State and Local Government Data (Micro-Data)
• Unique Compared to Most Census Bureau Programs
• Part of our History for the Last 109 Years
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Decennial Census Collected Some Data on the Number and Types of Schools and Pupils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>Information Collected in the Decennial Census Included tax Levies, Governmental Debt, and Wealth, and the Number and Types of Schools and Their Pupils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Inquiries Included the Number of Schools, Details About Cities Including Sewage and Drainage, Utilities, and Public Services and 105 Additional Questions That Assessed Governments’ Financial Conditions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>First Comprehensive Compilation of Governmental Data by the new “Census Office”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>Congress Enacted Legislation Which Provided That a “Census of Governments” be Taken Every 5 Years, for Years Ending in “2” and “7” (Title 13, Section 161, U.S. Code)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 1957 | First Census of Governments Focusing on Four Major Areas of Data Collection  
- Governmental Organization  
- Taxable Property Values  
- Employment  
- Finances |
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
Government Structure

State Government = Core Government + Dependent Agencies + Semi-Autonomous Authorities

Nebraska State Government
Core Government
• Attorney General
• Secretary of State
• Board of Education
Dependent Agencies
• Commission on Industrial Engineering
• Department of Motor Vehicles
• Department of Banking
Semi-Autonomous Authorities
• Nebraska Educational Finance Authority
• Nebraska State Airline Authority
• Small Business Development Authority

Note, Government examples are illustrative and not meant to be an exhaustive list of all governmental entities.
The Many Layers of American Government

Source: 2007 Census of Governments
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
Government Organization
2012 Census of Governments

Data Collection

- Reference Period: Status as of October 11, 2011
- Survey of Local Governments in the United States
- Legal Research

Content and Products

- Counts of Local Governments by State and by Type of Government – Released in August 2012
- Individual State Descriptions – Released in July 2013
Types of Governments

Measured and Defined

89,526 Government Organizations

89,476 Local Governments

50 State Governments

39,044 General Purpose Governments

19,492 Cities

16,519 Townships

50,432 Special Purpose Governments

37,381 Special Districts

13,051 Independent School Districts

3,033 Counties

Source: 2007 Census of Governments
Diversity of Governments

- Illinois had the Most Governments (6,994) and Hawaii the Fewest (19)
- Cook County, Illinois, had More Governments Than any Other County (539)
- Texas led the Nation with 254 County Governments, Connecticut and Rhode Island Have no County Governments

Source: 2007 Census of Governments
Government Finance

Data Collection

- Measures Revenues, Expenditures, Indebtedness, Cash and Security Holdings, Taxes, and Pensions
- Does not Measure Programs or Funds
- Compilation from Administrative Records
- Data for Nearly 15,000 School Districts from State Government Data Coordinators
- Direct Collection
- Joint Census Bureau-State Government Data Collection (Central Collection)
- Response Rates Vary by: Survey Component, Product, State, and Type of Government
Government Finance
Data Collection

Reference Period: Fiscal Years Ending Between July 1, and June 30

The Number of Governments Whose Fiscal Year Ends in the Month of:

- Jan ........ 351
- Feb ........ 1,662
- Mar ........ 4,072
- April ....... 2,595
- May ........ 938
- June ....... 33,809
- July ........ 547
- Aug ........ 2,410
- Sept ........ 6,267
- Oct .......... 418
- Nov .......... 304
- Dec .......... 36,153

Source: 2007 Census of Governments
## Annual Survey of Local Government Finances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Survey Year</th>
<th>Universe For Census/Sample</th>
<th>Total Unit Response Rate (%)</th>
<th>% Units Reported on Internet</th>
<th>% Units Received Through Central Collection</th>
<th>% Units Received Through Non-Central Collection</th>
<th>Total Response Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>73,971</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>41.8</td>
<td>13.6</td>
<td>40.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>6,129</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>30.2</td>
<td>10.5</td>
<td>47.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>11,306</td>
<td>78.8</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>32.4</td>
<td>13.7</td>
<td>41.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>11,293</td>
<td>79.7</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>41.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>11,296</td>
<td>79.7</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>32.9</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>76,913</td>
<td>78.7</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>11,481</td>
<td>86.5</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>29.3</td>
<td>13.3</td>
<td>35.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>10,809</td>
<td>86.1</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>30.1</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>35.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Numbers do not include independent schools (type 5) and local Jackets, only local governments with type 1, 2, 3, and 4. For Central Collection statistics, numbers are estimates.

Col. D: Percent of units submitted by respondents via web-based form; Col. E: Percent of units submitted by central collection states via electronic files; Col. F: Percent of units submitted by central collection states via mutually agreed paper forms; Col. G: Percent of units received via the “F” forms in the mail.

No statistics is available for those via telephone follow-ups or CAFRs. New Hampshire was counted as CC-electronic in earlier versions, but should have been CC-paper as it is now. Maryland began CC-electronic in 2005 and thereafter.

Created: 09-15-2009
Updated: 05-17-2011
Government Finance

Content and Products

- Census of Governments
- Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances
- State Government Tax Revenues – About 9 months Following Reference Period
- State Government Finances – About 18 Months Following Reference Period
- Public-Employee Retirement Systems
- Public Education Finances – About 23 Months Following Reference Period
- State and Local Finance – About 24 Month Following Reference Period
- Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenues – Within 90 Days of Reference Period
- Finances of Selected Public-Employee Retirement Systems – Within 90 Days of Reference Period
Governments as Producers
Percent of Gross Domestic Product

Components of Gross Domestic Product

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Consumption</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Domestic</td>
<td>12.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Exports</td>
<td>-3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Expenditure</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Federal 40.5% of govt (8.3% of GDP)
State & local 59.5% of govt (12.2% of GDP)
Measurement of Fiscal Condition

Individual Units

- Not Accounting Data
- Fiscal Statistics
- Provides Data Regardless of Fund or Program
- Sectoral Data Divide Activities of Governments into Four Areas
Measurement of Fiscal Condition Functionality

- No two Governments are Directly Comparable
- Cannot Compare Fund or Program
- Developed Classification Methodology to Recast Fund and Program into Activity-Based Statistics
- Limited Function for Revenues
- Great Detail on Intergovernmental Functional Expenditures
# Measurement of Fiscal Condition

## Intergovernmental Transactions

| Data on Intergovernmental Transactions | • National and State-Area Aggregates  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>• Individual Governments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Intergovernmental Revenues            | • Direct From Federal  
|                                       | • From State to Local  
|                                       | • From Local to Local and State |
| Intergovernmental Expenditures        | • To Federal (few)  
|                                       | • To State  
|                                       | • To Other Locals |
| Sectoring of Data                     | • Allows for Distinction Between Direct and Direct General  
|                                       | • Important for Understanding Intergovernmental Flows  
|                                       | • Separates IG for Utilities from General Government |
Intergovernmental Fiscal Flows
Federal, State, and Local

Source: 2007 Census of Governments
Intergovernmental Revenues & Expenditures
### Intergovernmental Fiscal Flows
**As a Percent of General Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>State</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Municipal</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Special District</th>
<th>Independent School District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Direct From Federal</strong></td>
<td>28.1</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>From State</strong></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>30.7</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>53.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>From Local</strong></td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>29.5</td>
<td>35.8</td>
<td>26.4</td>
<td>22.3</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>55.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2007 Census of Governments
Details may not add to totals due to rounding
# Annual Tax Statistics

## Variety Among States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year 2010</th>
<th>Sales and Gross Receipts</th>
<th>License Taxes</th>
<th>Income Taxes</th>
<th>All Other Taxes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sales Total</td>
<td>General Sales</td>
<td>Selective Sales</td>
<td>License Taxes Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Average</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>34.8</td>
<td>14.3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>15.6</td>
<td>10.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>56.9</td>
<td>25.3</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>33.6</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2010 Annual Survey of State Government Tax Collections

Abbreviations and Symbols: X - Not Applicable
**Annual Finance Statistics**

**Direct General Government Expenditures**

**United States**

- **Governmental Administration** $119.4 Billion (4%)
- **Transportation** $171 Billion (8%)
- **Environment and Housing** $179.2 Billion (8%)
- **Hospitals and Health** $193.1 Billion (9%)
- **Public Safety** $203.3 Billion (9%)
- **Public Welfare** $384.8 Billion (17%)
- **Education** $774.4 Billion (35%)

**Interest on General Debt** $93.6 Billion (4%)

**Nebraska**

- **Governmental Administration** $521 Million (4%)
- **Interest on General Debt** $275 Million (2%)
- **Education** $4.7 Billion (38%)
- **Transportation** $1.1 Billion (9%)
- **Hospitals and Health** $1.2 Billion (10%)
- **Public Welfare** $2.1 Billion (17%)
- **Public Safety** $203.3 Billion (9%)
- **Environment and Housing** $925 Million (7%)
- **Other** $729 Million (6%)

Source: 2007 Census of Governments – Finance Component
## Characteristics of State Public-Employee Retirement Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year 2009</th>
<th>Contributions (in Millions of Dollars)</th>
<th>Cash and Investment Holdings (in Millions of Dollars)</th>
<th>Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Employee</td>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>137.6</td>
<td>114.7</td>
<td>55.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>297.8</td>
<td>394.4</td>
<td>81.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Dakota</td>
<td>95.5</td>
<td>59.0</td>
<td>35.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>411.6</td>
<td>1,846.8</td>
<td>2,107.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2009 Annual Survey of Public-Employee Retirement Systems
Annual Education Finance Statistics
Percent Distribution of Total Public Elementary-Secondary School System Expenditure: 2009

Total U.S. Expenditure $604.9 Billion
- Instruction: 51%
- Support Services: 30%
- Capital Outlay: 11%
- Other: 8%

Total Nebraska Expenditure $68.0 Billion
- Instruction: 54%
- Support Services: 26%
- Capital Outlay: 14%
- Other: 6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 Annual Survey of Local Government Finances-School Systems
Government Employment

Data Collection
- Reference Period: Pay Period Including March 12
- Standard Weekly Hours Worked for Full-Time Employees
- Pay-Period Intervals for Full-Time and Part-Time
- Full-Time and Part-Time Employees and Payroll by Functional Activity
- State Governments – Central (Single Point) Collection
- Local Governments – Mail Canvass
- Response Rates:
  - 2007 – 88.5 Percent
  - 2008 – 90.1 Percent
  - 2009 – 88.5 Percent

Content and Products
- Census of Governments – Released in Fall 2013
- Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll – Preliminary Release in August
Annual Employment Statistics
Staffing and Expenditures

• 51.7 Percent of all Government Employees are Employed in Public Education Systems
  – 6,077,218 or 41.4 Percent are in K-12
  – 1,424,675 are in Higher Education

• Expenditures Include Both School System and State Expenditures Into Pension and Retirement Funds

Fiscal Year 2009

State Governments Expended $10.9 Billion on Behalf of Their Public School Systems

Majority of These Expenditure Payments Were Into School System Employee Retirement or Pension Funds

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 Annual Survey of Public Employment and Payroll
Nebraska Employment and Payroll
2007 Census of Governments

Nebraska Employment and Payroll Data
By State and By Government Function: March 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>March 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>139,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Total</td>
<td>77,448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary and Secondary Instructional Employees</td>
<td>40,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Higher Education</td>
<td>15,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Elementary and Secondary Education</td>
<td>14,818</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitals</td>
<td>9,562</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric Power</td>
<td>6,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education Instructional Employees</td>
<td>5,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highways</td>
<td>5,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Protection Total</td>
<td>5,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Government Administration</td>
<td>4,446</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections</td>
<td>4,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police Officers Only</td>
<td>3,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Welfare</td>
<td>3,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other and Unallocable</td>
<td>3,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td>3,060</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State and All Local

Source: 2007 Census of Governments
Quarterly Public Pensions Statistics
100 Largest Public Retirement Systems

First Quarter 2011:

• Total Cash and Security Increased 253.5 Millions (10.2 percent) (from First Quarter 2010 to the First Quarter 2011)

• Government Contributions Decreased 1.3 Million (-5.7 Percent) and Total Payments Increased 2.6 Million (5.5 Percent) (for the 12 Month Period Ending March 31, 2011)

• Corporate Stocks Comprised 32.8 Percent of Cash and Security Holdings Down From 34.0 Percent in the Same Quarter 2010

Source: Finances of Selected State and Local Government Employee Retirement Systems
Quarterly Tax Statistics

First Quarter 2011:

- **Total State and Local Property Taxes**
  - Decreased 63.7 Million (36.0 Percent) from Fourth Quarter 2010 to First Quarter 2011
  - Decreased 2.0 Million (1.7 Percent) for the 12 Month Period Ending March 31, 2011

- **Nebraska’s State Government Tax Collections**
  - Totaled 905.5 Million
  - Increase of 900 Thousand From Fourth Quarter 2011
  - A 78.4 Million Increased (9.5 Percent) for the 12 Month Period Ending March 31, 2011

Source: Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue
Government Statistics at Work

Case Studies

Government Accountability Office Report

- Analyzed how State and Local Government Budgets are Affected During National Recessions
- Identified Strategies to Provide Fiscal Assistance to State and Local Governments
- Identified Indicators Policymakers Could use to Time and Target Assistance
- Using State and Local Government Finance Data, Described Trends in Revenues and Expenditures
An Overview and Analysis of State Intergovernmental Aid Programs
Analyzed 2007 Census of Governments Data
Focused on State Intergovernmental Payments to Counties and Municipalities
State Revenue Sharing Provides at Least 10 Percent of Local Revenue in Only Ten States
Government Statistics at Work
Case Studies

Dr. Leah Brooks, University of Toronto

• “Using Census of Governments Data to Study Municipal Political Economy”
• Various Research Conducted Using Census of Governments Data
• Local Government Finance Data Used to Determine the Extent to Which Business Improvement Districts Impact a City’s Fiscal Position
• Also Used Data to Show that State-Imposed Tax and Expenditure Limits can Explain why Cities Don’t Return Grant Funds to Voters
Accessing the Data
Data Access and Usability

Census Bureau has Been Increasing Use of Data Access and Visualization Tools

- Build-A-Table
- American FactFinder (AFF)
- DataFerret
- Central Indicator Data Repository (CIDR)

Google Effort to Take Public Data and Make it Accessible

- Piloted State Finance
Working with the Data
Data Access and Usability

[Graph showing expenditure vs. insurance trust expenditure for states like California, New York, Illinois, and Florida in 2009]
Accessing the Data

Build-A-Table

Select category

Select variables

Retrieve data
Accessing the Data

Data Products

Exploring the Intricate Layers of State and Local Governments: United States

The Government Division of the U.S. Census Bureau

State Government Finances Summary: 2009

Government Division Briefs

Introduction

This report is part of a continuing series designed to provide information on the size, operating costs, employment, and financial health of state and local governments. The report is based on data gratefully provided by the Census Bureau. This year’s report includes data from the 2000 and 2001 government finance surveys. The data are presented in a format that is easy to use and understand.

Did You Know?

State government general revenue was composed of 44 percent from local sources, 30 percent from federal grants, 15 percent from state/local sources, and 10 percent from other revenue.

Quarterly Summary of the Finances of Selected State and Local Governments: Major Public-Employee Retirement Systems

Total Contributions and Investments of Major Public-Employee Retirement Systems

Total Contributions and Investments of Major Public-Employee Retirement Systems

In 2010, the 100 largest public employee retirement systems spent a total of $14 billion on government services and $30 billion on investments. This is a significant increase from 2009, when the same systems spent $12 billion on government services and $25 billion on investments. The main drivers of this increase were higher contributions from state and local governments, which rose from $10 billion in 2009 to $12 billion in 2010.

More detailed information on the finances of major public employee retirement systems is available in the quarterly summary of the finances of selected state and local governments. This report also includes a summary of the state and local government finances of all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Visit us at www.census.gov/govs

U.S. Census Bureau

The Official Federal Source for Government Statistics
Accessing the Data

www.census.gov/govs
## Data Releases Over the Next 12 Months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census of Governments Component</th>
<th>Tentative Release Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 Education Finance</td>
<td>May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Quarter 2011 – Taxes and Retirement</td>
<td>June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Public Employment and Payroll</td>
<td>August 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 State and Local Government Finance</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; Quarter 2011 – Taxes and Retirement</td>
<td>September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 State Government Finance</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3&lt;sup&gt;rd&lt;/sup&gt; Quarter 2011 – Taxes and Retirement</td>
<td>December 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 State Government Retirement Systems</td>
<td>January 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 State Government Tax Collections</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Quarter 2011 – Taxes and Retirement</td>
<td>March 2012</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Government Statistics in the News**

**The New York Times**

**U.S.**

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**The Wall Street Journal**

**U.S. News** | December 30, 2010

Local Revenues Climb as Economy Recovers

By Conor Dougherty

State and local tax revenues continue to recover as the economy improves, but remain below pre-recession peaks and are likely to face continued pressure in 2011.

Combined state and local tax revenues rose 3.6% to $1.53 trillion in the third quarter of 2010, according to the Census Bureau, which tracks monthly revenue collected by governments. The bureau said the growth reflected an improvement in sales taxes and property taxes, which made up 64% of all taxes collected.

"There was a lot of room for improvement," said William Fox, an economist at the University of Tennessee who specializes in state and local taxes. "But, he said, "local stress is likely to continue in many states because spending is still off line with lower revenues."

This gain in third-quarter revenue was driven in part by increases in income- and sales-tax receipts, which have rebounded along with Americans’ salaries and spending. Many states and cities have also pared income- and sales-tax increases to battle falling receipts during the recession. Personal income tax receipts rose 4.8% in the third quarter while sales tax rose 4.8%, according to the Census. Corporate income-tax collections, which

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**Pension Fund Losses Hit States Hard, Data Show**

By Michael Cooper

When total state and local government revenues across the nation plummeted by a record of $129 billion in the third quarter, the impact on state pension systems was felt across the nation. The losses are a result of lower returns on investments and rising costs for pensions.

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**Recession-bruised states’ revenue sank 30 percent in 2009, Census Bureau reports**

By Michael A. Federman

Washington Post

Wednesday, January 5, 2011, 11:59 PM

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**Pensions & Investments**

**Top 100 public funds up 6.2% in Q3**

By Doug Halverson

Source: Pensions & 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 $973.3 billion for the quarter ended Sept. 30, up 9.8%, while corporate bond investments were $427.3 billion, a 3.2% gain, the report said.
Thank You

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