

CAPITOL FACTS & FIGURES

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GOVERNORS' SALARIES, 2014

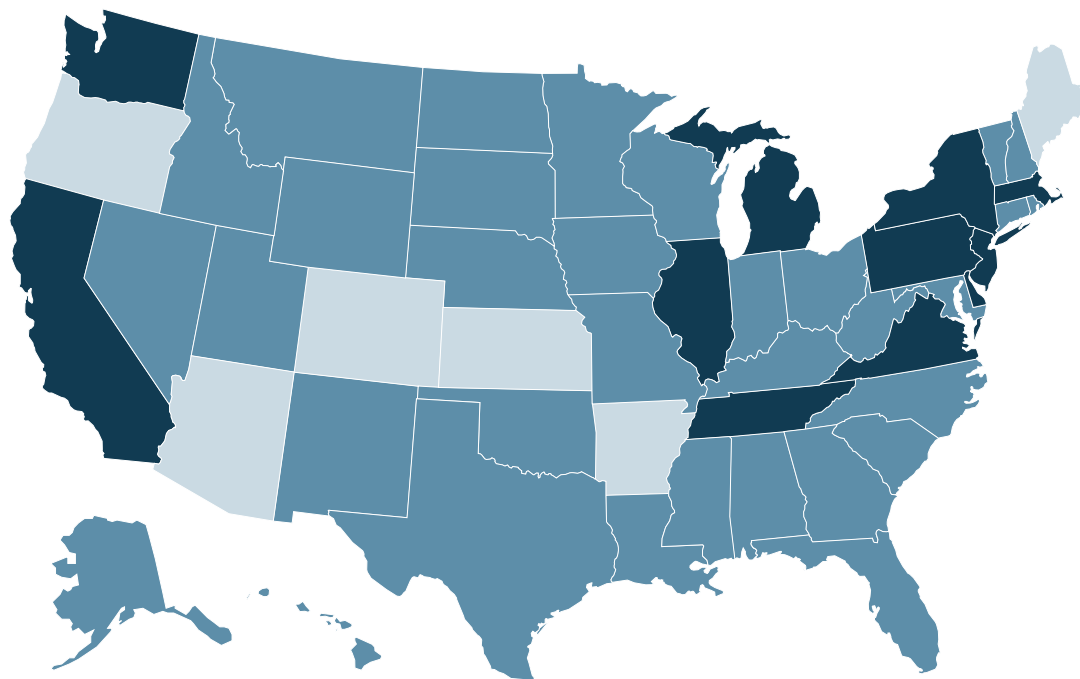
The Council of State Governments has been collecting data on governors' salaries for *The Book of the States* since 1937. The average governor's salary has grown more slowly in recent years than in the past, with a number of states cutting their chief executive's pay during and after the Great Recession.

Governors' salaries in 2014 range from a low of \$70,000 per year to a high of \$187,818, with an average salary of \$134,390.

- Maine Gov. Paul LePage, with an annual salary of \$70,000, earns the lowest salary, followed by Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe, who earns \$86,890 per year.
 - The two highest paid governors in 2014 are Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett (\$187,818 per year) and Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam (\$181,980 per year); however, both come with caveats. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is the third highest paid governor, earning \$179,000 per year.
 - Corbett has the highest gubernatorial salary—\$187,818—but he has refused at least three cost-of-living adjustments during his tenure and 1.7 percent of his salary is being repaid as part of a statewide management pay freeze, making his actual pay closer to \$175,000.
 - Haslam's salary of \$181,980 per year ranks second among governors' salaries, but he returns 100 percent of his salary to the state of Tennessee.
 - Governors in two states—Alabama and Tennessee—either do not accept a paycheck or return their salaries to the state, while Florida Gov. Rick Scott returns all but 12 cents to the state and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder returns all but \$1 to the state.
 - Several governors have taken voluntary salary reductions in recent years. For example, Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear's \$138,012 salary reflects a voluntary 10 percent reduction from 2013. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo also voluntarily reduced his salary by 5 percent in 2013, and Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin took a voluntary 3 percent reduction in his annual salary, which is set by statute.
- Governors' salaries have been cut in some states and increased in others during and since the recession.
- The average annual salary for governors grew by 0.8 percent from 2013 to 2014.
 - Governors in 11 states saw their salaries increase in 2014 over 2013 levels. Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie saw the largest year-over-year increase, when his salary increased by 23 percent (from \$117,312 to \$143,748), based on recommendations from the state's Commission on Salaries. The median salary increase for these 11 governors was \$3,624.
 - The average annual salary for governors has decreased only once during the past 10 years. In 2010, the average salary fell slightly, from \$131,115 to \$130,595, in large part because the salary for California's governor was reduced by 18 percent based on recommendations from the state's Citizens Compensation Commission. Prior to the reduction, the governor's salary was the highest in the country—\$212,179. Florida and Hawaii also cut pay for their top executive branch official in 2010.



2014 GOVERNORS' SALARIES OVERVIEW



Less than \$100,000
 \$100,000 to \$150,000
 More than \$150,000

*Technically, the two highest paid governors in 2014 are Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett (\$187,818) and Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam (\$181,980). However, Gov. Corbett has refused at least three cost-of-living adjustments during his tenure and 1.7 percent of his salary is being repaid as part of a statewide management pay freeze, making his actual pay closer to \$175,000. Gov. Haslam returns 100 percent of his salary back to the state of Tennessee.

- Although a number of states reduced governor's salaries from 2003 to 2009, those reductions were offset by increases in other states, making the average annual change for governors' salaries a 2.8 percent increase over this period.
- Since the 2010 decrease, the average governor's salary has grown more slowly than in the previous decade, increasing less than 1 percent each year. That is due, in large part, to the widespread salary freezes that halted cost-of-living adjustments for public employees during and after the recession; those salary freezes have persisted in a number of states.
- The average governor's salary in 2014 is very close to what it was 77 years ago, when adjusted for inflation.
- The average salary for a governor in the 48 states was \$7,823 in 1937. When adjusted for inflation, the average salary for a governor in 1937 becomes \$129,313—just 4 percent shy of the average salary in 2014.
- In 1937, the governor of New York collected the highest salary, earning \$25,000 a year. That \$25,000 salary in 2013 dollars would be worth \$413,250—more than double what Cuomo earns today.

- The governor of South Dakota earned the least of any governor in 1937—\$3,000—which is equal to \$49,590 in today's dollars, or less than half of Gov. Dennis Daugaard's current \$104,002 salary.



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Source: The Council of State Governments Survey, *The Book of the States: The Governors: Compensation, Staff, Travel and Residence*, 1937, 2013, 2014.

...—Not Available.

***Notes:**

Alabama—Gov. Robert Bentley is not accepting his salary, \$119,950 until the unemployment rate in Alabama drops.

Florida—Gov. Rick Scott only collected 12 cents of his salary.

Kentucky—Reflects a voluntary 10 percent salary reduction by Gov. Steve Beshear.

Michigan—Gov. Rick Snyder returned all but \$1.00 of his salary.

New York—Gov. Andrew Cuomo voluntarily reduced his salary by 5 percent in 2013.

Pennsylvania—Gov. Tom Corbett has refused at least three cost-of-living adjustments during his tenure, returning the increases to the state and making his actual pay closer to \$175,000. In addition, 1.7 percent of Gov. Corbett's salary is being repaid as part of the management pay freeze.

Tennessee—Gov. Haslam returns his salary to the state. Tennessee statute currently mandates the governor and the chief justice of the Supreme Court receive the same salary.

Vermont—Gov. Peter Shumlin took a voluntary 3 percent reduction in the annual salary set in statute.

GOVERNORS' SALARIES

State or Jurisdiction	1937		2013		2014	
	Governor's Salary (current dollars)	Governor's Salary (in 2014 dollars)	Governor's Salary (current dollars)	Percent of National Average	Governor's Salary (current dollars)	Percent of National Average
Alabama*	\$6,000	\$99,180	\$119,950	90%	\$119,950	89%
Alaska	...		\$145,000	109%	\$145,000	108%
Arizona	\$6,000	\$99,180	\$95,000	71%	\$95,000	71%
Arkansas	\$6,000	\$99,180	\$86,890	65%	\$86,890	65%
California	\$10,000	\$165,300	\$173,987	130%	\$173,987	129%
Colorado	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$90,000	67%	\$90,000	67%
Connecticut	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$150,000	112%	\$150,000	112%
Delaware	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$171,000	128%	\$171,000	127%
Florida*	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$130,273	98%	\$130,273	97%
Georgia	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$139,339	104%	\$139,339	104%
Hawaii	...		\$117,312	88%	\$143,748	107%
Idaho	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$117,000	88%	\$119,000	89%
Illinois	\$12,000	\$198,360	\$177,412	133%	\$177,412	132%
Indiana	\$8,000	\$132,240	\$111,688	84%	\$111,688	83%
Iowa	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$130,000	97%	\$130,000	97%
Kansas	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$99,636	75%	\$99,636	74%
Kentucky*	\$6,500	\$107,445	\$153,970	115%	\$138,012	103%
Louisiana	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$130,000	97%	\$130,000	97%
Maine	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$70,000	52%	\$70,000	52%
Maryland	\$6,500	\$107,445	\$150,000	112%	\$150,000	112%
Massachusetts	\$10,000	\$165,300	\$139,832	105%	\$151,800	113%
Michigan*	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$159,300	119%	\$159,300	119%
Minnesota	\$7,000	\$115,710	\$120,303	90%	\$119,850	89%
Mississippi	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$122,160	92%	\$122,160	91%
Missouri	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$133,821	100%	\$133,821	100%
Montana	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$108,167	81%	\$108,167	80%
Nebraska	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$105,000	79%	\$105,000	78%
Nevada	\$7,000	\$115,710	\$149,573	112%	\$149,730	111%
New Hampshire	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$113,834	85%	\$121,896	91%
New Jersey	\$20,000	\$330,600	\$175,000	131%	\$175,000	130%
New Mexico	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$110,000	82%	\$110,000	82%
New York*	\$25,000	\$413,250	\$179,000	134%	\$179,000	133%
North Carolina	\$10,500	\$173,565	\$141,265	106%	\$141,265	105%
North Dakota	\$4,000	\$66,120	\$116,999	88%	\$121,679	91%
Ohio	\$10,000	\$165,300	\$148,886	112%	\$148,886	111%
Oklahoma	\$6,500	\$107,445	\$147,000	110%	\$147,000	109%
Oregon	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$93,600	70%	\$98,600	73%
Pennsylvania*	\$18,000	\$297,540	\$187,256	140%	\$187,818	140%
Rhode Island	\$8,000	\$132,240	\$129,210	97%	\$129,210	96%
South Carolina	\$7,500	\$123,975	\$106,078	80%	\$106,078	79%
South Dakota	\$3,000	\$49,590	\$100,972	76%	\$104,002	77%
Tennessee*	\$4,000	\$66,120	\$178,356	134%	\$181,980	135%
Texas	\$12,000	\$198,360	\$150,000	112%	\$150,000	112%
Utah	\$6,000	\$99,180	\$109,470	82%	\$109,470	81%
Vermont*	\$5,000	\$82,650	\$142,542	107%	\$145,538	108%
Virginia	\$10,000	\$165,300	\$175,000	131%	\$175,000	130%
Washington	\$6,000	\$99,180	\$166,891	125%	\$166,891	124%
West Virginia	\$10,000	\$165,300	\$150,000	112%	\$150,000	112%
Wisconsin	\$6,000	\$99,180	\$144,423	108%	\$144,423	107%
Wyoming	\$6,500	\$107,445	\$105,000	79%	\$105,000	78%
50-State Average	\$7,823	\$129,313	\$133,348		\$134,390	
American Samoa	...		\$50,000	37.5%	\$50,000	37.2%
Guam	...		\$90,000	67.5%	\$90,000	67.0%
No. Mariana Islands	...		\$70,000	52.5%	\$70,000	52.1%
Puerto Rico	...		\$70,000	52.5%	\$70,000	52.1%
U.S. Virgin Islands	...		\$80,000	60.0%	\$80,000	59.5%