LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES AGENCY

Executive Branch Employees: January 2011 and August 2012

## ISSUE

This Issue Review examines the change in the number of Executive Branch employees, supervisors, and payroll between January 2011 and August 2012. In recent years, a variety of factors have encouraged a reduction in the number of State employees. Salary adjustment that pays for contract-related salary and benefits increases has not been funded, limiting departments' ability to pay increasing personnel costs. Early retirement packages have been offered encouraging higher paid employees to retire. Beginning in January 2011, the Governor set a goal of reducing the cost of State government by $15.0 \%{ }^{1}$ which could impact the number of employees.

## AFFECTED AGENCIES

Executive Branch Agencies

## METHODOLOGY

Data from the Legislative Services Agency's salary model ${ }^{2}$ for the January 25, 2011, and August 7, 2012, bi-weekly payroll for Executive Branch departments was utilized for this analysis. This information is based on each warrant paid on the two dates and represents a headcount of employees and not full-time equivalent positions (FTE). ${ }^{3}$ For purposes of this Issue Review, supervisors and nonsupervisory employees are analyzed separately.

Ten of the largest Executive Branch agencies were examined individually:

- Department of Administrative Services (DAS)
- Department of Corrections (DOC)
- Department of Education (DE)
- Department of Revenue (DR)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA)
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
- Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Other smaller State Agencies were grouped together

The Regents employees are not processed through the State payroll system and are not included in this examination.

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## RESULTS

Table 1
Nonsupervisory Employee Payroll Costs, Warrants Written, and Average Pay by Department for January 2011 and August 2012

|  | January 2011 Payroll | Warrants January 2011 | August 2012 Payroll | Warrants August 2012 | Change in Payroll | Percent <br> Change | Change in Warrants | Percent <br> Change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DAS | 794,981 | 342 | \$ 740,287 | 312 | \$ -54,694 | -6.9\% | -30 | -8.8\% |
| DOC | 8,061,669 | 3831 | 7,685,894 | 3661 | -375,775 | -4.7\% | -170 | -4.4\% |
| DE | 1,613,768 | 698 | 1,611,887 | 701 | -1,881 | -0.1\% | 3 | 0.4\% |
| DR | 647,601 | 295 | 624,425 | 292 | -23,176 | -3.6\% | -3 | -1.0\% |
| DOT | 5,739,536 | 2990 | 5,460,634 | 2598 | -278,902 | -4.9\% | -392 | -13.1\% |
| DPS | 1,878,910 | 838 | 1,762,043 | 788 | -116,867 | -6.2\% | -50 | -6.0\% |
| DHS | 9,140,165 | 5112 | 8,791,168 | 4936 | -348,997 | -3.8\% | -176 | -3.4\% |
| DIA | 1,241,577 | 541 | 1,216,806 | 530 | -24,771 | -2.0\% | -11 | -2.0\% |
| DNR | 1,962,333 | 938 | 2,112,418 | 1222 | 150,085 | 7.6\% | 284 | 30.3\% |
| DPH | 992,671 | 508 | 934,799 | 469 | -57,873 | -5.8\% | -39 | -7.7\% |
| Other | 8,243,556 | 4185 | 7,737,971 | 3936 | -505,585 | -6.1\% | -249 | -5.9\% |
| Statewide | \$ 40,316,767 | 20,278 | \$38,678,331 | 19,445 | \$-1,638,436 | -4.1\% | -833 | -4.1\% |
|  | Jan 2011 Avg Annual Pay | $\begin{gathered} \text { Aug } 2012 \text { Avg } \\ \text { Annual Pay } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Change in Avg Pay | Percent Change |  |  |  |  |
| DAS | \$ 60,437 | \$ 61,691 | \$ 1,253 | 2.1\% |  |  |  |  |
| DOC | 54,712 | 54,584 | -128 | -0.2\% |  |  |  |  |
| DE | 60,112 | 59,785 | -327 | -0.5\% |  |  |  |  |
| DR | 57,077 | 55,599 | -1,477 | -2.6\% |  |  |  |  |
| DOT | 49,909 | 54,648 | 4,739 | 9.5\% |  |  |  |  |
| DPS | 58,296 | 58,138 | -157 | -0.3\% |  |  |  |  |
| DHS | 46,488 | 46,307 | -181 | -0.4\% |  |  |  |  |
| DIA | 59,669 | 59,692 | 23 | 0.0\% |  |  |  |  |
| DNR | 54,393 | 44,945 | -9,448 | -17.4\% |  |  |  |  |
| DPH | 50,806 | 51,823 | 1,017 | 2.0\% |  |  |  |  |
| Other | 51,214 | 51,115 | -100 | -0.2\% |  |  |  |  |
| Statewide | \$ 51,693.26 | \$ 51,716.98 | \$ 24 | 0.0\% |  |  |  |  |
| Note: There was a 2.0\% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in July 2012. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Nonsupervisory employees make up $92.2 \%$ of the State employees. Table 1 shows the number of persons employed in nonsupervisory positions, the total payroll, and the average bi-weekly paycheck amounts by Department for the pay periods examined. There was a decrease of 1,117 (5.8\%) employees for all State agencies except for DNR, which increased by 284 (30.3\%). The DNR hires temporary employees to accommodate seasonal employment. The DOT had the largest proportionate decrease in employees, shrinking by $13.1 \%$ as many temporary employees left. The DAS had $8.8 \%$ fewer employees, including many that were permanent employees, and the DPH had a $7.7 \%$ reduction, a mixture of permanent and temporary employees.

Statewide, nonsupervisory bi-weekly payroll costs decreased by $\$ 1.6$ million (4.1\%) with the DAS showing a $6.9 \%$ decrease, the largest proportionate reduction in payroll expenditures.

The average annualized salary for nonsupervisory employees remained constant at about $\$ 51,700$. The DOT average paycheck increased by $\$ 4,739$ (9.5\%), and the DAS average increased by $\$ 1,253$ (2.1\%), while the DPH average increased by $\$ 1,017$ (2.0\%). For these three departments, it appears that the positions that were eliminated were the lower-paid positions.

Table 2
Supervisory Employees Payroll Costs, Warrants Written, and Average Pay by Department for January 2011 and August 2012

|  |  | nuary 2011 Payroll |  | Warrants anuary 2011 |  | August 2012 Payroll | Warrants August 2012 |  | Change in Payroll | Percent Change | Change in Warrants | Percent Change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DAS | \$ | 142,858 |  | 37 | \$ | 121,538 | 34 | \$ | -21,320 | -14.9\% | -3 | -8.1\% |
| DOC |  | 665,878 |  | 228 |  | 628,601 | 216 |  | -37,277 | -5.6\% | -12 | -5.3\% |
| DE |  | 209,773 |  | 60 |  | 178,192 | 54 |  | -31,581 | -15.1\% | -6 | -10.0\% |
| DR |  | 66,876 |  | 19 |  | 66,181 | 19 |  | -695 | -1.0\% | 0 | 0.0\% |
| DOT |  | 713,093 |  | 221 |  | 695,995 | 216 |  | -17,098 | -2.4\% | -5 | -2.3\% |
| DPS |  | 499,248 |  | 144 |  | 443,923 | 137 |  | -55,325 | -11.1\% | -7 | -4.9\% |
| DHS |  | 1,287,372 |  | 493 |  | 1,232,179 | 481 |  | -55,193 | -4.3\% | -12 | -2.4\% |
| DIA |  | 177,194 |  | 43 |  | 152,654 | 42 |  | -24,540 | -13.8\% | -1 | -2.3\% |
| DNR |  | 252,650 |  | 79 |  | 248,547 | 79 |  | -4,103 | -1.6\% | 0 | 0.0\% |
| DPH |  | 141,034 |  | 33 |  | 110,203 | 30 |  | -30,831 | -21.9\% | -3 | -9.1\% |
| Other |  | 1,431,589 |  | 384 |  | 1,100,057 | 337 |  | -331,532 | -23.2\% | -47 | -12.2\% |
| Statewide | \$ | 5,587,564 |  | 1,741 | \$ | 4,978,070 | 1,645 | \$ | -609,494 | -10.9\% | -96 | -5.5\% |
|  |  | 2011 Avg <br> nual Pay |  | ug 2012 Avg <br> Annual Pay |  | Change in Avg Pay | Percent <br> Change |  |  |  |  |  |
| DAS |  | 00,386.72 | \$ | 92,940.92 | \$ | \$ -7,446 | -7.4\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| DOC |  | 75,933 |  | 75,665 |  | -269 | -0.4\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| DE |  | 90,902 |  | 85,796 |  | -5,105 | -5.6\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| DR |  | 91,514 |  | 90,563 |  | -951 | -1.0\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| DOT |  | 83,893 |  | 83,777 |  | -116 | -0.1\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| DPS |  | 90,142 |  | 84,248 |  | -5,894 | -6.5\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| DHS |  | 67,894 |  | 66,604 |  | -1,290 | -1.9\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| DIA |  | 107,141 |  | 94,500 |  | -12,641 | -11.8\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| DNR |  | 83,151 |  | 81,800 |  | -1,350 | -1.6\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| DPH |  | 111,118 |  | 95,509 |  | -15,608 | -14.0\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other |  | 96,930 |  | 84,871 |  | -12,060 | -12.4\% |  |  |  |  |  |
| Statewide | \$ | 83,444.38 | \$ | 78,680.73 | \$ | \$ -4,764 | -5.7\% |  |  |  |  |  |

On average in lowa, supervisors earn about 50.0\% more than nonsupervisors, but the number of supervisors and supervisor paychecks has been shrinking faster than has the number of nonsupervisory employees. Table 2 shows that supervisory payroll declined by $\$ 609,000$ (10.9\%) which is more than twice the rate for nonsupervisory employees.

Proportionately, the number of supervisory positions decreased more than nonsupervisory positions. The smaller group of other State agencies reduced supervisors by $12.2 \%$, followed by the DE at $10.0 \%$.

Statewide, supervisors are being paid less. The average annual salary decreased by $\$ 4,764$ (5.7\%). Among the larger agencies, the average pay for the DPH and the DIA supervisors had the largest decreases, declining by $\$ 15,608$ (14.0\%) and $\$ 12,641$ (11.8\%) respectively. The supervisors in the other smaller agencies saw an average decrease of $\$ 12,060(12.4 \%)$ in their annual pay. These kinds of changes occur with turnover when higher-paid experienced supervisors leave and are replaced by lower-paid new supervisors.

Table 3
Number of Supervisors Compared to Number of Nonsupervisory Employees

|  | Supv January 2011 | Nonsupv Jan 2011 | Employees Jan 2011 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Supv } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Ratio Empl. to Supv. | Supv <br> August <br> 2012 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Nonsupv } \\ & \text { Aug } 2012 \end{aligned}$ | Employees <br> Aug 2012 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Percent } \\ \text { Supv } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Ratio Empl. to Supv. | Change in Ratio |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DAS | 37 | 342 | 379 | 9.8\% | 9.2 | 34 | 312 | 346 | 9.8\% | 9.2 | -0.1 |
| DOC | 228 | 3831 | 4,059 | 5.6\% | 16.8 | 216 | 3661 | 3,877 | 5.6\% | 16.9 | 0.1 |
| DE | 60 | 698 | 758 | 7.9\% | 11.6 | 54 | 701 | 755 | 7.2\% | 13.0 | 1.3 |
| DR | 19 | 295 | 314 | 6.1\% | 15.5 | 19 | 292 | 311 | 6.1\% | 15.4 | -0.2 |
| DOT | 221 | 2990 | 3,211 | 6.9\% | 13.5 | 216 | 2598 | 2,814 | 7.7\% | 12.0 | -1.5 |
| DPS | 144 | 838 | 982 | 14.7\% | 5.8 | 137 | 788 | 925 | 14.8\% | 5.8 | -0.1 |
| DHS | 493 | 5112 | 5,605 | 8.8\% | 10.4 | 481 | 4936 | 5,417 | 8.9\% | 10.3 | -0.1 |
| DIA | 43 | 541 | 584 | 7.4\% | 12.6 | 42 | 530 | 572 | 7.3\% | 12.6 | 0.0 |
| DNR | 79 | 938 | 1,017 | 7.8\% | 11.9 | 79 | 1222 | 1,301 | 6.1\% | 15.5 | 3.6 |
| DPH | 33 | 508 | 541 | 6.1\% | 15.4 | 30 | 469 | 499 | 6.0\% | 15.6 | 0.2 |
| Other | 384 | 4185 | 4,569 | 8.4\% | 10.9 | 337 | 3936 | 4,273 | 7.9\% | 11.7 | 0.8 |
| Statewide | 1,741 | 20,278 | 22,019 | 7.9\% | 11.6 | 1,645 | 19,445 | 21,090 | 7.8\% | 11.8 | 0.2 |

Table 3 shows the ratio of employees to supervisors. While the number of supervisors is decreasing faster than the number of employees, the difference has not been large enough to cause much change in the ratio of employees to supervisors. The percentage of an agency's staff that is supervisors ranges from a high of $14.8 \%$ for the DPS to a low of $5.6 \%$ for the DOC. Stated another way, the DPS has the lowest ratio of supervisors to nonsupervisors at 5.8. The DAS comes in second with a ratio of 9.2 . The other agencies have ratios exceeding 10.0 with the DOC having the highest ratio of 16.8 and 16.9 for the two months examined.
While the State workforce is shrinking, employee turnover is also occurring. Some vacated positions are refilled with new employees as current employees leave for other jobs, retire, get promoted, or are laid off. Table 4 shows the turnover for nonsupervisory employees. Between January 2011 and August 2012, 2,934 nonsupervisory employees left State employment. A portion of those positions were refilled with 2,152 new employees, that is, $11.1 \%$ of the workforce was new to State employment in August 2012. Ignoring the DNR growth from temporary employees, the DPH had the largest proportion of new hires at 17.9\%, and the DPS had the least at $3.3 \%$.

From the opposite perspective, $85.0 \%$ of the nonsupervisory State employees statewide remained on the job over the 18-month period under examination. The DPS showed the most stability retaining $90.7 \%$ of the nonsupervisory employees. The DPH retained the fewest nonsupervisory employees with $75.6 \%$ staying. The other departments retained between $80.0 \%$ and $89.9 \%$ of their nonsupervisory employees.

Table 4
Turnover Among Nonsupervisory Employees

|  | NonSuperv Jan 2011 | NonSuperv <br> Aug 2012 | Change | Percent Change | Both Pay Periods | Percent <br> Stayed | 1st Period Only | Percent Left | 2nd Period Only | Percent <br> New |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DAS | 342 | 312 | -30 | -8.8\% | 289 | 84.5\% | 49 | 14.3\% | 19 | 6.1\% |
| DOC | 3,831 | 3,661 | -170 | -4.4\% | 3,433 | 89.6\% | 388 | 10.1\% | 227 | 6.2\% |
| DE | 698 | 701 | 3 | 0.4\% | 607 | 87.0\% | 87 | 12.5\% | 90 | 12.8\% |
| DR | 295 | 292 | -3 | -1.0\% | 261 | 88.5\% | 31 | 10.5\% | 31 | 10.6\% |
| DOT | 2,990 | 2,598 | -392 | -13.1\% | 2,468 | 82.5\% | 510 | 17.1\% | 122 | 4.7\% |
| DPS | 838 | 788 | -50 | -6.0\% | 760 | 90.7\% | 67 | 8.0\% | 26 | 3.3\% |
| DHS | 5,112 | 4,936 | -176 | -3.4\% | 4,389 | 85.9\% | 699 | 13.7\% | 531 | 10.8\% |
| DIA | 541 | 530 | -11 | -2.0\% | 470 | 86.9\% | 69 | 12.8\% | 59 | 11.1\% |
| DNR | 938 | 1,222 | 284 | 30.3\% | 832 | 88.7\% | 103 | 11.0\% | 388 | 31.8\% |
| DPH | 508 | 469 | -39 | -7.7\% | 384 | 75.6\% | 122 | 24.0\% | 84 | 17.9\% |
| Other | 4,185 | 3,936 | -249 | -5.9\% | 3,346 | 80.0\% | 809 | 19.3\% | 575 | 14.6\% |
| Statewide | 20,278 | 19,445 | -833 | -4.1\% | 17,239 | 85.0\% | 2,934 | 14.5\% | 2,152 | 11.1\% |
|  | Became <br> Nonsupv | Percent to Nonsupv | Became Supervisor | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Percent } \\ & \text { to Supv } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DAS | 4 | 1.2\% | 4 | 1.2\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DOC | 1 | 0.0\% | 10 | 0.3\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DE | 4 | 0.6\% | 4 | 0.6\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DR | 0 | 0.0\% | 3 | 1.0\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DOT | 8 | 0.3\% | 12 | 0.4\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DPS | 2 | 0.2\% | 11 | 1.3\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DHS | 16 | 0.3\% | 24 | 0.5\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DIA | 1 | 0.2\% | 2 | 0.4\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DNR | 2 | 0.2\% | 3 | 0.3\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DPH | 1 | 0.2\% | 2 | 0.4\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other | 15 | 0.4\% | 30 | 0.7\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Statewide | 54 | 0.3\% | 105 | 0.5\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes: Both Pay Periods means that the employee was employed in both the January 2011 and August 2012 pay periods. Percent Stayed is the number of employees paid in both pay periods divided by the number of employees January 2011. Percent Left is the number of employees paid in the first pay period only divided by the number of employees January 2011. Percent New is the number of employees paid in the second pay period divided by the number of employees August 2012. Percent Became Nonsupervisors is the number of employees who became nonsupervisors divided by the number of nonsupervisors January 2011. <br> Percent Became Supervisors is the number of employees who became supervisors divided by the number of nonsupervisors January 2011. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 5 shows the turnover among supervisors. In August 2012, 83.6\% of the supervisors across the State had been employed as supervisors 18 months earlier. A total of 232 supervisors left State employment and another 54 moved to nonsupervisory positions for a total of 286 vacated supervisory positions. They were replaced by 85 new hires and 105 promotions for a total reduction of 96 supervisors. Combining the promotions and new hires, there was an $11.2 \%$ statewide turnover rate for supervisors over the 18-month period, a rate similar to nonsupervisory employees.

Table 5
Turnover Among Supervisory Employees

|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Supervisors } \\ \text { Jan } 2011 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Supervisors <br> Aug 2012 | Change | Percent Change | Both Pay <br> Periods | Percent <br> Stayed | 1st Period Only | Percent Left | 2nd Period Only | Percent <br> New |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DAS | 37 | 34 | -3 | -8.1\% | 23 | 62.2\% | 10 | 27.0\% | 7 | 20.6\% |
| DOC | 228 | 216 | -12 | -5.3\% | 203 | 89.0\% | 24 | 10.5\% | 3 | 1.4\% |
| DE | 60 | 54 | -6 | -10.0\% | 46 | 76.7\% | 10 | 16.7\% | 4 | 7.4\% |
| DR | 19 | 19 | 0 | 0.0\% | 14 | 73.7\% | 5 | 26.3\% | 2 | 10.5\% |
| DOT | 221 | 216 | -5 | -2.3\% | 201 | 91.0\% | 12 | 5.4\% | 3 | 1.4\% |
| DPS | 144 | 137 | -7 | -4.9\% | 126 | 87.5\% | 16 | 11.1\% | 0 | 0.0\% |
| DHS | 493 | 481 | -12 | -2.4\% | 423 | 85.8\% | 54 | 11.0\% | 34 | 7.1\% |
| DIA | 43 | 42 | -1 | -2.3\% | 40 | 93.0\% | 2 | 4.7\% | 0 | 0.0\% |
| DNR | 79 | 79 | 0 | 0.0\% | 73 | 92.4\% | 4 | 5.1\% | 3 | 3.8\% |
| DPH | 33 | 30 | -3 | -9.1\% | 26 | 78.8\% | 6 | 18.2\% | 2 | 6.7\% |
| Other | 384 | 337 | -47 | -12.2\% | 280 | 72.9\% | 89 | 23.2\% | 27 | 8.0\% |
| Statewide | 1,741 | 1,645 | -96 | -5.5\% | 1,455 | 83.6\% | 232 | 13.3\% | 85 | 5.2\% |
|  | Became Nonsupv | Percent to Nonsupv | Became Supervisor | Percent to Supv |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DAS | 4 | 10.8\% | 4 | 10.8\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DOC | 1 | 0.4\% | 10 | 4.4\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DE | 4 | 6.7\% | 4 | 6.7\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DR | 0 | 0.0\% | 3 | 15.8\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DOT | 8 | 3.6\% | 12 | 5.4\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DPS | 2 | 1.4\% | 11 | 7.6\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DHS | 16 | 3.2\% | 24 | 4.9\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DIA | 1 | 2.3\% | 2 | 4.7\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DNR | 2 | 2.5\% | 3 | 3.8\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| DPH | 1 | 3.0\% | 2 | 6.1\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other | 15 | 3.9\% | 30 | 7.8\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Statewide | 54 | 3.1\% | 105 | 6.0\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Notes: Both Pay Periods means that the employee was employed in both the January 2011 and August 2012 pay periods. Percent Stayed is the number of supervisors paid in both pay periods divided by the number of supervisors January 2011. Percent Left is the number of supervisors paid in the first pay period only divided by the number of supervisors January 2011. Percent New is the number of supervisors paid in the second pay period divided by the number of supervisors August 2012. Percent Became Nonsupervisors is the number of employees who became nonsupervisors divided by the number of supervisors January 2011. <br> Percent Became Supervisors is the number of employees who became supervisors divided by the number of supervisors January 2011. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE TURNOVER COSTS

The headcount of individuals employed by the State has decreased by 929 individuals over the past 18 months, and payroll expenses have decreased by $4.9 \%$ and when annualized this decrease would be about $\$ 58.4$ million.

Every organization has turnover. Employees retire, leave for other opportunities, are fired, and get promoted leaving vacancies to be filled. The costs for filling the vacant positions typically are not estimated and go unrecognized. These costs include exit costs, recruiting, interviewing, hiring, orientation, training, compensation and benefits while training, lost productivity, customer dissatisfaction, reduced or lost business, administrative costs, lost expertise, and temporary
workers. ${ }^{4}$ State agencies also have costs for vacation payout, sick leave payout, and State Employee Retirement Incentive Program (SERIP) costs and may leave positions vacant until the costs are paid out.

There are also intangible costs created by turnover, such as, uncompensated increased workloads, increased workplace stress, declining employee morale, and loss of work group synergy. ${ }^{5}$
Some employee turnover is normal, even desirable. Turnover is beneficial when marginal or poor-performing employees are replaced by more productive ones. New employees can also bring new ideas and new expertise to the organization.
A study by the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM) ${ }^{6}$ reports State and local governments have an annual turnover rate of approximately $9.0 \%$. During the 18 months examined, the lowa State government refilled 11.1\% of the nonsupervisory positions and 11.2\% of the supervisory positions. This annualizes to a $7.4 \%$ rate for nonsupervisors and $7.5 \%$ for supervisors, less than the SHRM national estimate.
Cost estimates: Turnover costs can be estimated for the 18-month period being examined using the national averages and trends. The assumptions for these calculations are:

- Excess turnover is departmental turnover exceeding the national average of $9.0 \% .{ }^{6}$
- The cost to replace an entry level position is $30.0 \%$ to $50.0 \%$ of annual salary. ${ }^{4}$
- The cost to replace a mid-level employee is $150.0 \%$ of annual salary. ${ }^{4}$ Supervisors are considered mid-level.
- Replacing a specialized, high-level employee can cost up to $400.0 \%$ of the position's annual salary. ${ }^{4}$ No high-level employees were replaced in the period under examination.
- Average gross pay equals salary for these estimates. Benefits are not included.
- The DNR is dropped because of the effects of the temporary employees.

Table 6, on the following page, shows the excess turnover cost estimates for nonsupervisory positions. The DPH and the other smaller State agencies exceeded the national average turnover rate for an estimated total cost between $\$ 463,000$ and $\$ 771,000$. The low bi-weekly average paycheck for the DPH is due to hiring part-time employees; 84 employees filled 53.0 FTE positions.

[^1]Table 6
Estimated Nonsupervisory Excess Turnover


Table 7 shows that two State agencies and the group of smaller other agencies generated an estimated excess turnover cost for supervisor positions of $\$ 2.1$ million. The DAS refilled the largest percentage of supervisory positions, almost three times the State average. Using the national average standard, DAS generated an estimated excess cost of \$886,000. The DR refilled supervisory positions at more than twice the State average. Compared to the national average standard, DR generated an estimated excess cost of $\$ 290,000$. It is worth noting that the DIA and the DOC's supervisory turnover rates are about half or less than the statewide average.

Table 7
Estimated Supervisory Excess Turnover

|  | Promoted to Supervisor | Percent Promoted | Supervisors <br> Hired | Percent <br> Hired | Total Supv Positions Filled | Percent <br> Filled | Number <br> at 9.0\% <br> Annual <br> Rate | Excess <br> Turnover | Average <br> Biweekly <br> Salary | Annual <br> Excess <br> Cost |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| DAS | 4 | 10.8\% | 7 | 20.6\% | 11 | 31.4\% | 5 | 6 | \$ 3,788 | \$ 886,283 |
| DOC | 10 | 4.4\% | 3 | 1.4\% | 13 | 5.8\% | 30 | -- | 2,492 | -- |
| DE | 4 | 6.7\% | 4 | 7.4\% | 8 | 14.1\% | 8 | -- | 2,920 | -- |
| DR | 3 | 15.8\% | 2 | 10.5\% | 5 | 26.3\% | 3 | 2 | 3,715 | 「 289,736 |
| DOT | 12 | 5.4\% | 3 | 1.4\% | 15 | 6.8\% | 30 | -- | 2,659 | -- |
| DPS | 11 | 7.6\% | 0 | 0.0\% | 11 | 7.6\% | 19 | -- | 2,463 | -- |
| DHS | 24 | 4.9\% | 34 | 7.1\% | 58 | 11.9\% | 66 | -- | 2,117 | -- |
| DIA | 2 | 4.7\% | 0 | 0.0\% | 2 | 4.7\% | 6 | -- | 2,190 | -- |
| DNR | 3 | 3.8\% | 3 | 3.8\% | 6 | 7.6\% | 11 | -- | 2,932 | -- |
| DPH | 2 | 6.1\% | 2 | 6.7\% | 4 | 12.7\% | 4 | -- | 3,400 | -- |
| Other | 30 | 7.8\% | 27 | 8.0\% | 57 | 15.8\% | 49 | 8 | 3,107 | 969,231 |
| Statewide | 105 | 6.0\% | 85 | 5.2\% | 190 | 11.2\% | 231 | 16 | \$ 2,728 | \$2,145,250 |
| Note: The cost of replacing a supervisor is assumed to be $150.0 \%$ of the annual salary. There are 26 pay periods per year. The national turnover rate of $9.0 \%$ adjusts to $13.5 \%$ when applied to an 18 -month period. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 8 compares the excess turnover costs to the departments' annual payroll costs. The excess turnover costs for the DAS exceeded the other State agencies costing $4.0 \%$ of the annualized payroll. The DR's excess turnover costs were less than half that of DAS at $1.6 \%$ of annual payroll.

Table 8
Estimated Excess Turnover Costs Compared to Annual Payroll

|  | Nonsupv Annual$\qquad$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Superv Annual } \\ \text { Payroll } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Total Annual Payroll | Excess Nonsupv Turnover Cost |  | Excess <br> Superv <br> Turnover <br> Cost | Total Excess Turnover Cost |  |  | Excess <br> Cost as \% of Payroll |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | 30\% of Salary | 50\% of Salary |  | Minimum |  | Maximum |  |
| DAS | \$ 19,247,455 | \$ 3,159,991 | \$ 22,407,446 | -- | -- | \$ 886,283 | \$ 886,283 | \$ | 886,283 | 4.0\% |
| DOC | 199,833,239 | 16,343,621 | 216,176,860 | -- | -- | -- | -- |  | -- | -- |
| DE | 41,909,060 | 4,632,991 | 46,542,051 | -- | -- | -- | -- |  | -- | -- |
| DR | 16,235,041 | 1,720,700 | 17,955,741 | -- | -- | 289,736 | 289,736 |  | 289,736 | 1.6\% |
| DOT | 141,976,473 | 18,095,866 | 160,072,338 | -- | -- | -- | -- |  | -- | -- |
| DPS | 45,813,119 | 11,542,001 | 57,355,119 | -- | -- | -- | -- |  | -- | -- |
| DHS | 228,570,375 | 32,036,648 | 260,607,022 | -- | -- | -- | -- |  | -- | -- |
| DIA | 31,636,963 | 3,969,011 | 35,605,974 | -- | -- | -- | -- |  | -- | -- |
| DNR | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |  | NA | NA |
| DPH | 24,304,764 | 2,865,273 | 27,170,037 | 119,201 | 198,669 | -- | 119,201 |  | 198,669 | 0.4\% |
| Other | 201,187,250 | 28,601,479 | 229,788,730 | 343,357 | 572,262 | 969,231 | 1,312,588 |  | 1,541,493 | 0.6\% |
| Statewide | 950,713,737 | 122,967,581 | \$1,073,681,319 | \$ 462,558 | \$ 770,931 | \$2,145,250 | \$2,607,808 | \$ | 2,916,181 | 0.2\% |

Note: Annualized payroll is the August 2012 payroll times the number of pay periods per year (26). The Department of Natural
Resources was not included because of the temporary employee impact.

## SUMMARY

Between January 25, 2011, and August 7, 2012, the number of individuals receiving paychecks from State agencies declined by 929 employees. In terms of FTE positions, there was a decrease of 641.0 FTE positions. Payroll costs showed a corresponding decrease of $\$ 58.4$ million over the 18-month period. Not all of these costs are savings to the State budget. If jobs are outsourced, the costs reappear as outside contract costs. For example, the DAS eliminated vacant janitorial positions and some staff that oversaw construction projects through outsourcing with a projected net savings after paying for outside suppliers. ${ }^{7}$
During this time, State agencies also experienced employee turnover and the costs associated with replacing employees who left. Some turnover and the associated costs are inevitable. Some of the costs are direct cash outlays to pay for advertising the opening, for travel for persons interviewing for a position, hiring placement services to locate new employees, and other such items. Many of the costs are opportunity costs for agency personnel. Agency administrators and perhaps senior staff must spend their time reviewing resumes, interviewing candidates, and related activities instead of performing other regular job responsibilities. Staff may absorb the extra workload for the vacant position and this can translate into service delays, more stress, and decreased morale. These opportunity costs translate into reduced organizational efficiencies. The State agencies with lower turnover rates avoid the costs of replacing staff at the normal rates and are able to focus their work efforts on their other primary functions, that is, they operate more efficiently.

[^2]This analysis identified three of the larger State agencies with turnover in excess of the national average rate for the 18 -month period examined. The DAS excess turnover was estimated to cost $\$ 886,000$ or $4.0 \%$ of its annualized payroll. The time, effort, and added expenses from excess turnover totaled between an estimated $\$ 2.6$ million and $\$ 2.9$ million statewide. Since many of these costs are opportunity costs, they will not be listed in an expense report but are absorbed as lost efficiencies.

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ Office of the Governor Goals: https://governor.iowa.gov/goals/15-reduction-in-the-cost-of-government/.
    ${ }^{2}$ The salary model is used for estimating personnel costs and utilizes data from the State's payroll system. The data include a variety of payroll information such as job classifications, pay grades, salary, bargaining status, employment dates, accrued vacation, and other variables. The warrant amount is gross pay that includes overtime and other forms of pay but not benefits.
    ${ }^{3}$ An FTE position is equal to one FTE working 2,080 hours per year. This is a way to standardize the weighting of positions. A half-time position equates to 0.5 FTE position, and two half-time positions equates to 1.0 FTE position even though two people would be employed.

[^1]:    ${ }^{4}$ Blake, Ross. "Employee Retention: What Employee Turnover Really Costs Your Company." http://www.webpronews.com/employee-retention-what-employee-turnover-really-costs-your-company-2006-07
    ${ }^{5}$ Pinkovitz, William H., Joseph Moskal and Gary Green. "How Much Does Your Employee Turnover Cost?" http://www.uwex.edu/ces/cced/economies/turn.cfm
    ${ }^{6}$ Society for Human Resources Management, "Executive Brief: Differences in Employee Turnover Across Key Industries." http://www.shrm.org/research/benchmarks/documents/assessing\%20employee\%20turnover final.pdf

[^2]:    ${ }^{7}$ Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency, Issue Review titled "Department of Administrative Services Cost Savings" examines the department's outsourcing of janitorial services and construction management services.

