

# REPORT CARD on Rhode Island 'Competitiveness'

# 2015



*How progressive policies fail to promote fairness and social justice.*

Category	Grade	Subcategory	Date	Rhode Island			CT	MA	ME	NH	VT	Data Type	End Note
				US rank	NE rank	RI							
Tax Burden	D	F State Business Tax Climate Index	2015	45	5	45	42	24	33	7	46	R	1
		C- Personal Income Tax Rate	2015	30	3	5.99%	6.70%	5.15%	7.95%	0.00%	8.95%	D	2
		B Corporate Income Tax Rate	2015	29	1	7.00%	9.00%	8.00%	8.93%	8.50%	8.50%	D	3
		D- Sales Tax Rate (State and Local)	2015	29	6	7.00%	6.35%	6.25%	5.50%	0.00%	6.14%	D	4
		F Estate Tax Exemption	2015	44	5	\$1,500,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	No tax	\$2,750,000	D	5
		D- Property Taxes Paid Per Capita	2012	45	4	\$2,234	\$2,626	\$2,061	\$1,789	\$2,585	\$2,202	D	6
Business Climate	D-	F Economic Freedom Index	2013	44	5	44	42	33	43	7	46	R	7
		F Top States for Business	2015	48	6	48	33	20	44	30	42	R	8
		F Best States for Business and Careers	2014	46	5	46	36	13	49	35	43	R	9
		D+ Long Term Competitive Index	2014	22	5	22	40	1	17	6	20	R	10
		D+ Small Business Policy Index	2014	40	3	40	41	31	42	27	45	R	11
		D- State Lawsuit Climate	2012	31	6	31	25	19	12	21	16	R	12
Spending & Debt	D	D- Federal Expenditures per Capita	2015	35	5	\$6,426	\$11,769	\$6,284	\$6,165	\$5,060	\$6,073	D	13
		D+ State and Local Expenditures per Capita	2014	40	3	40	44	45	25	16	43	R	14
		D- State and Local Debt per Capita	2014	45	4	45	46	48	14	30	20	R	15
		C Fiscal Condition	2015	38	2	38	47	48	42	20	39	R	16
		D- Transfer Payments per \$100,000 GDP	2014	39	4	\$18.66	\$12.07	\$12.91	\$22.95	\$14.06	\$20.45	D	17
Employment & Income	D	C Median Household Income	2013	13	4	\$57,812	\$67,781	\$62,963	\$50,121	\$71,322	\$54,842	D	18
		D- Unemployment Rate	Jul-15	34	6	5.8%	5.4%	4.7%	4.6%	3.7%	3.6%	D	19
		C- Labor Force Participation Rate	Jul-15	17	5	65.3%	66.3%	65.8%	63.3%	69.0%	67.8%	D	20
		F Unemployment Tax Rate	2014	42	6	4.74%	1.77%	2.92%	2.58%	2.11%	3.28%	D	21
K-12 Education	C-	D Spending per Pupil	2013	43	3	\$14,415	\$16,631	\$14,515	\$12,147	\$13,721	\$16,377	D	22
		B+ K-12 Performance, Progress, and Reform	2014	19	1	C	C-	C	C	C	D+	D	23
		C- Charter School Laws	2015	32	3	32	38	26	30	34	50	R	24
		D- High School Graduation Rate	2013	34	6	79.7%	85.5%	85.0%	86.4%	87.3%	86.6%	D	25
		B+ Parent Power	2015	17	1	17	39	30	29	31	45	R	26
		F Home School Regulation Burden	2013	46	4	D	A	D	C	C	D	D	27
		D- NAEP 4th Grade Math Scores	2013	29	6	241	243	253	246	253	248	D	28
D NAEP 4th Grade Reading Scores	2013	25	6	223	230	232	225	232	228	D	29		

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Energy	D-	Gasoline Taxes (Cents per Gallon)	2015	38	5	34.0	40.9	26.5	30.0	23.8	30.8	D	30
	D	Cost of Electricity (Cents per kWh)	Jun-15	44	3	15.5	18.1	16.3	12.5	15.6	14.4	D	31
	D	Residential Cost of Electricity (Cents per kWh)	May-15	45	3	18.6	23.0	20.7	15.8	19.5	17.5	D	32
	F	Energy Consumer Freedom	2014	46	4	46	45	50	35	30	46	R	33
Infra-structure	F	Deficient Bridges	2012	50	6	50.5%	35.9%	38.1%	25.8%	28.4%	28.7%	D	34
	F	General Infrastructure & Transportation	2015	50	6	50	46	47	41	43	44	R	35
	F	Disbursements per State-Controlled Mile	2012	47	5	\$282,917	\$190,868	\$290,584	\$43,702	\$79,284	\$97,988	D	36
	F	Highway Cost Effectiveness	2014	47	6	47	44	46	16	23	38	R	37
Public Sector	D+	Gov't Pay & Transfers % of Personal Income	2013	28	4	31.1%	23.1%	24.7%	34.7%	23.1%	33.1%	D	38
	F	State Gov't Compensation (vs Private Sector)	2013	44	5	19.6%	6.8%	7.1%	4.0%	-0.8%	25.5%	D	39
	F	Local Gov't Compensation (vs Private Sector)	2013	49	6	31.9%	-2.6%	4.4%	1.2%	-1.1%	2.3%	D	40
	A-	Public Workers (per 100 Private Sector)	2013	4	2	13.1%	15.7%	13.0%	16.9%	14.9%	18.4%	D	41
	D-	State & Local Pension Liability (% Funded)	2013	43	4	58.5%	48.4%	61.4%	79.6%	56.7%	69.2%	D	42
Health Care	D	Medicare Spending per Enrollee	2009	35	4	\$10,121	\$11,086	\$11,277	\$8,821	\$8,763	\$8,719	D	43
	F	# of Health Insurance Mandates	2012	50	6	69	65	49	48	38	46	D	44
	D	Employer-Based Health Insurance Rates	2013	42	3	\$5,968	\$6,002	\$6,290	\$5,865	\$6,249	\$5,764	D	45
	F	Medicaid Payments (per Enrollee)	FY11	49	6	\$9,247	\$7,465	\$8,717	\$5,968	\$7,254	\$6,291	D	46
	F	Medicaid Enrollment (% of Population)	Jun-15	43	5	26.0%	21.2%	24.1%	21.1%	13.7%	29.4%	D	47
Living & Retiring in RI	D	Best State for Retirement	2014	26	6	26	14	21	7	11	5	R	48
	D+	Cost of Living	1Q15	40	3	40	45	43	37	38	41	R	49
	D	Natural Population Growth (annual rate)	2014	45	3	0.13%	0.19%	0.27%	-0.04%	0.11%	0.12%	D	50
	F	Overall Freedom	2013	46	6	46	40	30	39	4	43	R	51
	F	Net Domestic Migration (annual rate)	2014	41	5	-0.32%	-0.73%	-0.24%	0.04%	0.08%	-0.25%	D	52

**Data Type:** Signifies whether the value in the table is a ranking (R) or actual data (D); comparisons that use a grading system are considered data.

**Grading System:** All rankings are arranged with a ranking of 1 representing the most desirable. The subcategory grade is determined by the average of the US (national) and NE (New England) scores, which are based on the respective ranking. The US score is determined by subtracting the US rank from 100. The NE score is determined by rank, as follows: 1 = 95; 2 = 85; 3 = 75; 4 = 65; 5 = 60; 6 = 55. The primary category grade is based on the average score of the subcategory grades. Letter grades are assigned as follows: A+ (99-97); A (96-93); A- (92-90); B+ (89-87); B (86-83); B- (82-80); C+ (79-77); C (76-73); C- (72-70); D+ (69-67); D (66-64); D- (63-60); F (below 60).

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