Have State and Local Governments Recovered from the Great Recession?

Governments Division
U.S. Census Bureau

Webinar Presented to
The Association of Public Data Users

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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

• **Overview of State and Local Government Data**
• **Comparative data analysis 2007-2011**
• **Update on 2012 Census of Governments**
Government Statistics Data

Provide information on the structure, function, finances, taxation, employment, and public employee retirement systems within our Nation's over 89,000 state and local governments.

Provide data on revenue by source, expenditure by character and function, indebtedness by term, cash and investments, employment, public employee pensions.

Data are publicly available and used by other Federal agencies, state and local legislators, researchers, businesses, and individuals.
Government Statistics Data Products

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
- Individual Products on Taxes, Public Pensions, and School Finances

Quarterly

- State and Local Government Tax Revenues
- Revenues, Benefits, and Financial Holdings of Public-Employee Retirement Systems
Latest Annual Data (2011)

Released July 2013

• Comprised of Annual Surveys of State and Local Governments
  – Annual Survey of Local Government Finances
  – Annual Survey of State Government Finances
  – Annual Survey of Public Pensions
  – Annual Survey of School System Finances
Measurement of Fiscal Condition

- Not Accounting Data
- Fiscal Statistics
- Provides Data Regardless of Fund or Program
- Sectoral Data Divide Activities of Governments into Four Areas
State & Local Government Revenue

Total Revenue

General Revenue

Amounts in Trillion Dollars

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Census of Governments: Finance and 2008 - 2011 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances
State & Local Government Total Revenue

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances
Insurance trust revenue drives the huge changes in total revenue from 2007 to 2011.

Employee retirement trust revenue is closely tied to financial market fluctuations.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Census of Governments: Finance and 2008 - 2011 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances
Components of State Government General Revenue

Local Government Revenue Percent Change

Components of Local Government General Revenue

State & Local Government Expenditures

Components of State & Local Government Total Expenditure

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Census of Governments: Finance and 2008 - 2011 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances
State & Local Government Selected Expenditures

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Census of Governments: Finance and 2008 - 2011 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances
State & Local Government Total Debt Outstanding

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Census of Governments: Finance and 2008 - 2011 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances
State & Local Government Cash and Security Holdings

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Census of Governments: Finance and 2008 - 2011 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances
State & Local Government Cash and Security Holdings Components

Selected Insurance Trust Funds

- Workers' Compensation
- Unemployment Compensation
- Miscellaneous

Non-Insurance Trust Funds

- Other
- Offsets to Debt
- Bond Funds

Amounts in Billion Dollars

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 Census of Governments: Finance and 2008 - 2011 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances
Summary - The Impact of the Great Recession on State and Local Governments

- **Revenues (including tax revenue) were flat or declined**
- **Federal support increased**
- **Overall spending restrained**
- **Spending on public assistance and unemployment compensation increased**
- **Public employee pension assets followed trend of market fluctuations**
Milestones: 2012 Census of Governments

**Organization**
- Initial Mail: October 2011 → Final Counts: September 2013

**Employment**
- Initial Mail: March 2012 → Publication: March 2014

**Finance**
- State Finances → Publication: December 2013
- State and Local Finances
  - Initial Mail: September 2012 → Publication: April 2015
- Pensions
  - Initial Mail: December 2012 → Publication: April 2014
- Education Finances
  - Initial Mail: January 2013 → Publication: June 2014
Thank You

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