

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Sizing Up the Executive Branch

Fiscal Year 2015



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This document provides a brief summary of the size of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government.

U.S. Office of Personnel Management
Planning and Policy Analysis
Data Analysis Group

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Purpose

This document presents an overview of the size of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government, providing the public and analysts access to commonly requested information about the size of the Federal Civilian Workforce.

This document presents basic data, in the form of tables and graphs, on the current and historical size of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government.

Coverage

The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) data coverage is often equated to the Federal Executive civilian workforce. The coverage is in fact exclusively Federal and civilian. The data exclude a few major components of the Executive Branch (most notably the Postal Service and many intelligence agencies) and include some parts or components of the Legislative Branch and Judiciary Branch. OPM data also do not include contractors and contract employees. For specific exclusions and inclusions, visit FedData on the OPM's website: <http://www.opm.gov/feddata/html/sdminfo.asp>.

Types of Employment

Each Federal employee has a particular work schedule, type of appointment, tenure, and appointment authority, among other variables, which dictate the "type" of his or her employment. These variables lead to six types of employment.¹

This paper examines two types of employment: Non-Seasonal Full-Time Permanent (NSFTP) Employees, and all other employees.

Non-Seasonal Full-Time Permanent: this category includes all employees working a 40-hour work week year round with no absolute end date. NSFTP employees make up the majority of the Federal workforce, over 89%.

The Other employment category denotes the other five employment types, and makes up about 10% of the Federal workforce. This category includes part time, seasonal, and non-permanent employees.

¹ Data are always filtered to employees in pay status, meaning only employees currently receiving a paycheck are included.

Size of the Executive branch of the Federal Government

This section presents basic data, in the form of tables and graphs, on the current and historical size of Executive Branch of the Federal Government.

Figure 1: Federal Executive Branch Employment by Fiscal Year

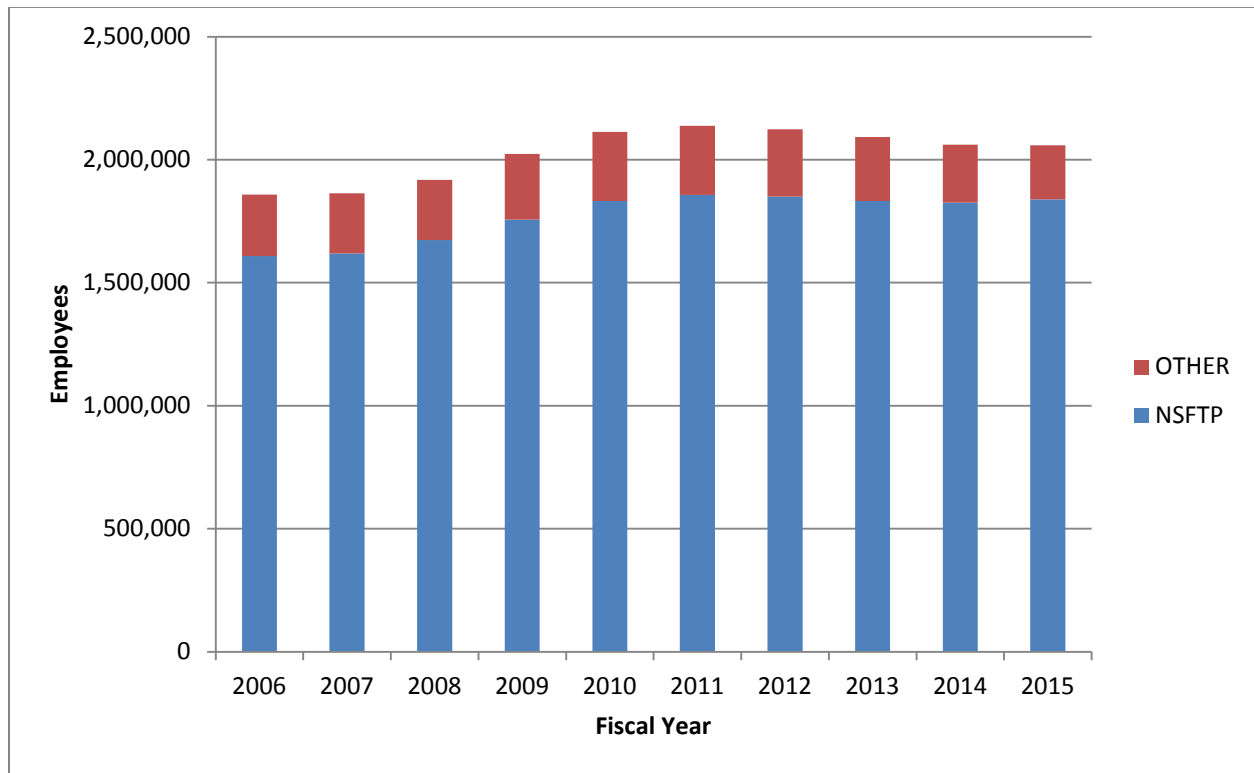


Figure 1 shows the size of the Executive Branch of the Federal workforce over the last ten fiscal years. NSFTP employees in 2015 make up 89.29% of the employees in the Executive Branch of the Federal workforce.

Table 1. Federal Executive Branch Employment by Fiscal Year

YEAR	NSFTP	NSFTP % CHANGE	OTHER	OTHER % CHANGE	TOTAL	TOTAL % CHANGE
2006	1,608,157	-	244,668	-	1,852,825	-
2007	1,618,159	0.62%	244,245	-0.17%	1,862,404	0.52%
2008	1,673,249	3.40%	265,572	8.73%	1,938,821	4.10%
2009	1,757,105	5.01%	281,078	5.84%	2,038,183	5.12%
2010	1,831,719	4.25%	281,491	0.15%	2,113,210	3.68%
2011	1,856,580	1.36%	273,709	-2.76%	2,130,289	0.81%
2012	1,850,311	-0.34%	259,910	-5.04%	2,110,221	-0.94%
2013	1,831,723	-1.00%	235,539	-9.38%	2,067,262	-2.04%
2014	1,825,762	-0.33%	219,945	-6.62%	2,045,707	-1.04%
2015	1,838,352	0.69%	220,572	0.29%	2,058,924	0.65%

Table 1 shows the size of the Executive Branch of the Federal workforce over the last ten fiscal years and is the data used to create Figure 1 above. The table also shows the percentage change from year to year.

Figure 2: Federal Executive Branch Employment for the Past Year by Month

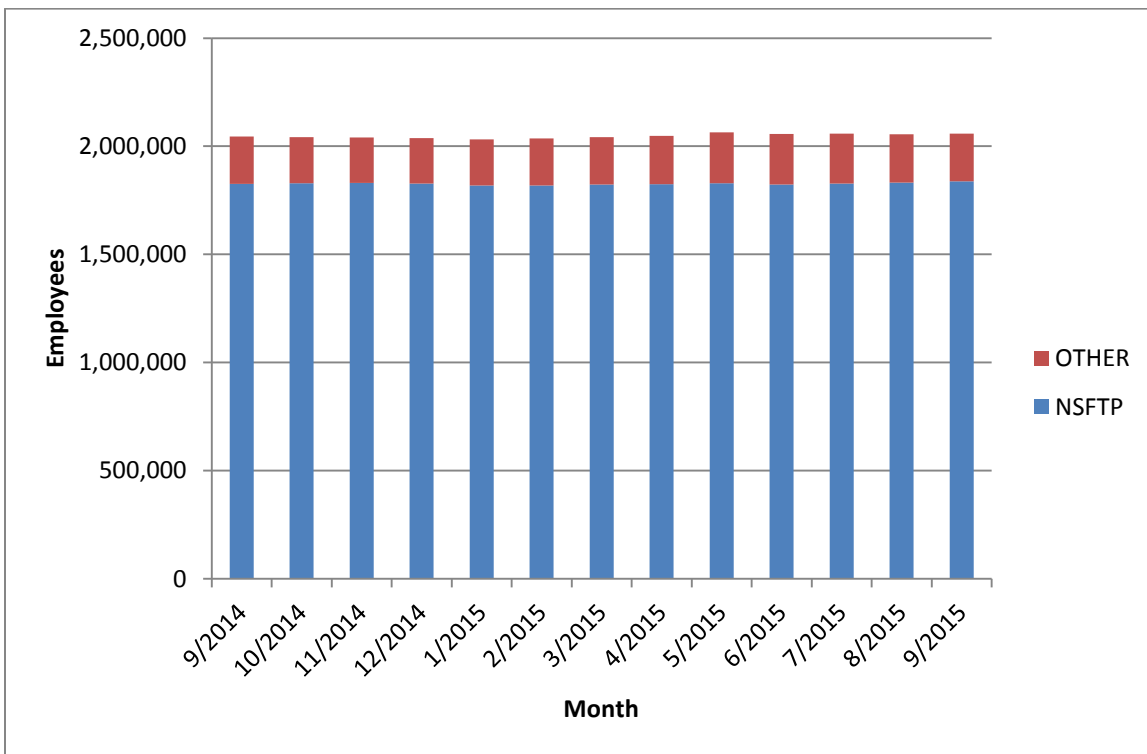


Figure 2 shows the size of the Executive Branch of the Federal workforce over the last thirteen months.

Table 2: Federal Executive Branch Employment for the Past Year by Month:

DATE	NSFTP	OTHER	TOTAL
9/2014	1,825,762	219,945	2,045,707
10/2014	1,829,499	212,688	2,042,187
11/2014	1,831,282	208,637	2,039,919
12/2014	1,828,217	209,788	2,038,005
1/2015	1,818,904	213,349	2,032,253
2/2015	1,819,438	217,036	2,036,474
3/2015	1,822,710	219,818	2,042,528
4/2015	1,824,997	223,620	2,048,617
5/2015	1,828,847	235,601	2,064,448
6/2015	1,823,534	233,988	2,057,522
7/2015	1,827,528	231,020	2,058,548
8/2015	1,831,773	224,302	2,056,075
9/2015	1,838,352	220,572	2,058,924

Table 2 shows the size of the Executive Branch of the Federal workforce over the last thirteen months and is the data used to create Figure 2 above.

Table 3 NSFTP Federal Executive Branch Employment by Cabinet level Agency

AGENCY	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	3,803	3,789	3,825	3,769	4,010	4,066	3,899	3,865	3,815	3,862
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	9,415	9,237	9,445	9,147	9,397	9,269	8,982	8,547	8,255	8,059
DEPARTMENT OF STATE	7,473	8,009	8,428	8,622	8,959	9,443	9,761	10,142	10,068	NA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	14,333	14,286	14,803	15,134	15,757	15,548	15,041	14,739	14,341	14,443
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	14,323	14,406	14,322	14,762	15,387	15,190	15,705	15,354	15,077	15,086
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	31,502	32,177	32,924	33,642	33,711	34,501	35,013	34,550	34,857	35,249
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	53,152	51,953	51,828	52,796	53,460	53,393	53,156	50,959	49,082	48,798
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	52,208	52,530	53,549	55,433	56,151	56,092	55,614	54,374	53,684	53,822
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	52,797	52,842	53,325	56,124	58,946	60,303	61,168	62,086	62,099	63,324
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	80,643	78,993	78,369	78,962	80,510	79,899	76,785	74,117	72,889	73,663
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	69,946	70,111	72,133	76,622	81,179	85,818	86,135	85,579	89,547	89,521
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY	96,028	94,603	93,961	98,361	99,868	96,232	92,397	89,852	86,049	84,050
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	102,250	102,716	104,282	108,349	112,688	112,867	113,358	112,342	110,427	111,010
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE	148,912	145,987	142,957	148,133	158,039	166,338	161,574	159,499	156,195	156,594
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY	128,646	134,850	147,533	157,573	161,273	166,210	169,116	168,348	167,422	166,777
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY	166,729	166,714	172,392	180,913	189,389	191,975	192,500	188,599	187,723	195,815
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY	215,344	216,076	225,881	241,329	257,947	255,487	251,257	241,609	235,951	233,035
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	205,291	215,336	236,761	255,012	268,187	277,461	285,436	297,528	308,176	324,639
ALL OTHER AGENCIES	155,362	153,544	156,531	162,422	166,861	166,488	163,414	159,634	160,105	160,605
ALL	1,608,157	1,618,159	1,673,249	1,757,105	1,831,719	1,856,580	1,850,311	1,831,723	1,825,762	1,838,352

Table 3 shows the NSFTP size of Federal Executive Branch employment by cabinet level agencies over the last ten fiscal years. The Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, Department of the Air Force, Department of the Army, Department of the Navy, Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Veterans Affairs has grown the most over the past ten fiscal years. Over the last ten fiscal years those eight agencies have grown by over 250,000 employees.

Table 4. Comparing the Federal Executive Branch Workforce to U.S. Population:

POPULATION	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
TOTAL U.S. POPULATION*	298,593,212	301,579,895	304,374,846	307,006,550	309,346,863	311,718,857	314,102,623	316,427,395	318,907,401	321,418,820
NSFTP FEDERAL EMPLOYEES	1,608,157	1,618,159	1,673,249	1,757,105	1,831,719	1,856,580	1,850,311	1,831,723	1,825,762	1,838,352
NSFTP FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PER 1,000 AMERICANS	5.386	5.366	5.497	5.723	5.921	5.956	5.891	5.789	5.725	5.719

Table 4 compares the size of the Executive Branch of the Federal workforce to the United States population over the past ten years. The U.S. population data comes from the Census Bureau website² (the source of some information in Table 4 above) at <http://www.census.gov/>. It is important to note that this table considers the entire U.S. population, not simply the labor force or workforce. Census data is in no way linked to OPM data.

Additional Details

For any data requests, the OPM produces an online data tool, FedScope, which is updated quarterly: <http://www.fedscope.opm.gov/>. Many of the tables and figures above can be replicated in FedScope, with the option for much more detail. The tool is best operated in Internet Explorer. For all other inquiries, contact Data Analysis Group through FedStats at FedStats@opm.gov.

² The U.S. population estimates came from the Census Bureau's July release: http://www.census.gov/popest/data/historical/2000s/vintage_2009/index.html and <http://www.census.gov/popest/data/national/totals/2015/index.html>



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