

UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Sizing Up the Executive Branch

Fiscal Year 2017



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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 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 data excludes a few major components of the Executive Branch (most notably the Postal Service and intelligence agencies) and includes some parts or components of the Legislative and Judiciary Branch. OPM data excludes 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.¹ This paper examines two types of employment: (1) Non-Seasonal Full-Time Permanent (NSFTP) Employees² [89.57% of the workforce] and (2) all other employees [10.43% of the workforce].³

¹ There are six types of employment but data are always filtered to employees in pay status, meaning only employees currently receiving a paycheck are included.

² This category includes all employees working a 40-hour work week year round with no absolute end date.

³ Other category comprises the other five employment types. This category includes part time, seasonal, and non-permanent employees.

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

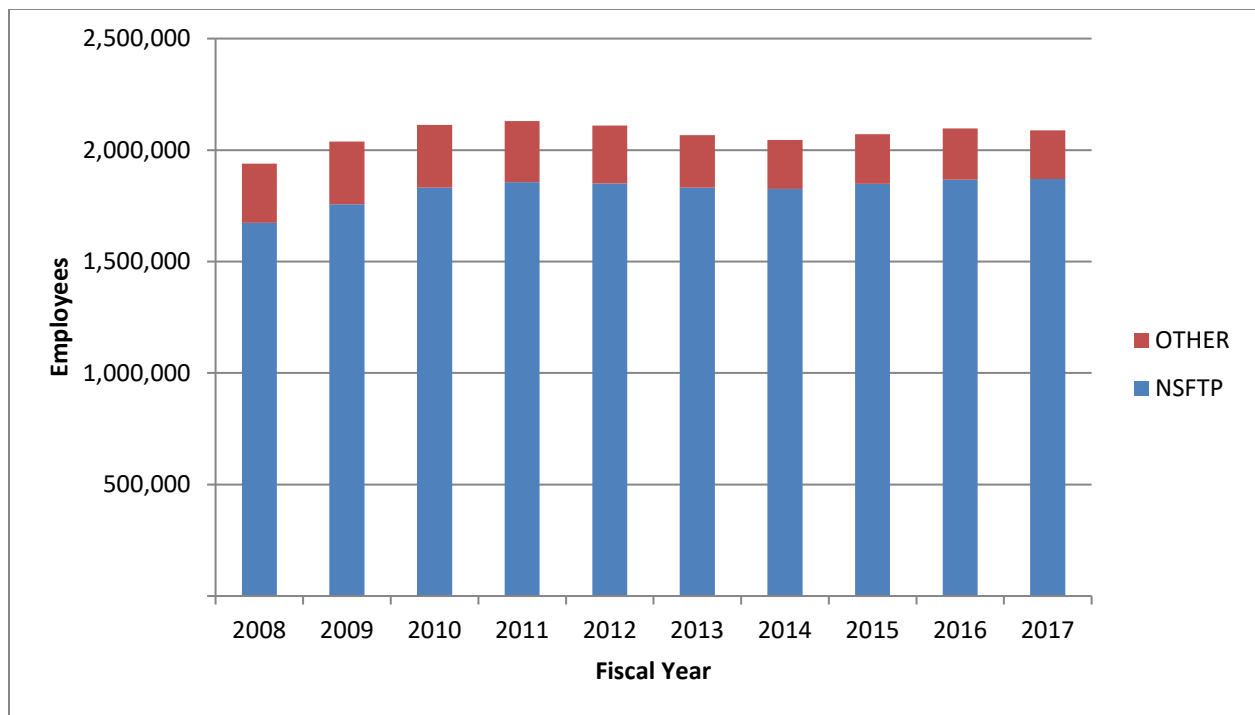


Figure 1 shows the size of the Executive Branch of the Federal workforce over the last ten fiscal years. NSFTP employees in 2017 make up 89.57% of the employees in the Executive Branch of the Federal workforce.

Table 1. Federal Executive Branch Employment by Fiscal Year

YEAR	NSFTP	NSFTP % CHANGE	OTHER	OTHER % CHANGE	TOTAL	TOTAL % CHANGE
2008	1,673,249	-	265,572	-	1,938,821	-
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	1,848,494	1.25%	223,222	1.49%	2,071,716	1.27%
2016	1,868,027	1.06%	229,011	2.59%	2,097,038	1.22%
2017	1,869,986	0.10%	217,761	-4.91%	2,087,747	-0.44%

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

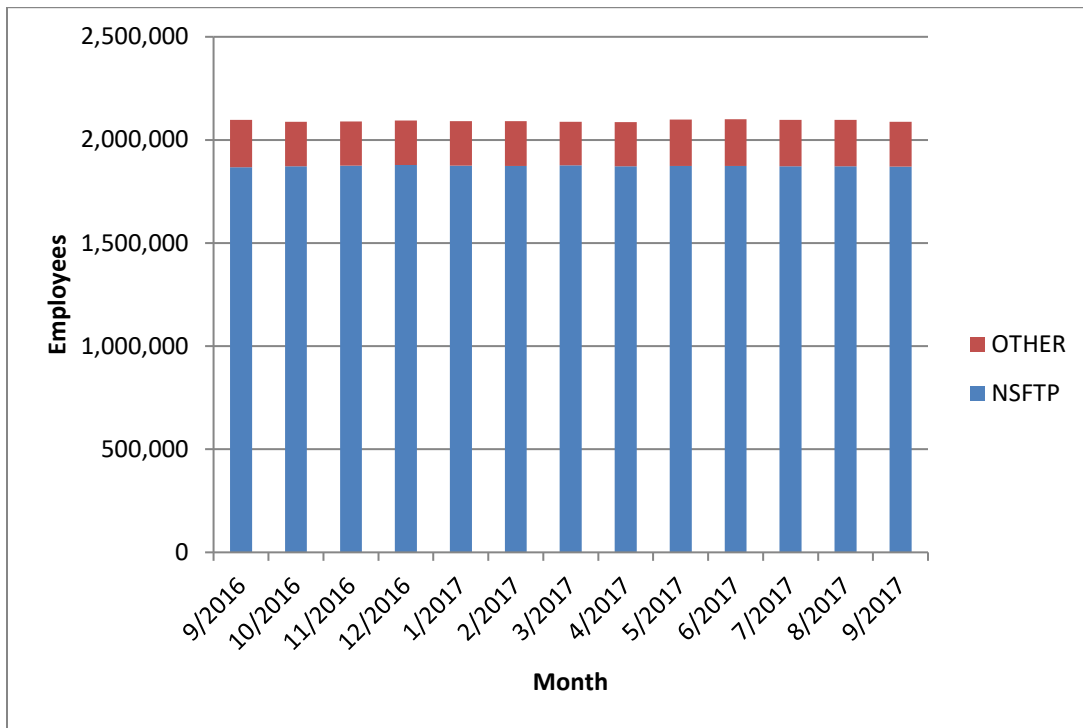


Figure 2 shows the size of the Executive Branch of the Federal workforce over the last thirteen months.

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

DATE	NSFTP	OTHER	TOTAL
9/2016	1,868,027	229,011	2,097,038
10/2016	1,871,697	216,292	2,087,989
11/2016	1,875,834	214,078	2,089,912
12/2016	1,878,935	214,933	2,093,868
1/2017	1,874,821	215,914	2,090,735
2/2017	1,874,480	216,311	2,090,791
3/2017	1,876,163	211,552	2,087,715
4/2017	1,871,814	214,533	2,086,347
5/2017	1,873,254	225,849	2,099,103
6/2017	1,874,060	226,145	2,100,205
7/2017	1,872,554	225,013	2,097,567
8/2017	1,871,509	226,474	2,097,983
9/2017	1,869,986	217,761	2,087,747

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	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION	3,825	3,769	4,010	4,066	3,899	3,865	3,815	3,862	3,973	3,842
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT	9,445	9,147	9,397	9,269	8,982	8,547	8,255	8,059	7,883	7,697
DEPARTMENT OF STATE	8,428	8,622	8,959	9,443	9,761	10,142	10,068	10,121	10,500	10166
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY	14,803	15,134	15,757	15,548	15,041	14,739	14,341	14,443	14,499	14,249
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR	14,322	14,762	15,387	15,190	15,705	15,354	15,077	15,086	14,996	14,424
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE	32,924	33,642	33,711	34,501	35,013	34,550	34,857	35,249	35,661	35,757
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR	51,828	52,796	53,460	53,393	53,156	50,959	49,082	48,798	49,679	49,721
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	53,549	55,433	56,151	56,092	55,614	54,374	53,684	53,822	53,992	53,568
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	53,325	56,124	58,946	60,303	61,168	62,086	62,099	63,324	65,431	65,866
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE	78,369	78,962	80,510	79,899	76,785	74,117	72,889	73,663	74,465	73,231
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE	72,133	76,622	81,179	85,818	86,135	85,579	89,547	89,521	86,662	90,054
DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY	93,961	98,361	99,868	96,232	92,397	89,852	86,049	84,050	82,556	78,734
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	104,282	108,349	112,688	112,867	113,358	112,342	110,427	111,010	112,900	111,778
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE	142,957	148,133	158,039	166,338	161,574	159,499	156,195	156,594	158,270	157,418
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY	147,533	157,573	161,273	166,210	169,116	168,348	167,422	166,777	169,547	173,326
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY	172,392	180,913	189,389	191,975	192,500	188,599	187,723	195,815	201,543	201,127
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY	225,881	241,329	257,947	255,487	251,257	241,609	235,951	233,035	230,765	228,241
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	236,761	255,012	268,187	277,461	285,436	297,528	308,176	324,639	333,264	342,111
ALL OTHER AGENCIES	156,531	162,422	166,861	166,488	163,414	159,634	160,105	160,626	161,441	158,676
ALL	1,673,249	1,757,105	1,831,719	1,856,580	1,850,311	1,831,723	1,825,762	1,848,494	1,868,027	1,869,986

Table 3 shows the NSFTP size of Federal Executive Branch employment by cabinet level agencies over the last ten fiscal years. The DoD Agencies, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, 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 nearly 215,000 employees.

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

POPULATION	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
TOTAL U.S. POPULATION*	304,374,846	307,006,550	309,348,193	311,663,358	313,998,379	316,204,908	318,563,456	320,896,618	323,127,513	325,344,115
NSFTP FEDERAL EMPLOYEES	1,673,249	1,757,105	1,831,719	1,856,580	1,850,311	1,831,723	1,825,762	1,848,494	1,868,027	1,869,986
NSFTP FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PER 1,000 AMERICANS	5.497	5.723	5.921	5.957	5.893	5.793	5.731	5.760	5.781	5.748

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 website⁴ (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 utilized via Internet Explorer. For all other inquiries, contact the Data Analysis Group through FedStats at FedStats@opm.gov.

⁴ The U.S. population estimates came from the Census Bureau’s July release: <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/tables/2010-2016/national/totals/> and <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/tables/2000-2009/national/asrh/>



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