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May 6, 2010

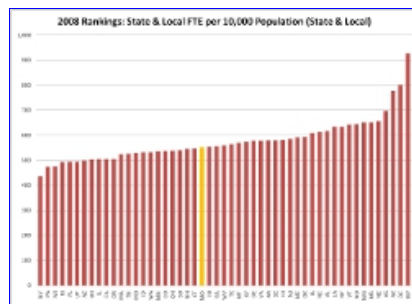
State and Local Government Employment and Payroll Data in Missouri Follows National Trend

This month, the Cato Institute published a bulletin titled [“Employee Compensation in State and Local Governments.”](#) in which the author examines state and local compensation costs:

State and local governments face large budget deficits as revenues have stagnated and spending has remained at high levels.

I used the Show-Me Institute’s newest web tool, [Interactive Database for Economic Analysis by State](#), to isolate [state and local government employment and payroll data](#) from U.S. Census. Next, I used [this inflation calculator](#) from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to adjust the data to 2008 dollars.

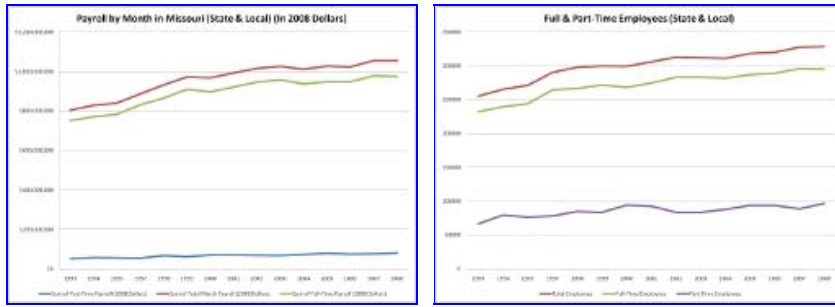
The following graph shows this information for all states for 2008. Wyoming has the highest number of public employees per capita, at 927, and Nevada had the lowest, at 437. Missouri was in the middle — it was ranked the 29th highest (alternatively, the 23rd lowest) in this category:



Click to enlarge.

The data for Missouri reflect the general growth in the size of government described in the Cato bulletin. From 1993 to 2008, the number of total employees grew by 29 percent, the number of full-time employees grew by 27 percent, and the number of part-time employees grew by 44 percent.

The data also show that payroll is growing at a faster rate than the number of employees. From 1993 to 2008, after adjusting for inflation, total monthly payroll grew by 31 percent, full-time payroll grew by 30 percent, and part-time payroll grew by 55 percent:



Click to enlarge.

Given this rate of growth in monthly payroll and number of employees, Missouri's present budgetary problems are no surprise to me.

Posted by Christine Harbin at 9:04 a.m. in [Budget](#), [Government Spending](#), [Government Transparency](#), [Show-Me Institute](#) | [Permalink](#) | © 2010

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2 Comments »

1. Christine,

Google says that US GDP in 1993 was \$6.6 Trillion, (CPI 144.5) and US GDP in 2008 was \$14.6 Trillion (CPI 215.303). If I'm adjusting for inflation correctly, that works out to an increase in GDP of 48% - pretty in line for an increase in payroll of 31%, I think. I know it's national and not specific to Missouri, but do you have better numbers that are more specific? I tried using your web tools (which are nifty) but couldn't find exactly what I was looking for. The closest thing was 'Total Inflation-Adjusted Individual Income' for Missouri, which increased 23% over the span.

Comment by David C. Miller — May 6, 2010 @ 3:59 p.m.

2. After a bit more searching, I found [this economic forecast/report](#) (PDF) from Missouri State University.

It lists the change in real personal income in the US as an increase of ~48%, and real personal income in MO as an increase of ~35%. So color me even more confused.

Comment by David C. Miller — May 6, 2010 @ 4:24 p.m.

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