



State payroll climbs to \$7.2 billion last year



By [Matt Rocheleau](#)

GLOBE STAFF JANUARY 16, 2019

The Massachusetts state payroll climbed to \$7.2 billion last year, an increase of 2.5 percent over the previous year, according to new data from the state comptroller's office, with the highest-paid employees being in the state's university system.

The number of state workers earning six figures grew by about 14 percent [from 2017](#), according to [the data](#). Last year, more than 13,500 people took home \$100,000 or more, up from 11,900 the previous year. Twenty-four workers made upward of \$100,000 in overtime pay alone.

Overall, overtime spending ballooned to \$290 million, an increase of about 6 percent from 2017.

ADVERTISEMENT



3 Easy Steps:

- 1) **Click** 'Start Now'
- 2) **Download** on our website!
- 3) **Get** Easy Speed Test

Easy Speed Test

Eileen McAnneny, president of the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation, said the spike in six-figure earners raised questions, as did the increases in overtime spending.

Get **Metro Headlines** in your inbox:

The 10 top local news stories from metro Boston and around New England delivered daily.

Sign Up

“Having 24 workers make over \$100K in overtime, and the bump in overtime costs more generally, suggests that the state may need to think of hiring additional workers to reduce the amount of overtime it is paying,” McAnneny said via e-mail.

None of these figures account for spending by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, which has historically been accounted for separately, or spending by quasi-public state agencies, such as the Massachusetts Port Authority, which handle their payrolls separately and for the most part have not yet released figures covering all of 2018.

The list of the highest-paid state workers last year was dominated by University of Massachusetts employees, as it has been in previous years.

The highest-paid employee was UMass Medical School chancellor and senior vice president for health sciences Michael Collins, who made \$1,069,751 last year, a 2.5 percent increase from what he took home in 2017.

ADVERTISEMENT



He was followed by:

- Terence Flotte, UMass Medical School dean, provost, and executive deputy chancellor, who made \$946,537;
- James Glasheen, UMass Medical School executive vice chancellor for innovation and business development, who made \$671,268;
- Martin Meehan, UMass system president, who made \$659,167; and
- Mark Klempner, UMass Medical School executive vice chancellor for MassBiologics and a professor of medicine, who made \$640,263.

ADVERTISEMENT

UMass system spokesman Jeff Cournoyer said those pay rates are designed to be competitive in the higher education world and “the vast majority of UMass employees at the top of the list are faculty members who are experts in their fields and hold PhDs or other terminal degrees.”

The UMass system is by far the largest state department in terms of the number of people it employs and the most costly in terms of payroll.

\$7.2 billion

Overall, the UMass system’s payroll grew by about 2.2 percent last year, which amounted to a \$32 million increase in payroll spending for the five campuses — the largest year-over-year increase in state government.

Cournoyer said UMass mostly uses funding sources other than taxpayer dollars to cover payroll costs. Only 22 percent of the university’s revenue comes from state tax dollars, he said.

“We generate \$6.2 billion in annual economic impact in the Commonwealth and educate more Massachusetts residents than the top eight private colleges and universities in the state combined,” Cournoyer added.

The next largest payroll spending jump at any agency, \$28.8 million, was at the Department of Children and Families, which saw a 10 percent increase. That agency has been undergoing a [rebuild](#) in recent years that has included hiring more social workers.

The median pay for all state workers last year was \$57,106, compared with \$54,906 in 2017. And the highest-paid state worker outside UMass was the chief medical examiner, Mindy Hull, who collected \$375,000.

The state’s payroll, which represents about 17 percent of Massachusetts’ overall \$42 billion budget, has risen virtually every year for nearly two decades.

Workforce reductions caused payroll spending to [dip slightly in 2016](#) — which marked the first decrease in at least 16 years.

Since taking office in 2015, Governor Charlie Baker, a fiscally conservative Republican, has taken steps to rein in state spending and help close budget gaps.

“The Administration will continue to pursue policies to protect taxpayer funds and reduce bureaucracy across state government,” Baker spokeswoman Sarah Finlaw said in an e-mail.

However, much of the payroll isn’t under the governor’s direct control. For example, state colleges and

universities account for large chunks of the payroll, while the pay rates of many other state workers are dictated by union contracts.

Over the next year, Baker plans to [give](#) an array of top deputies, from members of his Cabinet to dozens of department heads, a 5.5 percent pay raise, a first for many since Baker took office.

Baker and Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito also plan to collect pay hikes they'd previously turned down. Baker's pay [will jump](#) from \$151,800 in 2018 to \$250,000 this year. Polito's will climb from \$122,058 to \$165,000.

Also, legislative leaders [collect](#) three pay increases this month thanks in part to controversial legislation they passed nearly two years ago tying parts of their paychecks to the state's wage levels.

Matt Stout of the Globe staff contributed to this report. Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](#)

[Show 68 Comments](#)

Top 10 Trending Articles

Viewed	Commented	Shared
--------	-----------	--------

People in open-concept homes are realizing the walls were there for a reason

Ideas | Linda Rodriguez McRobbie: Too old to be president? Science says yes.

Here's what NFL free agent market looks like ahead of league's legal tampering period

The backyard mechanic who is taking on Tesla

Mass. authorities face steep hurdles in shutting down sex trafficking

This week in watching: The fall of 'Arrested Development,' the return of 'Billions,' and the power of punk

Road to Recovery: Drugs took their children, but not their hope that others might be saved

Sharon principal placed on administrative leave

Julia Ruth Stevens, Babe Ruth's last surviving child, dies at 102

Maybe we need to just let Kyrie be Kyrie and enjoy the ride

Five things to know before the Bruins take on the Senators

'I'm just worthless. You want to throw my life away'

Turbulence injures 30 on flight from Istanbul to New York

Why teens need live theater in the age of YouTube

The custom justice of 'problem-solving courts'

Eliza Dushku: I worked at CBS. I didn't want to be sexually harassed. I was fired

Greater Boston's first recreational marijuana shop slated to open in Brookline soon

Man shot, killed outside halfway house

Thinking about cord-cutting? Our film writer did it. Here's what he found out

Television review: Michael Jackson documentary 'Leaving Neverland' is riveting, shattering

Trump will seek more money for border wall

In N.H., Bernie Sanders says now 'Democratic candidates all across the board' support his ideas

Kyrie Irving, Celtics finish off Lakers this time

Baseball News, Scores, Analysis, Schedules & More

'SNL' tackles R. Kelly sex assault accusations with parody of CBS interview, Pete Davidson monologue

David Krejci's goal with 45 seconds left rallies Bruins

157 people, including 8 Americans, killed in Ethiopian Airlines crash

Merrimack, N.H., man allegedly impersonated police officers, first responders

Turbulence injures 30 on flight from Istanbul to New York

Lawrence man arrested on strangulation charge

SPONSORED BY SCHOLAR ATHLETES



Step 1: Four years of self-development. Step 2: Get into college

With college admissions growing more competitive each year, a holistic program like this one can help give students an edge. [More](#)

Most Popular In Metro →

Subscribe Now

Digital Access

Home Delivery

Gift Subscriptions

My Account

Manage my Account

Mobile Customer Service

Sign Up For Newsletters

Contact

Help

FAQs

Globe newsroom

Advertise

Order back issues

Social

Facebook

Twitter

Google+

More

ePaper

[News in Education](#)

[Archives](#)

[Privacy policy](#)

[Terms of service](#)

[Terms of purchase](#)

[Work at Boston Globe Media](#)

© 2019 Boston Globe Media Partners, LLC