

Response Rates for the 2013 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

The preliminary estimates for the Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll were released on December 19, 2014. All unit response rates were above the U.S. Census Bureau's standards threshold of 60 percent. The Census Bureau also has a standard on the Total Quantity response, which is a measure of the portion of the estimate of interest that is accounted for by responses. The rate must be above 70 percent. For example, the Total Quantity Response Rate (TQRR) for the number of total employees in a state must be above 70 percent, or at least 70 percent of the estimated total number of the total employees must come from responses. Because the data for 2013 come from a sample of governments, the numerator and denominator of the TQRR must be weighted.

The TQRRs for 2013 were usually above the 70 percent standard with some notable exceptions. There are fourteen states (Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, and Washington) that are noncompliant for at least one local government TQRR. See the accompanying Table A.

There are ten states (Alaska, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, and Virginia) that have state government TQRRs that do not meet Census Bureau TQRR standards. In all states, the state government TQRRs were affected by poor response from one or two large state colleges/universities. Consequently, the data user should beware of education data from these states.

For the 2013 Survey, more extensive non-response follow-up efforts will be taken to try to obtain data from the nonrespondents identified as critical prior to release of the survey's final estimates in November 2015. Further research will be conducted on local governments to identify governmental units contributing to the low TQRRs in those noncompliant states.

Table A: Noncompliant Total Quantity Response Rates for the 2013 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Annual Survey of Public Employment & Payroll

State	Total Employment Quantity Response Rate	Total Payroll Quantity Response Rate
State and Local Government TQRs (in percent)		
Connecticut	69.8%	70.2%
Louisiana	60.3%	61.5%
Maine	69.4%	76.1%
Massachusetts	66.8%	69.0%
Nebraska	66.3%	67.3%
New Jersey	66.9%	68.6%
New Mexico	70.2%	64.9%
Washington	58.3%	62.7%
Local Government TQRs (in percent)		
Colorado	65.8%	69.6%
Connecticut	62.5%	62.4%
Louisiana	51.3%	50.7%
Maine	66.8%	76.2%
Massachusetts	57.3%	60.1%
Michigan	69.8%	70.2%
Montana	64.2%	63.5%
New Hampshire	67.2%	68.2%
New Jersey	63.5%	65.3%
Pennsylvania	68.6%	68.6%
South Dakota	60.9%	63.2%
Tennessee	67.9%	70.5%
Vermont	68.1%	68.1%
Washington	43.0%	47.6%
State Government TQRs (in percent)		
Alaska	63.9%	72.0%
Maryland	69.0%	66.4%
Minnesota	54.3%	57.7%
Missouri	63.8%	59.5%
Nebraska	38.9%	39.3%
New Mexico	61.6%	54.6%
North Carolina	68.3%	68.9%
North Dakota	62.8%	68.2%
Oregon	62.5%	73.9%
Virginia	63.1%	61.7%