

# REPORT CARD on Rhode Island 'Competitiveness'

thru Q4 - 2011



How a departure from Capitalism has weakened the Ocean State's competitive status

Category	Grade	sub-Category	Date	Rhode Island			CT	MA	ME	NH	VT	Data Type	End Note	
				US rank	NE rank	RI								
Tax Burden	F	F	State Business Tax Index	2012	46	5	46	40	24	37	6	47	R	1
		F	State & Local Tax Burden	FY 2009	45	5	10.7%	12.0%	10.0%	10.1%	8.0%	10.2%	D	2
		C	Personal Income Tax Rate	2011	28	3	5.99%	6.70%	5.30%	8.50%	0.00%	8.95%	D	3
		F	Corporate Income Tax Rate	2011	43	6	9.00%	9.00%	8.25%	8.93%	8.50%	8.50%	D	4
		D-	Sales Tax Rate (State and Local)	2011	30	6	7.00%	6.35%	6.25%	5.00%	0.00%	6.14%	D	5
		F	Estate Tax Exemption	2012	48	6	\$892,865	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	None	\$2,750,000	D	6
		F	Median Real Estate Taxes Paid	2009	46	4	\$3,618	\$4,738	\$3,511	\$1,936	\$4,636	\$3,444	D	7
Business Climate	F	F	Economic Freedom Index	2011	45	5	45	38	46	33	1	30	R	8
		F	Top States for Business	2011	50	6	50	39	6	40	17	44	R	9
		F	Best States for Business and Careers	2011	48	5	48	35	18	50	27	45	R	10
		C-	Long Term Competitive Index	2010	20	4	20	28	3	32	10	19	R	11
		F	Small Business Survival Index	2011	47	5	47	44	42	45	33	48	R	12
		F	State Lawsuit Climate	2010	38	6	38	24	12	12	16	25	R	13
Spending & Debt	D-	D	Federal Expenditures Per Capita	FY 2010	34	4	34	47	42	33	5	41	R	14
		C-	State and Local Expenditures Per Capita	2011	35	3	35	42	44	24	8	36	R	15
		F	State & Local Debt Per Capita	2011	47	5	47	46	48	11	32	21	R	16
		F	Income Redistribution	2011	50	6	50	44	49	n/a	n/a	n/a	R	17
Employment & Income	D	C-	Median Household Income	2010	18	5	\$51,914	\$66,452	\$61,333	\$48,133	\$66,707	\$55,942	D	18
		F	Unemployment Rate	12-2011	48	6	10.8%	8.2%	6.8%	7.0%	5.1%	5.1%	D	19
		C	Labor Force Participation Rate	12-2011	16	4	66.3%	67.7%	65.4%	65.4%	70.0%	70.6%	D	20
		F	Unemployment Tax Rate	2011	42	6	4.05%	1.96%	3.20%	2.19%	1.57%	1.83%	D	21
		C	Mimimum Hourly Wage ( vs Private Sector)	2012	17	4	34.4%	28.0%	28.1%	40.0%	32.0%	44.9%	D	22
K-12 Education	D+	D	Spending per pupil	FY 2009	43	3	\$13,707	\$14,531	\$14,118	\$12,304	\$11,932	\$15,175	D	23
		D+	K-12 Performance, Progress and Reform	2012	30	4	C	C+	B-	C-	C+	D+	D	24
		C+	Charter School Laws	2011	26	2	D+	D	C+	F	D	F	D	25
		D-	Home School Regulation Burden	2012	45	5	D	A	D	C	C	D	D	26
		D+	NAEP 4th Grade Math Scores	2011	22	5	242	242	253	244	252	247	D	27
		C-	NAEP 4th Grade Reading Scores	2011	19	5	222	227	237	222	230	227	D	28

# RI Competitiveness Report Card

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				US rank	NE rank	RI							
Energy	D-	Gasoline Taxes (cents per gallon)	2011	40	5	33	45.2	23.5	31	19.6	25	D	29
		Cost of Electricity (cents per KWH)	2011	43	3	14.34	17.54	14.52	12.62	14.54	13.08	D	30
		Cost of Energy	2011	46	4	2.49	2.8	2.47	2.37	2.55	2.43	D	31
Infra-structure	F	Deficient Highway Bridges	2008	50	6	50	44	45	36	42	43	R	32
		General Infrastructure	2011	49	5	49	43	29	48	45	49	R	33
		Highway Cost Effectiveness	2008	50	6	50	41	44	32	27	42	R	34
Public Sector	D	Public Sector (% of Personal Income)	2010	34	5	34.03%	24.33%	25.83%	36.13%	24.64%	33.98%	D	35
		State Gov't Compensation (vs Private Sector)	2010	43	5	22.5%	8.8%	-9.1%	17.6%	-2.4%	34.4%	D	36
		Local Gov't Compensation (vs Private Sector)	2010	49	6	40.8%	-11.6%	-6.3%	5.1%	-4.7%	2.0%	D	37
		Public Workers (per 100 Private Sector)	2010	3	2	13.67	16.37	13.40	17.60	15.63	18.34	D	38
		State & Local Pension Liability (% of GDP)*	FY 2008	46	6	58.0%	38.0%	27.5%	50.0%	24.6%	27.2%	D	39
Health Care	F	Medicare Spending Per Capita	2009	35	4	\$10,121	\$11,086	\$11,277	\$8,821	\$8,763	\$8,719	D	40
		# of Health Insurance Mandates	2010	50	6	69	59	47	53	44	42	D	41
		Employer-Based Health Insurance Rates	2010	48	6	\$5,557	\$5,302	\$5,413	\$5,554	\$5,162	\$5,170	D	42
		Medicaid Payments (per enrollee)	FY 2008	49	6	\$8,185	\$7,437	\$7,019	\$6,287	\$7,075	\$5,780	D	43
		Medicaid Enrollment (% of Population)	FY 2008	31	3	18.5%	15.8%	23.3%	26.5%	11.2%	27.0%	D	44
Living & Retiring in RI	F	Best State for Retirement	2011	44	3	44	47	48	50	23	36	R	45
		Best State to Retire	2012	48	5	48	50	46	42	n/a	47	R	46
		Cost of Living	2011	44	5	44	48	41	39	40	42	R	47
		Natural Population Growth (% of Population)	2011	46	4	0.17%	0.25%	0.32%	0.01%	0.23%	0.14%	D	48
		Net Domestic Migration (% of Population)	2011	48	6	-0.48%	-0.38%	0.13%	0.01%	-0.21%	0.11%	D	49

**Data Type:** Signifies whether the value in the table is a ranking (R) or actual data (D).

**Grading System:** All rankings are arranged from most desirable to least desirable, with a ranking of (1) representing the most desirable. The sub-category 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 its NE rank, as follows: rank of 1 = 95; 2 = 85; 3 = 75; 4 = 65; 5 = 60; 6 = 55. The primary category grade is based on the average score of the sub-category 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- (63-61); F (60 and below)

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



RI Center for Freedom and Prosperity: Report Card on RI Competitiveness

<u>End Note #:</u>	<u>Data Source:</u>	<u>Data Source Link / Notes</u>
1	The Tax Foundation	<a href="http://www.taxfoundation.org/research/show/22658.html">http://www.taxfoundation.org/research/show/22658.html</a>
2	The Tax Foundation	<a href="http://www.taxfoundation.org/research/show/22320.html">http://www.taxfoundation.org/research/show/22320.html</a>
3	SBE Council	<a href="http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf">http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf</a>
4	SBE Council	<a href="http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf">http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf</a>
5	The Tax Foundation	<a href="http://www.taxfoundation.org/news/show/27023.html">http://www.taxfoundation.org/news/show/27023.html</a>
6	About.com	<a href="http://wills.about.com/od/stateestatetaxes/a/stateestatetaxchart.htm">http://wills.about.com/od/stateestatetaxes/a/stateestatetaxchart.htm</a>
7	The Tax Foundation	<a href="http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxdata/show/1913.html">http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxdata/show/1913.html</a>
8	Mercatus Center	<a href="http://mercatus.org/freedom-50-states-2011">http://mercatus.org/freedom-50-states-2011</a>
9	CNBC	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/id/41666602/">http://www.cnn.com/id/41666602/</a>
10	Forbes	<a href="http://www.forbes.com/special-report/2011/best-states-11_rank.html">http://www.forbes.com/special-report/2011/best-states-11_rank.html</a>
11	Beacon Hill Inst.	<a href="http://www.beaconhill.org/Compete10/Compete2010State.pdf">http://www.beaconhill.org/Compete10/Compete2010State.pdf</a>
12	SBE Council	<a href="http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf">http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf</a>
13	US Chamber of Comm	<a href="http://www.instituteforlegalreform.com/states">http://www.instituteforlegalreform.com/states</a>
14	US Census Bureau	<a href="http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/cfr-10.pdf">http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/cfr-10.pdf</a>
15	SBE Council	<a href="http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf">http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf</a>
16	SBE Council	<a href="http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf">http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf</a>
17	24/7 Wall Street	<a href="http://247wallst.com/2011/11/11/the-states-doing-the-most-and-least-to-spread-the-wealth/3/">http://247wallst.com/2011/11/11/the-states-doing-the-most-and-least-to-spread-the-wealth/3/</a>
18	US Census Bureau	<a href="http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/historical/household/2010/H08_2010.xls">http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/income/data/historical/household/2010/H08_2010.xls</a>
19	Bur. Of Labor Stats.	<a href="http://www.bls.gov/lau/">http://www.bls.gov/lau/</a>
20	Bur. Of Labor Stats.	<a href="http://www.bls.gov/lau/lalfprder.pdf">http://www.bls.gov/lau/lalfprder.pdf</a>
21	SBE Council	<a href="http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf">http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf</a>
22	US Dep't of Commerce/Labor	Calculated: for methodology see <a href="http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf">http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf</a> , p 22
23	US Census Bureau	<a href="http://www2.census.gov/govs/school/09f33pub.pdf">http://www2.census.gov/govs/school/09f33pub.pdf</a>
24	ALEC	<a href="http://www.alec.org/docs/17thReportCard/ALECs_17th_Report_Card.pdf">http://www.alec.org/docs/17thReportCard/ALECs_17th_Report_Card.pdf</a>
25	Ctr for Ed Reform	<a href="http://www.edreform.com/map/">http://www.edreform.com/map/</a>
26	ALEC	<a href="http://www.alec.org/docs/17thReportCard/ALECs_17th_Report_Card.pdf">http://www.alec.org/docs/17thReportCard/ALECs_17th_Report_Card.pdf</a>
27	Nation's Report Card	<a href="http://www.alec.org/docs/17thReportCard/ALECs_17th_Report_Card.pdf">http://www.alec.org/docs/17thReportCard/ALECs_17th_Report_Card.pdf</a>
28	Nation's Report Card	<a href="http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/statecomparisons">http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/statecomparisons</a>
29	The Tax Foundation	<a href="http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxdata/show/26079.html">http://www.taxfoundation.org/taxdata/show/26079.html</a>
30	Inst. for Energy Rsrch	<a href="http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/IER-RPS-Study-Final.pdf">http://www.instituteforenergyresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/IER-RPS-Study-Final.pdf</a>
31	SBE Council	<a href="http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/Energy%20Cost%20Index%202011%20Report.pdf">http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/Energy%20Cost%20Index%202011%20Report.pdf</a>
32	Reason.org	<a href="http://reason.org/news/show/19th-annual-highway-report">http://reason.org/news/show/19th-annual-highway-report</a>
33	CNBC	<a href="http://www.cnn.com/id/41666598">http://www.cnn.com/id/41666598</a>
34	SBE Council	<a href="http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf">http://www.sbecouncil.org/uploads/SBSI2011%5B1%5D.pdf</a>
35	US Dep't of Commerce	Calculated: for methodology see <a href="http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf">http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf</a> , p 22
36	US Dep't of Commerce	Calculated: for methodology see <a href="http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf">http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf</a> , p 22
37	US Dep't of Commerce	Calculated: for methodology see <a href="http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf">http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf</a> , p 22
38	US Dep't of Commerce	Calculated: for methodology see <a href="http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf">http://www.alabamapolicy.org/pdf/The_Looming_Crisis%20_Moody_Warcholik.pdf</a> , p 22
39	Rauh and Novy-Marx	<a href="http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/faculty/rauh/research/JEP_Fall2009.pdf">http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/faculty/rauh/research/JEP_Fall2009.pdf</a> ; Vol. 23, No. 4, Fall 2009, pg. 202.
40	Kaiser Family	<a href="http://shfonew.kff.org/comparemactable.jsp?ind=624&amp;cat=6">http://shfonew.kff.org/comparemactable.jsp?ind=624&amp;cat=6</a>
41	Csl Affordable Hlth Ins	<a href="http://www.incubatorinsurance.com/HTMLobj-676/Health_Insurance_Mandates.pdf">http://www.incubatorinsurance.com/HTMLobj-676/Health_Insurance_Mandates.pdf</a>
42	Kaiser Family	<a href="http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?typ=4&amp;ind=270&amp;cat=5&amp;sub=67">http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?typ=4&amp;ind=270&amp;cat=5&amp;sub=67</a>
43	Kaiser Family	<a href="http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?typ=4&amp;ind=270&amp;cat=5&amp;sub=67">http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?typ=4&amp;ind=270&amp;cat=5&amp;sub=67</a>
44	Kaiser Family	<a href="http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?typ=4&amp;ind=270&amp;cat=5&amp;sub=67">http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?typ=4&amp;ind=270&amp;cat=5&amp;sub=67</a>
45	AARP	<a href="http://www.money-rates.com/research-center/best-and-worst-states-for-retirement-2011-complete-list.htm">http://www.money-rates.com/research-center/best-and-worst-states-for-retirement-2011-complete-list.htm</a>
46	TopRetirements.com	<a href="http://www.topretirements.com/blog/great-towns/worst-states-to-retire-2012-northeast-and-midwest-come-up-losers.html/">http://www.topretirements.com/blog/great-towns/worst-states-to-retire-2012-northeast-and-midwest-come-up-losers.html/</a>
47	MERIC	<a href="http://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/cost_of_living/index.stm">http://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/cost_of_living/index.stm</a>
48	US Census Bureau	<a href="http://www.census.gov/popest/data/datasets.html">http://www.census.gov/popest/data/datasets.html</a>
49	US Census Bureau	<a href="http://www.census.gov/popest/data/datasets.html">http://www.census.gov/popest/data/datasets.html</a>

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