



Public Administration: Number of Jobs

This map estimates the number of public administration jobs within each census block group in 2010.

Why is the number of public administration jobs important?

Number of public administration jobs is one of many measures or variables used by city planners to examine the proportions of residents, jobs, and services in urban areas and to guide development planning for efficient city design and transit networks. Besides indicating the number of jobs within a specific job class, the metric also suggests a level of economic activity in the block group. Number of jobs in a particular job class may be used as a component in other more complex Smart Location metrics such as employment diversity, which is calculated for each block group using employment figures from eight different job categories.

The public administration sector employs workers that create laws and policy, manage public programs, maintain law and order, and provide for public safety. The public administration employment classification contains jobs in government (e.g., federal, state, and local executive officers, legislative bodies, and public finance); justice, order, and safety (e.g., courts, legal counsel, police protection, correctional institutions, and fire protection); administration of programs (e.g., human resources, public health, education, veterans' affairs); environmental quality, housing, transportation, space research, national security, and international affairs.¹ In March of 2013, over 21.8 million people were employed by federal, state, and local governments.² The term public administration differs from public employment, which would also include all public education jobs (covered separately under NAICS 61).

Service jobs of all types presently make up about 84% of the overall economy.³ The public administration category in the Smart Locations database is one of a group of job categories that is often listed in the service sector in the economics literature. Wages within the class range from entry-level wages to executive officer salaries. Workers employed in public administration generally acquire higher levels of education (e.g., undergraduate and graduate degrees), and they are more highly paid as a result. Jobs in public administration are typically middle- to high-wage jobs. Because the majority of public administration jobs provide a personal service and rely on direct customer contact, they are



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not subject to offshoring, as are many office, service, and manufacturing jobs. However, public administration jobs are influenced by budget deficits, particularly at the state and local level. Over 580,000 jobs have been lost in federal, state, and local government since 2009 and public administration job numbers continued to decline through 2013 even as private sector jobs recovered.⁴

Public administration job densities are higher in urban areas and particularly in larger metropolitan areas where governmental programs and activities may be concentrated. However, the number and density of public administration jobs may be higher than expected even in remote undeveloped areas (for, example near national and state parks). In urban areas, knowing the distribution of various job densities is prerequisite to planning for transportation networks and affordable housing developments.

Smart Growth planning programs promote the development of a diversity of residences, employment opportunities, and services within compact neighborhoods. Planning strategies promote housing in job-rich areas and new employment centers in dense residential zones. Research indicates that people who live in compact neighborhoods walk more, use transit more, and drive less than people living in lower density neighborhoods. Resident workers with easy accessibility to a diversity of job types in various wage classes can reduce not only vehicle miles traveled (VMT) but fuel consumption and [greenhouse gas emissions](#) (GHGs) associated with employee commuting trips.⁵

How can I use this information?

This map, Public Administration: Number of Jobs, allows users to evaluate various block groups by the number of public administration jobs relative to other characteristics. Comparing this map to areas of relatively high-, low- and middle-wage worker residential density may indicate the effectiveness of community design and road networks to link potential workers with job opportunities. Planners may want to promote increased affordable housing in block groups with high public administration employment density and a low resident working population. They may identify neighborhoods with optimal numbers of jobs and housing that can support new or enhanced transit service. Economic development agencies in regions with limited transit service may use this map to encourage the siting of new job centers in areas that are highly accessible to the regional workforce.

This data layer may be compared to other EnviroAtlas demographic and Smart Location data layers. The aerial-image base map (seen by increasing the transparency of the map layers) can be used to show the spatial distribution of the built environment within block groups. For select communities, users can overlay EnviroAtlas community land cover maps that show impervious surfaces, street trees, and other common land covers at 1-meter resolution.

How were the data for this map created?

The 2010 [Census LEHD](#) (Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics) database gave the total number of public administration jobs (NAICS sector 92) by U.S. Census block group. The number of jobs was summarized from LEHD Work Area Characteristics (WAC) tables that report employment based on work location. Data for Massachusetts came from InfoUSA. The metric, listed as E8_Pub10, may be found in the [Smart Location Database User Guide](#).

What are the limitations of these data?

A block group is a collection of census blocks, the smallest area mapped by the U.S. Census Bureau. It is important to remember that jobs or residences are not distributed evenly

throughout the area of a block group. A diversity of land uses or activities may be sparsely distributed in large census block groups. On the other hand, a small block group may be uniform and low in diversity, but it may be located within easy access to a more diverse block group. Using the aerial-image base map will give an indication of the proportions of developed and undeveloped land in each census block group. The U.S. Census Bureau maintains a website on methodology and [reliability of data](#).

How can I access these data?

EnviroAtlas data can be viewed in the interactive map, accessed through web services, or downloaded. Data from the [2010 U.S. Census](#) may be viewed on and downloaded from the census website.

Where can I get more information?

A selection of resources on the relationships among public administration jobs, city planning, and environmental quality is listed below. More details about this metric are available in the [Smart Location Database User Guide](#). In addition, EPA's [Smart Growth Program](#) provides tools, resources, and technical assistance to communities seeking to pursue compact and mixed-use development strategies to create vibrant, walkable neighborhoods while protecting public health and the environment. For additional information on the data creation process, access the metadata for the data layer from the drop down menu on the interactive map table of contents and click again on metadata at the bottom of the metadata summary page for more details. To ask specific questions about this data layer, please contact the [EnviroAtlas Team](#).

Acknowledgments

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Selected Publications

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2015. [Public Administration: NAICS 92](#). Accessed July 2015.
2. Willhide, R.J. 2014. [Annual survey of public employment and payroll summary report: 2013](#). U.S. Census Bureau Statistical Brief. Accessed July, 2015.
3. Haksever, C., and B. Render. 2013. [Service management: An integrated approach to supply chain management and operations](#). FT Press, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. 528 p.
4. Greenstone, M., and A. Looney. 2012. [A record decline in government jobs: Implications for the economy and America's workforce](#). Brookings on job numbers. Brookings, accessed July, 2015.
5. National Research Council. 2009. [Driving and the built environment: The effects of compact development on motorized travel, energy use, and CO₂ emissions](#). Special Report 298, The National Academies Press, Washington, D.C. 240 p.