

# REPORT CARD on Rhode Island 'Competitiveness'

# 2014



*RI is being held back because of entrenched insiders' bad influence on government policy.*

Category	Grade	Subcategory	Date	Rhode Island			CT	MA	ME	NH	VT	Data Type	End Note
				US rank	NE rank	RI							
Tax Burden	F	State Business Tax Climate Index	2014	46	6	46	42	25	29	8	45	R	1
	F	State and Local Tax Burden	FY11	43	5	10.5%	11.9%	10.3%	10.2%	8.0%	10.5%	D	2
	C-	Personal Income Tax Rate	2014	30	3	5.99%	6.70%	5.20%	7.95%	0.00%	8.95%	D	3
	F	Corporate Income Tax Rate	2014	43	5	9.00%	9.00%	8.00%	8.93%	8.50%	8.50%	D	4
	D-	Sales Tax Rate (State and Local)	2014	30	6	7.00%	6.35%	6.25%	5.50%	0.00%	6.14%	D	5
	F	Estate Tax Exemption	2014	49	6	\$921,655	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	No Tax	\$2,750,000	D	6
	D	Median Owner-Occupied Property Taxes Paid	2011	44	3	\$2,162	\$2,577	\$2,018	\$1,808	\$2,518	\$2,197	D	7
Business Climate	F	Economic Freedom Index	2013	46	6	46	40	30	39	4	43	R	8
	F	Top States for Business	2014	50	6	50	46	25	45	30	42	R	9
	F	Best States for Business and Careers	2013	48	5	48	33	13	50	31	43	R	10
	C	Long Term Competitive Index	2013	17	4	17	27	1	24	3	12	R	11
	D+	Small Business Policy Index	2013	40	3	40	41	38	44	19	48	R	12
	D-	State Lawsuit Climate	2012	31	6	31	25	19	12	21	16	R	13
Spending & Debt	D	Federal Expenditures per Capita	2013	37	4	\$9,328	\$15,389	\$9,979	\$8,019	\$6,137	\$6,811	D	14
	D+	State and Local Expenditures per Capita	2013	40	3	40	44	45	25	16	43	R	15
	D-	State and Local Debt per Capita	2013	45	4	45	46	48	14	30	20	R	16
	F	Income Redistribution	2012	50	6	50	43	45	44	32	29	R	17
Employment & Income	C	Median Household Income	2012	15	4	\$56,065	\$64,247	\$63,656	\$49,158	\$67,819	\$55,582	D	18
	F	Unemployment Rate	May-14	50	6	8.2%	6.9%	5.6%	5.7%	4.4%	3.3%	D	19
	C+	Labor Force Participation Rate	May-14	16	3	65.6%	65.4%	64.5%	65.4%	69.5%	68.3%	D	20
	F	Unemployment Tax Rate	2013	43	6	4.78%	1.64%	2.82%	2.52%	2.03%	3.28%	D	21
K-12 Education	D	Spending per Pupil	FY12	43	3	\$14,005	\$16,274	\$14,142	\$12,189	\$13,593	\$16,040	D	22
	F	K-12 Performance, Progress, and Reform	2014	42	5	D+	C-	C	C-	C	D+	D	23
	C-	Charter School Laws	2014	33	3	D	D	C	C	D	F	D	24
	D-	High School Graduation Rate	2011	31	6	77	83	83	84	86	87	D	25
	B+	Parent Power	2014	20	1	20	36	29	27	35	47	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	

# RI Competitiveness Report Card

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Energy	D	Gasoline Taxes (Cents per Gallon)	2014	37	5	33.0	49.3	26.5	30.01	19.63	32.05	D	30
		Cost of Electricity (Cents per kWh)	Apr-14	47	5	15.43	16.87	15.15	12.1	15.01	14.73	D	31
		Residential Cost of Electricity (Cents per kWh)	Mar-14	43	2	16.86	19.51	17.33	15.22	17.33	17.36	D	32
		Cost of Energy	2012	43	2	43	49	44	41	45	47	R	33
Infra-structure	F	Deficient Bridges	2010	50	6	49.4%	35.9%	35.1%	26.7%	29.6%	29.8%	D	34
		General Infrastructure & Transportation	2014	50	6	50	42	45	46	48	49	R	35
		Government Management of Infrastructure	2008	28	2	C+	C+	D+	C+	D+	B+	D	36
		Highway Cost Effectiveness	2013	49	6	49	44	43	29	18	28	R	37
Public Sector	D	Gov't Pay & Transfers % of Personal Income	2012	30	4	30.0%	23.4%	24.9%	34.2%	23.3%	32.8%	D	38
		State Gov't Compensation (vs Private Sector)	2012	46	5	21.3%	5.6%	4.2%	5.5%	-2.1%	35.4%	D	39
		Local Gov't Compensation (vs Private Sector)	2012	49	6	31.3%	-5.4%	0.2%	1.4%	-3.3%	4.7%	D	40
		Public Workers (per 100 Private Sector)	2012	4	2	13.3%	15.7%	13.1%	17.2%	15.2%	18.0%	D	41
		State & Local Pension Liability (% of GDP)	2009	44	6	42.8%	30.4%	23.8%	39.2%	21.0%	22.5%	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
		# of Health Insurance Mandates	2012	50	6	69	65	49	48	38	46	D	44
		Employer-Based Health Insurance Rates	2012	45	4	\$5,870	\$5,934	\$6,121	\$5,692	\$5,688	\$5,580	D	45
		Medicaid Payments (per Enrollee)	FY10	46	6	\$8,229	\$7,561	\$6,841	\$5,968	\$6,748	\$6,158	D	46
		Medicaid Enrollment (% of Population)	FY10	31	3	21%	20%	26%	31%	13%	31%	D	47
Living & Retiring in RI	F	Best State for Retirement	2013	42	5	42	30	44	23	13	9	R	48
		Cost of Living	1Q14	42	5	42	45	43	38	39	40	R	49
		Natural Population Growth (annual rate)	2013	46	4	1.43%	2.20%	2.91%	-0.23%	1.69%	1.43%	D	50
		Overall Freedom	2013	46	6	46	40	30	39	4	43	R	51
		Net Domestic Migration (annual rate)	2013	43	5	-3.73%	-4.79%	-0.42%	-1.07%	-1.78%	-1.04%	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).

**End Notes:** To download a PDF copy or view original data sources and links, see below or go to: [www.RIFreedom.org/RIReportCard](http://www.RIFreedom.org/RIReportCard)

