

BusinessReport

ASK THE FOOL

U.S. government is the country's largest employer

Question: What are America's biggest employers? — *P.K., West Haven, Conn.*

Answer: The federal government employs the most people in America. As of 2018 it employed more than 585,000 civilians in the U.S. Postal Service and over 2 million more people in all other agencies, per the president's budget for fiscal year 2020. The military, meanwhile, employed about 1.4 million people in uniform, for a grand governmental total of more than 4.1 million.

Among private employers, Walmart leads the pack by far, employing about 2.2 million people globally, per Fortune 500 data. It's followed in the Fortune 500 by Amazon.com (647,500 employees), Kroger (453,000), Yum China Holdings (450,000), Home Depot (413,000), Berkshire Hathaway (389,000), IBM (381,100), United Parcel Service (364,575), Target (360,000), FedEx (359,000), UnitedHealth Group (300,000), Walgreens Boots Alliance (299,000), CVS Health (295,000), Starbucks (291,000) and General Electric (283,000).