

National Fire Department Registry Summary

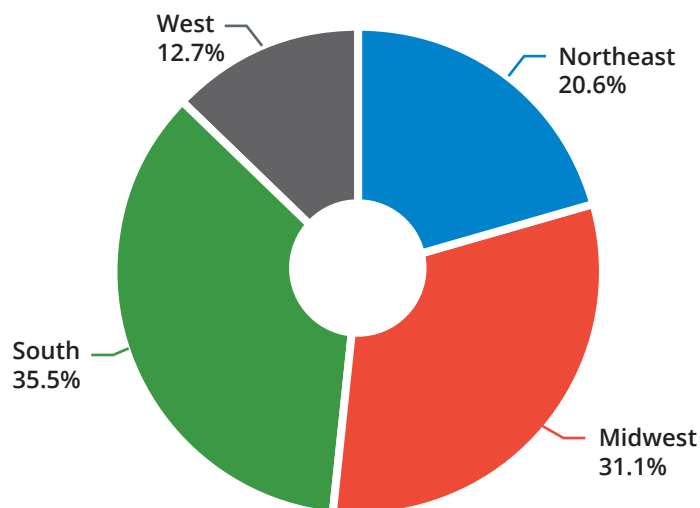
Fire departments

The U.S. Fire Administration's National Fire Department Registry is a voluntary program, and it does not include all fire departments in the U.S. or its territories. As of January 2019, there were 27,224 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.¹ Less than 1 percent of the registered fire departments are located in U.S. territories.

Figure 1. Percent of registered fire departments by region (January 2019)



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). Total does not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.



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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 2019 (includes District of Columbia and U.S. territories)

State	Count
Alabama	806
Alaska	157
Arizona	250
Arkansas	682
California	875
Colorado	325
Connecticut	251
Delaware	58
District of Columbia	3
Florida	478
Georgia	463
Hawaii	11
Idaho	194
Illinois	1,108
Indiana	764
Iowa	732
Kansas	505
Kentucky	682
Louisiana	424
Maine	337
Maryland	262
Massachusetts	363
Michigan	965
Minnesota	725
Mississippi	414
Missouri	774
Montana	279
Nebraska	391
Nevada	87
New Hampshire	213
New Jersey	715
New Mexico	246
New York	1,665
North Carolina	1,087
North Dakota	324
Ohio	1,128

Table 1. Number of registered fire departments by state as of January 2019 (includes District of Columbia and U.S. territories) — continued

State	Count
Oklahoma	745
Oregon	308
Pennsylvania	1,794
Rhode Island	72
South Carolina	441
South Dakota	293
Tennessee	639
Texas	1,532
U.S. territories	11
Utah	196
Vermont	204
Virginia	550
Washington	402
West Virginia	412
Wisconsin	766
Wyoming	116
Total	27,224

Stations

The registered departments represent 51,093 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 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 1,216,900 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 1,065,300 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.

²For 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.

³There were 99 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.)⁴ Of the registered fire departments:

- ◆ Career departments constitute 8.7 percent.
- ◆ Mostly career departments constitute 4.6 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 2019)

State	Volunteer	Mostly volunteer	Mostly career	Career
Alabama	79.9	9.3	3.4	7.5
Alaska	59.4	29.7	1.9	9.0
Arizona	30.4	26.3	18.2	25.1
Arkansas	84.1	9.4	2.7	3.8
California	29.7	28.6	16.5	25.2
Colorado	46.2	31.1	9.2	13.5
Connecticut	61.8	23.1	4.0	11.2
Delaware	43.1	55.2	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	66.0	14.6	6.3	13.1
Indiana	74.2	14.3	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	3.7	5.5
Louisiana	49.3	36.1	5.2	9.4
Maine	72.5	21.8	2.7	3.0
Maryland	60.9	28.4	4.2	6.5
Massachusetts	25.6	29.5	16.3	28.7
Michigan	63.9	23.0	3.8	9.2
Minnesota	86.9	10.4	0.7	1.9
Mississippi	71.3	15.5	3.6	9.7

⁴The number of fire department personnel is used to determine the department type. There were 99 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel. These departments were excluded from this analysis. Total does not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.

Table 2. Percentages of registered fire departments by department type within each state (January 2019) — continued

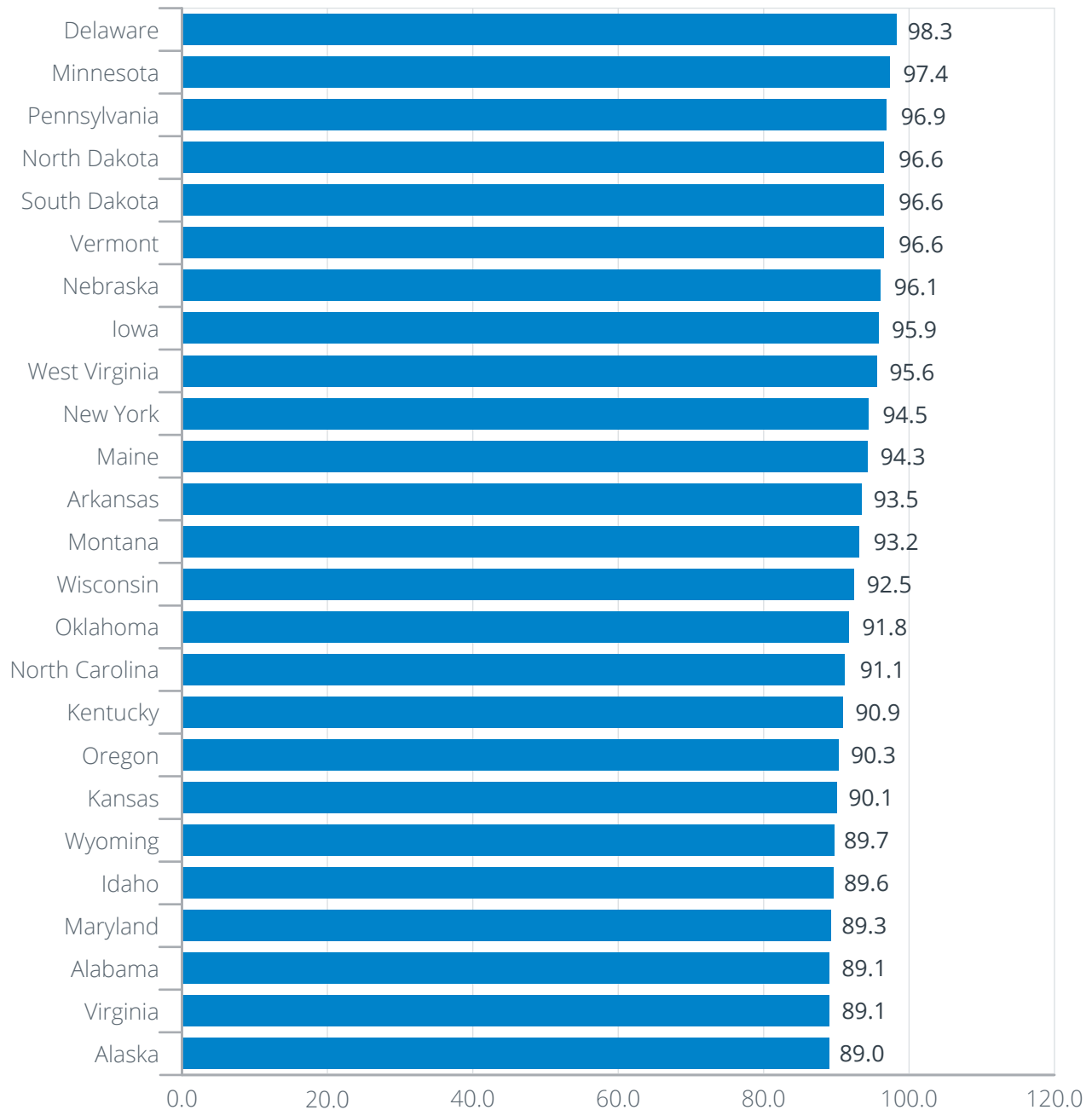
State	Volunteer	Mostly volunteer	Mostly career	Career
Missouri	72.9	11.9	5.8	9.4
Montana	83.9	9.3	2.2	4.7
Nebraska	92.3	3.9	1.0	2.8
Nevada	54.7	25.6	8.1	11.6
New Hampshire	53.8	31.6	9.4	5.2
New Jersey	75.9	12.9	3.6	7.6
New Mexico	78.8	10.2	2.4	8.6
New York	90.2	4.3	1.3	4.2
North Carolina	62.9	28.2	4.4	4.5
North Dakota	92.3	4.3	0.3	3.1
Ohio	60.5	22.2	5.0	12.3
Oklahoma	81.6	10.1	2.2	6.1
Oregon	43.8	46.4	3.9	5.8
Pennsylvania	90.3	6.7	0.7	2.4
Rhode Island	38.0	23.9	9.9	28.2
South Carolina	55.7	26.0	10.3	8.0
South Dakota	92.2	4.4	0.3	3.1
Tennessee	74.9	12.4	5.3	7.4
Texas	71.5	13.2	4.9	10.5
U.S. territories	9.1	0.0	18.2	72.7
Utah	67.5	20.1	5.7	6.7
Vermont	88.7	7.9	2.5	1.0
Virginia	72.5	16.6	4.4	6.6
Washington	40.3	39.5	8.8	11.5
West Virginia	90.9	4.7	1.2	3.2
Wisconsin	80.4	12.2	1.8	5.6
Wyoming	72.4	17.2	0.0	10.3
Total	70.8	16.0	4.6	8.7

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

2. This analysis excludes 99 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel.

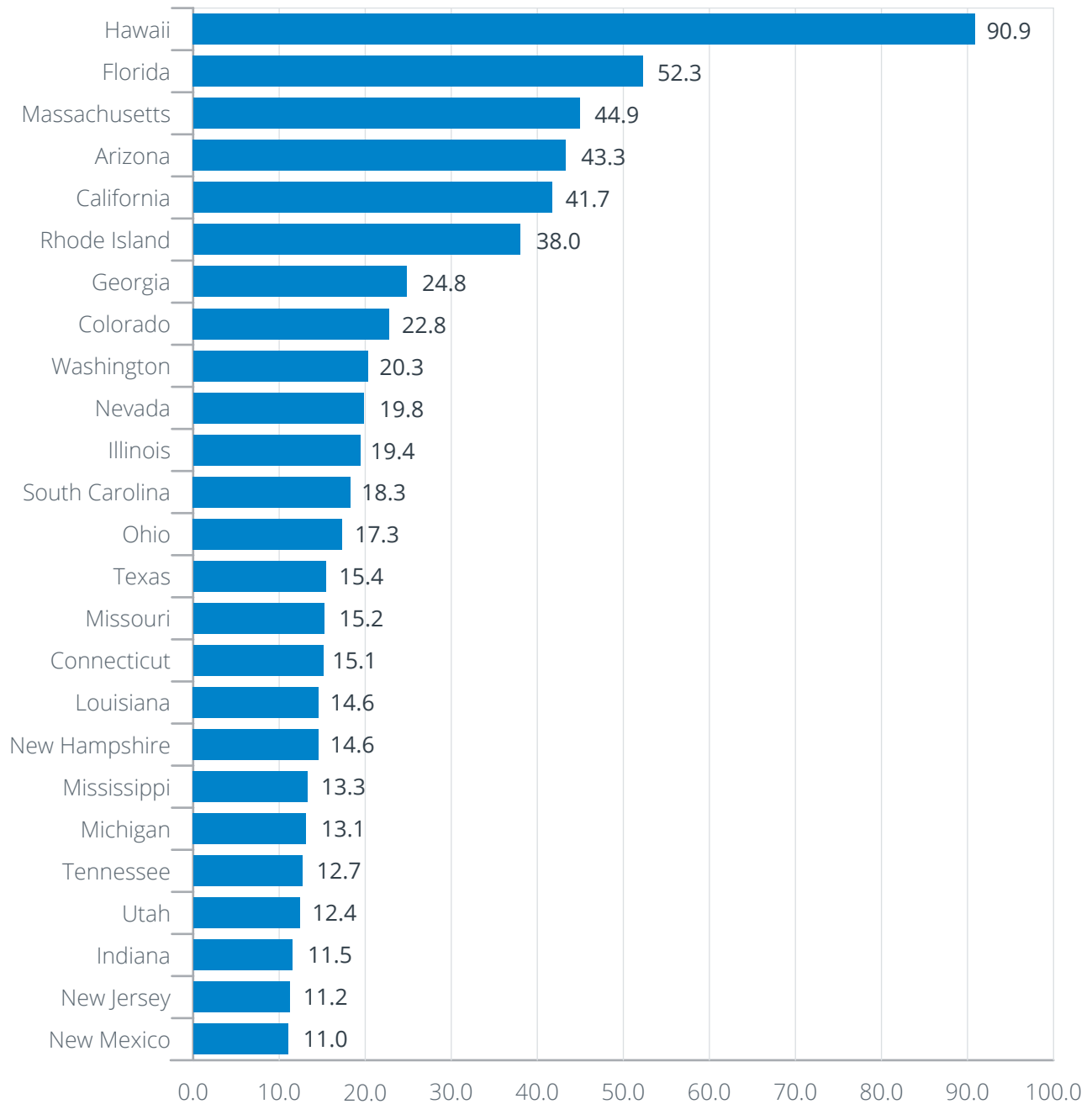
Figures 2 and 3 show the top 25 states (excluding the District of Columbia and U.S. territories) in ranking order by the percentage of volunteer and career fire departments, respectively.

Figure 2. Percentage of registered volunteer and mostly volunteer fire department top 25 states by rank (January 2019)



Note: There were 99 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 2019)



Note: There were 99 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 (77 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 2019)

Specialized services provided	Percentage
Vehicle extrication	76.5
Fire/Injury prevention and public education	62.3
Wildfire/WUI	61.8
BLS	58.7
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) nontransport response	38.9
Technical/Specialized rescue	34.9
Fire investigation/fire-cause determination	34.8
Fire inspection/code enforcement	34.5
Departmental (in-house) training academy	22.0
Advanced life support	20.8
EMS ambulance transport	20.7
Hazmat team	17.8
Juvenile firesetter intervention program	13.6
Airport/Aviation	7.8
Fireboat	4.3

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