



2010

Competitiveness

INDEX

NORTH
DAKOTA

*Key Indicators of
North Dakota's
Business Climate*



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Building A Strong America[®]



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2010 Competitiveness Index

North Dakota Chamber of Commerce

The North Dakota Chamber of Commerce is the principal business advocate for North Dakota. We are committed to improving the state's economic and business climate.

The North Dakota Chamber is the largest, most influential general business organization in North Dakota. We are the voice of business – the only organization that speaks for all types and sizes of companies throughout the state. The association offers many programs and services to help businesses succeed in North Dakota.

Today, nearly 1,100 businesses are members of the state chamber of commerce. We continually strive to enhance North Dakota's business climate and support public policy initiatives and state and federal legislation that is pro-business.

Introduction

The *2010 Competitiveness Index*, published by the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce, is a comprehensive listing of key indicators of North Dakota's business climate. It demonstrates the competitiveness of North Dakota's business climate and the advantages of doing business in North Dakota. We believe it will help those involved in economic development to identify the state's strengths and will also help business leaders and public officials identify areas for improvement. We feel this index will serve as a guide as we work together to further enhance North Dakota's business climate.

Additional copies may be ordered for \$7 (price includes tax and shipping) each by contacting the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 2639, Bismarck, ND 58502, 701-222-0929. The information is also available on the web at www.ndchamber.com.

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Business Taxes as a Share of all Taxes and GSP (2007)

Rank <i>(50 is best)</i>		A. State and Local Business Taxes (Billions)	B. Percent of all Taxes		C. Percent of Private Sector GSP	
				Rank		Rank
1	California	\$72.9	41.4%	34	4.7%	32
2	New York	\$58.6	42.4%	31	6.4%	9
3	Texas	\$48.0	60.3%	6	5.0%	24
4	Florida	\$30.8	46.2%	24	4.9%	28
5	Illinois	\$27.3	46.8%	21	5.1%	20
6	Pennsylvania	\$23.4	42.0%	32	5.1%	20
7	New Jersey	\$20.2	37.0%	45	4.9%	28
8	Ohio	\$18.7	41.1%	36	4.5%	38
9	Michigan	\$17.3	43.7%	29	5.1%	20
10	Washington	\$14.9	51.0%	13	5.8%	14
11	Georgia	\$13.9	41.6%	33	4.2%	42
12	Massachusetts	\$13.8	39.2%	41	4.5%	38
13	North Carolina	\$12.6	36.9%	46	3.9%	48
14	Virginia	\$12.3	36.6%	47	4.0%	45
15	Louisiana	\$11.2	60.8%	5	6.5%	7
16	Arizona	\$10.4	48.7%	17	5.1%	20
17	Wisconsin	\$10.1	40.1%	39	5.0%	24
18	Minnesota	\$10.0	40.4%	37	4.6%	33
19	Tennessee	\$9.8	51.2%	12	4.6%	33
20	Maryland	\$9.0	32.2%	50	4.2%	42
21	Indiana	\$8.9	40.2%	38	4.0%	45
22	Missouri	\$8.6	41.3%	35	4.3%	40
23	Colorado	\$8.6	44.6%	28	4.2%	42
24	Connecticut	\$7.4	34.0%	49	4.0%	45
25	Oklahoma	\$6.6	49.8%	14	5.8%	14
26	Kentucky	\$6.2	44.9%	27	5.0%	24
27	South Carolina	\$6.2	43.4%	30	5.0%	24
28	Alabama	\$6.2	45.2%	26	4.6%	33
29	Kansas	\$5.8	48.5%	18	6.1%	12
30	Iowa	\$5.3	45.8%	25	4.8%	31
31	Nevada	\$5.2	49.1%	15	4.9%	28
32	Oregon	\$5.0	35.9%	48	3.8%	49
33	Mississippi	\$4.4	48.8%	16	6.3%	10
34	New Mexico	\$4.0	54.4%	8	6.3%	10
35	Alaska	\$3.9	80.8%	1	11.6%	1
36	Arkansas	\$3.7	38.7%	43	4.6%	33
37	Utah	\$3.6	39.1%	42	4.3%	40
38	Nebraska	\$3.5	46.8%	21	5.4%	17
39	West Virginia	\$3.3	53.1%	9	7.2%	5
40	Maine	\$3.1	48.5%	18	7.6%	3
41	New Hampshire	\$2.8	55.2%	7	5.4%	17
42	Wyoming	\$2.4	73.5%	2	9.3%	2
43	Rhode Island	\$2.4	46.4%	23	6.1%	12
44	Hawaii	\$2.4	37.6%	44	5.4%	17
45	Idaho	\$2.0	39.7%	40	4.6%	33
46	Delaware	\$1.9	51.6%	11	3.5%	50
47	Montana	\$1.8	51.8%	10	6.5%	7
48	North Dakota	\$1.7	60.9%	4	7.4%	4
49	South Dakota	\$1.6	61.9%	3	5.5%	16
50	Vermont	\$1.4	47.2%	20	6.8%	6
	United States	\$577.4	44.1%		5.0%	

Taxes & Revenues
Table 1

Source: Council on State Taxation (COST): State and Local Business Taxes report. www.statetax.org

State Business Tax Climate Property Tax Index (2009)

Taxes & Revenues Table 2

Rank (1 is best)

1	New Mexico
2	Utah
3	Idaho
4	Arizona
5	North Dakota
6	Colorado
7	Delaware
8	Hawaii
9	Oregon
10	Montana
11	South Dakota
12	Indiana
13	California
14	Nevada
15	Alaska
16	Minnesota
17	Alabama
18	Missouri
19	Kentucky
20	Arkansas
21	Washington
22	Florida
23	Mississippi
24	Louisiana
25	Wisconsin
26	South Carolina
27	Oklahoma
28	West Virginia
29	Virginia
30	Texas
31	Iowa
32	Kansas
33	Michigan
34	Nebraska
35	Wyoming
36	Georgia
37	North Carolina
38	Maryland
39	Illinois
40	New Hampshire
41	Maine
42	Pennsylvania
43	New York
44	Vermont
45	Massachusetts
46	Tennessee
47	Rhode Island
48	Connecticut
49	Ohio
50	New Jersey

Source: The Tax Foundation. www.taxfoundation.org

The Property Tax Index is comprised of taxes levied on the wealth of individuals and businesses. These include taxes on real and personal property, net worth, and the transfer of assets.

Workers' Compensation Premium Rate Rank (2008)

A. Rank (51 is best)		B. Index Rate
1	Alaska	3.97
2	Montana	3.50
3	Ohio	3.32
4	Vermont	3.14
5	Maine	3.04
7	Delaware	2.96
7	Kentucky	2.96
8	Alabama	2.90
9	Oklahoma	2.89
10	Illinois	2.79
11	Louisiana	2.76
12	South Carolina	2.74
13	California	2.72
14	New Hampshire	2.70
15	Pennsylvania	2.68
16	New Jersey	2.66
17	Texas	2.61
18	Nevada	2.58
19	New York	2.55
20	Connecticut	2.46
21	Tennessee	2.44
22	North Carolina	2.43
24	Minnesota	2.33
24	Mississippi	2.33
25	Georgia	2.29
26	Rhode Island	2.26
28	Florida	2.20
28	Missouri	2.20
29	District of Columbia	2.16
32	Michigan	2.15
32	Nebraska	2.15
32	New Mexico	2.15
34	Idaho	2.12
34	Wisconsin	2.12
36	Hawaii	2.08
36	South Dakota	2.08
37	Wyoming	2.06
38	Washington	1.98
39	Oregon	1.88
41	Iowa	1.86
41	West Virginia	1.86
42	Kansas	1.77
43	Colorado	1.76
44	Maryland	1.72
45	Arizona	1.67
46	Utah	1.63
47	Arkansas	1.61
48	Virginia	1.43
49	Massachusetts	1.39
50	Indiana	1.23
51	North Dakota	1.08

Source: 2008 Oregon Workers' Compensation Premium Rate Ranking Summary. egov.oregon.gov/DCBS/

Average Premiums and Expenditures for Auto Insurance (2005)

**Economic & Business Climate
Table 4**

Rank (1 is best)		Amount
1	North Dakota	\$554.30
2	Iowa	\$555.04
3	South Dakota	\$565.23
4	Idaho	\$582.99
5	Kansas	\$590.29
6	North Carolina	\$602.20
7	Wisconsin	\$615.33
8	Nebraska	\$620.60
9	Wyoming	\$639.05
10	Maine	\$643.50
11	Indiana	\$657.35
12	Tennessee	\$658.60
13	Ohio	\$668.93
14	Oklahoma	\$677.53
15	Alabama	\$678.01
16	Montana	\$685.01
17	Missouri	\$685.49
18	Arkansas	\$693.31
19	Virginia	\$697.86
20	Vermont	\$698.74
21	Utah	\$705.56
22	New Mexico	\$727.35
23	Oregon	\$736.67
24	Illinois	\$742.65
25	Mississippi	\$744.84
26	Kentucky	\$749.62
27	South Carolina	\$752.56
28	Georgia	\$783.69
29	Minnesota	\$791.47
30	New Hampshire	\$791.71
31	Colorado	\$827.47
32	Washington	\$840.17
33	Hawaii	\$842.78
34	California	\$844.50
35	Texas	\$844.87
36	Pennsylvania	\$849.14
37	West Virginia	\$856.53
38	Arizona	\$926.33
39	Michigan	\$930.79
40	Maryland	\$944.73
41	Alaska	\$961.72
42	Nevada	\$982.56
43	Connecticut	\$990.52
44	Delaware	\$1,027.65
45	Rhode Island	\$1,059.13
46	Florida	\$1,063.36
47	Louisiana	\$1,076.09
48	Massachusetts	\$1,112.73
49	New York	\$1,122.45
50	District of Columbia	\$1,181.77
51	New Jersey	\$1,183.54

Source: National Association of Insurance Commissioners, www.naic.org

Beacon Hill Competitiveness Report (2008)

Rank (1 is best)		Index
1	Massachusetts	7.33
2	Utah	6.79
3	North Dakota	6.75
4	Colorado	6.73
5	Idaho	6.58
6	Washington	6.57
7	Minnesota	6.17
8	Oregon	5.97
9	Wyoming	5.94
10	Montana	5.88
11	South Dakota	5.75
12	Iowa	5.74
13	Vermont	5.69
14	Nebraska	5.68
15	Nevada	5.64
16	Virginia	5.64
17	New Hampshire	5.63
18	Kansas	5.62
19	Delaware	5.37
20	Wisconsin	5.33
21	Connecticut	5.16
22	Arizona	5.10
23	Texas	4.94
24	Alaska	4.82
25	California	4.70
26	Maine	4.70
27	North Carolina	4.68
28	Maryland	4.66
29	Missouri	4.61
30	Michigan	4.60
31	Rhode Island	4.58
32	Florida	4.58
33	Illinois	4.45
34	New Mexico	4.39
35	New York	4.38
36	Indiana	4.37
37	Georgia	4.28
38	Kentucky	4.21
39	Pennsylvania	4.18
40	Oklahoma	4.17
41	Tennessee	4.16
42	New Jersey	4.15
43	Arkansas	4.03
44	Ohio	3.95
45	Hawaii	3.94
46	South Carolina	3.93
47	West Virginia	3.70
48	Alabama	3.39
49	Louisiana	3.30
50	Mississippi	3.12

Source: Beacon Hill Institute. www.beaconhill.org

This index attempts to identify the qualities that allow some areas to excel in income generation and the qualities that prohibit other areas from attaining the same level of competitiveness. The eight indicators of this index are Government and Fiscal policy, Security, Infrastructure, Human Resources, Technology, Business Incubation, Openness and Environmental Policy.

Cost of Doing Business (2007)

	A. Rank <i>(50 is best)</i>	B. Main Index	Subindexes:			F. Industrial Rent	G. Office Rent
			C. Wages	D. Taxes	E. Electricity		
1	Hawaii	151.5	91.9	162.1	260.7	269.5	140.4
2	New York	130.9	128.5	102.5	141.5	154.4	189.4
3	Alaska	130.8	100.3	153.0	150.3	232.7	84.5
4	Massachusetts	130.6	122.1	101.0	187.8	129.0	165.2
5	Connecticut	127.5	128.9	106.8	163.8	113.5	116.1
6	California	122.9	114.8	120.6	134.7	141.4	141.4
7	New Jersey	120.9	121.2	94.5	129.7	161.0	117.3
8	Vermont	110.2	83.9	173.1	134.0	91.9	87.3
9	Delaware	110.1	110.5	132.1	87.8	96.3	112.3
10	Rhode Island	108.0	94.6	105.6	174.9	74.0	118.7
11	Maryland	106.4	108.9	90.4	124.1	94.7	115.4
12	New Hampshire	105.3	98.5	61.9	187.2	120.4	71.1
13	Minnesota	104.3	98.8	133.2	77.7	121.3	89.0
14	Nevada	104.2	96.4	102.2	115.9	114.2	134.5
15	Washington	102.7	104.3	105.4	74.0	116.0	136.2
16	Wyoming	101.6	86.1	155.8	68.0	133.6	77.4
17	Maine	100.3	80.4	129.1	143.1	86.8	81.7
18	Illinois	99.9	107.5	88.2	80.3	100.8	128.0
19	Florida	99.3	91.4	88.3	117.3	125.0	116.5
20	Michigan	98.9	99.5	106.7	95.9	87.9	92.7
21	Pennsylvania	97.2	96.6	97.9	102.2	86.9	105.8
22	New Mexico	96.6	82.5	135.5	92.4	102.1	83.5
23	Wisconsin	96.4	86.2	110.0	93.9	120.6	102.7
24	Texas	95.9	100.1	69.9	118.1	95.7	91.0
25	Virginia	95.6	104.6	88.3	72.1	97.0	102.6
26	Louisiana	93.9	85.7	111.8	114.5	74.0	82.7
27	Colorado	92.8	102.7	70.4	94.9	81.8	98.7
28	Arizona	91.6	94.2	92.8	83.8	75.6	115.3
29	Oregon	91.4	89.1	93.7	77.5	111.1	106.7
30	Ohio	91.0	90.8	99.0	93.4	71.2	92.8
31	North Carolina	90.8	88.4	111.0	81.5	77.2	90.3
32	Georgia	90.7	95.5	87.7	87.3	72.6	100.5
33	Utah	90.1	83.9	113.1	66.1	104.7	101.7
34	Mississippi	88.4	73.5	119.2	107.2	79.4	77.0
35	Kentucky	87.3	82.8	124.0	64.8	71.4	84.2
36	Indiana	87.3	86.4	102.0	79.6	74.1	86.4
37	West Virginia	87.1	77.0	138.2	61.9	71.4	90.4
38	Kansas	86.8	83.6	100.5	77.0	86.9	93.7
39	Alabama	85.8	84.7	91.1	80.8	88.2	86.7
40	Oklahoma	85.4	80.7	103.8	89.2	68.9	81.6
41	Arkansas	85.4	75.9	136.3	74.1	56.1	69.2
42	Tennessee	85.2	87.7	83.9	85.6	72.3	89.9
43	Missouri	84.6	87.5	81.9	63.2	103.5	92.7
44	Montana	84.1	73.3	112.8	85.0	81.7	78.4
45	South Carolina	82.9	81.0	93.6	80.1	71.3	92.1
46	Idaho	82.8	76.2	110.0	60.7	97.5	77.7
47	Nebraska	82.3	80.5	100.1	68.5	68.9	96.5
48	North Dakota	81.3	73.7	120.5	68.9	61.2	76.9
49	Iowa	79.7	80.4	94.9	80.2	51.0	68.0
50	South Dakota	70.2	71.8	68.5	73.7	61.2	69.0

This index indicates each state's comparative advantages or disadvantages in attracting and retaining businesses. The index measures wage costs, taxes, electricity costs and real estate costs for industrial and office space. An index score of 100 means that the state is equal to the U.S. average in that particular category.

Export Ranks (2008) (Dollars are in Millions)

Rank (1 is best)		2007 Exports	2008 Exports	% Change
1	Hawaii	560	964	72%
2	West Virginia	3,972	5,630	42%
3	Mississippi	5,170	7,300	41%
4	Louisiana	30,374	41,926	38%
5	North Dakota	2,033	2,759	36%
6	Wyoming	801	1,080	35%
7	Utah	7,811	10,293	32%
8	New Hampshire	2,910	3,746	29%
9	Maryland	8,945	11,378	27%
10	Nebraska	4,255	5,408	27%
11	Iowa	9,614	12,093	26%
12	Montana	1,131	1,390	23%
13	Delaware	3,986	4,894	23%
14	Kansas	10,246	12,475	22%
15	Florida	44,831	54,271	21%
16	Rhode Island	1,646	1,976	20%
17	South Carolina	16,560	19,831	20%
18	Arkansas	4,880	5,778	18%
19	Pennsylvania	29,126	34,448	18%
20	Georgia	23,342	27,509	18%
21	Oregon	16,515	19,362	17%
22	New Jersey	30,462	35,478	16%
23	New York	69,333	79,596	15%
24	Texas	168,164	192,143	14%
25	Virginia	16,884	18,932	12%
26	Massachusetts	25,285	28,292	12%
27	Connecticut	13,719	15,313	12%
28	Oklahoma	4,538	5,058	11%
29	District of Columbia	1,082	1,195	10%
30	Alabama	14,421	15,846	10%
31	Maine	2,742	3,011	10%
32	Illinois	48,730	53,444	10%
33	South Dakota	1,506	1,644	9%
34	California	134,151	144,813	8%
35	New Mexico	2,583	2,779	8%
36	North Carolina	23,346	25,075	7%
37	Ohio	42,381	45,487	7%
38	Wisconsin	19,185	20,552	7%
39	Nevada	5,713	6,118	7%
40	Tennessee	21,814	23,237	7%
41	Minnesota	17,993	19,158	6%
42	Idaho	4,703	4,987	6%
43	Vermont	3,434	3,596	5%
44	Colorado	7,350	7,667	4%
45	Arizona	19,185	19,742	3%
46	Indiana	25,877	26,507	2%
47	Michigan	44,371	44,871	1%
48	Washington	66,258	66,884	1%
49	Kentucky	19,616	19,089	-3%
50	Missouri	13,416	12,834	-4%
51	Alaska	3,894	3,569	-8%

Non-Agricultural Employment Growth (May 2008-May 2009)

A. Rank		B. Jobs Added (Lost)	C. % Growth	D. Rank
1	North Dakota	5,100	1.4%	1
2	Alaska	0	0.0%	2
3	Wyoming	(4,500)	-1.5%	4
4	South Dakota	(6,800)	-1.7%	5
5	Montana	(8,400)	-1.9%	6
6	Louisiana	(12,700)	-0.7%	3
7	Vermont	(13,300)	-4.3%	32
8	New Hampshire	(14,800)	-2.3%	10
9	Delaware	(18,800)	-4.3%	33
10	Rhode Island	(20,700)	-4.3%	31
11	New Mexico	(20,800)	-2.5%	11
12	Hawaii	(21,000)	-3.4%	25
13	Nebraska	(21,000)	-2.2%	8
14	Maine	(21,600)	-3.5%	27
15	West Virginia	(24,200)	-3.2%	19
16	Arkansas	(33,300)	-2.8%	17
17	Idaho	(36,100)	-5.5%	47
18	Kansas	(36,800)	-2.6%	15
19	Mississippi	(37,800)	-3.3%	21
20	Oklahoma	(39,900)	-2.5%	14
21	Utah	(41,900)	-3.3%	23
22	Iowa	(43,100)	-2.8%	18
23	Connecticut	(63,400)	-3.7%	29
24	Maryland	(65,100)	-2.5%	13
25	Missouri	(74,300)	-2.7%	16
26	Nevada	(77,500)	-6.1%	48
27	Kentucky	(85,300)	-4.6%	34
28	South Carolina	(92,500)	-4.8%	39
29	Oregon	(93,300)	-5.4%	46
30	Virginia	(93,300)	-2.5%	12
31	Alabama	(94,400)	-4.7%	37
32	Colorado	(96,800)	-4.1%	30
33	Minnesota	(101,000)	-3.6%	28
34	Washington	(103,200)	-3.5%	26
35	Massachusetts	(111,100)	-3.4%	24
36	Tennessee	(132,400)	-4.7%	38
37	Wisconsin	(132,500)	-4.6%	36
38	New Jersey	(135,100)	-3.3%	22
39	Indiana	(156,000)	-5.2%	44
40	Pennsylvania	(185,000)	-3.2%	20
41	Arizona	(195,000)	-7.4%	50
42	New York	(198,500)	-2.3%	9
43	Georgia	(211,500)	-5.1%	43
44	North Carolina	(212,000)	-5.1%	42
45	Texas	(222,600)	-2.1%	7
46	Ohio	(262,100)	-4.9%	40
47	Illinois	(273,500)	-4.6%	35
48	Michigan	(302,800)	-7.2%	49
49	Florida	(417,500)	-5.3%	45
50	California	(744,000)	-4.9%	41

Academic Research and Development Spending (2007)

Rank (1 is best)		Dollars Per Capita
1	Maryland	\$452.5
2	Massachusetts	\$336.7
3	North Dakota	\$264.9
4	Alaska	\$234.1
5	New Hampshire	\$233.4
6	Rhode Island	\$217.7
7	Hawaii	\$213.8
8	New Mexico	\$208.3
9	North Carolina	\$208.1
10	Nebraska	\$205.6
11	New York	\$205.5
12	Connecticut	\$197.4
13	Iowa	\$196.4
14	Pennsylvania	\$196.1
15	Wisconsin	\$190.4
16	Montana	\$187.0
17	Vermont	\$185.1
18	California	\$184.2
19	Colorado	\$179.5
20	Missouri	\$160.2
21	Ohio	\$157.6
22	Utah	\$155.9
23	Oregon	\$153.3
24	Wyoming	\$152.4
25	Washington	\$151.7
26	Michigan	\$149.9
27	Georgia	\$145.5
28	Delaware	\$145.3
28	Illinois	\$145.3
30	Texas	\$142.9
31	Alabama	\$141.6
32	Mississippi	\$140.7
33	Louisiana	\$139.2
34	Kansas	\$135.4
35	South Carolina	\$129.1
36	Indiana	\$126.4
37	Virginia	\$126.0
38	Tennessee	\$123.7
39	Arizona	\$123.5
40	Minnesota	\$122.5
41	Kentucky	\$118.7
42	Maine	\$104.3
43	South Dakota	\$102.4
44	New Jersey	\$99.5
45	West Virginia	\$92.3
46	Arkansas	\$84.8
47	Florida	\$84.7
48	Oklahoma	\$82.6
49	Idaho	\$76.2
50	Nevada	\$73.7

This measure conveys a sense of the scale of research and development spending at universities in each state, and, indirectly, its capacity to generate technology-related business development.

FTE Higher Ed Enrollment as % of Population (Fall 2006)

Education Table 10

Rank (1 is best)		Total Public Percent	Public 2 year Percent	Rank	Public 4 year Percent	Rank
1	North Dakota	6.75%	1.48%	32	4.51%	1
2	Wyoming	6.41%	3.83%	2	1.85%	33
3	New Mexico	6.28%	3.34%	3	2.22%	22
4	Kansas	6.19%	2.69%	8	2.77%	9
5	Utah	5.73%	1.50%	30	3.80%	2
6	California	5.67%	3.93%	1	1.41%	47
7	Nebraska	5.37%	2.32%	10	2.35%	19
8	Arizona	5.36%	3.27%	4	1.66%	42
9	Iowa	5.09%	2.85%	6	1.75%	40
10	Michigan	5.08%	2.21%	14	2.21%	23
11	Alabama	5.03%	1.67%	25	2.61%	14
12	Oklahoma	4.99%	1.84%	21	2.61%	13
13	Wisconsin	4.89%	2.07%	18	2.39%	17
14	Colorado	4.88%	1.64%	27	2.54%	15
15	Kentucky	4.86%	2.05%	19	2.26%	21
16	South Dakota	4.83%	0.69%	48	3.52%	4
17	West Virginia	4.79%	1.05%	40	3.08%	6
18	Minnesota	4.75%	2.23%	13	2.03%	24
19	Mississippi	4.72%	2.32%	11	1.93%	26
20	Virginia	4.69%	2.10%	15	1.93%	27
21	Arkansas	4.69%	1.75%	24	2.49%	16
22	Texas	4.68%	2.34%	9	1.86%	32
23	Washington	4.67%	2.92%	5	1.44%	46
24	Maryland	4.66%	2.09%	16	1.89%	29
25	North Carolina	4.59%	2.30%	12	1.81%	35
26	Montana	4.55%	0.94%	45	3.15%	5
27	Louisiana	4.54%	1.16%	39	2.85%	8
28	Delaware	4.48%	1.65%	26	2.38%	18
29	Oregon	4.35%	2.08%	17	1.80%	36
30	Illinois	4.33%	2.74%	7	1.19%	50
31	Indiana	4.32%	1.03%	41	2.73%	11
32	Alaska	4.23%	0.16%	50	3.75%	3
33	Nevada	4.10%	0.67%	49	3.05%	7
34	South Carolina	4.08%	1.85%	20	1.76%	38
35	Idaho	4.05%	0.86%	47	2.75%	10
36	Ohio	3.95%	1.51%	29	1.96%	25
37	Vermont	3.93%	0.90%	46	2.65%	12
38	Hawaii	3.92%	1.76%	23	1.65%	43
39	Rhode Island	3.81%	1.55%	28	1.84%	34
40	Missouri	3.75%	1.48%	31	1.86%	31
41	Georgia	3.71%	1.47%	33	1.86%	30
42	Maine	3.64%	0.97%	44	2.33%	20
43	Florida	3.62%	1.41%	35	1.89%	28
44	New Jersey	3.57%	1.78%	22	1.38%	48
45	Tennessee	3.38%	1.26%	38	1.72%	41
46	New York	3.28%	1.41%	34	1.52%	44
47	Connecticut	3.22%	1.33%	36	1.46%	45
48	New Hampshire	3.17%	1.01%	43	1.79%	37
49	Pennsylvania	3.13%	1.02%	42	1.76%	39
50	Massachusetts	2.98%	1.33%	37	1.28%	49
	United States	4.42%	2.07%		1.88%	

Source: U.S. Dept. of Education; U.S. Census Bureau, www.ed.gov

Graduate Students in Science and Engineering (2006)

Education
Table 11

<u>Rank</u>		<u>Value</u>
1	Massachusetts	3,451
2	North Dakota	2,420
3	Kansas	2,323
4	Colorado	2,282
5	New York	2,179
6	Delaware	2,035
7	Connecticut	2,013
8	New Mexico	2,013
9	Utah	2,003
10	Maryland	1,936
11	Illinois	1,891
12	California	1,799
13	Iowa	1,748
14	Virginia	1,745
15	Rhode Island	1,745
16	Wyoming	1,737
17	Michigan	1,680
18	Pennsylvania	1,670
19	Nebraska	1,601
20	Montana	1,576
21	Wisconsin	1,575
22	Ohio	1,571
23	Texas	1,484
24	Idaho	1,448
25	Indiana	1,447
26	Minnesota	1,428
27	Louisiana	1,419
28	Hawaii	1,400
29	New Jersey	1,387
30	North Carolina	1,373
31	Alabama	1,334
32	West Virginia	1,320
33	South Dakota	1,308
34	Oklahoma	1,297
35	Arizona	1,273
36	Missouri	1,265
37	Oregon	1,233
38	Georgia	1,223
39	Alaska	1,173
40	Tennessee	1,138
41	New Hampshire	1,132
42	Florida	1,098
43	Kentucky	1,097
44	Washington	1,091
45	Vermont	990
46	Mississippi	871
47	Nevada	833
48	South Carolina	829
49	Arkansas	797
50	Maine	520

Source: National Science Foundation, Division of Science Resource Statistics, www.nsf.gov

Number of science and engineering graduate students in doctorate-granting institutions, per one million population.

High School Completion (2006)

**Education
Table 12**

Rank (1 is best)		Value
1	North Dakota	91.6
2	Hawaii	90.5
3	Vermont	89.6
4	Rhode Island	88.2
5	Connecticut	87.1
6	Wyoming	86.9
7	Massachusetts	86.8
8	Iowa	86.1
9	Minnesota	86.0
9	Utah	86.0
11	Kansas	85.6
11	New Jersey	85.6
11	Virginia	85.6
14	Maryland	85.4
15	Pennsylvania	84.7
16	West Virginia	84.6
17	New Hampshire	84.5
17	Wisconsin	84.5
19	Nebraska	83.9
20	Maine	83.8
21	Arkansas	83.7
22	New York	83.6
22	Ohio	83.6
24	Illinois	83.3
25	South Dakota	83.2
26	Idaho	82.5
26	Michigan	82.5
28	Kentucky	81.8
29	Tennessee	81.6
30	California	81.2
30	North Carolina	81.2
32	Colorado	81.1
33	Missouri	81.0
34	South Carolina	80.9
35	Oklahoma	80.8
35	Washington	80.8
37	Montana	80.6
38	Indiana	80.3
38	Oregon	80.3
40	Alaska	80.2
40	Delaware	80.2
40	Florida	80.2
43	Alabama	79.7
44	New Mexico	78.5
45	Texas	78.3
46	Nevada	78.0
47	Georgia	77.9
48	Arizona	77.7
49	Mississippi	77.1
50	Louisiana	76.2

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, Digest of Education Statistics, nces.ed.gov

High school completion rate of 18-24 year olds. Includes diploma recipients and those completing through alternative credentials, such as a GED.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (2007)

Education
Table 13

Rank (1 is best)		Reading Grade 4		Grade 8		Math Grade 4		Grade 8	
		Scores	Rank	Scores	Rank	Scores	Rank	Scores	Rank
1	Alabama	216	38	252	45	228	49	269	49
2	Alaska	214	42	259	35	237	36	283	30
3	Arizona	210	47	255	42	230	46	277	39
4	Arkansas	217	36	258	39	238	33	276	40
5	California	209	48	251	47	232	44	270	46
6	Colorado	224	18	266	17	243	16	287	15
7	Connecticut	227	5	267	12	245	6	289	9
8	Delaware	225	12	265	20	239	29	284	25
9	Florida	224	18	260	32	242	20	279	34
10	Georgia	219	32	259	35	236	38	278	36
11	Hawaii	213	44	251	47	236	38	274	43
12	Idaho	223	22	265	20	241	24	287	15
13	Illinois	219	32	263	27	238	33	282	32
14	Indiana	222	26	264	24	243	16	287	15
15	Iowa	225	12	267	12	243	16	284	25
16	Kansas	225	12	267	12	245	6	289	9
17	Kentucky	222	26	262	29	239	29	279	34
18	Louisiana	207	50	253	44	229	48	272	45
19	Maine	226	8	270	4	244	9	286	19
20	Maryland	225	12	265	20	244	9	288	12
21	Massachusetts	236	1	273	1	252	1	299	1
22	Michigan	220	30	260	32	236	38	278	36
23	Minnesota	225	12	268	8	249	3	294	2
24	Mississippi	208	49	250	50	227	50	265	50
25	Missouri	221	28	263	27	241	24	286	19
26	Montana	227	5	271	3	244	9	292	6
27	Nebraska	223	22	267	12	239	29	284	25
28	Nevada	211	46	252	45	235	42	274	43
29	New Hampshire	229	3	270	4	251	2	292	6
30	New Jersey	231	2	270	4	247	5	293	3
31	New Mexico	212	45	251	47	230	46	270	46
32	New York	224	18	264	24	241	24	283	30
33	North Carolina	218	35	259	35	244	9	284	25
34	North Dakota	226	8	268	8	245	6	293	3
35	Ohio	226	8	268	8	244	9	286	19
36	Oklahoma	217	36	260	32	237	36	276	40
37	Oregon	215	40	266	17	238	33	285	24
38	Pennsylvania	226	8	268	8	244	9	288	12
39	Rhode Island	219	32	258	39	239	29	278	36
40	South Carolina	214	42	257	41	236	38	280	33
41	South Dakota	223	22	270	4	242	20	291	8
42	Tennessee	216	38	259	35	232	44	275	42
43	Texas	220	30	261	31	240	27	287	15
44	Utah	221	28	262	29	240	27	284	25
45	Vermont	228	4	273	1	248	4	293	3
46	Virginia	227	5	267	12	243	16	286	19
47	Washington	224	18	265	20	242	20	289	9
48	West Virginia	215	40	255	42	233	43	270	46
49	Wisconsin	223	22	264	24	244	9	288	12
50	Wyoming	225	12	266	17	242	20	286	19
	Nation (Public)	220		261		239		282	

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, nces.ed.gov

Appropriations of State Tax Funds for Higher Education Operating Expenses (Per \$1,000 Personal Income) (2009)

Education
Table 14

A. Rank (1 is best)	B. Appropriation
1	New Mexico \$14.07
2	North Carolina \$12.26
3	Mississippi \$12.11
4	Wyoming \$11.90
5	Hawaii \$11.69
6	Alabama \$11.06
7	Alaska \$10.64
8	Louisiana \$10.64
9	North Dakota \$10.08
10	Utah \$9.94
11	Arkansas \$9.54
12	Nebraska \$9.40
13	Kentucky \$9.36
14	Idaho \$8.65
15	Iowa \$8.52
16	West Virginia \$8.42
17	Kansas \$7.88
18	Georgia \$7.84
19	Oklahoma \$7.59
20	California \$7.46
21	Indiana \$7.30
22	Minnesota \$7.11
23	Delaware \$6.79
24	Washington \$6.78
25	South Dakota \$6.69
26	Wisconsin \$6.14
27	Montana \$6.14
28	Texas \$6.12
29	Ohio \$6.10
30	Maryland \$6.05
31	Nevada \$5.98
32	Tennessee \$5.85
33	Michigan \$5.80
34	Oregon \$5.78
35	South Carolina \$5.72
36	Maine \$5.71
37	Virginia \$5.71
38	Arizona \$5.70
39	New York \$5.67
40	Illinois \$5.50
41	Connecticut \$5.07
42	Missouri \$4.91
43	Florida \$4.63
44	New Jersey \$4.51
45	Pennsylvania \$4.46
46	Colorado \$3.84
47	Rhode Island \$3.74
48	Vermont \$3.66
49	Massachusetts \$3.14
50	New Hampshire \$2.46

Source: Illinois State University, College of Education, Grapevine. www.grapevine.ilstu.edu

Acres Harvested in 2008

Rank (1 is best)		Acres
1	Iowa	24,330,000
2	Illinois	22,984,000
3	North Dakota	22,703,000
4	Kansas	21,817,000
5	Minnesota	19,381,000
6	Nebraska	18,444,000
7	Texas	17,430,000
8	South Dakota	17,039,000
9	Missouri	13,690,000
10	Indiana	12,155,000
11	Ohio	10,031,000
12	Montana	8,774,000
13	Oklahoma	8,684,000
14	Arkansas	8,196,000
15	Wisconsin	7,890,000
16	Michigan	6,454,000
17	Kentucky	5,792,000
18	Colorado	5,473,000
19	Tennessee	4,860,000
20	North Carolina	4,855,000
21	Mississippi	4,573,000
22	Idaho	4,134,000
23	Pennsylvania	3,858,000
24	California	3,762,000
25	Georgia	3,632,000
26	Louisiana	3,500,000
27	Washington	3,497,000
28	New York	2,861,000
29	Virginia	2,734,000
30	Alabama	2,200,000
31	Oregon	2,139,000
32	South Carolina	1,660,000
33	Wyoming	1,406,000
34	Maryland	1,363,000
35	Florida	1,051,000
36	Utah	936,000
37	New Mexico	783,000
38	Arizona	740,000
39	West Virginia	673,000
40	Nevada	478,000
41	Delaware	472,000
42	New Jersey	326,000
43	Maine	268,000
44	Vermont	266,000
45	Massachusetts	91,000
46	Connecticut	81,000
47	New Hampshire	67,000
48	Hawaii	22,000
49	Rhode Island	10,000
50	Alaska **	NA

Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. www.nass.usda.gov

** No acreage or not available

North Dakota's Top Agricultural Commodities (2008)

Natural Resources
Table 16

Rank in U.S.		Commodity	% of Nation's Production
1	North Dakota	Flaxseed	96%
1	North Dakota	Canola	90%
1	North Dakota	Beans, Pinto	65%
1	North Dakota	Peas, Dry Edible	64%
1	North Dakota	Wheat, Durum	50%
1	North Dakota	Beans, Navy	46%
1	North Dakota	Wheat, Spring	45%
1	North Dakota	Sunflower, All	44%
1	North Dakota	Sunflower, Oil	44%
1	North Dakota	Sunflower, Non-Oil	42%
1	North Dakota	Beans, Dry Edible, All	39%
1	North Dakota	Barley	36%
1	North Dakota	Lentils	35%
1	North Dakota	Honey	22%

Source: U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service. www.nass.usda.gov

Energy Costs (2009)

Rank (1 is best)		Value
1	Wyoming	6.03
2	Idaho	6.43
3	West Virginia	6.57
4	Kentucky	6.66
5	North Dakota	6.75
6	Utah	6.89
7	Washington	6.90
8	Nebraska	7.22
9	Montana	7.26
10	South Dakota	7.27
11	Oklahoma	7.29
12	Missouri	7.45
13	Louisiana	7.49
14	Oregon	7.55
15	Iowa	7.57
16	Indiana	7.63
17	Arkansas	7.97
18	Colorado	8.16
19	Kansas	8.26
20	New Mexico	8.26
21	Minnesota	8.29
22	South Carolina	8.39
23	North Carolina	8.56
24	Tennessee	8.70
25	Mississippi	8.90
26	Alabama	8.98
27	Georgia	8.98
28	Virginia	9.07
29	Ohio	9.12
30	Illinois	9.24
31	Wisconsin	9.49
32	Arizona	9.61
33	Pennsylvania	9.66
34	Michigan	9.70
35	Nevada	10.31
36	Texas	10.39
37	Florida	11.53
38	Delaware	12.23
39	Vermont	12.78
40	Maine	13.10
41	Maryland	13.32
42	California	13.61
43	Rhode Island	13.99
44	New Jersey	15.02
45	Alaska	15.07
46	New Hampshire	15.48
47	Massachusetts	15.70
48	New York	15.98
49	Connecticut	17.46
50	Hawaii	20.19

Average retail price of electricity to ultimate customers by end-use sector (cents per kilowatt hour)

Average Retail Price of Electricity (May 2009)

Natural Resources
Table 18

Rank <i>(50 is best)</i>	Commercial	Average Price	Industrial	Average Price
1	Hawaii	\$19.52	Hawaii	\$15.81
2	Connecticut	\$15.49	New Hampshire	\$13.72
3	New Hampshire	\$15.16	Massachusetts	\$13.64
4	Massachusetts	\$15.02	Connecticut	\$13.57
5	New York	\$14.84	Alaska	\$12.62
6	Alaska	\$14.83	Rhode Island	\$12.16
7	New Jersey	\$13.71	New Jersey	\$11.67
8	California	\$13.51	New York	\$10.86
9	Vermont	\$13.09	Maryland	\$10.26
10	Rhode Island	\$12.95	California	\$10.01
11	Delaware	\$12.49	Maine	\$9.31
12	Maryland	\$12.44	Florida	\$9.29
13	Maine	\$11.88	Vermont	\$9.22
14	Florida	\$10.77	Delaware	\$9.12
15	Nevada	\$10.05	Michigan	\$7.89
16	Ohio	\$10.03	Illinois	\$7.37
17	Texas	\$9.89	Nevada	\$7.15
18	Pennsylvania	\$9.84	Arizona	\$7.05
19	Arizona	\$9.69	Ohio	\$7.02
20	Alabama	\$9.67	Virginia	\$7.00
21	Mississippi	\$9.66	Pennsylvania	\$6.96
22	Michigan	\$9.64	Texas	\$6.76
23	Tennessee	\$9.54	Mississippi	\$6.70
24	Wisconsin	\$9.43	Wisconsin	\$6.64
25	Georgia	\$8.76	Tennessee	\$6.61
26	South Carolina	\$8.55	Kansas	\$6.31
27	Virginia	\$8.37	Minnesota	\$6.31
28	Illinois	\$8.31	Alabama	\$6.00
29	Indiana	\$8.30	Georgia	\$5.98
30	Montana	\$8.27	Colorado	\$5.95
31	Kansas	\$8.11	Arkansas	\$5.88
32	Louisiana	\$8.11	South Carolina	\$5.88
33	New Mexico	\$8.10	North Carolina	\$5.86
34	Colorado	\$7.92	Indiana	\$5.82
35	North Carolina	\$7.88	North Dakota	\$5.80
36	Minnesota	\$7.68	Louisiana	\$5.69
37	Oregon	\$7.68	South Dakota	\$5.67
38	Kentucky	\$7.47	Nebraska	\$5.51
39	Wyoming	\$7.46	New Mexico	\$5.46
40	Arkansas	\$7.39	Missouri	\$5.45
41	Utah	\$7.38	West Virginia	\$5.44
42	Iowa	\$7.37	Oregon	\$5.41
43	Nebraska	\$7.26	Montana	\$5.24
44	Missouri	\$7.15	Washington	\$5.24
45	South Dakota	\$7.08	Oklahoma	\$4.98
46	Washington	\$7.02	Iowa	\$4.92
47	North Dakota	\$6.95	Idaho	\$4.88
48	West Virginia	\$6.81	Kentucky	\$4.87
49	Oklahoma	\$6.59	Utah	\$4.83
50	Idaho	\$6.29	Wyoming	\$4.79

Source: Energy Information Administration, eia.doe.gov

Revenue per kWh from Commercial Customers (April 2008)

A. Rank <i>(50 is best)</i>		B. 2008 Cents	C. 2007 Cents	D. Change from 2007 to 2008
1	Hawaii	29.72	21.91	7.81
2	New York	16.45	15.92	0.53
3	Massachusetts	16.05	15.20	0.85
4	Connecticut	15.93	15.39	0.54
5	Rhode Island	15.49	12.67	2.82
6	New Jersey	14.72	12.99	1.73
7	New Hampshire	14.28	13.91	0.37
8	Alaska	13.33	12.19	1.14
9	California	13.05	12.82	0.23
10	Maine	12.95	12.94	0.01
11	Maryland	12.82	11.58	1.24
12	Vermont	12.51	12.29	0.22
13	Delaware	12.04	11.21	0.83
14	Texas	10.65	9.87	0.78
15	Florida	10.20	9.75	0.45
16	Nevada	10.15	10.09	0.06
17	Louisiana	10.10	9.13	0.97
18	Mississippi	9.98	8.92	1.06
19	Alabama	9.85	8.70	1.15
20	Michigan	9.43	8.77	0.66
21	Pennsylvania	9.42	9.20	0.22
22	Wisconsin	9.28	8.71	0.57
23	Ohio	9.26	8.67	0.59
24	Georgia	9.19	8.07	1.12
25	Tennessee	9.02	8.09	0.93
26	Arizona	8.86	8.27	0.59
27	New Mexico	8.56	7.66	0.90
28	Colorado	8.56	7.62	0.94
29	Montana	8.54	8.10	0.44
30	Illinois	8.53	8.57	0.04
31	South Carolina	8.53	7.74	0.79
32	Oklahoma	8.04	7.33	0.71
33	Minnesota	7.86	7.48	0.38
34	Indiana	7.81	7.29	0.52
35	Arkansas	7.76	6.91	0.85
36	North Carolina	7.67	7.43	0.24
37	Oregon	7.59	7.20	0.39
38	Kansas	7.55	6.83	0.72
39	Virginia	7.38	6.38	1.00
40	Iowa	7.28	7.11	0.17
41	Kentucky	7.25	6.76	0.49
42	South Dakota	6.83	6.61	0.22
43	North Dakota	6.80	6.58	0.22
44	Washington	6.79	6.55	0.24
45	Utah	6.73	6.54	0.19
46	Wyoming	6.70	6.25	0.45
47	Nebraska	6.64	6.39	0.25
48	Missouri	6.59	6.34	0.25
49	West Virginia	6.06	5.85	0.21
50	Idaho	5.72	5.14	0.58
	U.S. Total	10.27	9.65	0.62

NM = Not meaningful due to large relative standard error or excessive percentage change.

Revenue per KWh from Industrial Customers (April 2008)

Natural Resources
Table 20

Rank (50 is best)		2008 Cents	2007 Cents	Change from 2007 to 2008
1	Hawaii	26.05	18.38	7.67
2	Rhode Island	14.22	12.04	2.18
3	Massachusetts	14.21	13.03	1.18
4	Alaska	14.04	12.63	1.41
5	Connecticut	13.90	12.92	0.98
6	New Hampshire	13.17	12.27	0.90
7	New Jersey	12.42	10.08	2.34
8	New York	11.97	8.71	3.26
9	Maine	11.80	14.11	(2.31)
10	Maryland	10.40	9.41	0.99
11	California	10.20	9.98	0.22
12	Delaware	10.10	8.93	1.17
13	Vermont	9.00	8.92	0.08
14	Texas	8.80	7.79	1.01
15	Florida	8.36	7.76	0.60
16	Nevada	7.99	8.28	(0.29)
17	Louisiana	7.87	6.77	1.10
18	Illinois	7.83	6.61	1.22
19	Pennsylvania	7.02	6.87	0.15
20	Michigan	6.86	6.47	0.39
21	Georgia	6.76	5.53	1.23
22	Colorado	6.65	5.97	0.68
23	Arizona	6.60	6.05	0.55
24	Wisconsin	6.54	6.16	0.38
25	Mississippi	6.53	5.75	0.78
26	New Mexico	6.31	5.60	0.71
27	Ohio	6.23	5.76	0.47
28	Alabama	6.18	5.27	0.91
29	Tennessee	6.13	5.19	0.94
30	Arkansas	6.04	5.25	0.79
31	Oklahoma	6.01	5.41	0.60
32	Minnesota	5.96	5.69	0.27
33	Virginia	5.84	5.07	0.77
34	Montana	5.73	5.16	0.57
35	North Carolina	5.62	5.47	0.15
36	Indiana	5.51	4.89	0.62
37	North Dakota	5.51	5.24	0.27
38	South Carolina	5.42	4.83	0.59
39	South Dakota	5.30	5.09	0.21
40	Washington	5.23	4.57	0.66
41	Nebraska	5.05	4.78	0.27
42	Missouri	4.98	4.76	0.22
43	Oregon	4.91	5.06	(0.15)
44	Iowa	4.86	4.74	0.12
45	Kentucky	4.81	4.47	0.34
46	Utah	4.59	4.52	0.07
47	Wyoming	4.51	4.10	0.41
48	Idaho	4.50	3.87	0.63
49	West Virginia	4.20	3.95	0.25
50	Kansas	NM	5.13	
	U.S. Total	7.02	6.39	0.63

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy, Energy Information Administration, Electric Power Monthly, www.energy.gov

U.S. Tort Liability Index (2008)

Rank (1 is best)		Score
1	North Dakota	11.23
2	Alaska	12.30
3	North Carolina	12.84
4	Iowa	13.61
5	Virginia	14.00
6	New Mexico	14.61
7	Utah	15.60
8	Wyoming	16.76
9	Mississippi	17.06
10	Maine	17.46
11	Ohio	17.91
12	Tennessee	18.00
13	South Dakota	18.23
14	South Carolina	18.83
15	Hawaii	18.92
16	New Hampshire	19.53
17	Wisconsin	20.15
18	Texas	20.38
19	Nebraska	20.73
20	Oklahoma	20.92
21	Minnesota	21.06
22	Indiana	21.60
23	Vermont	22.07
24	Delaware	22.24
25	Idaho	22.38
26	Kansas	22.46
27	Georgia	22.69
28	Michigan	23.00
29	Louisiana	23.03
30	Arkansas	24.34
31	Kentucky	24.45
32	Oregon	24.53
33	Arizona	25.37
34	California	25.81
35	Maryland	25.99
36	Nevada	26.07
37	Washington	26.30
38	Connecticut	26.76
39	Alabama	27.76
40	West Virginia	27.76
41	Massachusetts	27.94
42	Colorado	28.30
43	Missouri	29.75
44	Rhode Island	30.03
45	Pennsylvania	30.07
46	Montana	31.61
47	Illinois	33.72
48	New York	34.63
49	New Jersey	36.54
50	Florida	38.16

Source: Pacific Research Institute. www.pacificresearch.org

Rankings were determined by averaging the rankings for 39 variables which fall into five subgroups: monetary tort losses, threats, monetary caps, substantive-law rules and reforms, and procedural/structural rules and reforms.

Violent Crime (2006) (1 per 100,000 population)

Public Safety & Courts
Table 22

Rank (50 is best)		Rate
1	South Carolina	766
2	Tennessee	760
3	Nevada	742
4	Florida	712
5	Louisiana	698
6	Alaska	688
7	Delaware	682
8	Maryland	679
9	New Mexico	643
10	Michigan	562
11	Arkansas	552
12	Missouri	546
13	Illinois	542
14	California	533
15	Texas	516
16	Arizona	501
17	Oklahoma	497
18	North Carolina	476
19	Georgia	471
20	Massachusetts	447
21	Pennsylvania	439
22	New York	435
23	Alabama	425
24	Kansas	425
25	Colorado	392
26	New Jersey	352
27	Ohio	350
28	Washington	346
29	Indiana	315
30	Minnesota	312
31	Mississippi	299
32	Wisconsin	284
33	Iowa	284
34	Virginia	282
35	Nebraska	282
36	Hawaii	281
37	Connecticut	281
38	Oregon	280
39	West Virginia	280
40	Kentucky	263
41	Montana	254
42	Idaho	247
43	Wyoming	240
44	Rhode Island	228
45	Utah	224
46	South Dakota	171
47	New Hampshire	139
48	Vermont	137
49	North Dakota	128
50	Maine	116

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. www.census.gov

Violent offenses known to the police, which includes murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Safest States (2008)

A. 2008 Rank (1 is best)		B. 2007 Rank	C. Change 07 to 08
1	New Hampshire	4	3
2	Maine	3	1
3	North Dakota	1	(2)
4	Vermont	2	(2)
5	South Dakota	6	1
6	Wyoming	5	(1)
7	Montana	7	0
8	Iowa	8	0
9	Idaho	12	3
10	Wisconsin	9	(1)
11	Connecticut	11	0
12	Rhode Island	16	4
13	Utah	13	0
14	West Virginia	10	(4)
15	Virginia	15	0
16	Nebraska	14	(2)
17	Minnesota	19	2
18	Kentucky	17	(1)
19	New York	20	1
20	New Jersey	18	(2)
21	Oregon	22	1
22	Massachusetts	21	(1)
23	Hawaii	23	0
24	Pennsylvania	25	1
25	Indiana	26	1
26	Colorado	29	3
27	Kansas	24	(3)
28	Mississippi	27	(1)
29	Ohio	28	(1)
30	Illinois	30	0
31	Washington	37	6
32	Georgia	31	(1)
33	Missouri	32	(1)
34	Oklahoma	36	2
35	North Carolina	35	0
36	Alabama	34	(2)
37	Texas	39	2
38	California	42	4
39	Delaware	33	(6)
40	Arkansas	38	(2)
41	Michigan	40	(1)
42	Florida	43	1
43	Alaska	44	1
44	Maryland	47	3
45	Tennessee	46	1
46	Arizona	48	2
47	South Carolina	45	(2)
48	New Mexico	49	1
49	Louisiana	41	(8)
50	Nevada	50	0

Ratings are based on six crime categories: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft.

Infectious Disease (2008)

Health & Welfare
Table 24

Rank (1 is best)		Cases Per 100K Population
1	North Dakota	2.5
1	Wyoming	2.5
3	Montana	3.9
4	Idaho	4.5
5	Utah	5.3
6	South Dakota	5.6
6	Vermont	5.7
6	Wisconsin	5.7
9	Iowa	6.2
10	Maine	6.6
11	Kansas	7.7
12	New Hampshire	8.1
13	Nebraska	8.4
14	Indiana	9.0
15	West Virginia	9.5
16	Minnesota	10.0
16	New Mexico	10.1
18	Kentucky	10.3
19	Ohio	10.4
20	Colorado	10.6
21	Missouri	11.0
22	Oregon	11.8
23	Michigan	12.3
24	Washington	12.4
25	Oklahoma	14.0
26	Massachusetts	14.6
27	Alaska	14.9
27	Virginia	14.9
29	Rhode Island	15.0
30	Hawaii	15.6
31	Arkansas	16.0
32	Arizona	17.2
32	Nevada	17.3
34	Alabama	17.7
35	Mississippi	18.2
36	Pennsylvania	18.5
37	North Carolina	18.7
38	Illinois	19.1
39	Connecticut	20.4
40	Tennessee	20.7
41	California	21.4
42	New Jersey	22.2
43	South Carolina	22.8
44	Texas	23.8
45	Delaware	24.6
46	Louisiana	27.1
47	Georgia	29.4
48	Florida	36.3
49	Maryland	37.0
50	New York	39.3
	United States	20.1

Source: America's Health Rankings—2008 Edition, (c) 2008 United Health Foundation, www.unitedhealthfoundation.org

Includes the occurrence of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), tuberculosis and hepatitis (A and B) as representative of all major infectious disease in a state. It is a running three-year average (2005-2007).

Poor Mental Health Days (2008)

A. Rank (1 is best)		B. Days lost in last 30
1	North Dakota	2.4
1	South Dakota	2.4
3	Iowa	2.5
3	Minnesota	2.5
3	Nebraska	2.5
6	Kansas	2.6
7	Hawaii	2.8
8	Connecticut	3.0
8	Louisiana	3.0
8	Oregon	3.0
8	Utah	3.0
8	Virginia	3.0
8	Wisconsin	3.0
14	Alaska	3.1
14	Illinois	3.1
14	Montana	3.1
14	Vermont	3.1
14	Wyoming	3.1
19	Colorado	3.2
19	Florida	3.2
19	Idaho	3.2
19	Maryland	3.2
19	Massachusetts	3.2
19	New York	3.2
19	Tennessee	3.2
19	Washington	3.2
27	New Mexico	3.3
28	Arizona	3.4
28	Indiana	3.4
28	New Jersey	3.4
28	Pennsylvania	3.4
32	Arkansas	3.5
32	California	3.5
32	Maine	3.5
32	New Hampshire	3.5
32	North Carolina	3.5
32	Texas	3.5
38	Delaware	3.6
38	Georgia	3.6
38	Kentucky	3.6
38	Michigan	3.6
38	South Carolina	3.6
43	Missouri	3.7
43	Ohio	3.7
45	Nevada	3.8
45	Rhode Island	3.8
47	Alabama	3.9
47	Oklahoma	3.9
49	Mississippi	4.0
50	West Virginia	4.2
	United States	3.4

Source: America's Health Rankings—2008 Edition, (c) 2008 United Health Foundation, www.unitedhealthfoundation.org

The average number of days in the previous 30 days that a person could not perform work or household tasks due to mental illness.

Poor Physical Health Days (2008)

A. Rank (1 is best)		B. Days lost in last 30
1	North Dakota	2.7
2	Nebraska	2.8
2	South Dakota	2.8
4	Colorado	2.9
4	Connecticut	2.9
4	Hawaii	2.9
4	Iowa	2.9
4	Utah	2.9
9	Kansas	3.1
9	Minnesota	3.1
9	Vermont	3.1
12	Maryland	3.2
12	Virginia	3.2
12	Wyoming	3.2
15	California	3.3
15	Idaho	3.3
15	Massachusetts	3.3
18	Illinois	3.4
18	Indiana	3.4
18	Montana	3.4
18	New Hampshire	3.4
18	Wisconsin	3.4
23	Alaska	3.5
23	Arizona	3.5
23	Delaware	3.5
23	Florida	3.5
23	Michigan	3.5
23	New York	3.5
23	South Carolina	3.5
30	Georgia	3.6
30	Louisiana	3.6
30	New Jersey	3.6
30	New Mexico	3.6
30	Oregon	3.6
30	Washington	3.6
36	Maine	3.7
36	Nevada	3.7
36	North Carolina	3.7
36	Ohio	3.7
36	Pennsylvania	3.7
41	Missouri	3.8
41	Texas	3.8
43	Rhode Island	3.9
44	Mississippi	4.0
45	Arkansas	4.1
45	Oklahoma	4.1
45	Tennessee	4.1
48	Alabama	4.3
49	Kentucky	4.8
50	West Virginia	5.1
	United States	3.6

Source: America's Health Rankings—2008 Edition, (c) 2008 United Health Foundation, www.unitedhealthfoundation.org

The average number of days in the previous 30 days that a person could not perform work or household tasks due to mental illness.

Healthiest States (2008)

A. Rank (1 is best)		B. Score (%)
1	Vermont	24.8
2	Hawaii	21.6
3	New Hampshire	19.9
4	Minnesota	18.8
5	Utah	18.2
6	Massachusetts	17.7
7	Connecticut	17.5
8	Idaho	16.1
9	Maine	15.3
10	Washington	14.9
11	Rhode Island	14.0
12	North Dakota	12.5
13	Nebraska	12.0
14	Wyoming	11.8
15	Iowa	11.6
16	Oregon	11.3
17	Wisconsin	10.3
18	New Jersey	9.8
19	Colorado	9.7
20	Virginia	9.0
21	South Dakota	7.5
22	Kansas	6.7
23	Montana	6.5
24	California	5.3
25	New York	3.8
26	Maryland	3.4
27	Michigan	2.0
27	Pennsylvania	2.0
29	New Mexico	1.7
30	Alaska	1.3
31	Illinois	0.8
32	Ohio	0.7
33	Arizona	0.4
34	Indiana	(0.6)
35	Delaware	(1.6)
36	North Carolina	(3.2)
37	Kentucky	(3.6)
38	Missouri	(4.9)
39	West Virginia	(5.0)
40	Alabama	(7.0)
41	Georgia	(7.8)
42	Nevada	(7.9)
43	Arkansas	(8.1)
43	Oklahoma	(8.1)
45	Florida	(8.9)
46	Texas	(9.0)
47	Tennessee	(9.7)
48	South Carolina	(10.7)
49	Mississippi	(15.0)
50	Louisiana	(15.2)

Scores indicate the percentage a state is above or below the national norm.

Cost of Living (2nd Quarter 2009)

Rank		Index
1	Oklahoma	88.1
2	Tennessee	88.9
3	Kentucky	90.4
4	Texas	90.5
5	Arkansas	90.8
6	Georgia	90.9
7	Nebraska	90.9
8	Missouri	91.1
9	South Dakota	91.3
10	Kansas	91.7
11	Idaho	92.2
12	Indiana	92.4
13	Mississippi	92.5
14	Alabama	92.6
15	Ohio	92.8
16	Iowa	93.5
17	West Virginia	94.0
18	North Dakota	95.1
19	Wisconsin	95.7
20	Louisiana	95.9
21	Michigan	96.0
22	Illinois	96.2
23	Utah	96.3
24	North Carolina	96.4
25	South Carolina	97.5
26	Virginia	99.3
27	New Mexico	100.0
28	Wyoming	100.4
29	Florida	101.1
30	Delaware	101.4
31	Pennsylvania	102.4
32	Montana	102.6
33	Colorado	102.8
34	Minnesota	102.8
35	Washington	104.5
36	Arizona	104.6
37	Nevada	105.1
38	Maine	114.9
39	Oregon	116.1
40	New Hampshire	117.4
41	Rhode Island	119.0
42	Vermont	119.9
43	Massachusetts	123.3
44	New York	125.2
45	Connecticut	125.3
46	Maryland	125.8
47	Alaska	126.4
48	New Jersey	126.5
49	California	135.1
50	District of Columbia	140.0
51	Hawaii	164.9

Source: Missouri Economic Research and Information Center. www.missoureconomy.org

Index is calculated based on the average of indices of participating cities and metropolitan areas in each state. * No data provided for Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Cost of Urban Housing (2007)

Rank (1 is best)		Value
1	North Dakota	10.10
2	Wyoming	11.30
3	Nebraska	11.41
4	Kansas	11.65
5	Iowa	11.69
6	Kentucky	12.02
7	Missouri	12.09
8	Alabama	12.11
9	Wisconsin	12.36
10	West Virginia	12.59
11	Ohio	12.67
12	Arkansas	12.68
13	Indiana	12.74
14	Minnesota	12.96
15	Oklahoma	13.01
16	Georgia	13.12
17	Utah	13.16
18	Michigan	13.17
19	South Carolina	13.20
20	Tennessee	13.25
21	Oregon	13.31
22	Idaho	13.37
23	Montana	13.57
24	Alaska	13.77
25	South Dakota	13.78
26	North Carolina	13.90
27	Delaware	14.13
28	Maryland	14.22
29	Connecticut	14.25
30	Illinois	14.29
31	Washington	14.30
32	Pennsylvania	14.50
33	Texas	14.69
34	Mississippi	14.79
35	Colorado	14.84
36	Virginia	15.36
37	New Mexico	15.56
38	New Jersey	15.57
39	New Hampshire	15.72
40	Vermont	15.85
41	Arizona	16.05
42	Maine	16.22
43	Louisiana	17.02
44	Florida	17.11
45	Nevada	17.34
46	Rhode Island	18.11
47	Massachusetts	18.25
48	New York	19.49
49	Hawaii	20.28
50	California	20.62

Weighted annual average of fair market rent schedules for a standard two-bedroom unit of housing, metropolitan areas, as a percent of median metropolitan family income, 2006

Average Travel Time to Work (2005-2007)

Rank (1 is best)		B. Minutes
1	North Dakota	16.0
2	South Dakota	16.2
3	Montana	17.4
4	Nebraska	17.7
5	Wyoming	17.9
6	Alaska	18.0
7	Iowa	18.2
8	Kansas	18.5
9	Idaho	20.1
10	Oklahoma	20.2
11	Arkansas	20.8
12	Wisconsin	20.9
12	Utah	20.9
14	Vermont	21.2
14	New Mexico	21.2
16	Oregon	22.0
17	Minnesota	22.1
18	Kentucky	22.3
19	Ohio	22.4
19	Indiana	22.4
21	Maine	22.6
22	Rhode Island	22.7
23	Missouri	23.1
24	North Carolina	23.2
25	South Carolina	23.3
26	Tennessee	23.6
26	Nevada	23.6
26	Michigan	23.6
26	Alabama	23.6
30	Mississippi	23.7
31	Delaware	23.8
31	Colorado	23.8
33	Connecticut	24.5
34	Texas	24.7
35	Louisiana	24.9
36	New Hampshire	25.0
36	Arizona	25.0
38	Pennsylvania	25.1
39	West Virginia	25.3
39	Washington	25.3
41	Hawaii	25.7
42	Florida	25.9
43	Virginia	26.8
44	Massachusetts	27.0
44	California	27.0
44	Georgia	27.1
47	Illinois	28.0
48	New Jersey	29.4
49	Maryland	30.8
50	New York	31.2

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. www.census.gov

Average travel time to work of workers 16 years and over who did not work at home

Human Resource Index (2008)

Rank (1 is best)		Index
1	Massachusetts	7.09
2	Minnesota	6.54
3	Vermont	6.48
4	North Dakota	6.48
5	Iowa	6.32
6	New Hampshire	6.24
7	Utah	6.18
8	Nebraska	6.08
9	Wyoming	5.98
10	Wisconsin	5.97
11	South Dakota	5.84
12	Kansas	5.82
13	Connecticut	5.74
14	Maine	5.64
15	Maryland	5.61
16	Washington	5.53
17	Pennsylvania	5.48
18	Hawaii	5.46
19	New York	5.45
20	Colorado	5.42
21	New Jersey	5.39
22	Montana	5.27
23	Rhode Island	5.15
24	Idaho	5.13
25	Delaware	5.10
26	Virginia	5.03
27	Missouri	4.90
28	Ohio	4.89
29	Oregon	4.88
30	Indiana	4.85
31	Illinois	4.81
32	Arizona	4.81
33	Michigan	4.53
34	Alaska	4.50
35	Oklahoma	4.39
36	Florida	4.23
37	California	4.18
38	New Mexico	4.17
39	North Carolina	4.15
40	West Virginia	4.13
41	Nevada	4.06
42	Kentucky	4.06
43	Arkansas	4.01
44	Texas	3.87
45	Tennessee	3.75
46	Alabama	3.72
47	Georgia	3.70
48	South Carolina	3.50
49	Louisiana	3.21
50	Mississippi	2.30

Ranking of factors that make a state attractive for business based on % of population aged 25 and over that graduated from high school, unemployment rate, % of population enrolled in degree-granting institutions, % of adults who are in the labor force, % of students at or above proficient in math, grade 4 (public schools), % of population without health insurance.

Per Capita Personal Income by State (2008)

Workforce & Wages
Table 32

A. Rank		B. % Change 2007 to 2008	C. 2008	D. Rank by Income
1	North Dakota	9.0%	\$39,321	20
2	Alaska	8.2%	\$43,321	7
3	Wyoming	5.7%	\$49,719	4
4	Oklahoma	5.4%	\$36,899	28
5	Iowa	5.1%	\$36,680	29
6	West Virginia	4.9%	\$30,831	48
7	New Mexico	4.5%	\$32,091	44
7	South Dakota	4.5%	\$37,375	26
9	Maine	4.1%	\$35,381	33
9	Minnesota	4.1%	\$42,772	10
11	Kansas	4.0%	\$37,978	24
12	Alabama	3.8%	\$33,643	41
12	Pennsylvania	3.8%	\$40,265	19
14	Missouri	3.7%	\$35,228	35
14	Nebraska	3.7%	\$37,730	25
14	New York	3.7%	\$48,076	6
14	Vermont	3.7%	\$38,880	22
18	Arkansas	3.6%	\$31,266	47
18	Massachusetts	3.6%	\$50,735	3
18	Mississippi	3.6%	\$29,569	50
21	Maryland	3.5%	\$48,091	5
22	Illinois	3.4%	\$42,397	12
23	Kentucky	3.3%	\$31,826	46
23	Louisiana	3.3%	\$36,271	30
25	Hawaii	3.2%	\$40,490	17
26	Montana	3.1%	\$34,256	38
27	Ohio	3.0%	\$35,511	32
27	Rhode Island	3.0%	\$41,008	15
29	Colorado	2.9%	\$42,377	13
29	New Hampshire	2.9%	\$42,830	9
29	Wisconsin	2.9%	\$37,314	27
32	New Jersey	2.8%	\$50,919	2
32	Tennessee	2.8%	\$34,330	37
32	Virginia	2.8%	\$42,876	8
32	Washington	2.8%	\$42,356	14
36	Indiana	2.7%	\$34,103	39
37	Michigan	2.5%	\$35,299	34
37	South Carolina	2.5%	\$31,884	45
39	Connecticut	2.3%	\$56,248	1
39	Oregon	2.3%	\$35,956	31
41	California	2.1%	\$42,696	11
41	North Carolina	2.1%	\$34,439	36
43	Delaware	1.8%	\$40,852	16
44	Florida	1.7%	\$39,070	21
45	Utah	1.5%	\$30,291	49
46	Georgia	1.4%	\$33,975	40
47	Nevada	1.3%	\$40,353	18
48	Idaho	1.0%	\$32,133	43
49	Texas	0.4%	\$38,575	23
50	Arizona	0.3%	\$32,953	42
	United States	2.9%	\$39,751	

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, www.bea.gov

Unemployment Insurance Payments (2009) (2nd Quarter)

	<u>Average Weeks</u>
South Dakota	11.5
North Dakota	11.8
Nebraska	12.0
Georgia	13.2
Iowa	13.2
Alabama	13.3
Virginia	13.5
Colorado	13.7
West Virginia	13.8
Oklahoma	13.9
Louisiana	14.0
Arkansas	14.2
Wyoming	14.2
Idaho	14.4
Texas	14.4
Wisconsin	14.5
Indiana	14.6
New Hampshire	14.6
North Carolina	14.7
South Carolina	14.7
Tennessee	14.7
Mississippi	14.9
Maine	15.2
Vermont	15.3
Washington	15.5
Kansas	15.7
Kentucky	15.8
Ohio	16.3
Arizona	16.4
Oregon	16.4
Hawaii	16.5
Michigan	16.5
New Mexico	16.5
Maryland	16.6
Nevada	16.6
Utah	16.6
Florida	16.7
Montana	16.8
Connecticut	16.9
Minnesota	17.0
Pennsylvania	17.0
Rhode Island	17.3
Alaska	17.4
New York	17.5
Illinois	17.7
California	17.9
Missouri	18.0
Massachusetts	18.1
New Jersey	18.9
Delaware	19.3
United States	16.2

The number of weeks compensated for the year divided by the number of first payments.

Union Members as a Share of Employment (2008)

Workforce & Wages
Table 34

Rank		2008 %
1	New York	24.9%
2	Hawaii	24.3%
3	Alaska	23.5%
4	Washington	19.8%
5	Michigan	18.8%
6	California	18.4%
7	New Jersey	18.3%
8	Connecticut	16.9%
9	Nevada	16.7%
10	Illinois	16.6%
10	Oregon	16.6%
12	Rhode Island	16.5%
13	Minnesota	16.1%
14	Massachusetts	15.7%
15	Pennsylvania	15.4%
16	Wisconsin	15.0%
17	Ohio	14.2%
18	West Virginia	13.8%
19	Delaware	13.4%
20	Maryland	12.6%
21	Indiana	12.4%
22	Maine	12.3%
23	Montana	12.2%
24	Missouri	11.2%
25	Iowa	10.6%
25	New Hampshire	10.6%
27	Vermont	10.4%
28	Alabama	9.8%
29	Arizona	8.8%
30	Kentucky	8.6%
31	Nebraska	8.3%
32	Colorado	8.0%
33	Wyoming	7.7%
34	New Mexico	7.2%
35	Idaho	7.1%
36	Kansas	7.0%
37	Oklahoma	6.6%
38	Florida	6.4%
39	North Dakota	6.1%
40	Arkansas	5.9%
41	Utah	5.8%
42	Tennessee	5.5%
43	Mississippi	5.3%
44	South Dakota	5.0%
45	Louisiana	4.6%
46	Texas	4.5%
47	Virginia	4.1%
48	South Carolina	3.9%
49	Georgia	3.7%
50	North Carolina	3.5%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, www.bls.gov

Notes



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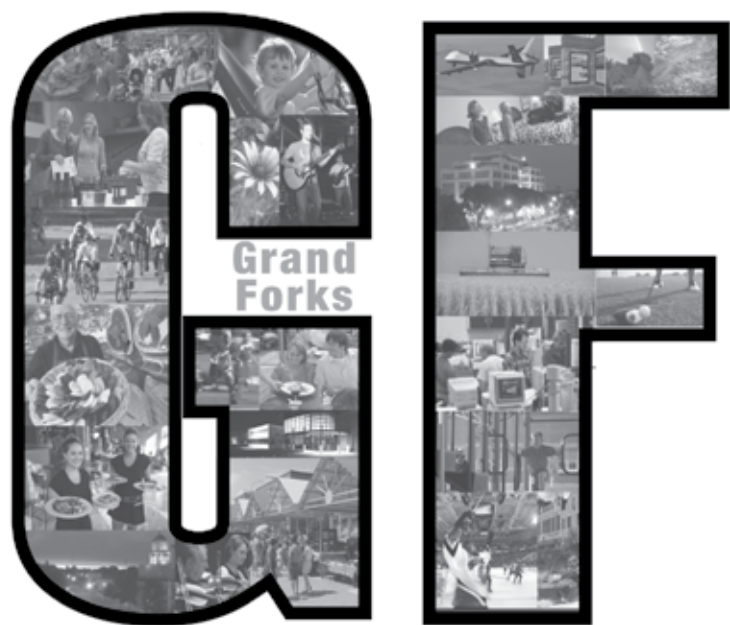
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