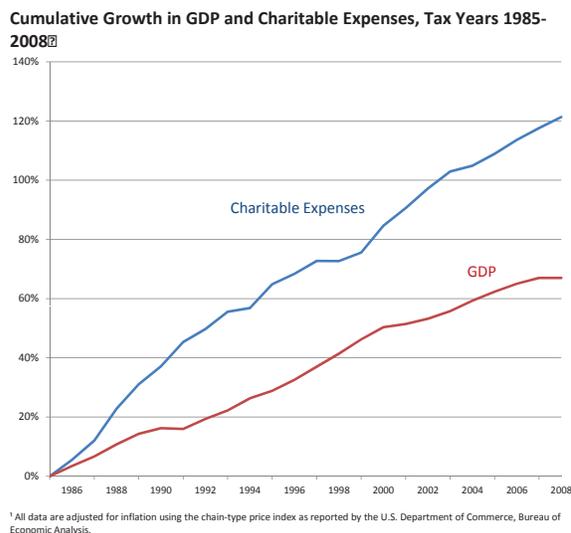




Charities & Other Tax-Exempt Organizations

Cumulative Growth in GDP and Charitable Expenses, Tax Years 1985-2008¹



SOI conducts annual studies on non-profit charitable and other tax-exempt organizations. Estimates of tax-exempt sector financial activity are derived from a **sample** of Forms 990 filed by these organizations. Organizations covered by the SOI sample include those exempt under Internal Revenue Code subsections **501(c)(3) through 501(c)(9)**.

Highlights of the Data

- Nonprofit charities exempt under 501(c)(3) represent the vast majority of organizations, and account for the bulk of the financial activity for the tax-exempt sector.
- For Tax Year 2008, over 315,000 charities exempt under section 501(c)(3) filed Forms 990 with the IRS.
- These organizations reported nearly \$2.5 trillion in assets and over \$1.4 billion in revenue for 2008
- Large hospitals and universities dominated the financial activity of the nonprofit charitable sector. In fact, nine of the ten largest organizations (measured by assets) were hospitals or university-affiliated organizations.
- Large organizations received the majority of their revenue from program services. Smaller organization relied on contributions, gifts, and grants as their primary source of revenue.
- The nonprofit sector has grown steadily and significantly over the years that SOI has conducted studies. Total expenses reported by nonprofits showed a cumulative real growth of 118 percent between Tax Years 1985 and 2008. Over the same period, cumulative growth in GDP measured 67 percent.

Top Ten Nonprofit Charitable Organizations, by Size of Total Assets, Tax Year 2008*

Assets (in billions of dollars)

| | | | |
|---|------|--|------|
| 1. President & Fellows of Harvard College | 43.9 | 6. Howard Hughes Medical Institute | 16.0 |
| 2. Yale University | 23.7 | 7. Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 12.9 |
| 3. Stanford University | 22.7 | 8. Columbia University | 10.3 |
| 4. Kaiser Foundation Hospitals | 19.6 | 9. Access Group | 10.3 |
| 5. Princeton University | 16.3 | 10. University of Pennsylvania | 10.3 |

* Tax Year 2008, which includes returns filed in Calendar Years 2009 and 2010, represents the most recent data available.

Products

- Many products based on the annual studies are made available to the public:
- **Microdata** files contain corrected financial information from Forms 990 for all organizations in the sample.
- Annual **articles** published in the SOI Bulletin, as well as other research papers, are available to download or print.
- Statistical **tables** present aggregated financial data for all types of organizations.
- An extract of data from the **IRS Exempt Organization Master File** is also provided as a courtesy to TaxStats users.
- For information about selected terms and concepts, a description of the data sources and limitations, and links to recent revisions of Forms 990 and Forms 990-EZ, please visit the **Charities and Other Tax-Exempt Organizations Study Metadata page**.