

National Fire Department Registry Summary

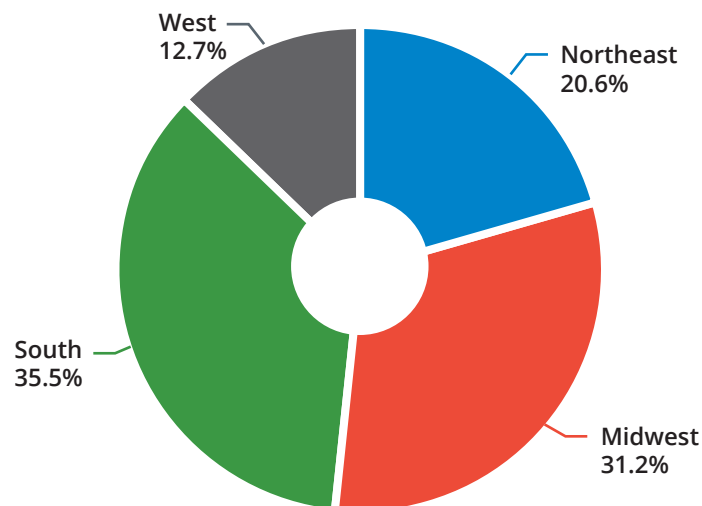
Fire departments

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 2020, there were 27,200 registered fire departments, which constitute about 91% of the departments estimated to be in the U.S.¹

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.² Less than 1% of the registered fire departments are located in U.S. territories.

Figure 1. Percent of registered fire departments by region (January 2020)



¹The National Fire Protection Association estimated that there were 29,819 fire departments in the U.S. in 2017 — the latest available estimate at the time of this analysis.

²The 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 2020 (includes District of Columbia and U.S. territories)

State	Count
Alabama	809
Alaska	157
Arizona	251
Arkansas	688
California	878
Colorado	325
Connecticut	252
Delaware	58
District of Columbia	3
Florida	475
Georgia	463
Hawaii	12
Idaho	196
Illinois	1,108
Indiana	764
Iowa	732
Kansas	505
Kentucky	683
Louisiana	426
Maine	338
Maryland	262
Massachusetts	363
Michigan	965
Minnesota	725
Mississippi	414
Missouri	775
Montana	280
Nebraska	392
Nevada	87
New Hampshire	213
New Jersey	716
New Mexico	246
New York	1,664
North Carolina	1,087
North Dakota	325
Ohio	1,131

Table 1. Number of registered fire departments by state as of January 2020 (includes District of Columbia and U.S. territories) — continued

State	Count
Oklahoma	743
Oregon	305
Pennsylvania	1,794
Rhode Island	68
South Carolina	443
South Dakota	294
Tennessee	634
Texas	1,509
U.S. territories	11
Utah	191
Vermont	204
Virginia	551
Washington	401
West Virginia	409
Wisconsin	762
Wyoming	113
Total	27,200

Stations

The registered departments represent 51,362 fire stations across the country.³ Of the registered departments, 68.6% have one station, 16.7% have two stations, and the remaining 14.7% have three or more stations.

Organization type

The majority (96%) of registered departments are local fire departments that include career, combination and volunteer fire departments and fire districts. The remaining 4% 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 1,216,000 personnel.⁴ This figure includes career, volunteer and paid-per-call firefighters, as well as civilian staff and nonfirefighting personnel. There were a total of 1,064,700 active career, volunteer and paid-per-call firefighters representing 88% of the registered departments' personnel. Of the active firefighting personnel:

- ◆ 33.2% were career firefighters.
- ◆ 54.5% were volunteer firefighters.
- ◆ 12.3% were paid-per-call firefighters.

³For 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.

⁴There were 93 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 National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) definitions. (Career — 100% of a department's firefighters are career. Mostly career — 51% to 99% of a department's firefighters are career. Mostly volunteer — 1% to 50% of a department's firefighters are career. Volunteer — 100% of a department's firefighters are volunteer.)⁵ Of the registered fire departments:

- ◆ Career departments constitute 8.8%.
- ◆ Mostly career departments constitute 4.7%.
- ◆ Mostly volunteer departments constitute 16.0%.
- ◆ Volunteer departments constitute 70.5%.

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 2020)

State	Volunteer	Mostly volunteer	Mostly career	Career
Alabama	79.8	9.2	3.5	7.5
Alaska	59.4	29.7	1.9	9.0
Arizona	30.6	26.2	18.1	25.0
Arkansas	84.1	9.5	2.6	3.8
California	29.8	28.7	16.3	25.2
Colorado	46.2	31.1	8.9	13.8
Connecticut	61.5	23.4	4.0	11.1
Delaware	43.1	55.2	0.0	1.7
District of Columbia	0.0	0.0	33.3	66.7
Florida	34.7	12.4	17.1	35.8
Georgia	50.9	24.3	8.3	16.5
Hawaii	8.3	0.0	16.7	75.0
Idaho	59.5	30.3	2.6	7.7
Illinois	66.0	14.5	6.4	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	76.1	14.6	3.8	5.4
Louisiana	49.3	35.9	5.4	9.4
Maine	72.3	22.0	2.7	3.0
Maryland	60.5	28.7	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	10.3	0.8	1.9
Mississippi	71.0	15.5	3.9	9.7

⁵The number of fire department personnel is used to determine the department type. There were 93 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 2020) — continued

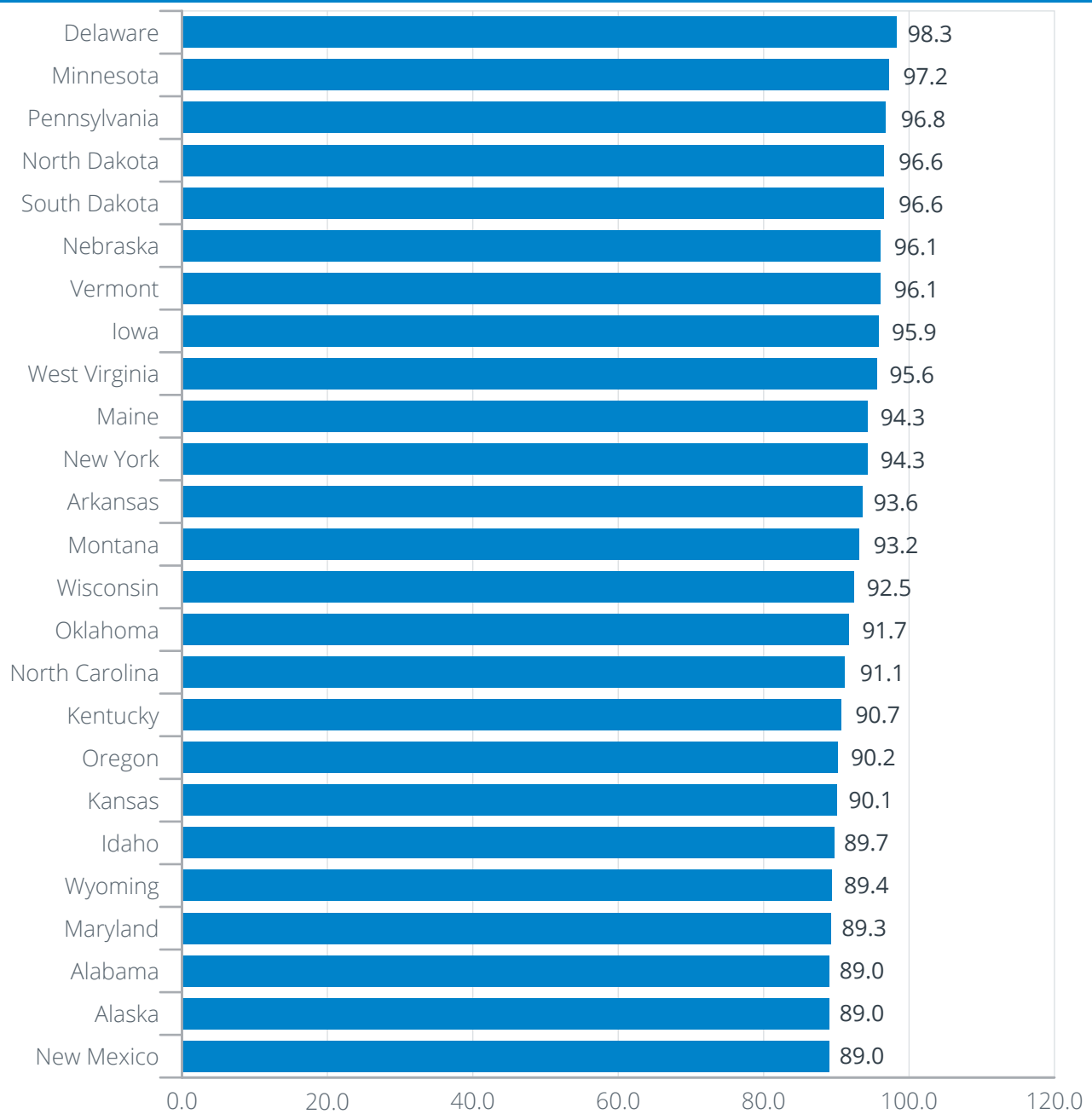
State	Volunteer	Mostly volunteer	Mostly career	Career
Missouri	72.8	11.9	5.8	9.5
Montana	83.9	9.3	2.1	4.6
Nebraska	92.0	4.1	1.0	2.8
Nevada	54.7	25.6	8.1	11.6
New Hampshire	52.8	32.5	9.4	5.2
New Jersey	75.9	12.9	3.6	7.6
New Mexico	78.8	10.2	2.4	8.6
New York	90.2	4.2	1.4	4.2
North Carolina	62.9	28.2	4.4	4.5
North Dakota	92.3	4.3	0.3	3.1
Ohio	60.7	21.8	5.0	12.5
Oklahoma	81.6	10.2	2.2	6.1
Oregon	43.9	46.2	3.9	5.9
Pennsylvania	90.2	6.6	0.7	2.5
Rhode Island	38.2	23.5	2.9	35.3
South Carolina	53.6	24.9	12.4	9.0
South Dakota	91.8	4.8	0.3	3.1
Tennessee	73.6	13.6	4.7	8.1
Texas	70.4	11.9	6.3	11.4
U.S. territories	9.1	0.0	18.2	72.7
Utah	65.3	21.1	5.3	8.4
Vermont	87.7	8.4	2.5	1.5
Virginia	71.1	17.2	4.7	6.9
Washington	39.3	38.3	10.8	11.5
West Virginia	90.6	4.9	1.2	3.2
Wisconsin	78.8	13.7	1.6	5.9
Wyoming	70.8	18.6	0.9	9.7
Total	70.5	15.9	4.7	8.8

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

2. This analysis excludes 93 fire departments that did not provide the number of active firefighting personnel.

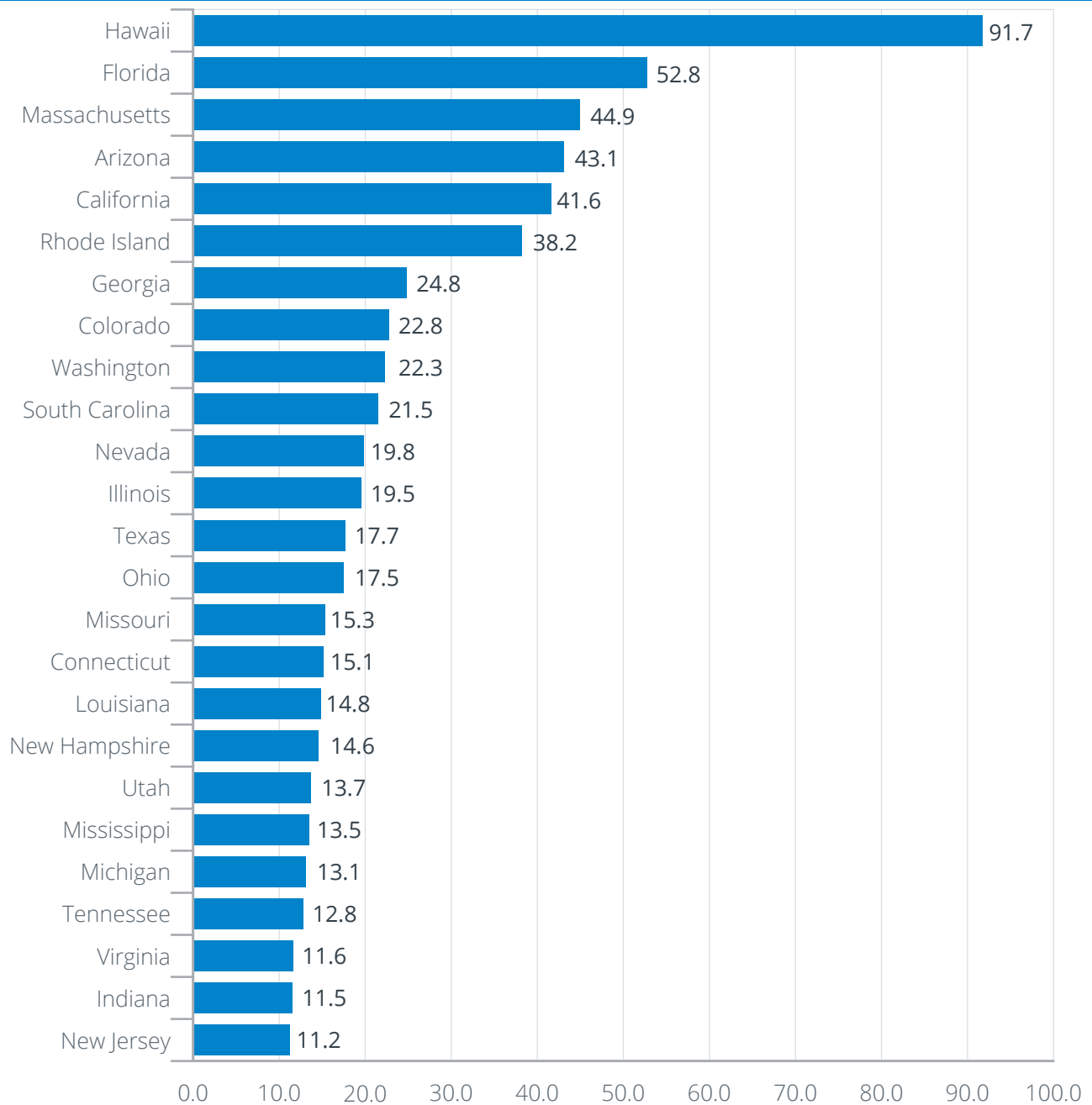
Figures 2 and 3 show the top 25 states (excluding the District of Columbia and U.S. territories) in ranking order by the percentage of volunteer and career fire departments, respectively.

Figure 2. Percentage of registered volunteer and mostly volunteer fire departments top 25 states by rank (January 2020)



Note: There were 93 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 2020)



Note: There were 93 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%), fire/injury prevention and public education (63%), wildfire/wildland urban interface (WUI) (62%), and basic life support (BLS) services (59%). Only 5% of registered departments have fireboat service capabilities. Of the departments that provide fire investigation/fire-cause determination services, 19% have sworn investigators with power to arrest.

Table 3. Percentage of fire departments providing specialized services (January 2020)

Specialized services provided	Percentage
Vehicle extrication	77.0
Fire/Injury prevention and public education	63.0
Wildfire/WUI	62.4
BLS	59.2
Emergency medical services (EMS) nontransport response	39.3
Technical/Specialized rescue	35.3
Fire investigation/fire-cause determination	35.1
Fire inspection/code enforcement	34.6
Departmental (in-house) training academy	21.9
Advanced life support	21.0
EMS ambulance transport	20.8
Hazmat team	17.8
Juvenile firesetter intervention program	13.7
Airport/Aviation	7.9
Fireboat	4.5

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