

National Fire Department Census Summary

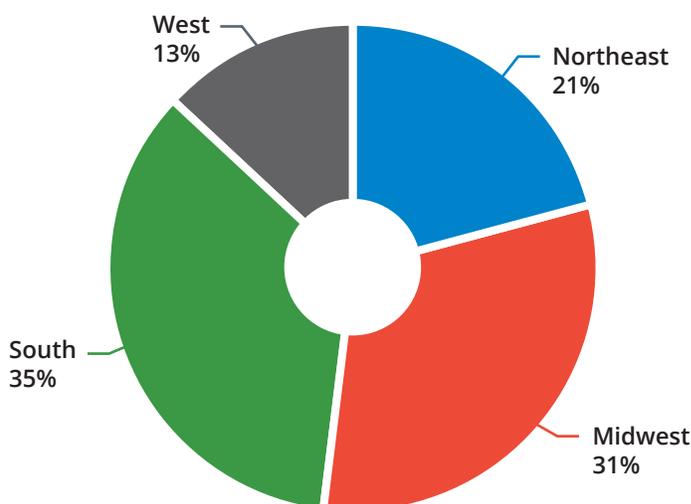
Fire departments

The U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Department Census is a voluntary program, and it does not include all fire departments in the U.S. or its Territories. As of January 2016, there were 27,198 fire departments registered with the census, which constitute about 91 percent of the departments estimated to be in the U.S. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimated that there were 30,050 fire departments in the U.S. in 2013, the latest available estimate at the time of this analysis.

Fire departments by region

The majority of registered departments are located in the Southern and Midwestern states. Figure 1 shows the percentage distribution of fire departments by U.S. Census Bureau region.¹ Less than 1 percent of the registered fire departments are located in the U.S. Territories.

Figure 1. Percentage of Registered Fire Departments by Region (January 2016)



¹The regions of the U.S. are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as the Northeast (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont); South (Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia); Midwest (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin); and West (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming).



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Fire departments by state

Table 1 shows the number of fire departments registered with the census by state.

Table 1. Number of Registered Fire Departments by State as of January 2016 (Includes District of Columbia and U.S. Territories)

State	Count
Alabama	800
Alaska	157
Arizona	249
Arkansas	679
California	872
Colorado	325
Connecticut	251
Delaware	58
District of Columbia	3
Florida	477
Georgia	463
Hawaii	11
Idaho	194
Illinois	1,104
Indiana	763
Iowa	731
Kansas	502
Kentucky	680
Louisiana	420
Maine	338
Maryland	262
Massachusetts	362
Michigan	966
Minnesota	726
Mississippi	416
Missouri	771
Montana	279
Nebraska	391
Nevada	86
New Hampshire	212
New Jersey	712
New Mexico	244
New York	1,665
North Carolina	1,083
North Dakota	325
Ohio	1,144
Oklahoma	742
Oregon	307
Pennsylvania	1,796
Rhode Island	72

Table 1. Number of Registered Fire Departments by State as of January 2016 (Includes District of Columbia and U.S. Territories) — continued

State	Count
South Carolina	441
South Dakota	293
Tennessee	638
Texas	1,528
Utah	195
Vermont	203
Virginia	548
Washington	399
West Virginia	412
Wisconsin	777
Wyoming	115
U.S. Territories	11
Total	27,198

Stations

The fire departments registered with the census represent nearly 50,700 fire stations across the country.² Of the registered departments, 69 percent have one station, 17 percent have two stations, and the remaining 14 percent have three or more stations.

Organization type

The majority (96 percent) of the registered departments are local fire departments that include career, combination and volunteer fire departments and fire districts. The remaining 4 percent are comprised of state and federal government fire departments, contract fire departments, private or industrial fire brigades, and transportation authority or airport fire departments.

Personnel

The fire departments registered with the census are staffed by 1,217,300 personnel.³ This figure includes career, volunteer, and paid per call firefighters, as well as civilian staff and nonfirefighting personnel. There were a total of 1,066,300 active career, volunteer, and paid per call firefighters representing nearly 88 percent of the registered departments' personnel. Of the active firefighting personnel, 32 percent were career firefighters, 56 percent were volunteer firefighters, and 12 percent were paid per call firefighters.

²For counties in Maryland, Nevada and Virginia where it is known that both the county-level fire department registered with the census and the individual fire departments affiliated with that county department also registered, the computation of the number of stations includes only the number of stations reported by the county-level department to avoid double counting of stations.

³There were 107 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel. These departments were excluded from this analysis. Additionally, for counties in Maryland, Nevada and Virginia where it is known that both the county-level fire department registered with the census and the individual fire departments affiliated with that county department also registered, the computation of the number of personnel includes only the personnel counts reported by the county-level department to avoid double counting of personnel. Numbers of personnel were rounded to the nearest 100.

Department type

The department type is based on the NFPA definition. (Career — 100 percent of a department's firefighters are career. Mostly career — 51-99 percent of a department's firefighters are career. Mostly volunteer — 1-50 percent of a department's firefighters are career. Volunteer — 100 percent of a department's firefighters are volunteer.)⁴ Of the fire departments registered with the census:

- ◆ Career departments constitute 8 percent.
- ◆ Mostly career departments constitute 5 percent.
- ◆ Mostly volunteer departments constitute 16 percent.
- ◆ Volunteer departments constitute 71 percent.

Department type by state

Table 2 shows the percentages of fire departments registered with the census by department type within state. The department type is based on NFPA definitions.

Table 2. Percentages of Registered Fire Departments by Department Type Within State (January 2016)

State	Volunteer	Mostly Volunteer	Mostly Career	Career
Alabama	79.8	8.9	3.5	7.7
Alaska	59.4	29.7	1.9	9.0
Arizona	30.9	26.4	17.5	25.2
Arkansas	84.1	9.3	2.8	3.7
California	29.4	28.9	16.7	25.1
Colorado	46.2	31.4	8.9	13.5
Connecticut	61.8	23.1	4.0	11.2
Delaware	46.6	51.7	0.0	1.7
District of Columbia	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7
Florida	35.0	13.2	17.0	34.8
Georgia	51.1	24.1	8.9	15.9
Hawaii	9.1	0.0	18.2	72.7
Idaho	59.1	30.6	2.6	7.8
Illinois	66.9	14.5	6.8	11.9
Indiana	74.8	13.9	2.6	8.7
Iowa	90.1	5.8	0.8	3.3
Kansas	79.5	10.8	3.8	6.0
Kentucky	75.6	16.1	3.3	5.0
Louisiana	50.2	36.7	4.3	8.8
Maine	73.7	21.0	2.7	2.7
Maryland	60.5	28.0	4.6	6.9
Massachusetts	27.3	29.0	17.1	26.5
Michigan	66.0	21.0	3.7	9.3
Minnesota	87.9	9.3	0.8	1.9

⁴The number of fire department personnel is used to determine the department type. There were 107 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel. These departments were excluded from this analysis.

Table 2. Percentages of Registered Fire Departments by Department Type Within State (January 2016) — continued

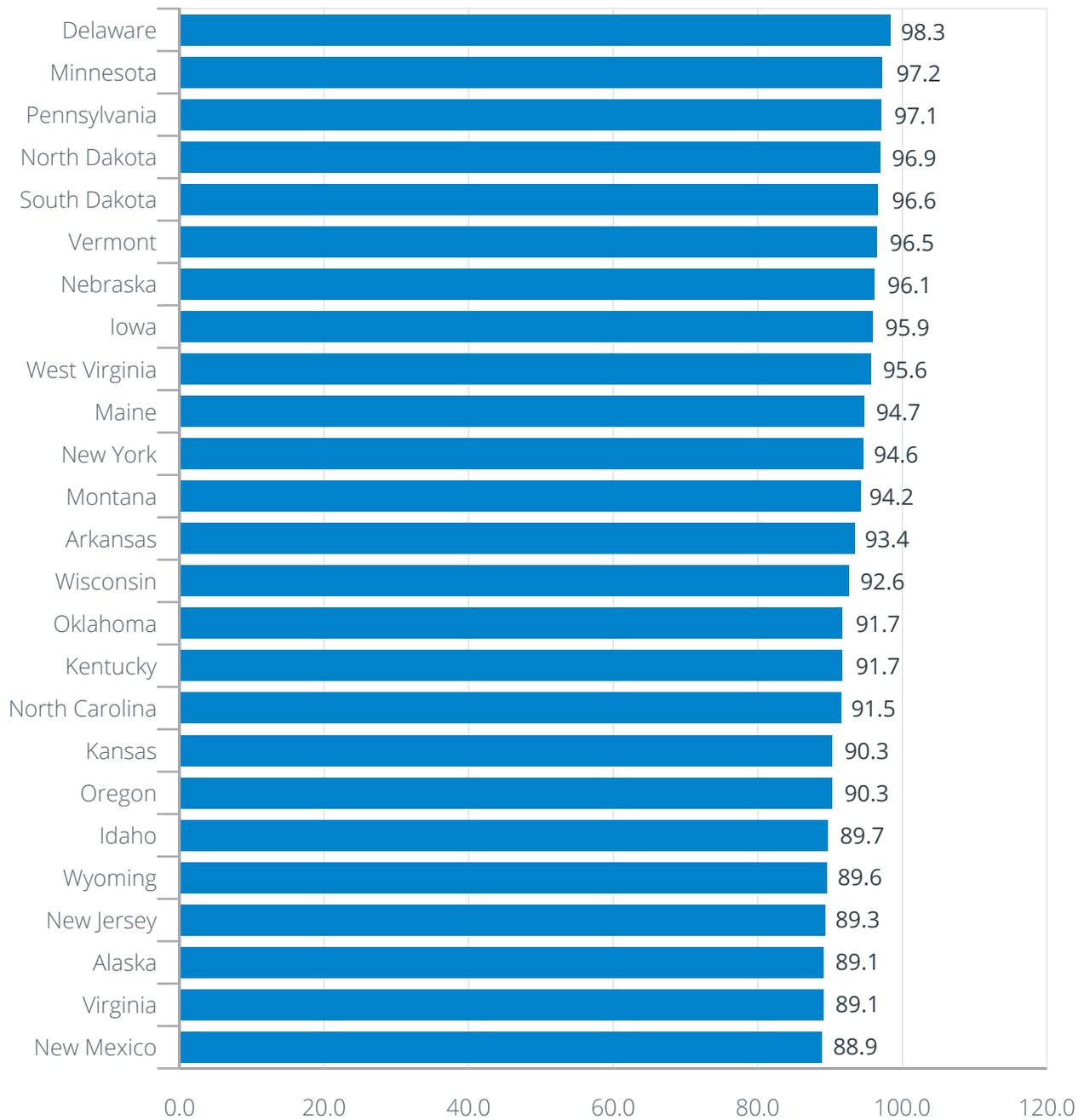
State	Volunteer	Mostly Volunteer	Mostly Career	Career
Mississippi	71.2	15.9	3.8	9.1
Missouri	72.8	12.8	5.2	9.2
Montana	84.2	10.0	1.1	4.7
Nebraska	92.5	3.6	1.5	2.3
Nevada	55.3	24.7	8.2	11.8
New Hampshire	54.5	31.8	9.0	4.7
New Jersey	75.7	13.6	3.5	7.2
New Mexico	78.6	10.3	2.9	8.2
New York	90.0	4.6	1.1	4.2
North Carolina	63.2	28.3	4.1	4.4
North Dakota	92.3	4.6	0.0	3.1
Ohio	61.1	21.9	4.7	12.2
Oklahoma	81.5	10.2	2.2	6.1
Oregon	44.0	46.3	3.9	5.9
Pennsylvania	90.2	6.9	0.4	2.5
Rhode Island	38.0	23.9	11.3	26.8
South Carolina	55.7	26.5	9.8	8.0
South Dakota	92.2	4.4	0.3	3.1
Tennessee	74.8	12.6	5.3	7.2
Texas	71.9	13.2	4.9	10.1
Utah	67.4	20.2	5.7	6.7
Vermont	88.1	8.4	2.5	1.0
Virginia	72.8	16.3	4.4	6.6
Washington	40.8	39.0	8.8	11.3
West Virginia	90.9	4.7	1.5	2.9
Wisconsin	80.5	12.1	1.8	5.5
Wyoming	72.2	17.4	0.0	10.4
U.S. Territories	9.1	0.0	18.2	72.7
Total	71.0	16.0	4.5	8.5

Notes: 1. State totals may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

2. This analysis excludes 107 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel.

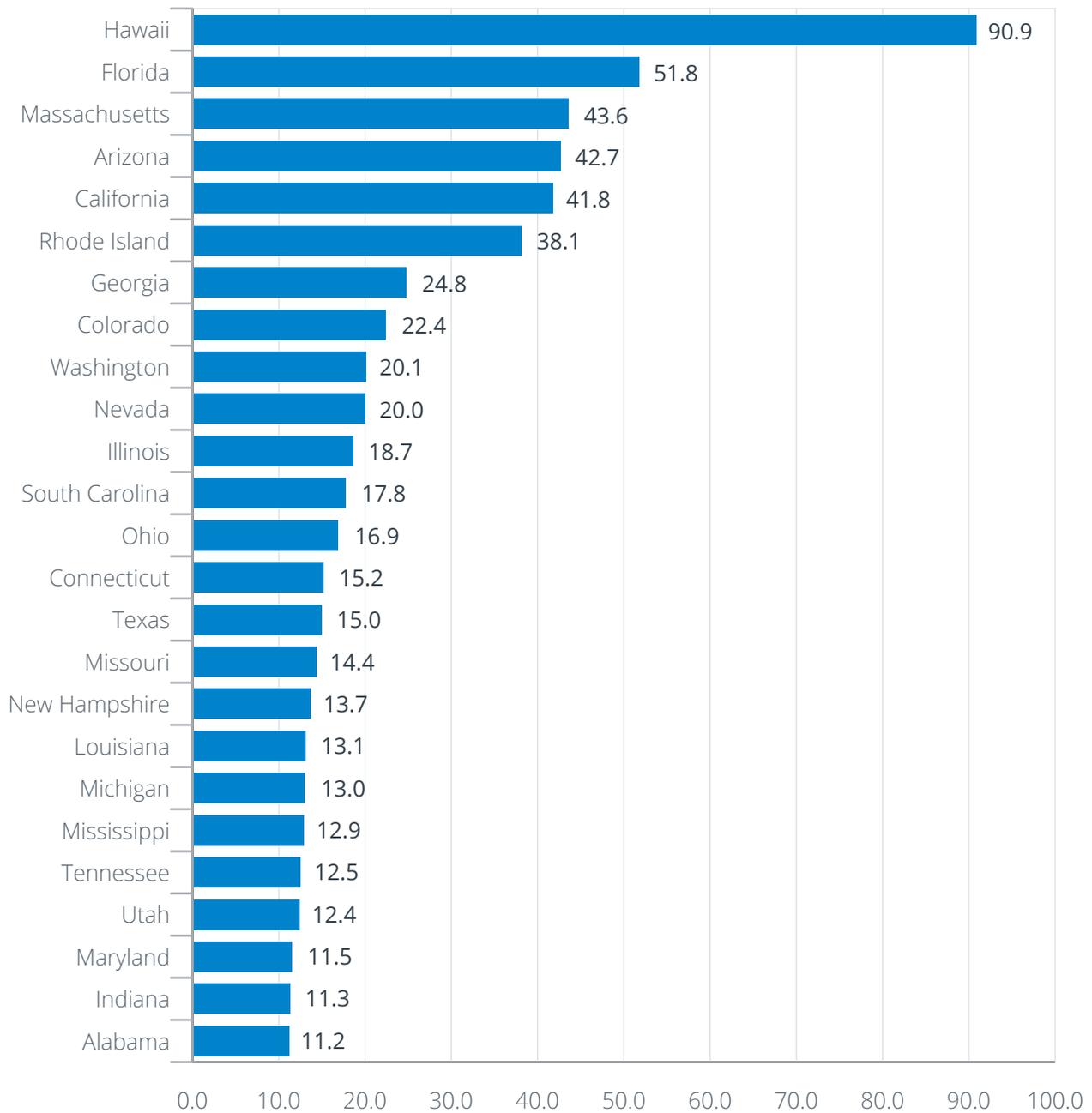
Figures 2 and 3 show the top 25 states (excluding the District of Columbia) in rank order by the percentage of volunteer and career fire departments, respectively.

**Figure 2. Percentage of Registered Volunteer and Mostly Volunteer Fire Departments
Top 25 States by Rank (January 2016)**



Note: There were 107 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel. These departments were excluded from this analysis.

**Figure 3. Percentage of Registered Career and Mostly Career Fire Departments
Top 25 States by Rank (January 2016)**



Note: There were 107 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel. These departments were excluded from this analysis.

Specialized services

Table 3 shows the percentage of registered fire departments that indicated providing a particular specialized service. The leading specialized services provided include vehicle extrication (76 percent), fire/injury prevention and public education (61 percent), wildfire/wildland urban interface (WUI) (61 percent), and basic life support (BLS) services (58 percent). Only 4 percent of registered departments have fireboat service capabilities. Of the departments that provide fire investigation/fire cause determination services, 17 percent have sworn investigators with power to arrest.

Table 3. Percentage of Fire Departments Providing Specialized Services (January 2016)

Specialized Services Provided	Percentage
Vehicle extrication	75.8
Fire/Injury prevention/Public education	61.1
Wildfire/WUI	61.0
BLS	58.0
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) nontransport response	38.0
Fire investigation/Fire cause determination	34.4
Fire inspection/Code enforcement	34.2
Technical/Specialized rescue	34.2
Departmental (in-house) training academy	22.1
Advanced life support	20.6
EMS ambulance transport	20.6
Hazmat team	17.5
Juvenile firesetter intervention program	13.5
Airport/Aviation	7.7
Fireboat	4.2

For statistics on fire department specialized services provided in each state, please visit the National Fire Department Registry.