

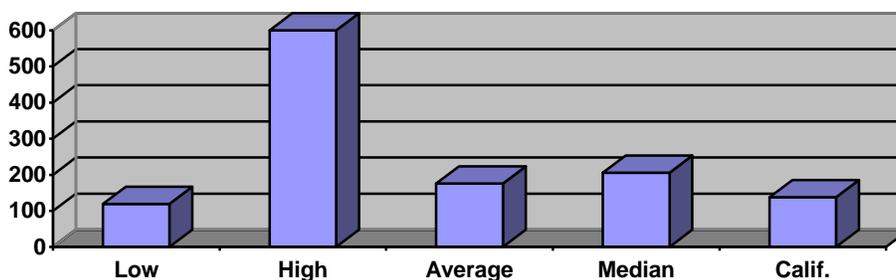
### California Has FEWER State Employees Per Capita

State employees are often viewed by the public as synonymous with government “bureaucracy” or “waste.” This is especially true during an economic downturn, when the number of state employees is seen as part of the problem. Reducing the number of state employees is widely and consistently seen as an unmitigated “good.”

Although these opinions are firmly held, few have any idea how many state employees California actually has, where they work, and how that compares with other states. For purposes of interstate comparisons, it is common practice to count the number of state employees on a per capita basis to adjust for differences in statewide populations.

- ✓ **California, with 138 state employees per 10,000 population, has fewer state employees per capita than all states except Pennsylvania, Illinois and Florida.**

**State Employees per 10,000 Population**



The range is from a low of 119 (Florida) to a high of 602 (Hawaii). California is only 16 percent above the lowest state, while the highest state is 336 percent above California.

- ✓ **The national average is 176, while the median (the point at which half of the states are above and half below) is 206 (Mississippi and Oregon). California is well below both of those points.**

Higher education (primarily the University of California and the California State University) accounts for more than one-third (37 percent) of all state workers. This is the same as the national average. In second place is corrections, which accounts for 14 percent of all state workers in California, as compared to 11 percent nationally. The third largest category of state workers is hospital employees, who account for 10 percent of all state workers in California and nationally.

Overall, the distribution of state workers in California is similar to the national pattern, with one exception. Nationally, state welfare workers account for 5 percent of all state employees; in California it’s less than 1 percent.

Sources: U. S. Bureau of the Census and Governing Sourcebook (<http://sourcebook.governing.com>)