

**PRESS RELEASE****Media Contact:**

Joseph Stefko, Director of Public Finance, 585.327.7075; [jstefko@cgr.org](mailto:jstefko@cgr.org)

**Highest Paid State Workers in New Jersey & New York in 2010; Lowest Paid in Dakotas and West Virginia**

*Of top paying states, biggest increase in NY*

Rochester, NY – November 30, 2011 – New Jersey and New York topped the list of states with the highest average gross pay for state employees last year, according to an analysis of recently released U.S. Census of Governments data by [Govistics](#), a project of the [Center for Governmental Research](#).

State workers in California, Alaska, Maryland, and Connecticut complete the list of states with average earnings over \$50,000 (*see Table A below*). Of the six top-paying states, New York's state workers saw their paychecks rise the most, up 3.4% from 2009. Only one – Connecticut – saw a reduction in average gross pay from the previous year (-5%). Changes for every state between 2009 and 2010 are shown in *Table B* below.

North Dakota posted the lowest average pay for state workers, followed by West Virginia, South Dakota, Missouri and Indiana. One of the bottom five – Indiana – also experienced a year-over-year reduction (-4.3%).

“Everyone seems to want cheaper government—but as the cost of government is mostly in salaries, cheaper government only comes from cutting the number of public workers or trimming average pay,” said Joseph Stefko, Ph.D., CGR's Director of Public Finance. “This new data release opens a window into comparative state-level cost per public employee.”

Stefko notes the nationwide focus on public employee costs. “While combative governors put Wisconsin, Ohio and New Jersey into the national spotlight, many states face critical budgetary decisions in the coming year—New York, California, Rhode Island, Illinois and others. Budgets are just arithmetic—deficits can only be resolved by adding revenue or cutting cost. And cost cutting can't ignore state worker payrolls.”

Govistics also looked at state payroll cost on a per capita basis. Alaska, Hawaii and Delaware—states with smaller populations—topped that list. Florida, Arizona and Georgia had the lowest per capita costs (*see Table C below*). Between 2009 and 2010, four states—Pennsylvania, Texas, Wyoming and South Dakota—increased per capita state payrolls by more than 6% while 24 states actually cut per capita gross state payrolls. Four—Hawaii, Connecticut, Delaware and Indiana—cut by more than 5% (*see Table D below*).

Govistics (<http://www.govistics.com/>) is a searchable online database allowing users to view, track, compare and download U.S. Census of Governments data showing revenue, spending,

employment and payroll information for 39,000 state and local governments and spending and revenue for 15,000 school districts nationwide. State- and county-level data are free, and a subscription for as little as 99 cents unlocks access to the full spectrum of information in Govistics.



**Table A – Per Worker Gross Payroll, 2010**

State Name	Per Worker Gross Payroll, 2010	Rank
New Jersey	\$56,179	1
New York	\$55,662	2
California	\$53,926	3
Alaska	\$52,772	4
Maryland	\$51,514	5
Connecticut	\$51,186	6
Minnesota	\$48,342	7
Rhode Island	\$48,239	8
Illinois	\$48,016	9
Massachusetts	\$47,199	10
Vermont	\$46,863	11
Nevada	\$45,539	12
Iowa	\$45,092	13
Michigan	\$44,400	14
Washington	\$43,857	15
Texas	\$42,889	16
Pennsylvania	\$42,822	17
Colorado	\$42,254	18
Wyoming	\$41,598	19
Louisiana	\$41,542	20
Oregon	\$41,060	21
Ohio	\$40,898	22
Delaware	\$39,725	23
Virginia	\$39,584	24
Arizona	\$39,423	25
Alabama	\$39,054	26
Florida	\$38,852	27
Utah	\$38,844	28
New Mexico	\$38,354	29
Kansas	\$38,250	30
New Hampshire	\$37,980	31
Arkansas	\$37,846	32
North Carolina	\$37,845	33
Nebraska	\$37,641	34

State Name	Per Worker Gross Payroll, 2010	Rank
South Carolina	\$37,563	35
Kentucky	\$37,158	36
Idaho	\$36,692	37
Hawaii	\$36,651	38
Wisconsin	\$36,413	39
Tennessee	\$36,216	40
Mississippi	\$35,923	41
Maine	\$35,512	42
Oklahoma	\$35,220	43
Georgia	\$35,188	44
Montana	\$35,016	45
Indiana	\$34,254	46
Missouri	\$34,156	47
South Dakota	\$34,110	48
West Virginia	\$34,063	49
North Dakota	\$33,895	50

**Source:** Govistics based on U.S. Census of Governments data

**Note:** per worker averages were computed based on the sum total of workers (full-time + part-time).

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**Table B – Change in Per Worker Payroll, 2009-2010**

State Name	Change in Per Worker Payroll, 2009-2010	Rank
Wyoming	8.4%	1
South Carolina	6.1%	2
Vermont	5.7%	3
Arkansas	5.3%	4
South Dakota	5.2%	5
Nebraska	4.3%	6
Illinois	4.2%	7
Missouri	4.0%	8
Virginia	3.7%	9
Michigan	3.5%	10
New York	3.4%	11
Texas	3.3%	12
Mississippi	3.0%	13
Washington	2.5%	14
Louisiana	2.4%	15
California	2.0%	16
Rhode Island	2.0%	17
Oklahoma	2.0%	18
Alaska	1.7%	19
Montana	1.7%	20
Ohio	1.6%	21
Utah	1.5%	22
Kansas	1.2%	23
New Jersey	1.0%	24
West Virginia	0.9%	25
New Mexico	0.9%	26
Pennsylvania	0.8%	27
Maryland	0.8%	28
Alabama	0.8%	29
North Dakota	0.7%	30
Arizona	0.5%	31
Florida	0.5%	32
Massachusetts	0.2%	33

State Name	Change in Per Worker Payroll, 2009-2010	Rank
Oregon	-0.2%	34
Nevada	-0.3%	35
New Hampshire	-0.3%	36
Colorado	-0.4%	37
Iowa	-0.5%	38
Kentucky	-0.8%	39
Tennessee	-0.8%	40
Minnesota	-0.9%	41
Maine	-1.2%	42
Idaho	-2.3%	43
Delaware	-2.9%	44
Wisconsin	-3.0%	45
North Carolina	-3.3%	46
Georgia	-3.7%	47
Indiana	-4.3%	48
Connecticut	-5.0%	49
Hawaii	-7.3%	50

**Source:** Govistics based on U.S. Census of Governments data

**Note:** per worker averages were computed based on the sum total of workers (full-time + part-time).

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**Table C – Per Capita Gross Payroll, 2010**

State Name	Per Capita Gross Payroll, 2010	Rank
Alaska	\$2,225	1
Hawaii	\$1,984	2
Delaware	\$1,380	3
Vermont	\$1,247	4
North Dakota	\$1,243	5
Wyoming	\$1,160	6
New Jersey	\$1,131	7
Connecticut	\$1,125	8
Rhode Island	\$1,073	9
New Mexico	\$1,053	10
Washington	\$1,012	11
Iowa	\$986	12
Louisiana	\$956	13
Arkansas	\$940	14
Montana	\$928	15
Utah	\$918	16
Minnesota	\$897	17
Oregon	\$890	18
Alabama	\$880	19
West Virginia	\$875	20
Kentucky	\$840	21
Michigan	\$840	22
Massachusetts	\$839	23
Maryland	\$838	24
Oklahoma	\$833	25
New York	\$826	26
Colorado	\$814	27
South Dakota	\$786	28
Virginia	\$781	29
Mississippi	\$778	30
Nebraska	\$777	31
New Hampshire	\$753	32
Maine	\$751	33
Kansas	\$734	34

State Name	Per Capita Gross Payroll, 2010	Rank
South Carolina	\$729	35
North Carolina	\$714	36
California	\$710	37
Pennsylvania	\$704	38
Wisconsin	\$676	39
Idaho	\$668	40
Ohio	\$665	41
Texas	\$622	42
Indiana	\$616	43
Missouri	\$595	44
Illinois	\$593	45
Nevada	\$592	46
Tennessee	\$571	47
Georgia	\$560	48
Arizona	\$511	49
Florida	\$442	50

**Source:** Govistics based on U.S. Census of Governments data

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**Table D – Change in Per Capita Payroll, 2009-2010**

State Name	Change in Per Capita Payroll, 2009-2010	Rank
Pennsylvania	7.6%	1
Texas	6.9%	2
Wyoming	6.4%	3
South Dakota	6.3%	4
Michigan	5.9%	5
Arkansas	5.4%	6
South Carolina	5.2%	7
Nebraska	3.6%	8
North Dakota	3.6%	9
Vermont	3.1%	10
West Virginia	2.7%	11
Oregon	2.0%	12
Alaska	2.0%	13
New Hampshire	1.7%	14
Missouri	1.7%	15
Illinois	1.6%	16
Mississippi	1.3%	17
Wisconsin	1.0%	18
Ohio	1.0%	19
New York	1.0%	20
Minnesota	0.9%	21
Alabama	0.6%	22
Montana	0.6%	23
Virginia	0.4%	24
Washington	0.1%	25
Utah	0.0%	26
Colorado	-0.3%	27
New Mexico	-0.6%	28
Oklahoma	-0.6%	29
Kentucky	-0.7%	30
Maryland	-0.8%	31
California	-0.9%	32
Massachusetts	-0.9%	33

State Name	Change in Per Capita Payroll, 2009-2010	Rank
New Jersey	-1.1%	34
Arizona	-1.3%	35
North Carolina	-1.3%	36
Kansas	-1.4%	37
Louisiana	-1.6%	38
Florida	-1.7%	39
Tennessee	-1.8%	40
Georgia	-1.9%	41
Rhode Island	-2.3%	42
Maine	-2.9%	43
Nevada	-3.2%	44
Iowa	-4.1%	45
Idaho	-4.4%	46
Indiana	-5.4%	47
Delaware	-5.5%	48
Connecticut	-8.4%	49
Hawaii	-10.5%	50

Source: Govistics based on U.S. Census of Governments data

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