

## **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. Revisions to the data were released on April 26, 2016. 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 twelve states (Colorado, Connecticut, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, and Washington) that are noncompliant for at least one local government TQRR. See the accompanying Table A.

There are eight states (Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, 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 2014 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. 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 TQRRs (in percent)		
Louisiana	59.2%	60.3%
Massachusetts	68.5%	68.8%
Nebraska	67.4%	68.1%
New Jersey	67.4%	68.1%
New Mexico	70.9%	64.9%
Washington	69.2%	70.0%
Local Government TQRRs (in percent)		
Colorado	69.7%	71.0%
Connecticut	63.5%	63.5%
Louisiana	50.1%	48.8%
Massachusetts	60.9%	60.9%
Michigan	69.7%	67.4%
Montana	64.1%	63.0%
New Hampshire	68.8%	69.5%
New Jersey	63.1%	64.4%
South Dakota	61.4%	62.1%
Tennessee	68.4%	71.1%
Vermont	68.3%	68.0%
Washington	53.9%	57.2%
State Government TQRRs (in percent)		
Maryland	72.6%	69.2%
Minnesota	64.1%	59.3%
Missouri	67.9%	58.4%
Nebraska	47.6%	42.3%
New Mexico	64.1%	54.9%
North Carolina	59.4%	66.3%
North Dakota	67.2%	69.6%
Virginia	69.5%	64.3%