

# National Fire Department Registry Summary

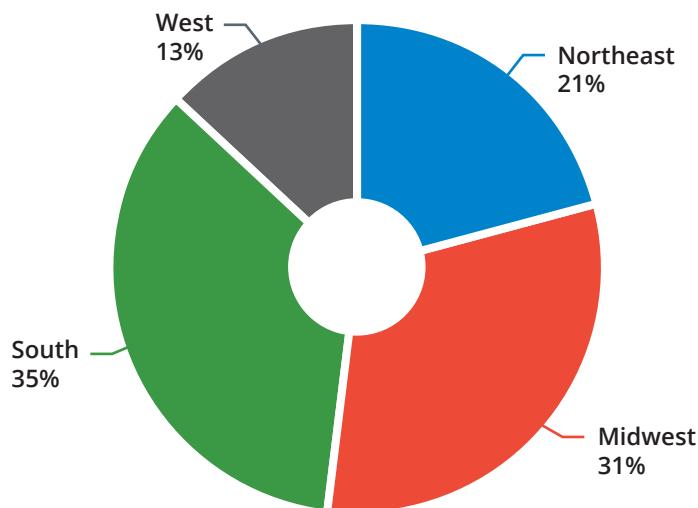
## Fire departments

The U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Department Registry is a voluntary program, and it does not include all fire departments in the United States or its territories. As of January 2018, there were 27,217 registered fire departments, which constitute about 92 percent of the departments estimated to be in the U.S. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) estimated that there were 29,727 fire departments in the U.S. in 2015 — 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.<sup>1</sup> Less than 1 percent of the registered fire departments are located in U.S. territories.

**Figure 1. Percentage of registered fire departments by region (January 2018)**



<sup>1</sup>The 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 registered fire departments by state.

**Table 1. Number of registered fire departments by state as of January 2018 (includes District of Columbia and U.S. territories)**

State	Count
Alabama	803
Alaska	157
Arizona	249
Arkansas	680
California	874
Colorado	325
Connecticut	251
Delaware	58
District of Columbia	3
Florida	478
Georgia	463
Hawaii	11
Idaho	194
Illinois	1,106
Indiana	763
Iowa	732
Kansas	505
Kentucky	682
Louisiana	422
Maine	337
Maryland	261
Massachusetts	362
Michigan	965
Minnesota	725
Mississippi	413
Missouri	775
Montana	279
Nebraska	391
Nevada	86
New Hampshire	213
New Jersey	710
New Mexico	244
New York	1,666
North Carolina	1,084
North Dakota	324
Ohio	1,145

**Table 1. Number of registered fire departments by state as of January 2018 (includes District of Columbia and U.S. territories) — continued**

State	Count
Oklahoma	743
Oregon	308
Pennsylvania	1,800
Rhode Island	72
South Carolina	441
South Dakota	293
Tennessee	639
Texas	1,529
U.S. territories	11
Utah	196
Vermont	204
Virginia	549
Washington	402
West Virginia	412
Wisconsin	767
Wyoming	115
Total	27,217

## Stations

The registered departments represent 51,009 fire stations across the country.<sup>2</sup> 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 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 registered fire departments are staffed by 1,217,800 personnel.<sup>3</sup> 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 88 percent of the registered departments' personnel. Of the active firefighting personnel, 33 percent were career firefighters, 55 percent were volunteer firefighters, and 12 percent were paid-per-call firefighters.

<sup>2</sup>For counties in Maryland, Nevada and Virginia where it is known that both the county-level fire department registered, 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 counting stations twice.

<sup>3</sup>There were 102 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, 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 counting personnel twice. Numbers of personnel were rounded to the nearest 100.

## Department type

The department type is based on NFPA definitions. (Career — 100 percent of a department's firefighters are career. Mostly career — 51 to 99 percent of a department's firefighters are career. Mostly volunteer — 1 to 50 percent of a department's firefighters are career. Volunteer — 100 percent of a department's firefighters are volunteer.)<sup>4</sup> Of the registered fire departments:

- ◆ Career departments constitute 8.7 percent.
- ◆ Mostly career departments constitute 4.5 percent.
- ◆ Mostly volunteer departments constitute 16.0 percent.
- ◆ Volunteer departments constitute 70.8 percent.

## Department type by state

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

**Table 2. Percentages of registered fire departments by department type within each state (January 2018)**

State	Volunteer	Mostly volunteer	Mostly career	Career
Alabama	79.9	9.0	3.5	7.5
Alaska	59.4	29.7	1.9	9.0
Arizona	30.5	27.2	17.1	25.2
Arkansas	84.0	9.5	2.7	3.8
California	29.6	28.8	16.4	25.2
Colorado	46.2	31.1	9.2	13.5
Connecticut	61.8	23.1	4.0	11.2
Delaware	44.8	53.4	0.0	1.7
District of Columbia	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7
Florida	34.9	12.8	16.9	35.4
Georgia	51.1	24.1	8.7	16.1
Hawaii	9.1	0.0	18.2	72.7
Idaho	59.1	30.6	2.6	7.8
Illinois	65.9	14.7	6.3	13.1
Indiana	74.0	14.4	2.6	8.9
Iowa	90.2	5.7	0.8	3.3
Kansas	79.4	10.7	3.8	6.1
Kentucky	75.8	15.0	3.5	5.6
Louisiana	49.3	36.5	5.0	9.2
Maine	72.5	21.8	2.7	3.0
Maryland	60.8	28.1	4.6	6.5
Massachusetts	25.4	29.6	16.3	28.7
Michigan	64.2	22.7	3.9	9.1
Minnesota	87.1	10.3	0.7	1.9
Mississippi	71.7	15.0	3.6	9.7

<sup>4</sup>The number of fire department personnel is used to determine the department type. There were 102 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 each state (January 2018) — continued**

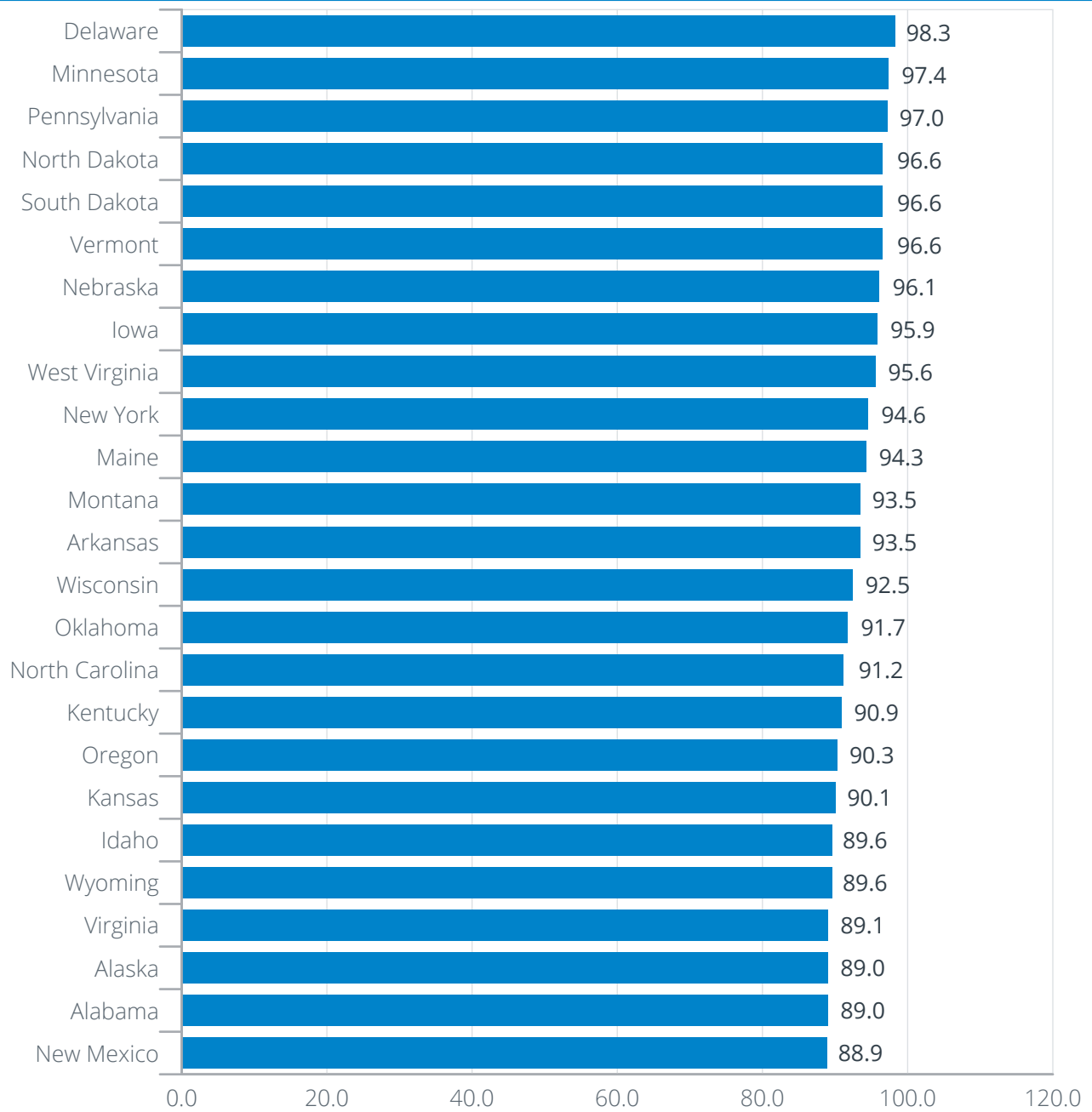
State	Volunteer	Mostly volunteer	Mostly career	Career
Missouri	72.9	12.1	5.7	9.3
Montana	83.9	9.7	1.8	4.7
Nebraska	92.3	3.9	1.0	2.8
Nevada	55.3	24.7	8.2	11.8
New Hampshire	53.8	31.6	9.4	5.2
New Jersey	75.5	13.2	3.7	7.6
New Mexico	78.6	10.3	2.5	8.6
New York	90.0	4.6	1.1	4.2
North Carolina	62.9	28.3	4.3	4.4
North Dakota	92.3	4.3	0.3	3.1
Ohio	61.0	21.9	4.7	12.3
Oklahoma	81.6	10.2	2.2	6.1
Oregon	44.2	46.1	3.9	5.8
Pennsylvania	90.3	6.7	0.6	2.5
Rhode Island	38.0	23.9	9.9	28.2
South Carolina	55.9	25.8	10.3	8.0
South Dakota	92.2	4.4	0.3	3.1
Tennessee	74.9	12.4	5.3	7.4
Texas	71.8	13.1	4.8	10.3
U.S. territories	9.1	0.0	18.2	72.7
Utah	67.5	20.1	5.7	6.7
Vermont	88.2	8.4	2.5	1.0
Virginia	72.6	16.4	4.4	6.6
Washington	40.3	39.8	8.8	11.3
West Virginia	90.9	4.7	1.2	3.2
Wisconsin	80.5	12.0	1.8	5.6
Wyoming	72.2	17.4	0.0	10.4
Total	70.8	16.0	4.5	8.7

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

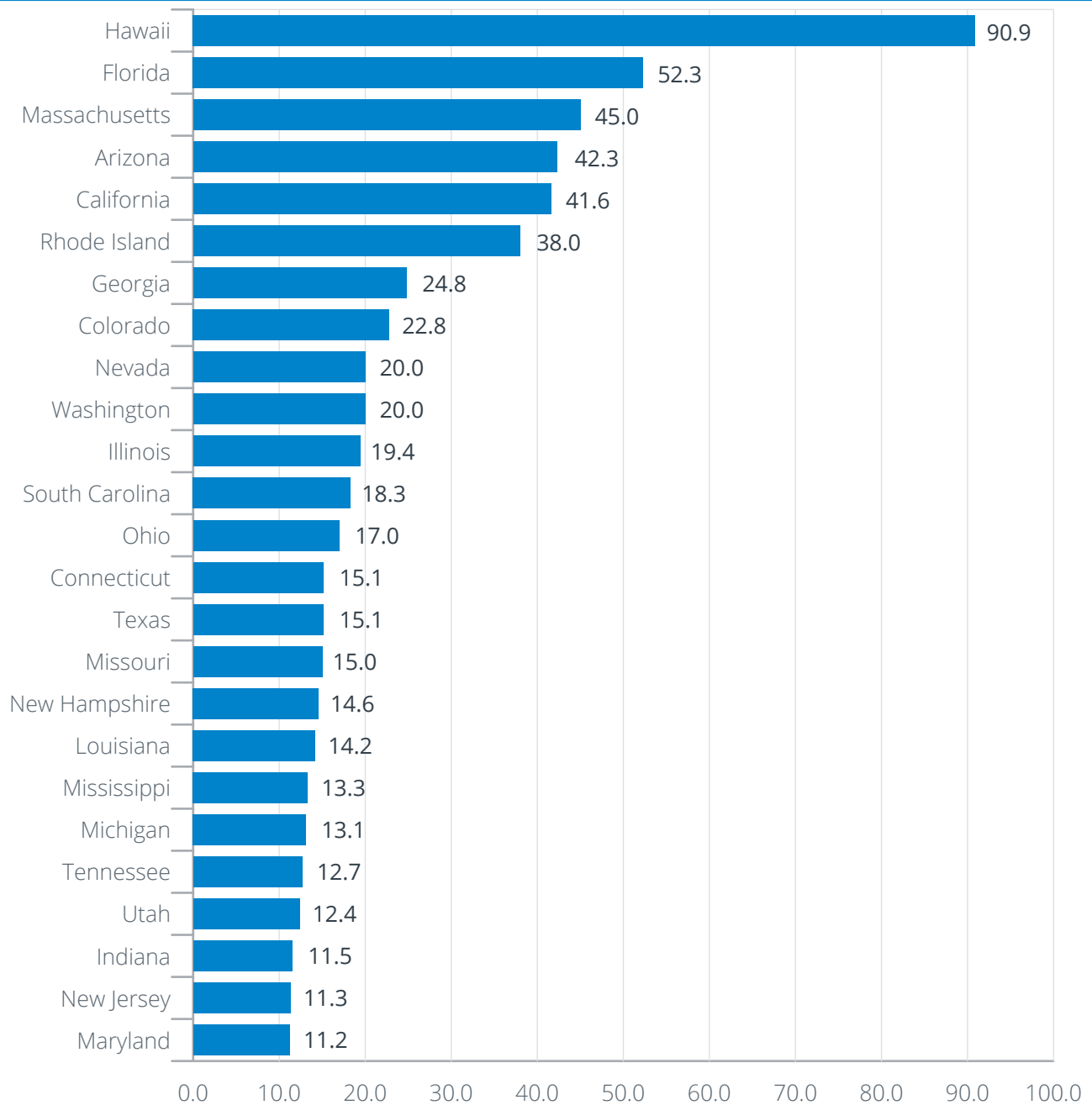
2. This analysis excludes 102 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel.

Figures 2 and 3 show the top 25 states (excluding the District of Columbia and U.S. territories) in ranking 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 2018)**



Note: There were 102 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 2018)**

Note: There were 102 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 (62 percent), wildfire/wildland urban interface (WUI) (62 percent), and basic life support (BLS) services (59 percent). Only 4 percent of registered departments have fireboat service capabilities. Of the departments that provide fire investigation/fire-cause determination services, 18 percent have sworn investigators with power to arrest.

**Table 3. Percentage of fire departments providing specialized services (January 2018)**

Specialized services provided	Percentage
Vehicle extrication	76.3
Fire/Injury prevention and public education	62.0
Wildfire/WUI	61.7
BLS	58.6
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) nontransport response	38.7
Fire investigation/Fire-cause determination	34.7
Technical/Specialized rescue	34.7
Fire inspection/Code enforcement	34.4
Departmental (in-house) training academy	22.0
Advanced life support	20.8
EMS ambulance transport	20.7
Hazmat team	17.7
Juvenile firesetter intervention program	13.6
Airport/Aviation	7.7
Fireboat	4.3

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