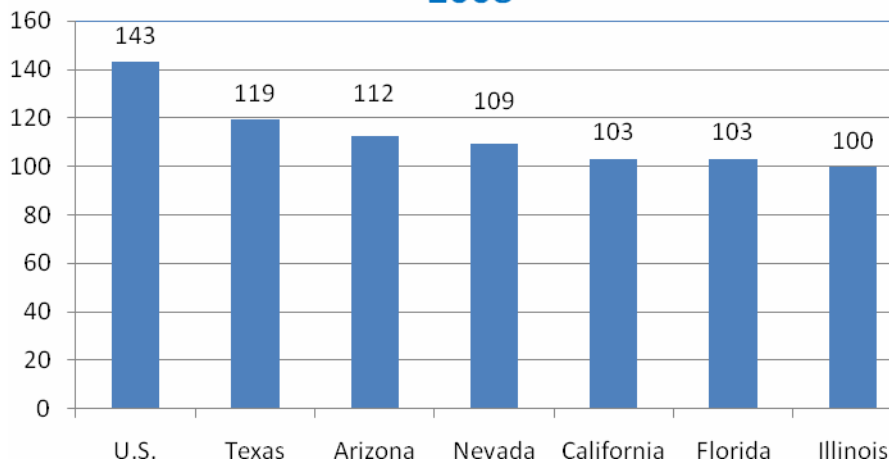


Budget Myth 2-- California has a High Number of State Employees

While “too many” is a subjective term and people have different perspectives on the optimal number of state employees, it is true that California has a **low, not a high, number of state employees relative to population compared to other states and the national average.**

These data from an earlier *Numbers in the News* reflect 2008 data. In April 2010 the state had roughly 10,000 fewer employees than two years ago while the state population was 800,000 higher.

State Employees per 10,000 Residents
2008

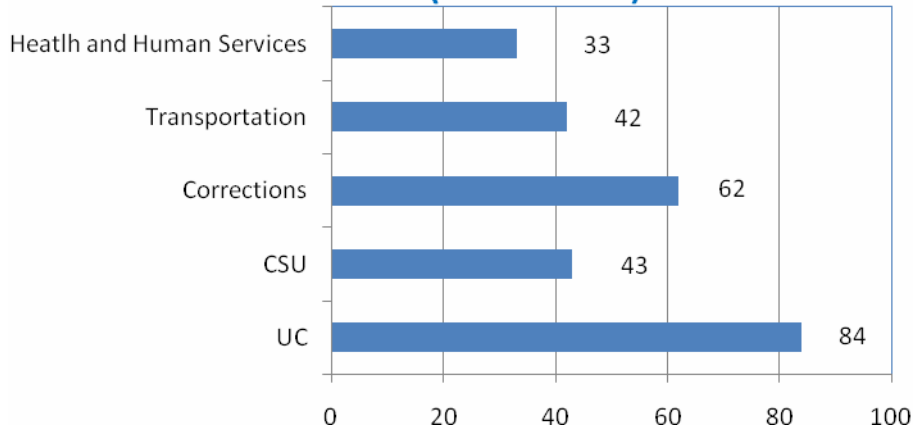


The pay and retirement benefits for these state employees are above the national average for state workers and are part of a legitimate discussion of the short-term and long-term budget debate.

California has approximately 345,000 full-time equivalent state employees in the proposed 2010-2011 budget according to the state Department of Finance. This is down by close to 20,000 from the authorized 2008-09 budget. This indicates a planned reduction of 10,000 employees in the coming year in addition to the 10,000 reduction in the previous two years mentioned above.

The largest concentrations of state employees are in higher education followed by corrections and transportation. Health and human services is the next largest sector. No other activities account for more than 16,000 employees.

Full Time Equivalent State Employees 2010-11 (Thousands)



It would be helpful for the public budget debate if legislators and candidates were specific about where they propose to make additional cuts in the number of state employees and why they think this is good policy.