

Calif. state pay increased \$1.1 billion last year

By Jon Ortiz and Phillip Reese, Sacramento Bee

California state workers' salaries rose a total \$1.1 billion last year, according to payroll data, while the number of state employees also grew.

The State Controller's Office wrote paychecks for \$16.43 billion in 2014, up 7 percent from the year before. The increase followed three years of essentially flat payroll costs for the state.

Meanwhile, the number of full-time and part-time state workers grew from about 242,000 to about 245,000, or almost 2 percent.

The data, which exclude state university employees and legislative staff, show the largest dollar-amount payroll increases occurred in the state Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (up \$279 million); the prison system's medical caregiver, California Correctional Health Care Services (\$91 million); the Department of State Hospitals (\$82 million); the California Highway Patrol (\$71 million); and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (\$68 million).

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