

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

United States Congress

- ↳ US Senate and US House of Representatives

Government Printing Office

- ↳ The office prints documents produced by and for all branches of the federal government
- ↳ They print US Passports
- ↳ Controversy: in 2008 the Washington Times published a story about the outsourcing of electronic-chip passports development to overseas companies including one in Thailand that was victimized by Chinese espionage

Government Accountability Office

- ↳ The audit, evaluation and investigative arm of Congress
- ↳ Bicameral commission of congressional leaders gives the president a list of at least three individuals, whom the president then chooses one to nominate. GAO head ("Comptroller General") is a Senate-confirmable position, 15-year non-renewable term
- ↳ Comptroller General may not be removed by the president, but only by Congress through impeachment of joint resolution for specific reasons
- ↳ The long tenure of the Comptroller General and the manner of appointment and removal gives GAO a continuity of leadership and independence that is rare within government

Library of Congress

- ↳ The Library's mission is researching inquiries made by Congress through the Congressional Research Service.
- ↳ Also contains the US Copyright Office

Congressional Budget Office

- ↳ Provides economic data to Congress; required to provide regular reports to Congress on the federal budget.

US Capitol Police

US Capitol Guide Service

Office of Compliance (independent federal agency)

- ↳ It was created to administer and enforce the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.
- ↳ A 5 member, non-partisan Board of Directors are appointed to 5 year terms by the majority and minority leaders of both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate.

JUDICIAL BRANCH

US Supreme Court

US Courts of Appeal

- ↳ There are 11 Circuit Courts, as well as a DC and Federal Circuit Court.

US District Courts (there are 91 District Courts)

US Territorial Courts (there are 3 Territorial Courts)

US Court of International Trade

Article I Courts

- ↳ United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces
- ↳ The court is composed of five civilian judges appointed for 15 year terms by the US President with the advice and consent of the US Senate.
- ↳ United States Tax Court
- ↳ United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
- ↳ District of Columbia Court of Appeals
- ↳ Superior Court of the District of Columbia
- ↳ United States Bankruptcy Courts

Administration

- ↳ Office of Probation and Pretrial Services
- ↳ Federal Judicial Center
- ↳ The education and research agency of the US federal courts. Its responsibilities . . .
- ↳ conducting and promoting orientation and continuing education and training for federal judges, court employees, and others;
- ↳ developing recommendations about the operation and study of the federal courts; and
- ↳ conducting and promoting research on federal judicial procedures, court operations and history.

US Sentencing Commission

- ↳ It is an independent federal agency within the Judicial branch.
- ↳ It is responsible for articulating the sentencing guidelines for the US federal courts.
- ↳ The 7 voting members on the Commission are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and serve 6 year terms. Commission members may be reappointed to 1 additional term (still senate confirmable). No more than 3 of the commissioners may be federal judges, and no more than 4 may belong to the same political party.
- ↳ *Mistretta v. United States* (1989):
- ↳ The constitutionality of the commission was challenged as a congressional encroachment on the power of the executive, but its authority was upheld by the Supreme Court in this case.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

Council of Economic Advisors

- ↳ Group of 3 economists who advise the President

Council on Environmental Quality

National Security Council

- ↳ The function of the Council has been to advise and assist the president on national security and foreign policies.

Office of National Drug Control Policy

Office of National AIDS Policy

Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships

Independent agencies and Governments

Amtrak (National Railroad Passenger Corporation)

CIA – Central Intelligence Agency

Commission on Civil Rights

Consumer Product Safety Commission

Corporation for Public Broadcasting

- ↳ PBS – Public Broadcasting Service

- ↳ NPR – National Public Radio

EPA – Environmental Protection Agency

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

FDIC – Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Federal Election Commission

Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service

Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission

Federal Reserve System

FTC – Federal Trade Commission

Institute of Museum and Library Services

NASA – National Aeronautics and Space Administration

National Archives and Records Administration

National Endowment for the Arts

National Endowment for the Humanities

National Labor Relations Board

National Mediation Board

National Science Foundation

National Transportation Safety Board

Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Office of Compliance

Office of Government Ethics

Office of Personnel Management

Office of Special Counsel (president's attorney)

Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Peace Corps

Securities and Exchange Commission

Selective Service System (military draft)

Social Security Administration

United States Postal Service

Departments within each of the
Branches of United States Government

Department of Agriculture
Responsible for developing and executing policy on farming, agriculture, and food. It aims to meet the needs of farmers and ranchers, promote agricultural trade and production, work to assure food safety, protect natural resources, foster rural communities and end hunger in the United States.

- ↳ Food and Nutrition Service
- ↳ Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
- ↳ US Forest Service

Department of Commerce
The mission of the department is to "promote job creation and improved living standards for all Americans by creating an infrastructure that promotes economic growth, technological competitiveness, and sustainable development." Among its tasks are gathering economic and demographic data for business and government decision-making, issuing patents and trademarks, and helping to set industrial standards.

- ↳ National Weather Service
- ↳ Patent and Trademark Office
- ↳ Bureau of the Census

Department of Defense
Charged with coordinating and supervising all agencies and functions of the government relating directly to national security and the armed forces.

- ↳ Army, Air Force, Navy (Marines are within the Navy)
- ↳ National Security Agency
 - ↳ Responsible for the collection and analysis of foreign communications and foreign signals intelligence, as well as protecting US government communications and information systems

Department of Education
The primary functions of the Department of Education are to formulate and administer federal funding programs involving education, such as college financial aid, collect data on schools, and to enforce federal educational laws regarding privacy and civil rights.

- ↳ 'No Child Left Behind' enforcement

Department of Energy
Its responsibilities include the nation's nuclear weapons program, nuclear reactor production for the Navy, energy conservation, energy-related research, radioactive waste disposal, and domestic energy production.

- ↳ DOE sponsors more basic and applied scientific research than any other federal agency

Department of Health and Human Services
Their goal is to protect the health of all Americans and providing essential human services.

- ↳ Office of Head Start
- ↳ Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Bureau
- ↳ Office of Refugee Resettlement
- ↳ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality
- ↳ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- ↳ Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response
- ↳ National Center for Health Statistics
- ↳ State Children's Health Insurance Program
- ↳ Food and Drug Administration
- ↳ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- ↳ Office of Civil Rights

Department of Homeland Security
Responsibilities of protecting the territory of the US from terrorist attacks and responding to natural disasters.

- ↳ Whereas the Department of Defense is charged with military actions abroad, Homeland Security works in the civilian sphere to protect the US.
- ↳ FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency
- ↳ TSA – Transportation Security Administration
- ↳ USCIS – US Citizenship and Immigration Services
- ↳ US Coast Guard
- ↳ US Customs and Border Protection (Border Patrol)
- ↳ US Secret Service

Department of Housing and Urban Development
Funds public housing projects, enforces equal housing laws, and insures and finances mortgages.

- ↳ Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- ↳ Office of Labor Relations
- ↳ Office of Equal Employment Opportunity

Department of the Interior
Responsible for the management and conservation of most federal land and natural resources, and the administration of programs relating to Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, territorial affairs, and to insular areas of the United States.

- ↳ Bureau of Land Management
- ↳ Fish and Wildlife Service
- ↳ National Park Service
- ↳ US Geological Survey
- ↳ Bureau of Indian Affairs

Departments within each of the Branches of United States Government

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EXECUTIVE BRANCH CABINET-LEVEL DEPARTMENTS

Department of Veteran Affairs
Responsible for administering programs of veterans' benefits for veterans, their families, and survivors.

- ↳ Center for Faith-based and Community Initiatives
- ↳ National Cemetery Administration

Department of Justice
Responsible for the enforcement of the law and administration of justice

- ↳ Civil Rights Division; Office of Pardon Attorney
- ↳ Federal Bureau of Prisons; FBI; Drug Enf. Agency.
- ↳ Office of Violence Against Women
- ↳ Office of Professional Responsibility
 - ↳ Investigates allegations of professional misconduct involving Justice Department lawyers

Department of Labor
Responsible for occupational safety, wage and hour standards, unemployment insurance benefits, re-employment services, and some economic statistics

- ↳ Mine Safety and Health Administration; Job Corps

Department of State
Responsible for US involvement in international relations.

- ↳ Office of War Crimes issues
- ↳ Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons
- ↳ Bureau of Consular Affairs (overseas citizens services)

Department of Transportation
Sets national transportation policy, plans and funds construction of highways and mass transit system, and regulates railroad, aviation and maritime operations.

- ↳ FAA – Federal Aviation Administration
- ↳ Federal Highway Administration

Department of the Treasury
Prints and mints all paper currency and coins in circulation. The Department also collects all federal taxes and manages US government debt instruments.

- ↳ IRS – Internal Revenue Service

Departments within each of
the Branches of United States Government
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GENERAL INFORMATION

Independent Agencies in the Executive branch are independent in that they are not subordinated under a Cabinet position. Most (but not all) independent agencies are in the executive branch.

Federal Government Civilian Employment (minus US Postal Service), November 2008

- ↳ Employment/Size by Branch of Government
 - ↳ 33, 000 Judicial Branch of Government
 - ↳ 30,000 Legislative Branch of Government
 - ↳ 1,664,000 Executive Branch of Government
- ↳ Employment/Size by Department
 - ↳ 652,000 Defense (total)
 - ↳ 244,000 (Defense) Army
 - ↳ 175,000 (Defense) Navy
 - ↳ 149,000 (Defense) Air Force
 - ↳ 84,000 (Defense) other
 - ↳ 280,000 Veteran Affairs
 - ↳ 171,000 Homeland Security
 - ↳ 108,000 Justice
 - ↳ 88,000 Treasury
 - ↳ 82,000 Agriculture
 - ↳ 67,000 Interior
 - ↳ 64,000 Health and human Services
 - ↳ 55,000 Transportation
 - ↳ 39,000 Commerce
 - ↳ 16,000 Labor
 - ↳ 15,000 Energy
 - ↳ 15,000 State
 - ↳ 9,000 Housing and Urban Development
 - ↳ 4,000 Education

85% of federal employees work outside Washington DC metropolitan area

Redundancy is apparent throughout the government.

Example... (statistics dated 2005)

- ↳ 342 programs government-wide address themes of economic development programs
- ↳ 130 programs serve the disabled
- ↳ 130 programs serve at-risk youth
- ↳ 90 early childhood development programs
- ↳ 75 programs funding international education, cultural and training exchange activities
- ↳ 72 federal programs dedicated to assuring safe water
- ↳ 50 homeless assistance programs
- ↳ 40 separate employment and training programs
- ↳ 28 rural development programs
- ↳ 27 teen pregnancy programs
- ↳ 28 small, extraneous K-12 school grand programs
- ↳ 23 agencies providing aid to the former Soviet republics
- ↳ 19 programs fighting substance abuse
- ↳ 17 rural water and waste-water programs in 8 agencies
- ↳ 11 principal statistics agencies
- ↳ 4 overlapping land management agencies

Common arguments for maintaining government roughly as it is:

- ↳ Each of these departments plays an important and unique role in the function of the government
- ↳ If there is a problem with government, it is not its size but rather whose interests it serves.
 - ↳ Money to fund wars or miscellaneous things (cash-for-clunkers; tax breaks for the wealthy) rather than directing it to when it needs to go (education; construction; social safety net).
- ↳ Due to the philosophies of checks and balances and separation of powers, there are built in protections to identify and prevent abuse and corruption.
- ↳ A sizable government (as big as is necessary) is good for creating economic growth.
 - ↳ What has government done? Economic stimulus interjected into economy; help with home ownership; unemployment insurance, regulation of the economy, etc.

Common arguments against “big government”:

- ↳ The size of the government (ie, all the many departments) leads to waste, which adds to the federal deficit and inefficiency.
- ↳ Redundancy!
 - ↳ For instance, many departments in government have a civil rights office, so why not incorporate those into only a single one?
- ↳ To fund such a big government, citizens have to pay high taxes
- ↳ The US is turning into a socialist country!
 - ↳ Social security, Medicaid and Medicare are all indicative of this system
- ↳ Due to our spending more than we take in, we are increasing the national deficit and national debt.
 - ↳ How much longer can this continue without penalty?
- ↳ Government can fulfill programs with efficiency, controlling spending and holding personnel or independent contractors accountable for their performance.
- ↳ Big government is bad for the economy, as its waste (much through unaccountability) far outstrips any benefit it would incur.