

Offices of inspectors general employed about 3,500 investigators with arrest and firearm authority

Thirty-three of the 69 statutory federal IG offices employed criminal investigators with arrest and firearm authority in 2008 (table 3). Overall, these offices employed 3,501 such personnel in the United States in 2008, 12% more than in 2004. IG offices investigate criminal violations. They also prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse related to federal programs, operations, and employees.

In September 2008, five IG offices employed more than 250 full-time criminal investigators with arrest and firearm authority. The largest, with 508 full-time investigators, was at the U.S. Postal Service. The next largest IG offices were at Health and Human Services (389 investigators), Defense (345), Treasury, Tax Administration (302), and the Social Security Administration (272).

TABLE 3

Offices of inspectors general employing full-time personnel with arrest and firearm authority, September 2008

Office of inspectors general	Number of full-time officers
Total	3,501
U.S. Postal Service	508
Department of Health and Human Services	389
Department of Defense	345
Department of the Treasury, Tax Administration	302
Social Security Administration	272
Department of Housing and Urban Development	228
Department of Agriculture	164
Department of Labor	164
Department of Homeland Security	157
Department of Veterans Affairs	132
Department of Justice	122
Department of Transportation	94
Department of Education	85
General Services Administration	67
Department of the Interior	66
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	52
Department of Energy	48
Environmental Protection Agency	40
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	35
Small Business Administration	34
Department of State	32
Office of Personnel Management	28
Department of the Treasury	21
Tennessee Valley Authority	20
Department of Commerce	16
U.S. Railroad Retirement Board	16
Agency for International Development	13
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	13
Corporation for National and Community Service	9
National Science Foundation	6
National Archives and Records Administration	6
Government Printing Office	5
Library of Congress	2

Note: Excludes employees based in U.S. territories or foreign countries.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, Census of Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 2008.