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GRADING
AMERICA'S
50
GOVERNORS

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THE LAFFER-ALEC REPORT ON

ECONOMIC
FREEDOM

GRADING AMERICA'S 50 GOVERNORS

DR. ARTHUR B. LAFFER

DONNA ARDUIN

STEPHEN MOORE

JONATHAN WILLIAMS

ALEC American
Legislative
Exchange
Council
LIMITED GOVERNMENT • FREE MARKETS • FEDERALISM



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***The Laffer-ALEC Report on Economic Freedom
Grading America's 50 Governors
2020***

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FOREWORD

All hype aside, the principles underpinning the concept of separate and distinct states united in a common bond of nationhood has had amazing consequences for our nation's quest for prosperity.

The Commerce Clause and the Privileges and Immunities Clause of the Constitution assure all of us the right to exchange goods and services across state boundaries without impediment, as well as the right to move anywhere so long as we are willing to abide by the rules and regulations of our destination. We all share one national government with laws applicable to one and all. We have one currency, trivial differences in language and fairly similar social customs. In-migration and out-migration are about as painless and costless as possible.

And yet individual states exercise considerable autonomy in implementing economic policies. And these policies do have consequences.

This Governors Report is our first attempt to rank governors on objective criteria. We do so with two goals in mind. The first goal is to provide governors themselves with a measure of their performance in the hopes that they will strive mightily to do a better job. There is little more important for solving problems than explicit measurement of those problems themselves. Measurement is the sine qua non of remedy. You can't cure something without knowing what's wrong.

Our second goal is to inform the citizenry of how well their own specific governors are doing relative to all governors, past and present. How else can people know whether to stay or leave unless they also know what conditions are like elsewhere? People need information in order to either vote with their ballot or with their feet. We provide that information.

This venture is in its early stages and is fraught with ambiguity, imprecision and lack of good data. But we do have enough hard data to evaluate governors albeit with a lack of certainty but with quantitative measures. These measures, which are meaningful now, will improve exponentially over the coming years.

At the state level, governors set the tone and initiate, as well as implement, economic policies. States have a wide degree of latitude to impose all manner of taxes on all sorts of economic activities. They also have a great deal of discretion as to how state funds are spent and resources allocated. And finally, states led by governors can regulate their citizens to their hearts' content. But all these actions do have consequences, and the states' citizens can and do respond. Ultimately, the choice of where people work and live is theirs and theirs alone. And this choice is the great mediator of the cauldron of state innovation and competition when it comes to government policies.

We have, over many years using data for even more years, uncovered patterns of just what happens when policies change. Armed with this knowledge, we have ventured forth to rank all 50 governors in the United States. Our measures are far from perfect, but they are far better than ignorance. Our measures also are often unable to disentangle just whom should be held responsible – the legislature, prior administrations or the specific governors in question. But try we must to make the call. This evaluation

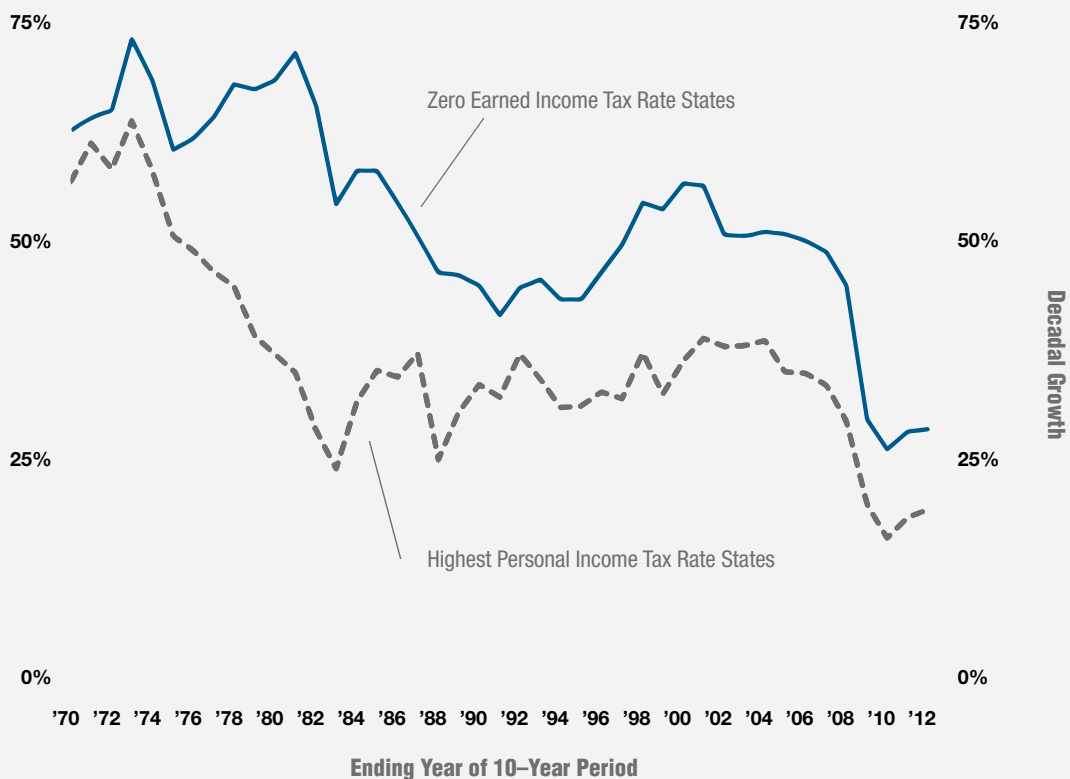
methodology will evolve into better, more detailed and more accurate measures of performance. Goodness knows the wide diversity of policies and the broad span of consequences is perfectly suited to our type of analysis. We owe a great deal to the pioneering efforts of the American Legislative Exchange Council's (ALEC's) publication Rich States, Poor States and our book, An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of States.

As I round out this prologue to the governors' rankings, I would like to remind our readers of just a few of the patterns uncovered by our previous research.

I. TAXES AND PERFORMANCE

Figure 1 was published in a study titled *Vis Medicatrix Naturae* in 2015. We tracked 10-year moving averages of growth rates in personal income for the zero earned income tax rate states and plotted those data next to the same values for an equivalent number of states with the highest earned income tax rate states. It certainly doesn't require a PhD in economics to notice the significant differences between the two groups of states. From 1970 to 2012, 10-year personal income growth rates were consistently greater in the zero earned income tax states than their highest tax rate counterparts.

Figure 1
Ten Year Personal Income Growth for Zero Earned Income Tax States and Highest Income Tax Rate States
 (Annual, 1970–2012)





FOREWORD

II. POPULATION GROWTH VERSUS THE ADOPTION OF AN INCOME TAX

To provide evidence supporting the patterns of Americans “voting with their feet,” we often turn to population growth statistics. These data serve as a measure of the general economic environment and an indication of the level of demand to reside in a particular state. Figure 2 displays 50-year population growth rates by state. Highlighted states denote states that have adopted the income tax throughout our specified time frame. It’s by no means a coincidence that we see a clustering of all these states near the bottom of the rankings.

Figure 2
50-Year Population Growth by State: Annualized Percent Change 1965 to 2015*
 (Highlighted states adopted an income tax from 1960 to 2015, ranked highest to lowest)

Rank	State	% Change	Rank	State	% Change
1.	Nevada	551.22%	26.	Minnesota	52.85%
2.	Arizona	331.15%	27.	Montana	46.33%
3.	Florida	240.54%	28.	Alabama	41.15%
4.	Utah	201.44%	29.	Kentucky	40.94%
5.	Colorado	174.93%	30.	Wisconsin	36.39%
6.	Alaska	172.51%	31.	Missouri	36.21%
7.	Texas	164.73%	32.	Indiana	34.51%
8.	Washington	141.71%	33.	Louisiana	33.62%
9.	Idaho	141.28%	34.	Maine	33.35%
10.	Georgia	135.83%	35.	Mississippi	33.25%
11.	California	110.66%	36.	New Jersey	32.40%
12.	Oregon	108.03%	37.	Kansas	32.00%
13.	North Carolina	106.54%	38.	Nebraska	28.92%
14.	New Mexico	106.08%	39.	Connecticut	25.70%
15.	Hawaii	103.38%	40.	South Dakota	24.07%
16.	New Hampshire	96.86%	41.	Massachusetts	23.50%
17.	South Carolina	96.35%	42.	Illinois	20.28%
18.	Virginia	90.07%	43.	Michigan	18.75%
19.	Delaware	86.61%	44.	Rhode Island	18.30%
20.	Wyoming	76.56%	45.	North Dakota	16.65%
21.	Tennessee	73.81%	46.	Iowa	13.94%
22.	Maryland	66.87%	47.	Ohio	13.86%
23.	Oklahoma	60.32%	48.	New York	11.64%
24.	Arkansas	57.27%	49.	Pennsylvania	10.19%
25.	Vermont	54.98%	50.	West Virginia	3.27%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

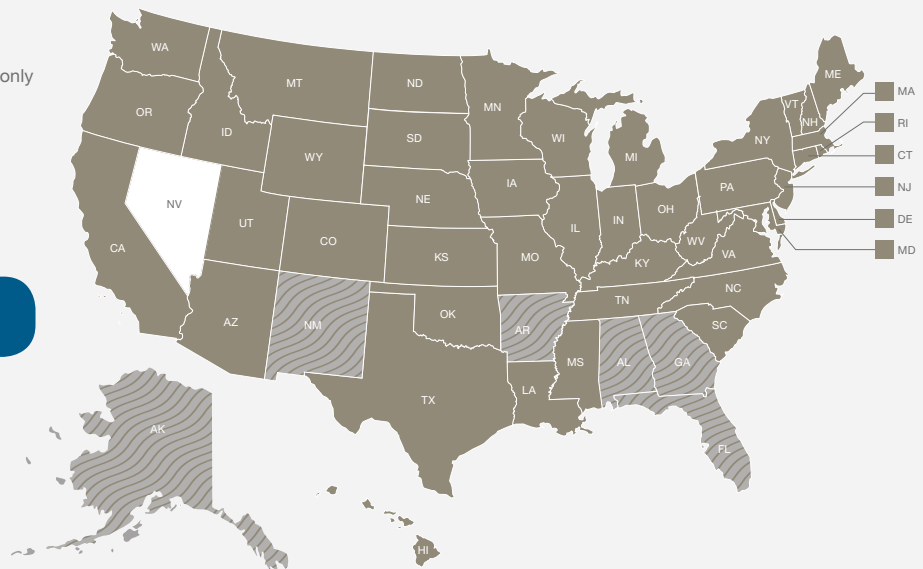
III. THE STATE ESTATE TAX

To provide evidence supporting the patterns of Americans “voting with their feet,” we often turn to population growth statistics. These data serve as a measure of the general economic environment and an indication of the level of demand to reside in a particular state. Figure 2 displays 50-year population growth rates by state. Highlighted states denote states that have adopted the income tax throughout our specified time frame. It’s by no means a coincidence that we see a clustering of all these states near the bottom of the rankings.

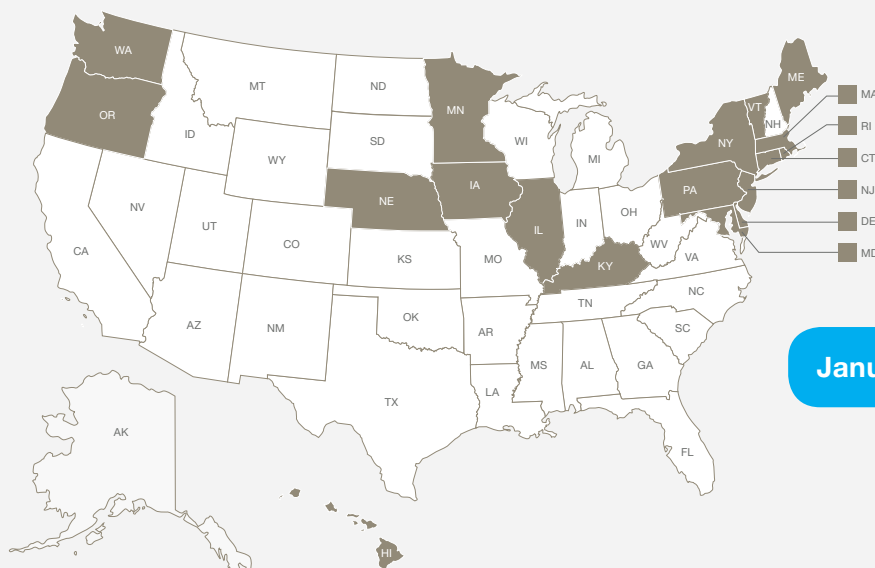
Figure 3
States with Estate/Inheritance Taxes Over Time

- State with a death tax
- ▨ State with a “Pick-up” tax only
- State with no death tax

January 1, 1976



January 1, 2016







FOREWORD

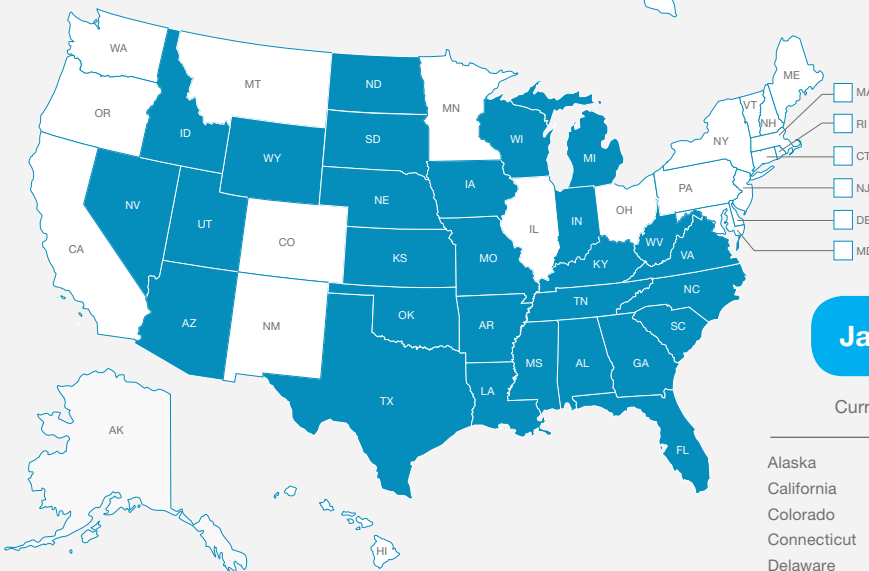
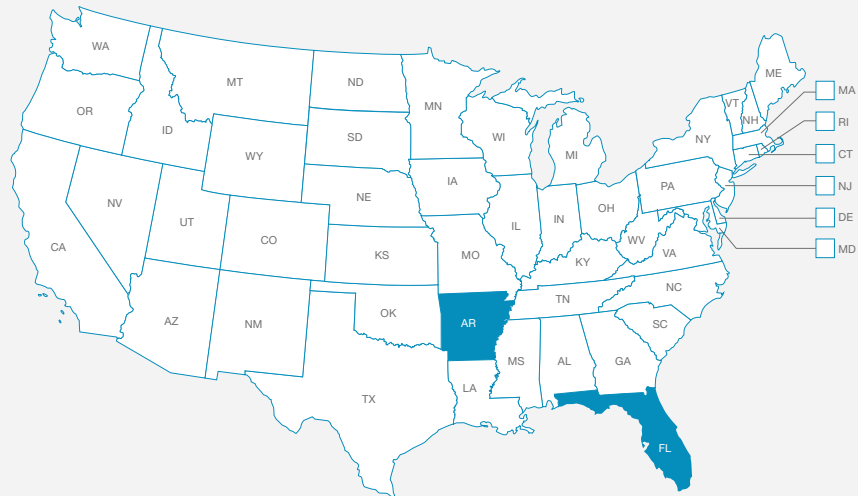
IV. THE RIGHT TO WORK

Moving on to Figure 4, we have another lesson in the economics of geography. From 1946 to 2018, the number of right-to-work states grew at an incredible speed as well, moving from only two states with right-to-work laws to 28. There are few policies more conducive to economic growth than abandoning closed shop forced union laws. The freedom to make personal decisions when it comes to our economic incentives is best left unaltered, allowing the natural incentive systems of the free market to take effect, resulting in ideal public and private outcomes.

Figure 4
Right-to-Work States and Growth

 Right-to-Work state
 Non Right-to-Work state
 (Forced Union state)

JULY 1, 1946



January 1, 2018

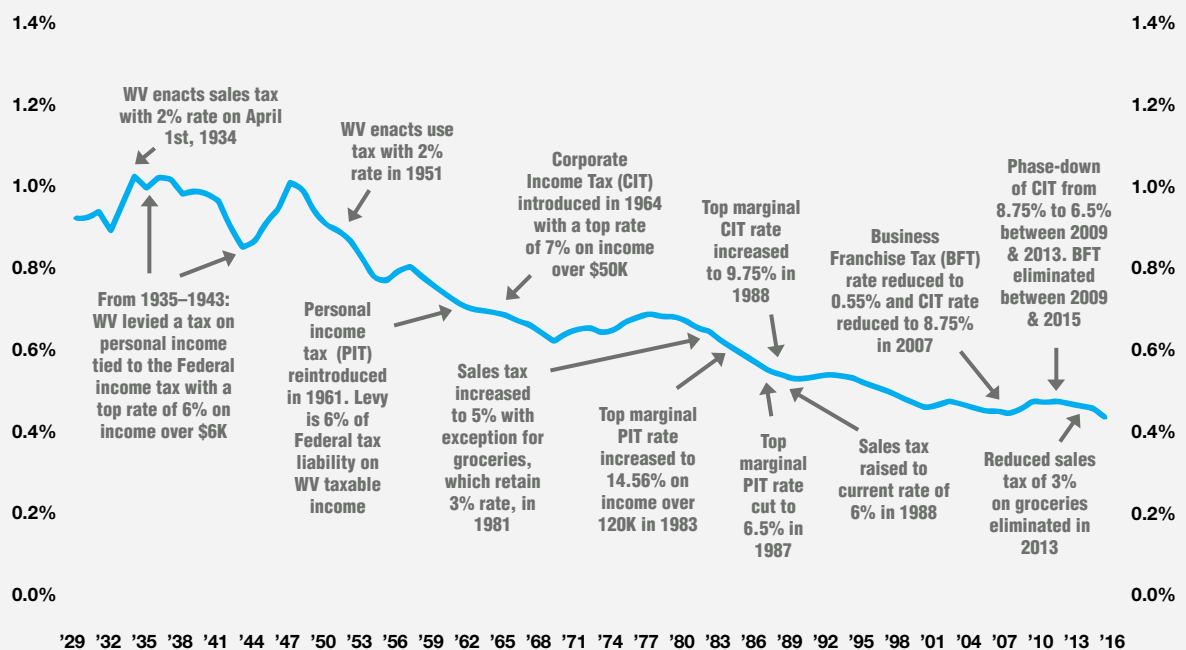
Current Forced Union States

Alaska	Maryland	Ohio
California	Massachusetts	Oregon
Colorado	Minnesota	Pennsylvania
Connecticut	Montana	Rhode Island
Delaware	New Hampshire	Vermont
Hawaii	New Jersey	Washington
Illinois	New Mexico	
Maine	New York	

V. WEST – BY GOD – VIRGINIA

Figure 5 tells the story of the West Virginia economy. It's a tale of more downs than ups, with numerous attempts to somehow reverse course. The lawmakers of West Virginia sought to stimulate the economy through new taxes, higher rates on old taxes, and changing their strategies along the way. What we know for certain now, is that it is impossible to tax an economy into prosperity and that the only signs of hope for the state's long-term success were preceded by tax cuts. West Virginia has been the single worst performing state in the nation.

Figure 5
Personal Income as a Share of U.S. Personal Income and West Virginia's Tax History
(Annual, 1929-2014)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis and the West Virginia Department of Revenue

Please enjoy our rankings.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arthur B. Laffer



ABOUT THE AUTHORS

DR. ARTHUR B. LAFFER

Dr. Arthur B. Laffer is the founder and chairman of Laffer Associates and Laffer Investments, and many publications have named him “The Father of Supply-Side Economics.” Dr. Laffer served as a member of President Reagan’s Economic Policy Advisory Board for both terms and advised Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on fiscal policy in the United Kingdom during the 1980s. He has been a faculty member at the University of Chicago and University of Southern California. One of his earliest successes in shaping public policy was his involvement in Proposition 13, the groundbreaking California initiative that drastically cut property taxes in the state in 1978. In March 1999, he was noted by Time magazine as one of “the Century’s Greatest Minds” for his invention of the Laffer Curve, which has been called one of “a few of the advances that powered this extraordinary century.” He has received many awards for his economic research, including two Graham and Dodd Awards from the Financial Analyst Federation and The Hayek Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. In December 2017, Dr. Laffer became the first recipient of the American Legislative Exchange Council’s Laffer Award for Economic Excellence, and in December 2019, President Donald Trump awarded Dr. Laffer with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his contributions in the field of economics. He graduated from Yale with a bachelor’s degree in economics in 1963 and received both his MBA and Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University.

DONNA ARDUIN

Donna Arduin is one of the nation’s most successful veterans of state budget management and tax reform, and, as Budget Director/Deputy Director, led toward responsibility the budgets of Michigan (Governor John Engler), New York (Governor George Pataki), Florida (Governor Jeb Bush) and California (Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger). She established a reputation for long-term policy planning linked with fiscally conservative budgeting. For the past 15 years, together with economists Dr. Arthur Laffer and Steve Moore, the Arduin, Laffer, and Moore consulting firm has worked on economic studies for a vast number of industries and think tanks across the country, and on successful economic development projects. She also consults for governors and governor candidates, including Florida Governor Rick Scott, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, and California Governor Candidate Meg Whitman. She also consulted for Florida Speaker of the House Marco Rubio. Ms. Arduin sits on a number of boards, both private and not-for-profit, and has been a senior fellow for several state think tanks. A graduate of Duke University, Ms. Arduin graduated with honors in economics and public policy. Prior to her career in the public sector, she worked as an investment banker in New York and Tokyo.

STEPHEN MOORE

Stephen Moore formerly served on The Wall Street Journal's editorial board and frequently wrote on the economy and public policy. In January 2014, Moore returned to The Heritage Foundation—about 25 years after his tenure as the Grover M. Hermann Fellow in Budgetary Affairs from 1984 to 1987. Moore now serves as the Chairman of the FreedomWorks Task Force on Economic Revival. He was previously the founder and president of the Club for Growth, which raises money for political candidates who favor free-market economic policies. Moore also founded the Free Enterprise Fund before joining The Wall Street Journal. Over the years, Moore has served as a senior economist at the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and as a senior economics fellow at the Cato Institute, where he published dozens of studies on federal and state fiscal policy. He was also a consultant to the National Economic Commission in 1987 and research director for President Ronald Reagan's Commission on Privatization. During the 2016 presidential campaign, Moore served as a senior economic adviser to Donald Trump, where he worked on tax reform, regulatory reform, and energy policy. Moore is a Senior Economic Analyst at CNN along with writing regularly for National Review, Forbes, Investor's Business Daily, The Washington Times, and Orange County Register. Moore holds a Master of Arts in economics from George Mason University. He has authored numerous books, including *Who's the Fairest of them All*, *It's Getting Better All the Time*, *Still an Open Door?*, *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of States*, *Fueling Freedom: Exposing the Mad War on Energy* and the recently released *Trumponomics: Inside the America First Plan to Revive Our Economy* with Dr. Arthur Laffer.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS

Jonathan Williams is Chief Economist and Executive Vice President of Policy at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), where he works with state policymakers, congressional leaders and members of the private sector to develop economic policy solutions for the states. Williams also founded the ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform in 2011. Prior to joining ALEC in 2007, Williams served as staff economist at the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, authoring numerous tax policy studies. Williams' work has appeared in many publications, including The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, The Financial Times, Toronto Star, The Australian and Investor's Business Daily. He is a contributor for The Hill and a columnist at Tax Analysts, the leading provider of tax news and analysis for the global community. Williams also serves on the Advisory Board of the State Financial Officers Foundation (SFOF) and as an adjunct fellow at the Kansas Policy Institute. He has written for the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. In addition, Williams was a contributing author of *In Defense of Capitalism* (Northwood University Press). He has spoken to audiences across all 50 states and provided testimony for the U.S. Congress, as well as numerous state legislative bodies. His work has been featured at the federal level by The White House, the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means. He is a frequent guest on talk radio shows and has appeared on numerous television outlets, including the PBS NewsHour, Fox Business News and Bloomberg. Williams was also the recipient of the prestigious Ludwig von Mises Award in Economics.



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CHAPTER

1

**GOVERNOR RESPONSES
TO COVID-19**



GOVERNOR RESPONSES TO COVID-19

AN EVALUATION OF GOVERNORS AND RESPONSES TO CORONAVIRUS

The following analysis evaluates the nation's governors on their past and present approaches in responding to the coronavirus pandemic in light of current results and forward-looking indicators. It has been over a century since Americans have experienced a viral epidemic of the magnitude of COVID-19. Never in modern history have governors faced such a severe threat to the lives and safety of their citizens or been challenged with such major financial and economic repercussions. With little experience with these matters, it is crucial that state policymakers set partisan differences aside and review objective facts, medical knowledge and empirics so that we may achieve outcomes of minimal adversity and suffering.

UNIQUE SITUATIONS, UNIQUE SOLUTIONS

No governor should be expected to handle this pandemic with ease; however, these officials are the main policymakers developing strategies to combat the virus in their states. Thus, it is imperative we assess governors' responses and the consequences of their policies. Federal officials made the difficult decision at the beginning of the crisis to declare a national emergency. More importantly, the national emergency declaration allowed governors wide latitude in developing individual strategies that fit the unique conditions of their states. Although many have called for a set of national one-size-fits-all policies – mask requirements, business restrictions, stay-at-home-orders, and testing and tracing procedures – this national approach would have been harmful as the nation desperately sought to minimize and properly balance health risks against economic damage.

Throughout these unprecedented times, we have reaffirmed a key benefit of our state and federal government structure. Governors and other state policy leaders learned best (and worst) practices from one another. The states served as laboratories of democracy, with each governor hoping to improve upon the mistakes of his or her peers while mimicking the more effective pandemic responses. The relationship between the federal government and state governments has for years generated evidence showing state leaders successful and unsuccessful practices. The coronavirus pandemic is no exception to this rule.

For example, public officials observed the catastrophic nursing home policies in states such as New York and New Jersey that led to thousands of deaths in long-term care facilities¹. We now have evidence that strongly urging nursing homes to accept infected patients was a disastrous strategy. Upon this observation, the state of Florida under Governor Ron DeSantis developed alternative strategies to keep seniors and nursing home residents safe and healthy. States have also learned and continue to discover additional evidence shedding light on the effectiveness of stay-at-home orders in protecting public health, as well as empirical information leading to proper social distancing, mask requirements, travel guidelines, and quarantine procedure for out-of-state visitors.

Not only has evidence from the other 49 states aided each governor in his or her decision-making processes, other countries have produced a wide array of results through their various approaches. The U.S. was fortunate in that the virus was not seen within our borders until after it swept across Asia and Europe. With that evidence, state officials were able to control for varying factors and develop wise plans of actions that fit the needs and demographics of their state. We later discuss the outcomes of Sweden's unconventional approach to the virus and how those strategies can be adopted and improved upon amongst the states.

PUBLIC HEALTH VS. ECONOMIC HEALTH: PURSUING OPTIMAL OUTCOMES

In any assessment of the governors, we must consider the severity of the virus in each state and review public health outcomes. Their actions are to be analyzed first in terms of safeguarding against virus fatality within their state. This is the first step in the analysis, but it is most certainly not the last.

Our approach to measuring response performance is focused on coronavirus deaths. A person becoming infected with COVID-19 and fully recovering is a marginal cost compared to deaths. Of course, this excludes major health complications requiring hospitalization or infecting the vulnerable. If we believe a vaccine is the Holy Grail that will resolve this pandemic, we must acknowledge that a fully recovered coronavirus patient has developed immunity. These individuals have effectively been naturally vaccinated. Not only are they likely protected from further infections, they are also unable to pass the virus along to their neighbor in the future. Several reports have suggested that an individual is susceptible to a second infection, however, the World Health Organization has clearly expressed that in these cases the virus has almost certainly mutated and the initial infection does generate antibodies for a more robust immune response³.

If our focus is on lives lost, then our first measure to observe is death rates. Obviously, we must first adjust for state population for comparison purposes. We typically do so by taking total deaths divided by state population in millions, giving us deaths per million. Table 1 ranks coronavirus case fatality rates by state using data updated August 26th, 2020. The virus swept through the northeastern and midwestern states first in April and May, and then made its way through southern states in June and July. Other regions of the country, such as the mountain states, did not experience similar impacts, which suggests a national shutdown order would have been a very mistaken policy.

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html>

2. <https://www.foxbusiness.com/lifestyle/nursing-home-deaths-coronavirus>

3. <https://www.webmd.com/lung/news/20200824/study-confirms-its-possible-to-catch-covid-twice#:~:text=August%2024%2C%202020%20%2D%2D%20Researchers,there's%20no%20evidence%20it%20happens>



GOVERNOR RESPONSES TO COVID-19

TABLE 1
CORONAVIRUS DEATHS PER 1M POPULATION BY STATE
 (RANKED HIGHEST TO LOWEST DEATHS PER 1 MILLION POPULATION)

State	Deaths/ million	State	Deaths/ million	State	Deaths/ million	State	Deaths/ million	State	Deaths/ million
1. New Jersey	1791.6	11. Illinois	645.7	21. Nevada	401.4	31. Washington	245.1	41. North Dakota	180.4
2. New York	1695.9	12. Delaware	616.8	22. New Mexico	359.6	32. Arkansas	242.1	42. Kansas	151.6
3. Massachusetts	1302.1	13. Maryland	614.1	23. Ohio	345.7	33. Missouri	240.9	43. Utah	123.8
4. Connecticut	1252.5	14. Pennsylvania	594.4	24. Iowa	339.0	34. Tennessee	240.0	44. West Virginia	106.5
5. Louisiana	1044.9	15. Georgia	497.1	25. Colorado	332.1	35. Kentucky	201.7	45. Oregon	102.1
6. Rhode Island	981.6	16. Florida	495.8	26. Minnesota	325.0	36. Nebraska	199.0	46. Maine	98.0
7. DC	853.7	17. South Carolina	495.7	27. California	316.8	37. Oklahoma	192.3	47. Vermont	93.0
8. Mississippi	797.9	18. Indiana	482.4	28. New Hampshire	314.6	38. Wisconsin	188.6	48. Montana	91.2
9. Michigan	669.6	19. Alabama	416.2	29. Virginia	293.9	39. Idaho	186.1	49. Wyoming	63.8
10. Arizona	665.6	20. Texas	415.3	30. North Carolina	246.9	40. South Dakota	182.3	50. Alaska	50.7
								51. Hawaii	36.1

Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE, U.S. Census Bureau. Data as of August 26, 2020.

By the beginning of September, the highly contagious coronavirus had killed over 180,000 Americans and led to major illness requiring hospitalizations for hundreds of thousands more. CDC data from the beginning of the month estimated that six million Americans had tested positive for COVID-19, with millions more believed to be infected yet asymptomatic⁴. At this time, it is still not entirely clear whether or not patients showing no symptoms are able to spread the virus, but the initial reports of high asymptomatic contagion rates are now thought to be exaggerated⁵. The impact of this pandemic on the health of the American people has been unprecedented in modern history and has frightened the public immensely.

Not only should governors consider potential total lives lost when conducting analyses for policy options, they should also closely examine the age demographics of their residents. COVID-19 is not equally life threatening to everyone. Several defined comorbidities, as well as age, strongly correlate with an individual's risk of death from coronavirus. As seen in Table 2, the distribution of deaths among age groups is far from uniform. From all the lives lost, nearly 80% were over the age of 65, a demographic contributing to roughly 17% of the total population. Using data from the CDC, The New York Times reported in August that approximately 41% of all coronavirus deaths are linked to nursing homes.⁶ In 20 states, that statistic is over 50%.⁷ These results hold true despite long-term care facility cases representing only 8% of total reported infections. This increased risk to seniors was clearly expressed in medical data from Asia and Europe before the virus made its way to the U.S.

4. https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/?deliveryName=USCDC_425-DM31971#cases
 5. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/us/coronavirus-deaths-estimate.html>

TABLE 2
DEATHS BY AGE GROUP⁶
 (DEATHS REPORTED BY AGE GROUP AND CAUSE)

Age Group	Population	COVID Deaths	Total Deaths	Non COVID Deaths	COVID Deaths as a % of Total Deaths	COVID Deaths as a % of Age Group Population	COVID Deaths as a % of Total COVID Deaths	Non COVID Deaths as a % of Total Non COVID Deaths
Under 1 year	3,783,496	17	9,835	9,818	0.17%	0.00%	0.01%	0.61%
1–4 years	15,679,733	12	1,909	1,897	0.63%	0.00%	0.02%	0.12%
5–14 years	41,011,228	28	2,935	2,907	0.95%	0.00%	0.02%	0.18%
15–24 years	42,638,667	280	18,594	18,314	1.51%	0.00%	0.17%	1.13%
25–34 years	45,992,104	1,257	38,503	37,246	3.26%	0.00%	0.77%	2.31%
35–44 years	41,878,869	3,301	54,563	51,262	6.05%	0.01%	2.01%	3.18%
45–54 years	40,592,580	8,648	100,926	92,278	8.57%	0.02%	5.26%	5.72%
55–64 years	42,489,585	20,655	231,983	211,328	8.90%	0.05%	12.57%	13.09%
65–74 years	32,104,105	34,980	351,806	316,826	9.94%	0.11%	21.29%	19.62%
75–84 years	16,273,759	43,392	430,582	387,190	10.08%	0.27%	26.41%	23.98%
85 years and over	6,690,958	51,710	537,185	485,475	9.63%	0.77%	31.48%	30.07%
All ages	329,135,084	164,280	1,778,821	1,614,541	9.24%	0.05%	100.00%	100.00%

**Note: Death statistics as of 8/26/2020
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, CDC*

The disparity in health risks of the virus to age demographics must be acknowledged when assessing a governor’s performance. States with elevated elderly populations, such as Florida, face more difficulty in preventing deaths caused by COVID-19; consequently, assessments of their results will reflect this Tax Policy. Governors with disproportionate at-risk state populations are also subjected to increased scrutiny in responding accordingly, given their longstanding state demographic makeup.

In addition to our present knowledge of age associations with virus morbidity, we also learned early on that those who suffered from other health conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and respiratory disorders, were much more liable to become seriously ill or lose their lives. States with various proportions of these populations must adjust their actions accordingly. Once again, we see more evidence suggesting a nationalized policy prescription would not produce optimal results.

6 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-nursing-homes.html?auth=link-dismiss-google1tap>
 7. *Ibid.*
 8. *Population is a measurement of January 2020 levels.*



GOVERNOR RESPONSES TO COVID-19

As the number of cases in the general population continues to climb, we have been fortunate to see a decline in the case fatality rate. The CDC reported fatality rate following infection fell to approximately 3% from its peak of 6% in mid-March⁹. Medical research suggests that the U.S. fatality rate will continue to decline as experts discover more effective methods of treatment. In several European countries such as Sweden, COVID-19 death rates adjusted for population have fallen¹⁰. The disease, for now, appears to have run its natural progression through Europe, leaving many seemingly immune to the virus. The curve appears to have flattened, hopefully for the foreseeable future.

While the health impact of the pandemic cannot be overlooked, the blow dealt to the American economy must be factored into our holistic analyses of governor performance. We have discussed only one area of focus thus far: the effects of the virus itself. Using this information alone would be misguided. Even though COVID-19 deaths are at the forefront of our thoughts, we must not fall victim to the trap of a one-factor analysis. The actions of each governor create a ripple effect of change throughout the entire state. Everyone holds the belief that every life lost to this virus is a tragedy; however, as we will discuss, economic declines have their own consequences, including elevated death tolls separate from coronavirus death tolls.

By September, lockdowns carried out by governors led to over 20 million Americans entering unemployment status,¹¹ countless businesses across all 50 states declaring bankruptcy, and roughly \$4 trillion in increased spending from all levels of government.¹² The estimates reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis show an annualized decline in GDP of nearly 32% in the second quarter of 2020¹³. Such a decline is unlike any other in recorded American history. Even the Great Depression did not lead to such a meltdown in the American economy, at least not this rapidly. Millions of Americans find themselves in unemployment lines, plunging into poverty and losing their livelihoods, many fearing that they will never fully return to their former prosperity. State revenue losses have been severe in some cases and will require significant future action.

As the disease spread from state to state early in the pandemic, governors frantically began to calculate cost-benefit analyses of commerce regulation plans. Attempts were made in all 50 states to generate

9. <https://covidtracking.com/data/national/outcomes>

10. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/geographical-distribution-2019-ncov-cases>

11. <https://www.bls.gov/charts/employment-situation/civilian-unemployment.htm>

12. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/fiscal-policy/state-fiscal-responses-to-covid-19.aspx>

13. <https://www.bea.gov/data/gdp/gross-domestic-product#:~:text=In%20the%20first%20quarter%20of%202020%2C%20real%20GDP%20decreased%205.0%20percent.&text=The%20news%20release%20for%20the,more%20closely%20with%20national%20GDP.>

public health benefits that outweighed the standard of living decline associated with productivity decay. Wide ranges of policy decisions were employed with varying degrees of precision and information. Some were thoroughly calculated and strategic, while others were tragic for their citizens with respect to both physical and economic health.

From the beginning of the pandemic, governors have taken a lead role in regulating commerce and the severity of “stay-at-home” order enforcement. The responses varied widely from state to state, with some – such as Arkansas and Nebraska – never having issued strict stay-at-home orders, and others – particularly California and New Jersey – issuing penalties, fines, and in some cases jailing those defying curfews and lockdowns¹⁴. Every governor (often in consultation with state legislators and commissions) differentiated “essential” from “non-essential” businesses. Essential businesses remained open – many with more heavily regulated entry and hours of operation – while non-essential businesses were faced with two options. They could either adjust their operations such that employees worked entirely from their homes, or close their doors for an uncertain period of time. Retail stores, manufacturing plants, and restaurants were unable to conduct regular business outside of their establishments, leaving them the sole option of completely shutting down. With no source of income and growing expenses, employers for these firms were forced to lay off employees.

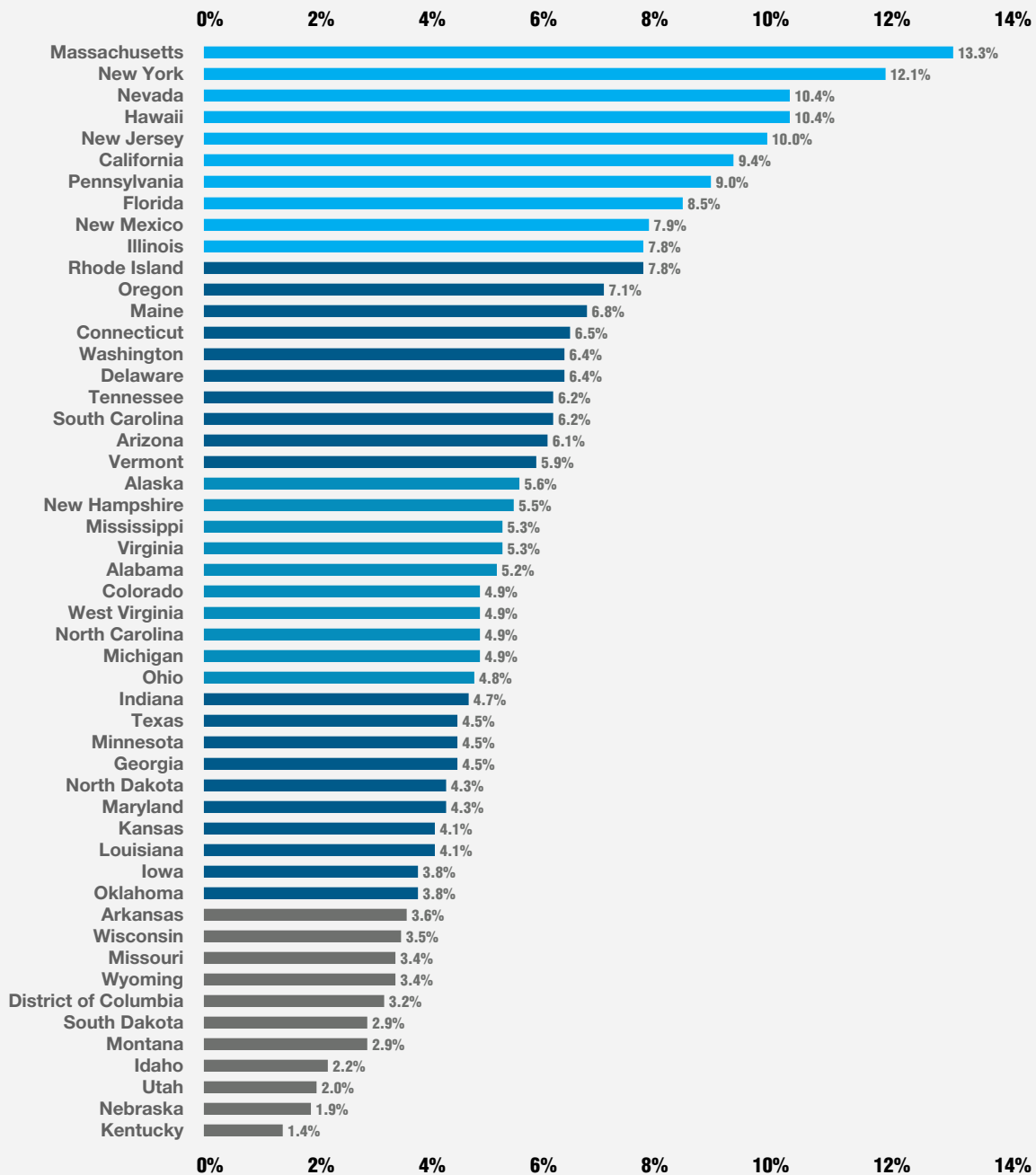
We must assess how the governors handled shutdowns by measuring how restrictive and damaging governors’ edicts have been when it comes to their states’ economies. We consider both the policies put in place by the governors as well as the resulting outcomes. This isn’t just a rear-view mirror assessment of the damage done to jobs, businesses, and state revenues over the last several months. Analyses should hope to shine light on probable future results given current policies.

One measure that we rely on heavily when conducting analyses of governors regarding economic damage is job loss during the pandemic. Figure 1 shows the 50 states’ individual change in unemployment measured as the difference between January and July rates. The Northeast has suffered the most severe job losses with states yet to recover, even months after the pandemic’s peak. Tens of thousands of businesses have been lost, many likely to be permanently closed, in states such as New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

14. <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/489108-new-jersey-attorney-general-says-those-who-break-stay-at-home-order>

GOVERNOR RESPONSES TO COVID-19

FIGURE 1
STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INCREASES
 (JANUARY 2020 – JULY 2020)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, CDC

Notable governors with considerable success in protecting their economies from unemployment increases and other aspects of economic devastation include Pete Ricketts of Nebraska, Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma, Kristi Noem of South Dakota, Gary Herbert of Utah and Mark Gordon of Wyoming. In stark contrast, governors failing to protect their economies include Gavin Newsom of California, Phil Murphy of New Jersey, Andrew Cuomo of New York, Charlie Baker of Massachusetts, and Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania. These governors have seen drastic increases in unemployment within their states. This change is accompanied by an array of negative externalities correlated with lockdown policies that will be further discussed.

We acknowledge that some governors lead states more heavily impacted by the pandemic due to uncontrollable circumstances, such as proximity to initial outbreaks and population density. A lockdown in those states may have appeared more necessary than in states with comparatively low population density accompanied by fewer infections. While mass quarantine regulations have not shown to be significant in preventing deaths over the long-term, there is evidence to suggest that they may prevent healthcare facilities from exceeding capacity¹⁵. Differences in pandemic severity should be faced with various policy plans. Proportionate and measured responses should be made to balance tradeoffs between public health concerns and economic collapse, supporting state specific approaches rather than a single strategy developed by the federal government.

The federal government has made it clear that authority will be granted to the individual governors to determine timelines of lifting commerce restrictions. Therefore, governors are independently adopting policies on how and when to open up their economies, and these decisions will have lasting effects. Determining when businesses can open, when restaurants can seat customers at full capacity, when hospitals may resume all operations, and similar decisions will have a profound impact on which states fully recover from the deep recession and how quickly unemployment will return to previous historic lows.

Within our analyses, we must examine the duration of each state's pandemic response involving business suspensions and restrictions. It is clear now that states with shorter and less severe commerce restrictions will see a more robust and hastened economic recovery. We have seen markedly divergent patterns amongst the governors' responses. For the most part, with some exceptions, the generally more pro-business states in the south, southwest and the mountain states lifted restrictions more quickly. The states of the Northeast, West Coast, and Midwest have been more reluctant to lift lockdown orders. Economic health indicators, including unemployment rates, reflect these policies.

15. <https://www.thehastingscenter.org/flattening-the-curve-then-what/>



GOVERNOR RESPONSES TO COVID-19

A clear trend emerging throughout this ordeal is that regions with relatively strict and prolonged lockdown orders saw insignificant changes in the rate of deaths in their state or country¹⁶. In several states, such as New York and New Jersey, death rates with respect to population were well above average despite strict lockdown policies¹⁷. There is no indication that lockdowns were our only policy option to save lives. Even Governor Cuomo of New York remarked that a high percentage of people who fell ill or were hospitalized contracted the virus at home.¹⁸ This admission calls into question the efficacy of stay-at-home orders, a strategy deserving further research and critical analysis.

As we know, states can learn from one another, but we also have evidence from other countries impacted by the virus. We have seen countries that did not shut down their economies, whose death rates were low. Sweden is a prime example. There was an initial spike in cases in Stockholm and other cities, but the death rate quickly subsided. We have seen a stark contrast in the results of Sweden's policies versus those of New York. Sweden had no official lockdown requirements, while Governor Cuomo of New York issued severe lockdown requirements beginning March 17th. Deaths from the virus in Sweden appear to have flat-lined. It is unlikely that the cumulative deaths exceed 6,000 deaths, and the country avoided a massive decline in second quarter GDP for 2020. Sweden was anomalous amongst European countries: its decline was only 8.6%¹⁹. This decline is significant; however, it is much lower than the European Union decline of 11.9% as well as the contractions in Spain (18.5%) and France (12.4%).

While there have been overwhelming direct health and economic consequences of mandatory business closures and stay-at-home orders, the indirect effects of these policies should not be overlooked. The focal point of any objective analysis is that – with a few exceptions – severely limiting most businesses, schools, and hospitals was an extreme public cost from an economic point of view. From a public health perspective, the substantial harm from job loss, poverty, business failure and so on are causing social pathologies to soar. Suicides, depression, stress, heart attack, spousal and child abuse cases, drug overdoses, alcohol abuse, financial ruin, and deprivation have generated massive public health concerns. These concerns are likely to extend and amplify long after the pandemic is behind us.

We can view historical scenarios of economic declines that show the indirect consequences of recessions in general. No matter the cause, we found ourselves in a deep recession that produced similar hardships to any other recession.

16. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370\(20\)30208-X/fulltext#seccesectitle0001](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/eclinm/article/PIIS2589-5370(20)30208-X/fulltext#seccesectitle0001)

17. https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_deathsper100k

18. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/lisettevoytko/2020/05/18/cuomo-said-most-coronavirus-cases-are-from-people-staying-at-home-public-health-experts-have-a-few-ideas-why/#450883cbd20e>

19. <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-53664354>

Skyrocketing unemployment leads to proportionately severe increases in cases of substance abuse, domestic violence, suicide, drug overdoses, and other substantial damages to public health. For every one percentage point increase in the rate of unemployment, we expect to experience 650 more homicides, 920 more suicides, 3,300 more imprisonments, and 37,000 more deaths.²⁰ With unemployment rate increases by as much as ten percent in some states, we should expect lasting consequences from job loss.

Evidence is emerging that the impact on health from isolation and lockdowns, specifically in terms of delayed medical treatments, depression, drug abuse, heart attack, suicide, spousal and child abuse, alcoholism, hunger, despair, and loneliness have been severe and negative. Major indirect health consequences of lockdowns result from failure to provide non-COVID health care. Even The New York Times, which has historically voiced concerns that hospitals would become overwhelmed by the massive quantities of COVID-19 patients, now reports, “ERs have about half the normal number of patients, and heart and stroke units are nearly empty, according to doctors at many urban medical centers. Some medical experts fear more people are dying from untreated emergencies than from the coronavirus²¹.”

Cancer care has also largely been suspended. The consequences of delayed or cancelled regular cancer screenings over the next several years could very well lead to drastically elevated cancer deaths. “The number of deaths due to the disruption of cancer services is likely to outweigh the number of deaths from the coronavirus itself over the next five years,” predicts Richard Sullivan, director of the Institute of Cancer Policy at King’s College London²². While the policies of U.S. governors may be showing positive results in some areas, these are simply short-term results. When determining the likely outcome of a policy option, the focus is not solely the presumed net public benefit within the time frame of the pandemic. The long-term impact, spanning years (if not decades), combined with outcomes not relating directly to lockdown policy, such as increases in future fatal cancer diagnoses, should be considered by every governor.

It is more than reasonable to consider the possibility that if lockdown policies and other recession-inducing pandemic responses persist for a substantial period of time, the number of deaths due to unemployment and health care limitations could conceivably outnumber the number of deaths from the pandemic itself. The governors’ goals as policy makers should be to produce the optimal net benefits for their state, minimizing costs while taking long-term effects from their decisions into account. Governors should not focus solely on results within the timeframe of the pandemic itself.

20. Barry Bluestone and Bennett Harrison, *The Deindustrialization of America: Plant Closings, Community Abandonment and the Dismantling of Basic Industry*. Basic Books, 1982.

21. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/25/health/coronavirus-heart-stroke.html>

22. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/1268059/cancer-deaths-coronavirus-nhs>



GOVERNOR RESPONSES TO COVID-19

THE PRE-CORONAVIRUS STATE ECONOMIES

Before we analyze each governor’s strategic response to the pandemic, it is worth examining their economic health and outlook before the virus arrived in the U.S. States with weak economies were far more susceptible to the impact of a recession and a pandemic. States with steadfast economic health were able to absorb the blow more effectively, likely leading to a more rapid recovery. Annually, for the past 13 years, we have produced the Rich States, Poor States economic outlook for states. In Table 3, we show our assessment that was conducted in 2020, using pre-pandemic data.

TABLE 3
OUTLOOK RANKINGS
(RICH STATES POOR STATES 13TH EDITION RANKINGS)

Rank	State	Rank	State
1.	Utah	41.	Maine
2.	Wyoming	42.	Oregon
3.	Idaho	43.	Rhode Island
4.	Indiana	44.	Hawaii
5.	North Carolina	45.	Minnesota
6.	Nevada	46.	California
7.	Florida	47.	Illinois
8.	Tennessee	48.	New Jersey
9.	Oklahoma	49.	Vermont
10.	Arizona	50.	New York

Taking the same metrics used for these rankings, we examine what we call eight “momentum states.” These states have experienced superior economic outcomes in recent times. We also examine eight “laggard states” that tend to lag behind the national trend. We have also singled out three states – California, New York and Texas – to analyze separately due to their significant populations and importance to the U.S. economy. These states showcase unique circumstances that will likely influence their recoveries.

23. Rich State Poor State 13th Ed. Source

In Table 4, we show a ranking of these states in terms of economic performance prior to coronavirus. We examine 15 measures of tax rates, tax revenues, regulations, debt, and others to rank the states on their economic outlook. We also show their economic momentum going into the recession based on the percentage change in payroll employment over the past decade in Table 5.

TABLE 4
OUTLOOK RANK: LAGGARD STATES VS. MOMENTUM STATES
 (RICH STATES POOR STATES 13TH EDITION RANKINGS)

Laggard States	Rank	Momentum States	Rank	Special Cases	Rank
Wisconsin	12.	Utah	1.	Texas	15.
Michigan	14.	Nevada	6.	California	46.
Ohio	29.	Florida	7.	New York	50.
Pennsylvania	38.	Arizona	10.		
Connecticut	40.	Colorado	18.		
Rhode Island	43.	Georgia	21.		
New Jersey	48.	South Carolina	32.		
Illinois	47.	Washington	39.		

TABLE 5
EMPLOYMENT INCREASES: LAGGARD STATES VS. MOMENTUM STATES
 (CHANGE IN NON-FARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT 2008-201)

Laggard States	Percent Change	Momentum States	Percent Change	Special Cases	Percent Change
Michigan	7.95%	Utah	23.60%	Texas	18.52%
Ohio	5.11%	Florida	17.75%	California	14.63%
New Jersey	4.76%	Colorado	17.51%	New York	10.88%
Rhode Island	4.48%	Washington	15.61%		
Pennsylvania	4.48%	Nevada	14.51%		
Wisconsin	4.16%	South Carolina	13.90%		
Illinois	4.39%	Georgia	12.93%		
Connecticut	0.24%	Arizona	12.80%		



GOVERNOR RESPONSES TO COVID-19

The criteria for grouping the two collections of eight states each are not strictly defined, but do include Gross State Product (GSP) growth, employment growth, and population growth, as well as gains in total state and local tax revenues that show a substantial divergence between the groups. The states outlined on this list are chosen to isolate states in terms of historical overperformance or underperformance vis-à-vis the whole U.S. economy so that we can evaluate differences in policy choices.

TABLE 6
U-HAUL PRICING
 (ONE WAY 26-FOOT TRUCK RENTALS FOR 8/10/2020)

Departing From	Destination	Price	Ratio
Los Angeles	Houston	\$4,203.00	5.3
Houston	Los Angeles	\$793.00	
San Francisco	Nashville	\$4,214.00	2.4
Nashville	San Francisco	\$1,721.00	
Chicago	Nashville	\$1,556.00	4.4
Nashville	Chicago	\$350.00	
Chicago	Atlanta	\$2,105.00	3.3
Atlanta	Chicago	\$630.00	
Stamford, CT	Atlanta	\$2,154.00	2.7
Atlanta	Stamford, CT	\$797.00	
New York City	Tampa	\$2,877.00	3.5
Tampa	New York City	\$823.00	

24. Prices retrieved from <https://www.uhaul.com>

Another factor in assessing gubernatorial performance is the interstate migration of businesses and employees. It has been argued for quite some time that businesses and employees move to states and cities that are business-friendly. Business-friendly, or pro-growth, states and municipalities offer businesses, employees, and residents comparatively low tax rates that incentivize migration to their area. The movement of about three to four million domestic migrants to pro-growth, low-tax states from high-tax states may accelerate if a considerable disparity in lockdown end dates persists. States including Florida, Georgia, Arizona, Texas, and Utah will likely see increased migration to their states. While these states have instituted low tax rates for their residents, a considerably expanded flow of workers into their states will result in an equally considerable expansion of their tax bases. An expanded tax base will allow states to collect higher tax revenues, all because of their comparatively low tax rates.

This migration pattern from high-tax to low-tax states has likely accelerated during the pandemic. Governors in high-tax states tend to place overwhelming emphasis on commerce restrictions in hopes of protecting public health, while signaling minimal regard for the financial health or survivability of their states' businesses. We do not yet have data reflecting pandemic migration from the IRS; however, we do have access to supporting evidence showing the increased demand amongst high-tax state residents to move to low-tax environments such as Tennessee, Texas, and Georgia. Oddly enough, we find this evidence through the market demand reflected in U-Haul pricing. In some cases, it cost five times more to move to a pro-growth state from an anti-growth state, than vice versa. This provides at least some insight into where people are moving to and from. Table 6 below shows several of these remarkable price differences.

While this metric is not able to depict exact measurements of migration, we are able to see general interstate mobility trends. U-Haul pricing is no different from the pricing of any other good or service in that the simple microeconomic principle of supply and demand apply. When a resident in state A rents a truck to move to state B, that truck is deposited in state B. If a significant market demand is present to move to state B from state A, supply will increase in state B as trucks accumulate and the supply of trucks in state A will diminish. With low supply and high demand, U-Haul now must take on the expense of providing more trucks to the state of departure to meet quantity demanded. This expense is passed on to the consumer, resulting in higher prices in state A. As seen in Table 6, a clear trend has emerged showing a considerable exodus from high-tax states and cities. Emerging from this mass migration, we will almost certainly see a loss in tax revenue for these locations as their tax bases shrink.



GOVERNOR RESPONSES TO COVID-19

CONCLUSION

We understand that every governor has made tireless efforts to balance the health risks of their citizens and the economic wellbeing of their state. No governor actively pursues increases in unemployment. No governor desires to see any of their citizens fall ill or require hospitalization. We know for certain that no governor is allowing their residents to lose their lives for any reason. In our analysis of policy, we do not attribute motives to the governors. Such an inference would be meaningless and counterproductive. We assume that their motives are pure and noble. While we commend the governors for their efforts to guide their constituents through unprecedented times, they also need to be held accountable by informed voters for their successes and failures resulting from policy decisions. Honestly criticizing and discontinuing failing policies, as well as adopting and improving upon those proven to be effective, will be the key to rapid recoveries. These rules, regulations, and orders proposed by governors will have long-term economic consequences for the prosperity of their citizens for years to come. Cities like New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago that have limited business through regulations for months may not return to a pre-pandemic economy for years, if ever, which places corresponding importance on policy decisions made now to the last 20 years of government actions.

We must adamantly reject the notion that governors choosing to open their states have placed greed, profits, and business over safety. This is, and always has been, a false narrative – a Sophie's choice that does not exist. Nor is there evidence that the reopening in Florida, Texas, or Arizona led to a substantial increase in deaths. The reality we face is that there are negative and indirect health consequences to economic lockdowns. There were undeniable mistakes made when opening bars, restaurants, and other indoor activities without proper protections, but none of these plans were adopted by governors without first considering the safety of their constituents.

Above all else, it is imperative for state governors to review all factors when conducting policy analysis. Governors must make their decisions based not exclusively on the impacts of the virus itself, but also on the consequences of lockdowns, stay-at-home orders, business closures, and other economic and cultural factors. We have noted that our main concern is limiting virus-related deaths, but our focus should be much more comprehensive, integrating all impacts to the lives of residents. Governors must do so using empirics recorded by other countries, states, and municipalities, as well as relying on current medical opinions and steadfast economic principles. Governors are expected to utilize all available information and act with compassion, clarity, and conviction, considering all forms of hardship and clearly defining their strategies to convey confidence derived from thorough analysis.



CHAPTER

2

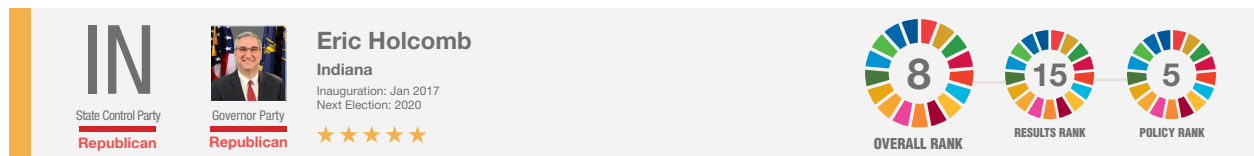
**GOVERNORS ON THE
2020 BALLOT**

GOVERNORS ON THE 2020 BALLOT

GOVERNORS ON THE BALLOTS THIS FALL

Nine governors will appear on the November 2020 ballots. These nine governors display profoundly disparate fiscal grades on this scorecard: including some of the best governors and some of the worst. Among them, four receive top grades and four earn inadequate or below average rankings. Among these governors, only North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum receives an average grade of three stars and an overall rank of 23 out of 50.

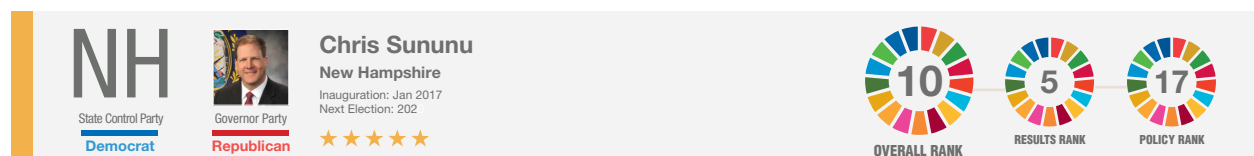
The top performers this year include Indiana Governor Holcomb, Missouri Governor Parson, New Hampshire Governor Sununu, and North Carolina Governor Cooper. The following rankings are in order from best to worse and consider the records of each governor over their entire term:



The infographic for Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb features a vertical orange bar on the left. To its right is the state abbreviation 'IN' in large blue letters, with 'State Control Party' and 'Republican' in smaller text below. Next is a portrait of Governor Holcomb, with 'Governor Party' and 'Republican' below. To the right of the portrait is the text 'Eric Holcomb', 'Indiana', 'Inauguration: Jan 2017', and 'Next Election: 2020', followed by five gold stars. On the far right are three circular charts: 'OVERALL RANK' with the number 8, 'RESULTS RANK' with the number 15, and 'POLICY RANK' with the number 5.

Indiana Governor Holcomb ranks eighth in our overall analysis. The Governor has continued Indiana’s pro-growth policies throughout his time in office. Holcomb’s policies and Indiana’s proximity to economically depressed states have made Indiana as competitive as the best states in the nation. A gradual reduction in corporate tax rates was signed into law by Governor Mike Pence in 2014 and has continued under Governor Holcomb. The state has a minimal state expenditure to Gross State Product (GSP) ratio, because of the Governor’s commitment to some of the lowest debt levels in the country, his school choice policies and the state’s low spending levels. One note of concern, however, is that the governor has expressed commitment to the state’s Medicaid expansion under “Obamacare.” If the Governor follow through on this commitment, the policy will most certainly negatively impact the Hoosier economy.

The Governor has asked state agencies to provide cuts of 15% and universities to reduce spending by 7%. Governor Holcomb is also delaying future spending in hopes of solving Indiana’s current budget shortfall without the aid of federal bailouts. “This is the first of what is likely to be a number of steps we’ll take to rein in state spending, while we continue to provide critical government services to Hoosiers without interruption,” Holcomb said.

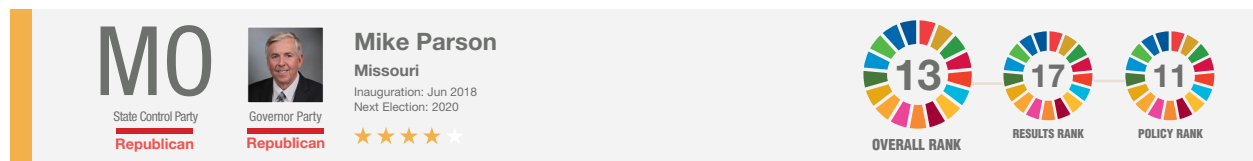


The infographic for New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu features a vertical orange bar on the left. To its right is the state abbreviation 'NH' in large blue letters, with 'State Control Party' and 'Democrat' in smaller text below. Next is a portrait of Governor Sununu, with 'Governor Party' and 'Republican' below. To the right of the portrait is the text 'Chris Sununu', 'New Hampshire', 'Inauguration: Jan 2017', and 'Next Election: 202', followed by five gold stars. On the far right are three circular charts: 'OVERALL RANK' with the number 10, 'RESULTS RANK' with the number 5, and 'POLICY RANK' with the number 17.

New Hampshire is one of nine states in the country without a state income tax. We often see these states outperform states with progressive income taxes in terms of domestic migration and general economic

performance, so it is no surprise that Governor Chris Sununu has earned himself and his state five stars within our rankings. New Hampshire values small government, and its governor shares those values. Governor Sununu has continued longstanding education freedom, low debt levels and restrained welfare policies. New Hampshire is well situated for the fiscal shock from the pandemic crisis despite its budget gap. New Hampshire's competitive tax rates help the state benefit from its proximity to New York and Massachusetts, incentivizing migration and a subsequent growth in the state's tax base.

New Hampshire faces a budget gap of over half a billion dollars this year, and Governor Sununu has pledged to make the tough but necessary financial decisions without raising taxes. "We're going to do it. We're not going to raise taxes. We're not going to be putting the burdens of the state onto the backs of our citizens and our businesses that are already having a tough time paying their bills as it is," said Sununu.



MO
 State Control Party
 Republican

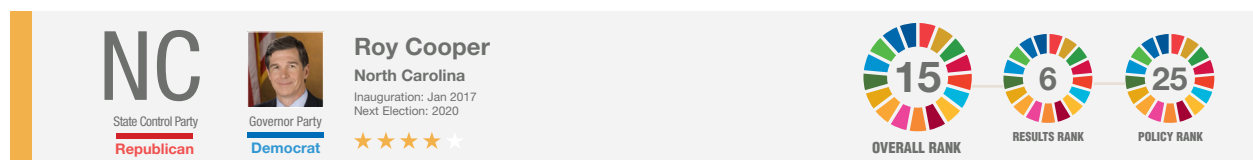
Mike Parson
 Missouri
 Inauguration: Jun 2018
 Next Election: 2020
 ★★★★★

13
 OVERALL RANK

17
 RESULTS RANK

11
 POLICY RANK

Missouri Governor Parson has also continued the state's low spending and generally pro-growth policies. The state's gradual income tax rate cuts have contributed to increasingly economically competitive outcomes. Missouri's fiscal shock from the pandemic will loom over Missouri for the foreseeable future. Governor Parson has cut \$459 million from the recently enacted FY21 budget. That budget reduction is in addition to the \$430 million he withheld from the fiscal year (FY) 2020 budget at the end of the previous fiscal year, but the state will likely face an additional deficit. In the Governor's words, "We started off this year excited for the future." Parson has also stated, "We fully intended to continue our focus on workforce development and infrastructure. Needless to say, when COVID-19 hit Missouri in March, everything changed."



NC
 State Control Party
 Republican

Roy Cooper
 North Carolina
 Inauguration: Jan 2017
 Next Election: 2020
 ★★★★★

15
 OVERALL RANK

6
 RESULTS RANK

25
 POLICY RANK

North Carolina's traditional low spending, education choice, union, welfare, and debt policies are among the highest freedom-focused platforms in the nation. Governor Cooper has not reversed those policies, but he also has a legislature that supports these pro-growth practices. His Policy Rank of 25 compared to North Carolina's stellar Results Rank of 6 suggests his antigrowth policies are not often enacted into law. His advocacy for expanding Medicaid under "Obamacare" is concerning for future economic health. More concerning, his recent budget continued pre-COVID spending. The Governor has taken no action to reduce the budget and appears to be pushing the problem to the next legislature and potential new governor.

GOVERNORS ON THE 2020 BALLOT

ND

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Republican

Doug Burgum

North Dakota
Inauguration: Dec 2016
Next Election: 2020

★★★☆☆



OVERALL RANK



RESULTS RANK



POLICY RANK

North Dakota Governor Burgum received a three-star grade, reflecting a mixture of fiscal policies. With a marginally above average overall ranking of 27, the Governor of North Dakota has earned himself an aggressively mediocre grade. While his spending record has been erratic, his restrained education, welfare, and union policies will enforce downward pressure on future spending levels. Also, after the North Dakota House overwhelmingly passed legislation to phase out the personal and corporate income tax in 2019, Gov Burgum sadly threw cold water on one of the most pro-growth policies in recent memory.

WA

State Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Democrat

Jay Inslee

Washington
Inauguration: Jan 2013
Next Election: 2020

★★☆☆☆



OVERALL RANK



RESULTS RANK



POLICY RANK

Washington is historically a low spending state – ranked 6th best overall for state spending – with strong economic performance. But Governor Inslee’s tax policies are a threat to continued high performance. The Governor has cut \$445 million from the current year’s budget, but state expenditures will have to be reduced further if the state hopes to close the fiscal gap.

DE

State Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Democrat

John Carney

Delaware
Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020

★★☆☆☆



OVERALL RANK



RESULTS RANK



POLICY RANK

Delaware’s fiscal policies rank poorly across the board. While Governor Carney has made attempts, he has yet to successfully reverse many of the state’s anti-growth policies. The Governor has taken some action to reduce the state’s growing budget problem, exacerbated by the pandemic, including suspending state employee pay raises, and rescinding construction and road projects. He has also drawn from Delaware’s Budget Stabilization Fund, demonstrating ability to absorb the fiscal shock, especially in comparison to the rest of the country. Governor Carney’s overall rank is heavily impacted by his poor performance in handling the coronavirus pandemic, despite enjoying strong reserves. Reflected in his rank of 46 out of 50, in our CARES Policy ranking, the Governor has overseen the 14th largest increase in state unemployment as well as above average cases and death rates per million residents. His Education Policy is even less admirable with a last place rank of 50. Delaware has produced the 38th worst NAEP scores and the Governor has strongly opposed the option of allowing forms of school choice to correct the issue.

VT
State Control Party
Democrat

Phil Scott
Vermont
Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020
★★★★

36
OVERALL RANK

40
RESULTS RANK

31
POLICY RANK

Vermont’s fiscal policies traditionally lack proficiency. Governor Scott has worked to reverse these trends to what appears to be the best of his ability. However, he has much more work to do before he earns an above average grade. His commitment to reduce Vermont’s debt showcased in his 2020 fiscal budget was commendable, but these efforts are overshadowed by our Debt Results rank of 40 out of 50. Considering the state revenue slowdown, Governor Scott has backed off some of his spending proposals, hopefully aiding in state budget difficulties.

WV
State Control Party
Republican

Jim Justice
West Virginia
Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020
★★★★

47
OVERALL RANK

46
RESULTS RANK

38
POLICY RANK

West Virginia is the highest spending state in the nation with expenditures amounting to 23.4% of GSP in FY 2019. Governor Justice has not proposed an alternative to the state’s high-tax and spend strategy despite its inability to combat their economic issues. Within our rankings, West Virginia ranks dead last at 50 in Spending Results, measured in terms of state spending as a percentage of GSP. Despite the state’s elevated spending efforts, Governor Justice earns a rank of 43rd for Economic Performance for his state, suggesting West Virginia may be overdue for a policy overhaul. In terms of annual GSP growth, West Virginia holds the title of slowest growing economy, expanding by a mere 0.97% from 2018 to 2019 compared to the 50 state average of 3.73% growth. The Governor’s recent actions to close the budget gap include a plan to use federal CARES Act funds, pushing off the problem to be dealt with in the future. Governor Justice’s primary strategy appears to be a bailout from the federal government, which will undoubtedly reduce the state’s incentives to fix the underlying poor economic policies. If the funding is used to mend their budgetary issues, we expect to see an amplified shortfall in future West Virginia budgets.

1. Tony Cook, *The Indianapolis Star*. “Gov. Mike Pence Signs off on Business Tax Cuts.” *Indy Star, The Indianapolis Star*, 25 Mar. 2014, amp.indystar.com/amp/6859237.
2. *Indy Star Staff, The Indianapolis Star*. “Statewide coronavirus update: ‘Keep your distance,’ Holcomb urges holidaybound Hoosiers.” *Indy Star, The Indianapolis Star*, 22 May, 2020. <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/2020/05/22/coronavirus-updates-latest-news-indiana/5242779002/>.
3. Cat Viglienzoni, *WCAX3*. “Sununu blames COVID-19 for \$540M budget shortfall in NH.” *WCAX3*, 30 Jun. 2020. <https://www.wcax.com/content/news/Sununu-blames-COVID-19-for-540M-budget-shortfall-in-NH-571572821.html?fbclid=IwAR1fhyXcPG0sX-Vsp7QU4ST0S8nqOQ4YrQTYNSzZGkJxgCGGKkytXyg2mFQ>.
4. Austin Huguélet, *Springfield News-Leader*. “With no federal aid in sight, Parson cuts \$459M from FY2021 budget.” *Springfield News-Leader*. 30 Jun. 2020. <https://www.news-leader.com/story/news/2020/06/30/missouri-governor-parson-state-budget-cuts-no-federal-help-coronavirus/5351097002/>.



CHAPTER

3

METHODOLOGY



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KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Governors' grades are based on their economic policies and economic outcomes in light of underlying strengths and weaknesses in each state. Our ranking system contains 6 policy rankings and 4 results rankings that capture a measure of gubernatorial performance. To compute overall ranks, policy rankings and results rankings are weighted as two equal contributions to a general ranking from 1 to 50 ordered from best to worst performing. It should be noted that Governors are not granted complete autonomy over their state's policies. State legislatures, local officials, and government agencies may enact policies antagonistic to a governor's platform. With this in mind, the policy rank assigned to each governor is tailored to platform preferences held by the governors themselves. Results ranks are heavily impacted by a governor's leadership, however, many factors within our calculations are not controlled entirely by the governors. Legislators have their own, distinct policy agenda items in many cases. This is especially relevant when control of the state legislature is held by the governor's opposing party. This gridlock creates challenges to governors that stall or prohibit policy implementation. In some cases this prevents governors from fulfilling increased spending plans, increased tax rates, or other damaging policies.

To account for ties within each ranking category, we use an average rank approach. Average rankings, in some cases, result in non-integer values for mutual ranked values. These rankings are rounded to the nearest whole number listed within each governor's individual page, however, the more precise value is used to calculate Policy, Results, and Overall Rankings.

The governors are assigned a grade of 1 to 5 stars that judge overall performance. The number of stars given to each governor is determined by his or her overall rank, separated by quintiles. The top performing governors are given 4 or 5 stars and the worst performing governors are assigned either 1 or 2 stars. 3 star governors display either mediocre ranks across the board, or possess offsetting high-quality and poor ranks.



TAX POLICY ranks each governor based on substantial tax legislation, either enacted or proposed by the governors over the last two fiscal years. We use budgetary information from the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO) as well as the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) to outline major changes to taxation practices in each state. Proposed changes by the Governors are also considered. We focus mainly on corporate income, personal income, and sales taxes, however, fuel, property and other miscellaneous rates are also considered. All taxes are examined at the state level with no consideration for policy implemented by local governments. This is a broad analysis of tax policy, meaning that minimal attention is paid to marginal changes in the tax base, or insignificant alterations of exemption qualifications. Governors are assigned a grade ranging from 1 to 8, with 8 being the most preferable grade. We award higher grades to governors who have implemented a plan to establish low tax rates and broad bases. Low tax rates applying to a large tax base create an ideal scenario in which free market behavior is not severely altered by the tax, but the large base ensures adequate revenue is collected. Each governor is then ranked according to his or her Tax Policy grade.



SPENDING POLICY contains a review of each governor’s budget for fiscal year 2021 and fiscal year 2020 if applicable. This information is compiled and released annually by NASBO in an issue brief summarizing proposed budgets for the upcoming fiscal year¹. Nearly all of the budgets proposed for 2021 were released prior to the coronavirus pandemic so any budget changes related to the pandemic are not included within our Spending Policy rank. 19 state budgets are enacted on a biennial basis, 17 of which were passed last year in 2019. Those 17 budgets were intended to cover FY 2020 and FY 2021. In 6 of these 17 states, governors proposed an amended budget for 2021, as is increasingly common for states with biennial budgets². State budgets are considerably inconsistent regarding measures of growth or decline in budget size. Most states have a budget classified as a “general fund” or an “operating fund.” Growth is often measured by changes in spending from these funds, however, in states such as Alabama, a major portion of their state expenditures are spent from an Education Trust Fund (ETF). Alabama’s ETF is not housed within the state’s general fund. Spending changes in education are therefore not represented in the reported growth or reductions in general fund reported spending. Seeing as education spending is a major portion of state budgets, we would be remiss to disregard education spending changes in Alabama, while analyzing this spending in most other states. A possible solution to the issue of varying state expenditure classifications would be to assess total state budgets, however, several issues arise with this method as well. Supplemental budgets present roadblocks to this approach in that they inhibit our ability to appropriately compare budget size from year to year. For example, a supplemental budget adopted in the final month of FY 2020 that substantially increases state spending, followed by a proposed budget for FY 2021 would suggest the budget growth for FY 2021 is less drastic. Intertemporal budget growth comparisons in this case are unquantifiable and useless if we intend to draw conclusions. Along with this issue, states often do not publish holistic measures of state spending, revenue expectations may be adjusted in the future, and states receive inconsistent levels of federal aid. For these reasons, each governor is given a grade ranging from 1 to 7 based upon an assessment on a state-by-state basis. Governors with the highest performing grades pursue limited spending increases or reductions in the size of their budgets if necessary. Governors with the lowest grades proposed major and unnecessary budget increases in FY 2020 and FY 2021. Each governor is then ranked according to his or her assigned grade, with average rankings calculated for governors earning the same Spending Policy grade.

1. https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/NASBO/9d2d2db1-c943-4f1b-b750-0fca152d64c2/UploadedImages/Issue%20Briefs%20Summaries_of_Fiscal_Year_2021_Proposed_Budgets.pdf
 2. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/fiscal-policy/state-experiences-with-annual-and-biennial-budgets.aspx>



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WELFARE POLICY is ranked based on 3 metrics, total welfare spending, Medicaid enrollees per 10,000 population and Medicaid expansion costs. Welfare spending in each state, published by the Tax Policy Center³, is adjusted for population and ranked accordingly. Medicaid enrollment data is released by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and is measured as the number of enrollees throughout 2019. Unfortunately, the state of Maine does not report these data under this publication, so the state was assigned the 50 state equally weighted average as to avoid biased rankings. The enrollee data are then adjusted for state population size and ranked from 1 to 50. Medicaid expansion cost, our 3rd contributor to Welfare Policy, is ranked with governors choosing to not expand receiving a rank of 1 and all other governors being ranked based on the cost associated with expansion. A summation of all 3 components of Welfare Policy is then ranked.



CARES POLICY is a ranking based on a combination of pandemic response with resulting consequences and use of federal CARES funding. Governors are assigned one of six grade categories that assess the severity of lockdown policy and then ranked. Those rankings are then aggregated with rankings of cases per million, deaths per million and unemployment rate increase from January, 2020 to July, 2020 reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)⁴. Coronavirus related statistics used in this analysis were published by John Hopkins University CSSE as of 9/21/2020. Population statistics used to calculate deaths and cases per million are recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau and are an estimation of January 2020 levels. Governors are graded based on their ability to protect their economy from severe unemployment increases, lockdown policy severity, and ability to tailor pandemic policy to the needs of his or her state. This portion of CARES Policy is further outlined within the section titled “An Evaluation of Governors and Responses to Coronavirus.” The second portion of this ranking, is a measure of each governor’s usage of federal funding provided by the CARES Act. This funding was intended to be used for pandemic related issues such as financial support for health care providers or prevention efforts. Unfortunately, the vague stipulations attached to this funding allow state authorities the ability to stretch definitions. This includes a reported proposal in Alabama to use federal funds to construct a new State House⁵. These plans were heavily criticized by Governor Ivey, however, this anecdote exposes serious flaws in the federal legislation. Governors were awarded a grade of 1 to 7, with the best grades assigned to governors electing not to use federal funds to mend persisting state issues such as budget shortfalls or frivolous wish list projects that existed prior to the pandemic’s start. The governors are then ranked based on their assigned grade. A ranking with respect to appropriate usage of federal funds as well as pandemic response rankings are combined to give us a total ranking for our CARES Policy metric.

3. <https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/statistics/state-and-local-general-expenditures-capita>

4. <https://www.bls.gov/web/laus.supp.toc.htm>

5. <https://www.al.com/news/2020/05/marsh-stands-by-idea-of-using-cares-act-money-for-new-state-house.html>



EDUCATION POLICY is a combination of 3 equally weighted rankings. Governors are first ranked based upon state education spending per pupil in grades K-12⁶. Post-secondary education spending was not included in this ranking. Of course, elevated state expenditures on education only benefits residents if a corresponding positive impact in education quality is observed. To control for this factor, rankings based on scores reflected in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) are created for the second metric used for our Education Policy variable. We use the most recent grade 4 reading and grade 8 mathematics scores to generate a combined measure of education quality in each state. The third and final contribution to this policy rank was a measure of school choice support. Governors were sorted into three categories regarding school choice support, opposition, support, and an unclear level of support. Governors placed into the third category reflect either a mixed record of school choice views, or have not yet clearly defined their position on the issue. Information used to place governors in appropriate categories was compiled by EdChoice⁷. The 3 rankings are combined to create the Education Policy rank.



UNION POLICY provides a general sense of each governor's attitude towards labor policy. Four unique measurements, public employee raises, state full time equivalent employment, union membership, and right-to-work status, are combined to generate these rankings. Public employment raises are measured as suggested within each governor's FY 2021 budget proposal. These figures, often listed as a general percent increase in wages, were then ranked to form the first of the three Union Policy components. State full time equivalent employment, gathered from the US Census Bureau⁸, calculates the total number of full time state employees in addition to total part time employee hours divided by 40, the standard work-week duration. Governors were then ranked according to this criterion, with preferable rankings given to lower levels of public employment after adjusting for state population size. The final contribution to Union Policy is the state's right-to-work status. This ranking was straightforward in that governors are sorted into right-to-work states and non-right-to-work states. The governors are ranked in this category with the top rank going to governors in right-to-work states. With numerous ties resulting from a dichotomous variable, average ranks are calculated to avoid extreme bias in favor of governors holding office in right-to-work states. The final contribution to this policy ranking is a ratio of union membership within each state expressed as a percentage of total employees represented by unions⁹. The final order of Union Policy ranks are computed through a summation of all four components.

7. <https://www.edchoice.org/>

8. <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2019/econ/apes/annual-apes.html>

9. www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t05.htm



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RESULTS RANKINGS



DEBT RESULTS generates a ranking of governors based on their total state debt. We measure state debt as a total of state bonded obligations and unfunded pension liabilities as published by ALEC¹⁰ and Pew Charitable Trusts¹¹ respectively. This amount is then adjusted to control for state population using Census estimations. Levels of total state debt per capita are used to rank the governors. Naturally, governors with the least debt are assigned the top ranks.



SPENDING RESULTS is a simple ranking of state spending levels. State spending levels for FY 2019 are found within the most recent NASBO State Expenditure Report¹². To adjust for the size of each state, we use GSP. Unlike population size, GSP grants a measurement of the size of each state's economy. In this case, a state with a more robust economy is able to spend at higher absolute levels due to a larger tax base and generally higher incomes. Due to these characteristics of the variable, we measure state spending as a percentage of GSP to accurately assess and compare expenditure levels instituted by the governors. Desirable ranks are earned by governors demonstrating restrained spending.



PREPAREDNESS RESULTS is a holistic measure of financial shock to state budgets in light of the pandemic. Governors are not expected to foresee pandemics, but they are expected to be prepared for any economic emergency. Viral outbreaks of this magnitude are historically rare; recessions are not. To measure ability for a state to absorb damage dealt by pandemic responses, we use data from a Moody's Analytics stress-test for state budget preparedness¹³. This report projects the impact of a "severe recession" on state budgets, defined as a nation-wide peak-to-trough real gross domestic product (GDP) decline of 14% accompanied by a peak jobless rate of 17%. Budget surpluses or shortfalls are then estimated for each state based on this scenario. In total, 39 states were projected to be unable to make up for the entire hypothetical shock, including the use of reserves to cover expenses. These shortfall or surplus values are expressed as a percentage of the hypothetical shock covered by reserves. Governors are ranked based on this value, computing average ranks for ties. Ill-prepared state leaders facing the pandemic's fiscal shock, including cases of federal bailouts temporarily solving their budget crises, receive poor standings within this ranking.

10. <https://www.alec.org/publication/state-bonded-obligations-2019/>

11. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/data-visualizations/2018/state-retirement-fiscal-health-and-funding-discipline#/>

12. <https://www.nasbo.org/reports-data/state-expenditure-report>

13. <https://www.economy.com/getlocal?q=37F6F320-EF2A-4806-9AAB-EADE66FA0317&app=download>



ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE is our final category of results rankings. Economic performance assesses 3 equally weighted critical indicators of state economic health. The first, 1 year GSP growth, is measured as the percentage increase in nominal GSP measured from 2018 to 2019. These data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)¹⁴. As a measure of standard-of-living as well as production, current GSP levels and their growth rates are an ideal measure of overall economic welfare. Absolute net domestic migration, calculated over the period beginning July 1st, 2018 and ending July 1st 2019 using IRS records and published by the U.S. Census Bureau, allows for the measurement of residents' desirability to remain in or leave the state¹⁵. This metric captures a sense of demand to move to a specific state, in part due to disparate economic environments. Migration records also have the ability to assess governors regarding non-economic performance that is challenging to quantify, such as social policy. The third and final component of Economic Performance is non-farm payroll employment growth as measured by the Bureau of Labor Statistics¹⁶. Employment growth is expressed as the percentage increase in non-farm employment from the second quarter of 2019 to the second quarter of 2020. All three components are individually ranked, aggregated with equal weights, and ranked to generate an Economic Performance results order placement for each governor.

14. <https://apps.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1>

15. <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/migration/data.html>

16. <https://www.bls.gov/sae/>



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STAR RANKINGS



FIVE-STAR GOVERNORS showcase stellar pro-growth policies across all categories and maintain economically affordable levels of state spending. Florida Governor DeSantis' business tax and property tax cuts continue fiscally responsible tax, spending, education, welfare, debt, and union policies. Low levels of spending per Gross State Product (GSP), combined with the Governor's budget vetoes¹⁷, will help offset the significant fiscal shock Florida is experiencing after the economic disruption caused by pandemic responses. Georgia Governor Kemp has maintained fiscally strong spending, reserves, welfare, union, debt, and education policies. Georgia's low levels of spending per GSP and robust economy will benefit future budgets. Indiana Governor Holcomb's corporate income tax cuts continue pro-growth policies in a state with low spending levels. Strong reserves resulting from these policies will support future Indiana budgets. Nebraska Governor Ricketts' spending, reserves, welfare, and debt policies, in a state with relatively low spending levels, will benefit budgets following the economic disruption in the pandemic response. New Hampshire Governor Sununu's fiscal policies, including strong reserves, have kept New Hampshire a low spending state with a strong economy. South Dakota Governor Noem's rejection of federal bail-out funds and the Governor's conservative spending and reserve policies, along with fiscally restrained education, debt, welfare, and union policies, support a likely prosperous economic future for the state. Tennessee Governor Lee has restrained state spending, including his billion-dollar proposed spending reduction for FY 2021. In lieu of lobbying for more federal subsidies, Governor Lee has proposed a further spending reduction to account for a decline in revenue expectations¹⁸. Along with these notable actions, his continuance of fiscally responsible debt, union, education, and welfare policies grant the Governor a five-star rating. Texas Governor Abbott's significant school property tax limitations and strong budgetary policies across the board, including in spending and reserves, earn the Governor this year's highest overall ranking. Utah Governor Herbert has continued Utah's sweeping pro-growth economic policies. Governors receiving top ranks despite high debt levels include Colorado Governor Polis, who has maintained Colorado's otherwise fiscally responsible spending policies and fantastic economic results. His income tax cuts would have been a boom for this economically competitive state under non-pandemic circumstances.



FOUR-STAR GOVERNORS have consistently competent fiscal policies. While these governors did not earn a five-star grade, they remain well above average in performance. Idaho Governor Little's strong reserve levels, as well as restrained economic, welfare, education, debt, and union policies will benefit future Idaho budgets. Missouri Governor Parson's income tax rate cut and responsible spending policies

17. <https://www.flgov.com/2020/06/29/governor-ron-desantis-signs-the-fiscal-year-2020-2021-budget/>

18. <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/tennessee/articles/2020-06-04/tennessee-gov-proposes-284m-more-in-budget-cuts-next-year>

will benefit future Missouri budgets. Nevada Governor Sisolak has continued Nevada's conservative spending, union, and welfare policies. North Carolina's disciplined fiscal policies have provided Governor Cooper with budget stability. As a Democrat facing a Republican controlled state house and senate, Governor Cooper has not been able to follow through on his plans to increase the salaries of educators or expand Medicaid. Oklahoma Governor Stitt's spending restraint in a state with traditionally fiscally conservative policies will serve future budgets well.

Four-star governors with high spending proposals include Alabama Governor Ivey, who has maintained significant reserves heading into the recent economic disruption. However, the Governor has proposed significant spending increases accompanied by high levels of spending per GSP. . Arizona Governor Ducey's high spending policies could harm a state that has otherwise preserved a positive economic climate, education and union policies.

Governor McMaster's conservative policies, including ample reserves, are slightly offset by South Carolina's high spending and debt levels. Wyoming Governor Gordon's fiscal policies have been exceptionally robust, including exceptionally strong reserves, as he requested twenty percent budget cuts after the pandemic-related shock to Wyoming's economy. Wisconsin Governor Evers' demand for a federal bail-out, spending and welfare policies may offset the underlying fiscal policies Wisconsin had maintained prior to his inauguration.



THREE STAR GOVERNORS represent average performance, many with mediocre grades across the board and a select few with major differences in Results Rank and Policy Rank. These state leaders include Arkansas Governor Hutchinson, who maintains pro-growth economic policies. The Governor's top income tax rate cut will benefit Arkansas' economy and future budgets. However, Arkansas' level of spending to GSP will continue to delay economic recovery and negatively impact future budgets. Kansas Governor Laura Kelly's adequate Spending Results are offset by anti-growth policy proposals and relatively low levels of reserves prior to the economic disruption from pandemic responses. Massachusetts Governor Baker's spending and reserve policies will benefit future budgets. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz' strong reserves are the one fiscal policy that will serve near term Minnesota budgets well. Mississippi Governor Reeves' spending policies will benefit future budgets, and possibly reduce relatively elevated debt levels. Montana Governor Bullock's economy, reserves, and relatively low debt levels have kept its budget in favorable fiscal condition; however, spending and union policies will likely generate future budgetary problems. North Dakota Governor Burgum has maintained an average policy profile and high spending. Virginia Governor Northam's myriad tax increases and the Governor's reliance on a federal bail-out are offset by relatively low spending levels. Iowa Governor Reynolds has maintained Iowa's steady fiscal policies and proper reserves that Iowa held prior to the economic disruption caused



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by the pandemic response. Maryland Governor Hogan has maintained strong reserves but otherwise weak fiscal policies. Maryland's poor performance in handling the coronavirus pandemic is also reflected in Governor Hogan's mediocre grade and below average rank. Maine Governor Mills' strong reserve levels are a silver lining in an otherwise weak fiscal policy strategy.



TWO-STAR GOVERNORS are facing significant future fiscal disruptions, but likely not as immediate or severe as that of one--star governors. These governors fall below mediocrity in our rankings. California Governor Newsom's restrained tax and spending proposals would be positive if the state did not already have a highly progressive tax code and expensive spending policies. California's tax, welfare, education, union policies and debt levels continue to cause income and investment to leave the state. Connecticut Governor Lamont proposed restrained spending and maintained strong reserves heading into the economic disruption caused by responses to the pandemic. However, high spending and debt levels, as well as union control and the Governor's request for federal bail-out funds, will put significant downward pressure on future budgets in a state that is losing income and investment to other states. Delaware Governor Carney's spending, education, and union policies will weaken already poor economic results. The Governor's Preparedness Results rank is a positive for the near term as Delaware endures the pandemic. Kentucky Governor Beshear has not yet held office for a full year, but strong reserve levels are the sole positive budgetary aspect within a high spending and debt policy environment.

Vermont Governor Scott's restrained spending policy is not substantial enough to offset the state's elevated spending and debt results. Plans to reduce spending and fix the unfunded liabilities in Vermont have not come to fruition. Washington Governor Inslee's new gross receipts business tax and union policies, as well as the reliance on a federal bail-out, will likely diminish the state's traditional economic and budgetary strength. Ohio Governor DeWine's income tax cut will lead to positive outcomes, but his additional tax increases in other areas and relatively high spending levels will prove to be problematic in future Ohio budgets. New York Governor Cuomo's maintenance and support of excessive taxes for high-income-earning New Yorkers will likely lead to a higher rate of out migration. The top-income earners in New York may have benefited the state's yearly tax revenues, but one may expect individuals with ample resources are able to relocate with relative ease. If Governor Cuomo loses his wealthiest tax base to other states, New York public officials will have to reevaluate their high tax, high spending budget strategy. The Governor's reliance on a potential federal bail-out will also negatively impact New York's budget with an already struggling economy. Oregon Governor Brown's fantastic Preparedness Results and above average Economic Performance ranks were more massively offset by a new gross receipts business tax signed into law by the Governor in May of 2019¹⁹. Oregon has high spending levels relative to GSP, although the Governor maintained strong reserves prior to the pandemic's economic disruption.

19. <https://www.oregon.gov/dor/programs/businesses/Pages/corporate-activity-tax.aspx>



ONE-STAR GOVERNORS typically lead high spending states but are raising taxes and looking for federal bailouts. One-star states are facing impending fiscal crashes. With extremely high spending to GSP levels, Alaska Governor Dunleavy proposed significant spending reductions last year, but overall spending has not been reduced. Taxes in the form of oil dividend cuts have been used to balance budgets, but reserves were spent down prior to the economic disruption caused by pandemic responses. In addition, debt levels, welfare policy, and education policy rank among the worst in the country. Union controls continue to be excessive, but to the Governor's credit, he signed an administrative order implementing the U.S. Supreme Court's Janus decision allowing government employees the freedom of choice in paying union dues²⁰. Hawaii Governor Ige's spending proposals on top of high spending and debt levels will be partially offset by strong reserve levels. Michigan Governor Whitmer's high spending levels and policies, coupled with lacking reserves and the Governor's reliance on a federal bail-out, will place significant stress on future Michigan budgets. The Governor has also proposed tripling Michigan's gas tax. New Jersey Governor Murphy's wide-ranging tax increases, spending, elevated debt and reserves policies, as well as the Governor's reliance on a federal bail-out, will prove to be problematic for future budgets. The governor's tax increases and request for a federal bail-out delays a New Jersey budget crisis. New Mexico Governor Lujan Grisham's exceptionally strong reserves will serve New Mexico well through the pandemic response's economic disruption, but the Governor's fiscal policies and relatively elevated spending levels will harm future budgets. New Mexico's high welfare and debt levels contribute to the Governor's rating. Rhode Island Governor Raimondo's reliance on a federal bail-out, high spending and debt levels, and expansive welfare policy earn the Governor a one-star rating. West Virginia Governor Justice's reasonable spending proposals are not sufficient in offsetting West Virginia's massive spending and debt levels. Aggressive labor policies in West Virginia, shown in our Union Policy rank of 41 for the state, are also leading to negative impacts on the state budget. Louisiana's weak fiscal policies and low reserves, as well as Governor Bel Edwards' reliance on a federal bail-out, will place significant pressure on future budgets. Illinois Governor Pritzker's fiscal policies are devastating for future budgets, including unsustainable debt levels. In addition to doubled gas taxes, the Governor's progressive income tax, with significant increases, will be on the ballot in November, and the outcome will be critical for a state with significant fiscal problems. Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf's fiscal policies are destined to deteriorate the traditionally low debt, low spending state. Governor Wolf is restrained by the Republican-controlled state House and Senate, which historically have held state expenditures in check. In this case, the partisan split in Pennsylvania's government benefit the Governor's ranking. Left uninhibited, proposed policies by Governor Wolf such as a \$15 minimum wage, an increase he has now unsuccessfully proposed for the sixth time,²¹ would certainly be disastrous for a Pennsylvania economy.

20. <https://gov.alaska.gov/newsroom/2019/09/26/governor-brings-alaska-into-compliance-with-us-supreme-courts-janus-ruling/>

21. <https://www.governor.pa.gov/newsroom/gov-wolf-proposes-minimum-wage-increase-for-sixth-time/#:~:text=VWolf%20Proposes%20Minimum%20Wage%20Increase%20for%20Sixth%20Time,-January%2028%2C%202020&text=Governor%20Tom%20Wolf%20is%20building,with%20a%20pathway%20to%20%2415.>



CHAPTER

4

GOVERNOR SCORECARD



GOVERNORS SCORECARD

★★★★★ 5 STAR GOVERNORS



TX
 State Control Party
 Republican



Governor Party
 Republican

Greg Abbott
 Texas
 Inauguration: Jan 2015
 Next Election: 2022
 ★★★★★

See Page 60



GA
 State Control Party
 Republican



Governor Party
 Republican

Brian Kemp
 Georgia
 Inauguration: Jan 2019
 Next Election: 2022
 ★★★★★

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SD
 State Control Party
 Republican



Governor Party
 Republican

Kristi Noem
 South Dakota
 Inauguration: Jan 2019
 Next Election: 2022
 ★★★★★

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NE
 State Control Party
 Nonpartisan



Governor Party
 Republican

Pete Ricketts
 Nebraska
 Inauguration: Jan 2015
 Next Election: 2022
 ★★★★★

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UT
 State Control Party
 Republican



Governor Party
 Republican

Gary Herbert
 Utah
 Inauguration: Aug 2009
 Next Election: 2020*
 ★★★★★

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FL
 State Control Party
 Republican



Governor Party
 Republican

Ron DeSantis
 Florida
 Inauguration: Jan 2019
 Next Election: 2022
 ★★★★★

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TN
 State Control Party
 Republican



Governor Party
 Republican

Bill Lee
 Tennessee
 Inauguration: Jan 2019
 Next Election: 2022
 ★★★★★

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IN
 State Control Party
 Republican



Governor Party
 Republican

Eric Holcomb
 Indiana
 Inauguration: Jan 2017
 Next Election: 2020
 ★★★★★

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CO
 State Control Party
 Democrat



Governor Party
 Democrat

Jared Polis
 Colorado
 Inauguration: Jan 2019
 Next Election: 2022
 ★★★★★

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NH
 State Control Party
 Democrat



Governor Party
 Republican

Chris Sununu
 New Hampshire
 Inauguration: Jan 2017
 Next Election: 2020
 ★★★★★

See Page 78

★★★★★ 4 STAR GOVERNORS



WY
State Control Party
Republican



Mark Gordon
Wyoming
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022
★★★★★

See Page 80



ID
State Control Party
Republican



Brad Little
Idaho
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022
★★★★★

See Page 82



MO
State Control Party
Republican



Mike Parson
Missouri
Inauguration: Jun 2018
Next Election: 2020
★★★★★

See Page 84



AZ
State Control Party
Republican



Doug Ducey
Arizona
Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022
★★★★★

See Page 86



NC
State Control Party
Republican



Roy Cooper
North Carolina
Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020
★★★★★

See Page 88



SC
State Control Party
Republican



Henry McMaster
South Carolina
Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2022
★★★★★

See Page 90



AL
State Control Party
Republican



Kay Ivey
Alabama
Inauguration: Apr 2017
Next Election: 2022
★★★★★

See Page 92



OK
State Control Party
Republican



Kevin Stitt
Oklahoma
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022
★★★★★

See Page 94



NV
State Control Party
Democrat



Steve Sisolak
Nevada
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022
★★★★★

See Page 96



WI
State Control Party
Republican



Tony Evers
Wisconsin
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022
★★★★★

See Page 98



GOVERNORS SCORECARD

★★★☆☆ 3 STAR GOVERNORS



IA

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Republican

Kim Reynolds

Iowa

Inauguration: May 2017
Next Election: 2022

★★★☆☆

See Page 100



AR

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Republican

Asa Hutchinson

Arkansas

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

★★★☆☆

See Page 102



MN

State Control Party
Split



Governor Party
Democrat

Tim Walz

Minnesota

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★☆☆

See Page 104



MT

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Democrat

Steve Bullock

Montana

Inauguration: Jan 2013
Next Election: 2020*

★★★☆☆

See Page 106



VA

State Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Democrat

Ralph Northam

Virginia

Inauguration: Jan 2018
Next Election: 2021

★★★☆☆

See Page 108



MA

State Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Republican

Charlie Baker

Massachusetts

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

★★★☆☆

See Page 110



ND

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Republican

Doug Burgum

North Dakota

Inauguration: Dec 2016
Next Election: 2020

★★★☆☆

See Page 112



KS

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Democrat

Laura Kelly

Kansas

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★☆☆

See Page 114



MS

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Republican

Tate Reeves

Mississippi

Inauguration: Jan 2020
Next Election: 2023

★★★☆☆

See Page 116



MD

State Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Republican

Larry Hogan

Maryland

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

★★★☆☆

See Page 118

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 2 STAR GOVERNORS



WA
State Control Party
Democrat



Jay Inslee
Washington
Inauguration: Jan 2013
Next Election: 2020
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 120



KY
State Control Party
Republican

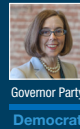


Andy Beshear
Kentucky
Inauguration: Dec 2019
Next Election: 2023
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 122



OR
State Control Party
Democrat



Kate Brown
Oregon
Inauguration: Feb 2015
Next Election: 2022
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 124



DE
State Control Party
Democrat

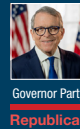


John Carney
Delaware
Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 126



OH
State Control Party
Republican



Mike DeWine
Ohio
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 128



VT
State Control Party
Democrat



Phil Scott
Vermont
Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 130



CT
State Control Party
Democrat



Ned Lamont
Connecticut
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 132



ME
State Control Party
Democrat



Janet Mills
Maine
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 134



NY
State Control Party
Democrat



Andrew Cuomo
New York
Inauguration: Jan 2011
Next Election: 2022
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 136



CA
State Control Party
Democrat



Gavin Newsom
California
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022
★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 138



GOVERNORS SCORECARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ 1 STAR GOVERNORS



PA

Slate Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Democrat

Tom Wolf

Pennsylvania

Inauguration: Jan 2015

Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 140



LA

Slate Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Democrat

John Bel Edwards

Louisiana

Inauguration: Jan 2016

Next Election: 2023

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 142



NM

Slate Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Democrat

Michelle Lujan Grisham

New Mexico

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 144



IL

Slate Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Democrat

J.B. Pritzker

Illinois

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 146



HI

Slate Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Democrat

David Ige

Hawaii

Inauguration: Dec 2014

Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 148



MI

Slate Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Democrat

Gretchen Whitmer

Michigan

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 150



WV

Slate Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Republican

Jim Justice

West Virginia

Inauguration: Jan 2017

Next Election: 2020

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 152



NJ

Slate Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Democrat

Phil Murphy

New Jersey

Inauguration: Jan 2018

Next Election: 2021

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 154



AK

Slate Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Republican

Mike Dunleavy

Alaska

Inauguration: Dec 2018

Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 156



RI

Slate Control Party
Democrat



Governor Party
Democrat

Gina Raimondo

Rhode Island

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

See Page 158



**GOVERNOR SCORECARD
RANKING
1-50**

TX

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Greg Abbott

Texas

Inauguration: Jan 2015

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Rick Perry	2000-2015
George W. Bush	1995-2000
Ann Richards	1991-1995
Bill Clements	1987-1991

SENATE



Democrat 12 Republican 19

HOUSE



Democrat 67 Republican 83

ABOUT GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

Now into his second term as Texas' executive, Governor Greg Abbott has earned the ranking of America's best governor due to his commitment to fiscal conservatism and free market policies. Gov. Abbott's administration has seen Texas emerge as one of the strongest state economies with the second-highest net in-migration of new residents of any state. Despite an influx of new businesses and taxpayers into Texas, Gov. Abbott has insisted on keeping spending low. In fact, Texas has seen the lowest growth in spending out of any state. Keeping government trim also enabled Texas to be more prepared for the fiscal shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic than 40 other states. Despite an estimated revenue shortfall nearing 15%, Texas' state savings accounts were able to cover the entire budget shortfall without raising taxes. Gov. Abbott's insistence on saving state resources for a rainy day enabled Texas to respond appropriately to the COVID-19 crisis without endangering state finances and protect taxpayers at the same time.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RANK
TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	1
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	35
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	12
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	1
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	4
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	12

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



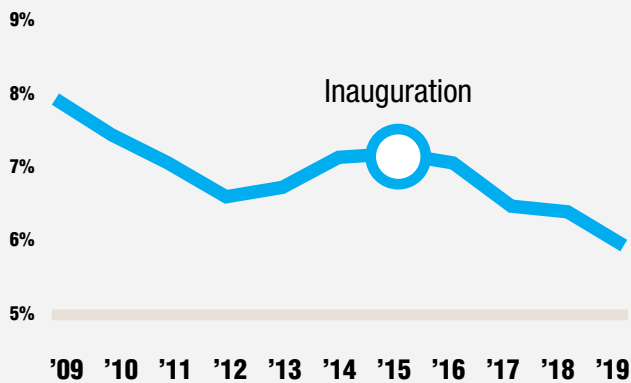
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

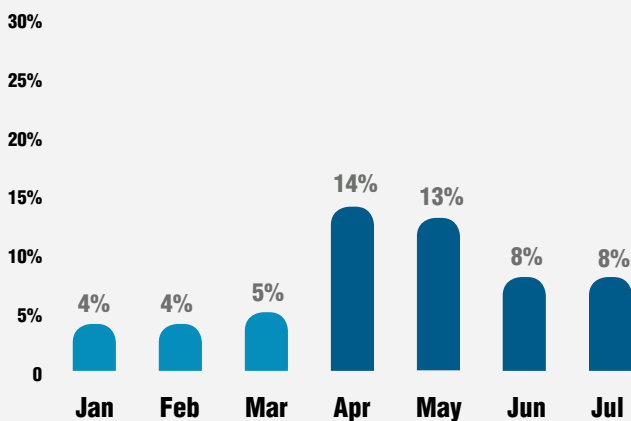
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	0.00%	①
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	2.70%	⑤
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	②
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$40.46	④②
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$28.35	③⑧
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$16.15	②②
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	①
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.17	②④
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	9.3%	④⑥

GA

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Brian Kemp

Georgia





Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

 Nathan Deal	2011-2019
 Sonny Perdue	2003-2011
 Roy Barnes	1999-2003
 Zell Miller	1991-1999

SENATE



 Democrat 21  Republican 35

HOUSE



 Democrat 75  Republican 105

ABOUT GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

Georgia continues its position as one of the leading states of the “New South” in Governor Brian Kemp’s coveted second-place ranking out of all 50 governors. After taking office in 2019, Gov. Kemp ranks among the top 10 governors in fiscal policy and economic performance. Gov. Kemp also ranks sixth for his efforts in making Georgia well-prepared for unforeseen economic shocks. Georgia’s budget shortfall was one of the lowest of any state during the COVID-19 pandemic, due in large part to the Governor’s leadership in re-opening the economy, and well-managed state savings allowed Georgia to avoid more painful sending cuts. Ample state savings also allowed Georgia to provide aid to workers and businesses hurt by the economic shutdown without raising taxes. Gov. Kemp’s leadership prior to and during the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed Georgia to emerge from the crisis better prepared than nearly any other state. Governor Kemp has also shown leadership in resisting calls for a federal bailout of the states.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state’s economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor’s policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor’s legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

 TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
 SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
 CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
 UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
 WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
 EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



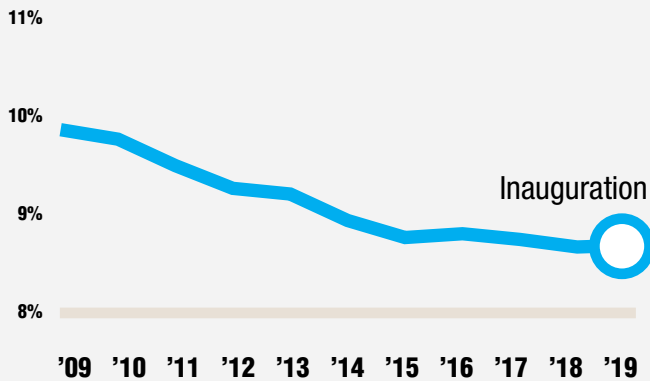
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

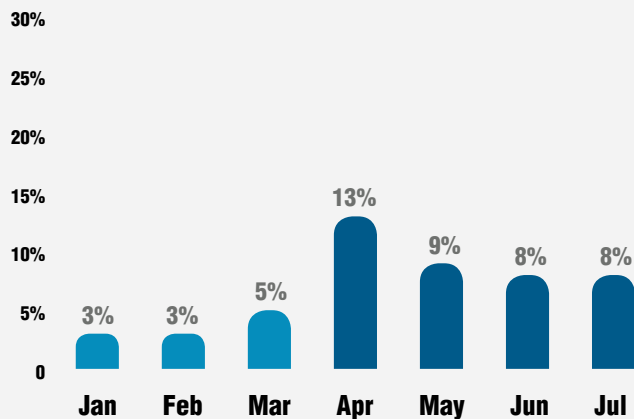
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.75%	25
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.40%	21
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$7.90	23
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$26.80	19
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.59	21
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$12.44	3
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.74	34
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	6.0%	24

SD

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Kristi Noem

South Dakota

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Dennis Daugaard	2011-2019
	Mike Rounds	2003-2011
	Bill Janklow	1995-2003
	Walter Miller	1993-1995

SENATE



Democrat 5 Republican 30

HOUSE



Democrat 11 Republican 59

ABOUT GOVERNOR KRISTI NOEM

Taking office in 2019, Governor Kristi Noem rose to the occasion. Her hard work at South Dakota's executive has seen one of the lowest spending growth rates of any state. Including unfunded pension obligations, South Dakota's outstanding public debt is the sixth-lowest of any state. Gov. Noem became famous nationwide in 2020 for her refusal to shut down South Dakota's economy in response to the COVID-19 virus. The first governor to make such an announcement, Gov. Noem's insistence on an open South Dakota economy was met with criticism from national media. However, after listening to state health officials, South Dakota's economy remained open throughout the COVID-19 crisis and only saw a minimal revenue shortfall relative to other states without significantly different COVID-19 case numbers. Gov. Noem's practice of fiscal discipline, her commitment to independent decision-making and skepticism of a federal bailout leave South Dakota as one of the best prepared states for economic growth coming out of the COVID-19 crisis, and give Gov. Noem the well-deserved ranking of third-best governor in the nation.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	1
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	13
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	2
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	2

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



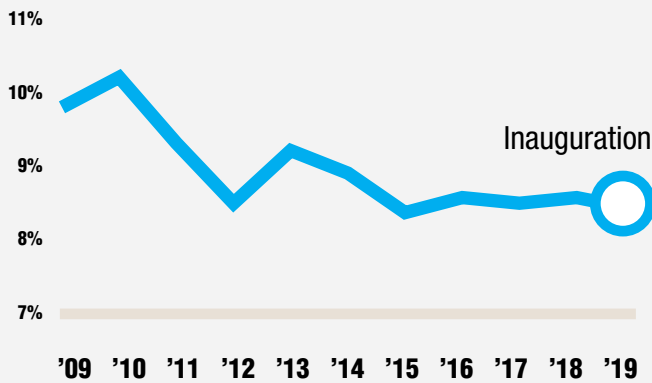
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

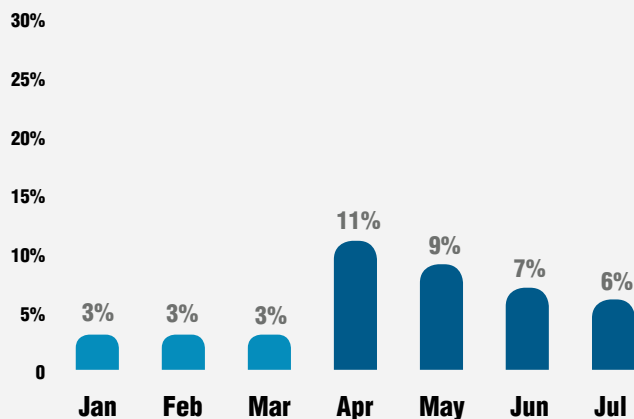
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	0.00%	①
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	0.00%	①
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	②
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$33.14	③4
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$33.69	④5
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.33	③4
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	①
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.00	①7
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.4%	①7

NE

State Control Party

Nonpartisan



Governor Party

Republican

Pete Ricketts

Nebraska

Inauguration: Jan 2015

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Dave Heineman	2005-2015
Mike Johanns	1999-2005
Ben Nelson	1991-1999
Kay A. Orr	1987-1991

UNICAMERAL

100% Other

Democrat 0 Republican 0 Other 49

ABOUT GOVERNOR PETE RICKETTS

Governor Pete Ricketts ranks fourth best among America's governors. His commitment to fiscal conservatism has improved Nebraska's fiscal situation when most other states are beginning to struggle under the weight of their unfunded pension and OPEB obligations. Nebraska now has the second lowest outstanding state debt including pension obligations. A stellar fiscal situation also enabled Nebraska to respond with flexibility to the unforeseen COVID-19 crisis. Nebraska's state savings accounts and conservative fiscal policy in past fiscal years allowed Nebraska to cover its entire budget gap with reserve funds and avoid raising taxes. Part of Gov. Ricketts successful response to COVID-19 was his refusal to order a draconian shutdown Nebraska's economy after following advice from state health officials. Keeping businesses open, even in a limited fashion, allowed Nebraska to avoid costly shutdown consequences while also limited COVID-19 infections. While other, less prepared states are still grappling with a fiscal calamity, Nebraska has a reopened economy and no budget deficit, all without higher taxes. Gov. Ricketts has been a leader in communicating his concerns with a federal bailout of states.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



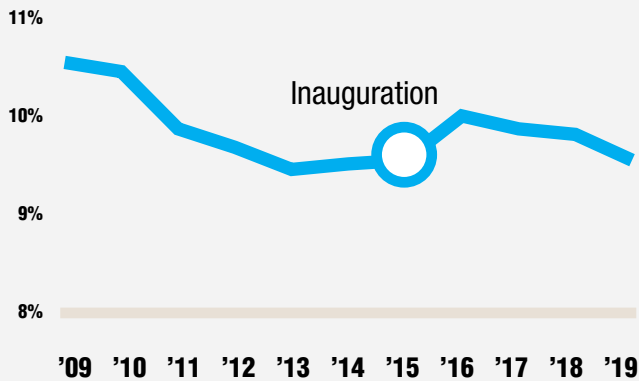
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

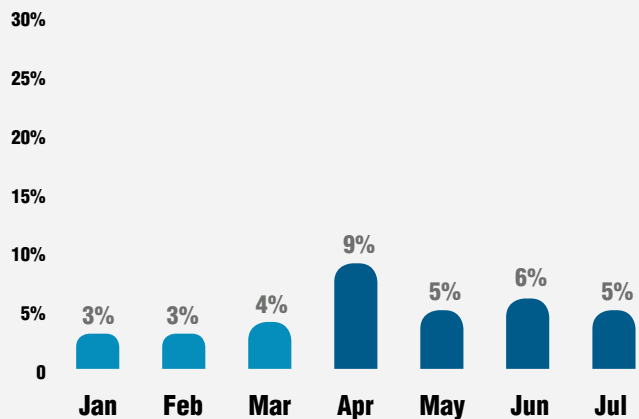
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	6.84%	32
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	7.81%	34
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$18.66	44
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$39.19	41
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$23.38	25
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$13.87	11
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$3.18	1
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.7%	22

UT

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Gary Herbert

Utah

Inauguration: Aug 2009

Next Election: 2020*



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Jon Huntsman Jr.	2005-2009
Olene Walker	2003-2005
Mike Leavitt	1993-2003
Norman Bangerter	1985-1993

SENATE



Democrat 6 Republican 23

HOUSE



Democrat 16 Republican 59

ABOUT GOVERNOR GARY HERBERT

Now America's longest-serving state executive after taking office in 2009, Governor Gary Herbert has seen Utah's economy grow to become the second-strongest economy of any state. Despite record numbers of new tax dollars flowing into Utah, Utah has kept spending and taxes low. In fact, Gov. Herbert's administration has presided over more than a decade with the top economic outlook in America in Rich States, Poor States. A record of fiscal restraint also enabled Utah to bring state debt under control with the ninth-lowest outstanding debt obligations of any state. Signing pension reform and keeping debt in check while cutting taxes is an impressive record, and rightfully earns Gov. Herbert fifth place out of all 50 governors.

NOTE

*Governor Herbert is retiring and will not appear on the 2020 ballot.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



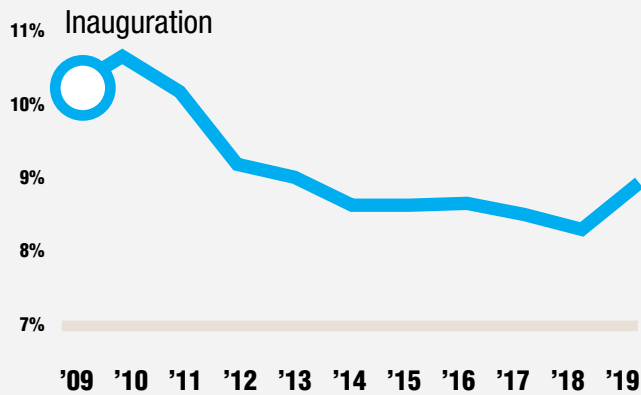
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

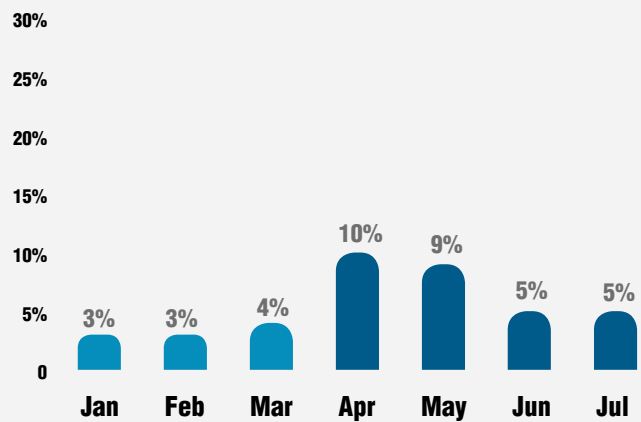
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	4.95%	16
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	4.95%	12
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.28	12
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$24.29	14
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$25.06	31
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$15.74	17
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.69	32
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.7%	19

FL

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Republican

Ron DeSantis

Florida

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

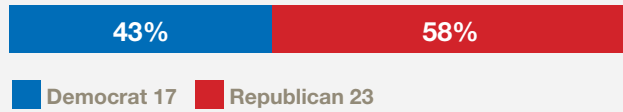


OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Rick Scott	2011-2019
Charlie Crist	2007-2011
Jeb Bush	1999-2007
Buddy MacKay	1998-1999

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS

Inaugurated in 2019, Governor Ron DeSantis joins recent Florida governors in their commitment to pro-growth tax and fiscal policy. Due to tax cuts made during each year of former Governor Rick Scott's administration, and tax cuts made during the two years Gov. DeSantis has been in office, Florida has consistently been among the top 10 states in Rich States, Poor States economic outlook rankings. Gov. DeSantis also ranks as the second-best governor in fiscal policy. Despite being in office for less than two years, Gov. DeSantis has made clear Florida's reputation for pro-growth economic policy will continue under his administration.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	4
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	20
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	9
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	9
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	3

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



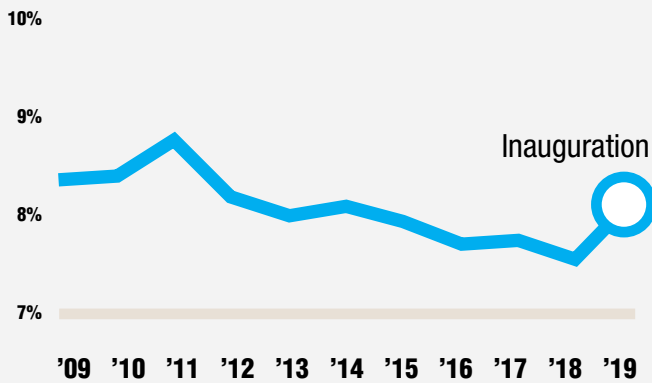
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

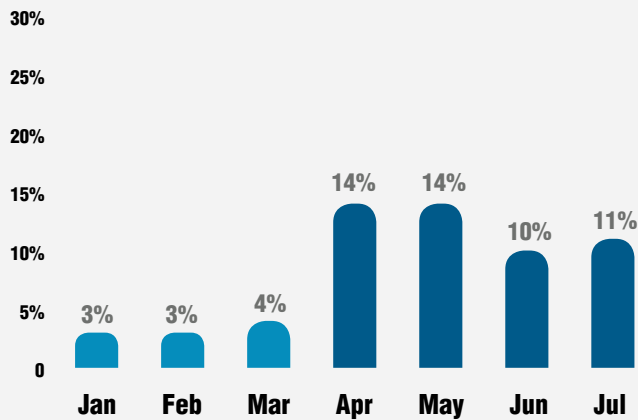
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	0.00%	①
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	4.46%	⑧
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	②
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$28.71	②③
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$28.57	③⑨
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.08	③②
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	①
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.94	⑤
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	6.3%	②⑥

TN

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Bill Lee

Tennessee

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

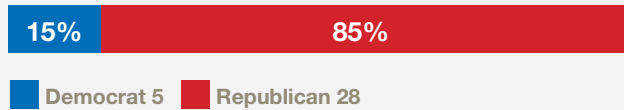


OVERALL RANK

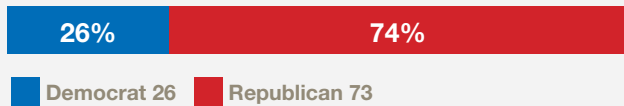
PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

 Bill Haslam	2011-2019
 Phil Bredesen	2003-2011
 Don Sundquist	1995-2003
 Ned McWherter	1987-1995

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR BILL LEE

Taking office in 2019, Governor Bill Lee presides as Tennessee’s executive during one of the most vibrant periods of growth the state has seen. In fact, Tennessee’s economy is the eighth-strongest of any state. Despite an influx of new tax dollars into the state, Gov. Lee has kept spending growth low. Reining in the growth of government also enabled Gov. Lee to enact net tax cuts in 2019 with the near-elimination of the professional licenses tax, scaling back the amusement tax and the excepted full phase out of the “Hall Tax” in January 2021. Once the Hall Tax on interest and dividend income is eliminated, Tennessee will officially have no tax on any form of personal income. Keeping spending growth low has also enabled Tennessee to have the best financial standing of any state. Tennessee’s bonded debt amounts to less than 2% of state GDP, and unfunded pension liabilities amount to less than 1% of state GDP as well. If Gov. Lee maintains his record as one of America’s most fiscally conservative governors, it is likely his ranking will only improve from seventh place out of all 50 governors.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state’s economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor’s policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor’s legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	RANK
 TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
 SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
 CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	15
 UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	5
 WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	17
 EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	6

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



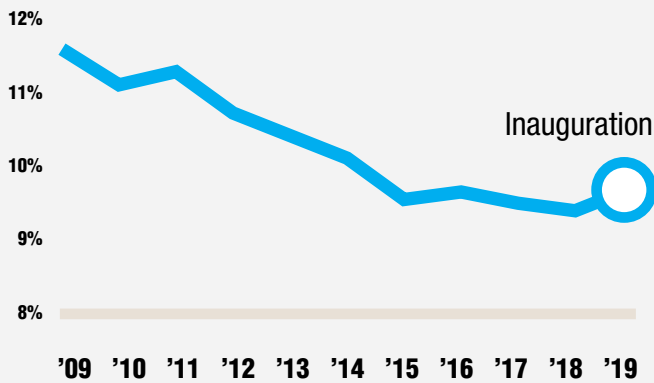
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

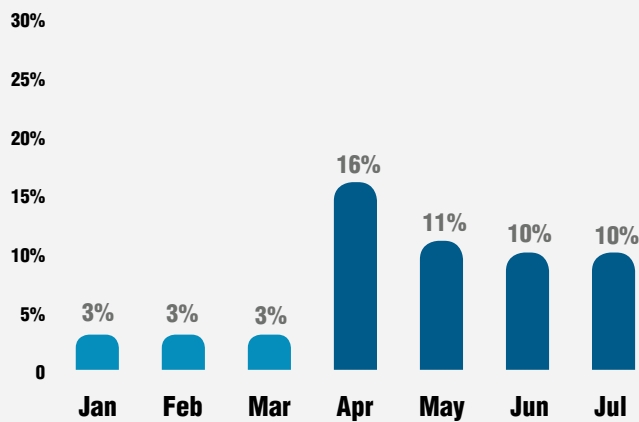
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	0.00%	①
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.50%	②②
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	②
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.85	⑤
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$31.57	④①
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.05	③①
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	①
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.05	②①
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.8%	②③

IN

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Republican

Eric Holcomb

Indiana

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Mike Pence	2013-2017
Mitch Daniels	2005-2013
Joe Kernan	2003-2005
Frank O'Bannon	1997-2003

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR ERIC HOLCOMB

After his inauguration in 2017, Governor Eric Holcomb followed fiscally conservative predecessors, Governors Mike Pence and Mitch Daniels in his term in office. Indiana has the third-lowest debt of any state including unfunded pension liabilities. Indiana also has one of the smallest state governments, with state spending accounting for less than 10% of Indiana's GDP. Indiana's fiscal restraint is likely to continue in future fiscal years after voters approved a ballot referendum enacting a balanced budget amendment to Indiana's state constitution. Indiana now requires the state legislature pass and the governor enact a balanced budget that is less than forecasted revenue, unless a supermajority in each legislative chamber votes to override the balanced budget requirement. If expenditures exceed actual revenue collections, the constitution now requires the difference be subtracted from the next fiscal year's budget. Gov. Holcomb was an integral supporter of including a balanced budget requirement in Indiana's constitution, saying "we're ensuring that fiscal responsibility will always be a priority for our state's leaders."



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	4
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	23
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	6
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	22
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	4

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



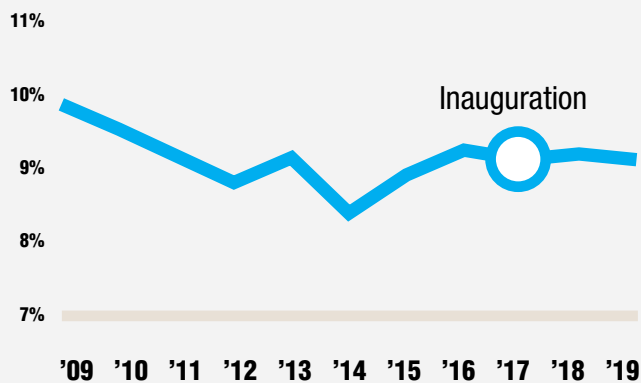
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

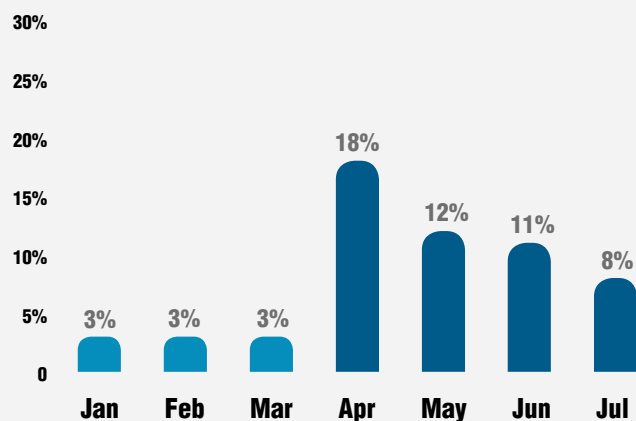
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.25%	22
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	5.50%	15
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.70	13
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$23.45	12
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$25.55	33
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$14.73	12
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.38	11
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.9%	39

CO

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Jared Polis

Colorado

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

John Hickenlooper	2011-2019
Bill Ritter	2007-2011
Bill Owens	1999-2007
Roy Romer	1987-1999

SENATE



Democrat 19 Republican 16

HOUSE



Democrat 41 Republican 24

ABOUT GOVERNOR JARED POLIS

Upon taking office in 2019, Governor Jared Polis inherited a strong framework laid by pro-growth leaders. As a result, the state has experienced strong economic performance in recent years. TABOR, or the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights, has kept tax revenues and spending from growing in an excessive fashion since Colorado voters enshrined it into the Colorado Constitution in 1992. Gov. Polis recently endorsed a measure to reduce the state's personal income tax, which would be a benefit to an already strong policy environment.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



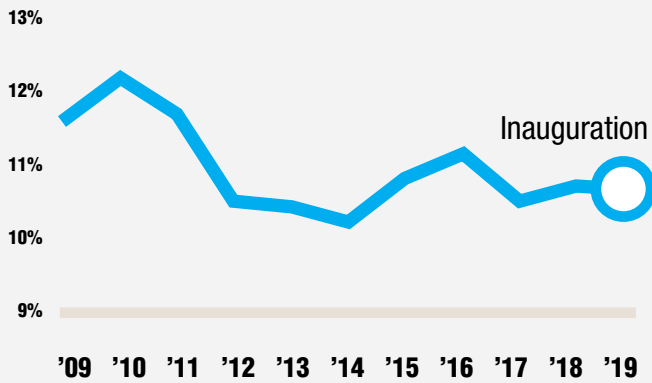
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

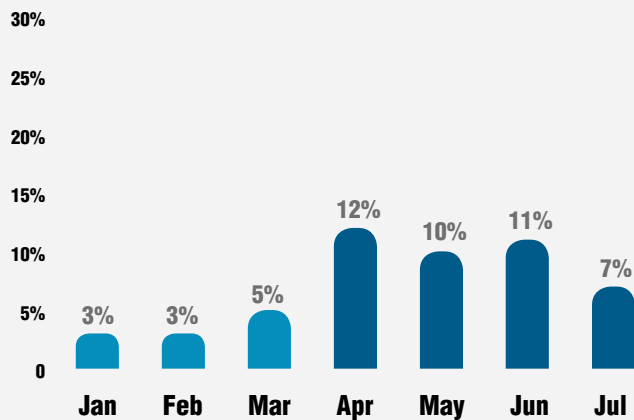
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	4.63%	14
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	4.63%	10
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$7.65	21
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$28.93	25
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$25.11	32
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$13.06	6
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.16	23
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	8.5%	42

NH

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Republican

Chris Sununu

New Hampshire

Inauguration: Jan 2017

Next Election: 2020



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Maggie Hassan	2013-2017
John Lynch	2005-2013
Craig Benson	2003-2005
Jeanne Shaheen	1997-2003

SENATE



Democrat 14 Republican 10

HOUSE



Democrat 231 Republican 156 Other 13

ABOUT GOVERNOR CHRIS SUNUNU

“No Income Tax. Not Now. Not Ever!” Governor Chris Sununu’s commitment to keeping income taxes out of New Hampshire make him well-deserving of a top 10 rank in this report. New Hampshire is a low-tax oasis in the New England high-tax desert. New Hampshire’s lack of personal income and sales taxes make the Granite State friendly to new business investment and have saved New Hampshire from the economic decline facing other Northeastern states. In fact, since 2018, New Hampshire has the 18th best economy of any state. Gov. Sununu recognizes low taxes contribute to a pro-business climate that helps bring jobs and investment to New Hampshire. Gov. Sununu’s fiscally conservative economic policy has also kept New Hampshire’s state finances in shape. New Hampshire has the 17th lowest outstanding debt including unfunded pension obligations of any state. Low debt, and limited spending also left New Hampshire better prepared for the COVID-19 crisis than most states. Fiscally conservative budgets allowed New Hampshire to cover nearly every penny of its budget deficit with rainy day funds. Without Gov. Sununu’s pro-growth economic policy and fiscally conservative budgets, New Hampshire would have been in a worse position coming out of the COVID-19 crisis.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state’s economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor’s policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor’s legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



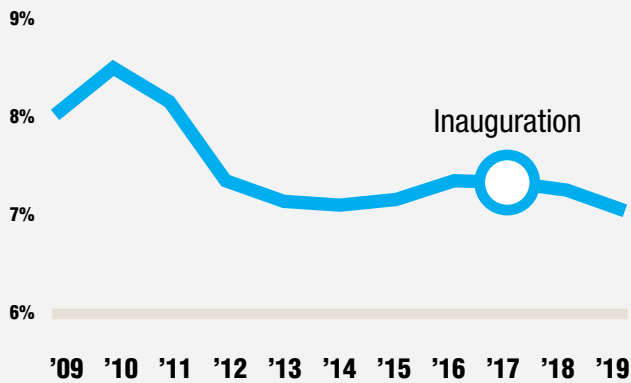
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

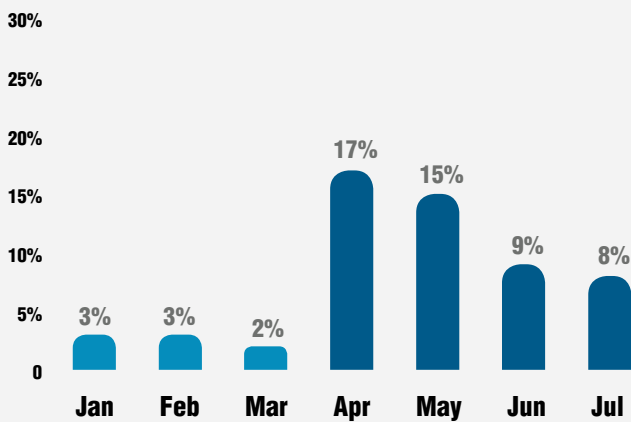
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	0.00%	1
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	7.70%	33
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	2
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$57.90	50
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.00	1
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.51	35
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.37	12
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	6.8%	29

WY

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Mark Gordon

Wyoming

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

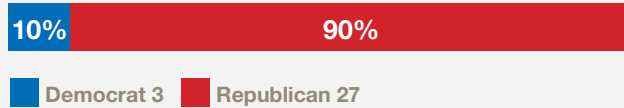


OVERALL RANK

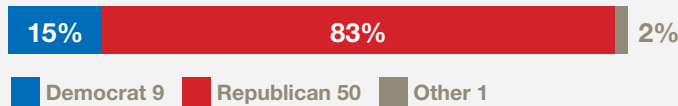
PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Matt Mead	2011-2019
	Dave Freudenthal	2003-2011
	Jim Geringer	1995-2003
	Mike Sullivan	1987-1995

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR MARK GORDON

Governor Mark Gordon certainly deserves credit for his state being the best prepared for the fiscal shocks resulting from COVID-19. State savings accrued over many years of practicing fiscal conservatism allowed Wyoming to cover many costs from the COVID-19 crisis. A well-managed Medicaid program also managed to meet increased demand for medical services during the COVID-19 pandemic while only increasing costs by \$31 million over baseline. Wyoming also has the third best free market policy environment of any state. Gov. Gordon in the first two years of his administration has made it clear Wyoming's record of fiscally conservative budget policy and pro-business regulations will continue to be a hallmark of Equality State policy. The state also wisely avoided the adoption of a corporate income tax that was on the agenda in recent years.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	1
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	7
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	16
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	3
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	10

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



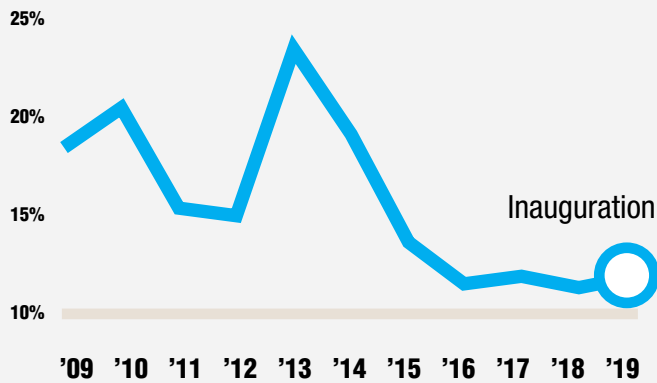
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

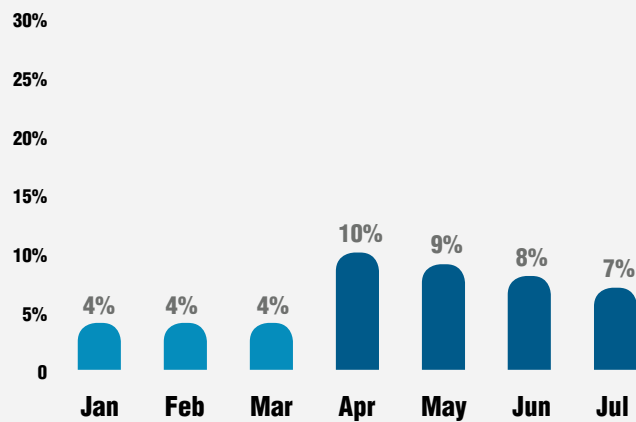
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	0.00%	①
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	0.00%	①
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	②
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$37.75	④0
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.18	⑱
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$13.06	⑤
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	①
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.20	⑳
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	2.5%	①

ID

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Brad Little

Idaho

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Butch Otter	2007-2019
Jim Risch	2009-2006
Dirk Kempthorne	1999-2006
Phil Batt	1995-1999

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR BRAD LITTLE

Upon taking office in 2019, Governor Brad Little has built on a reputation for pro-growth policy in Idaho, which provides some of the best GDP and employment growth figures of any state. Gov. Little's handling of Idaho's economy is the fourth-best of any governor. Better yet, Idaho did not have to spend state resources to generate this economic growth. Gov. Little and his predecessors have kept debt levels to the third-lowest of any state. As taxes rise and government grows in Idaho's neighboring states of Oregon and Washington, small businesses and innovators can look to Idaho as a low-tax, limited government alternative.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	46
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	7
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	4
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	9
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	8

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



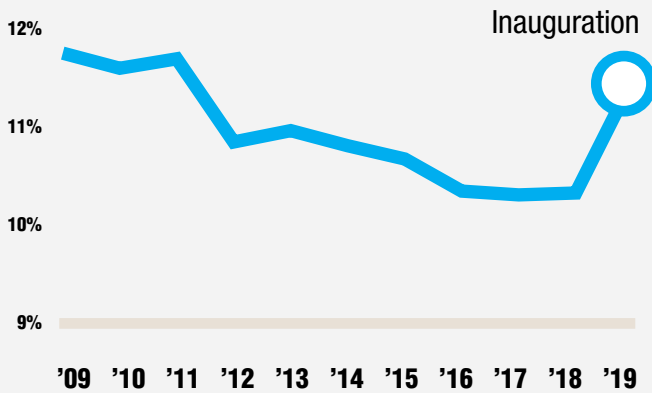
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

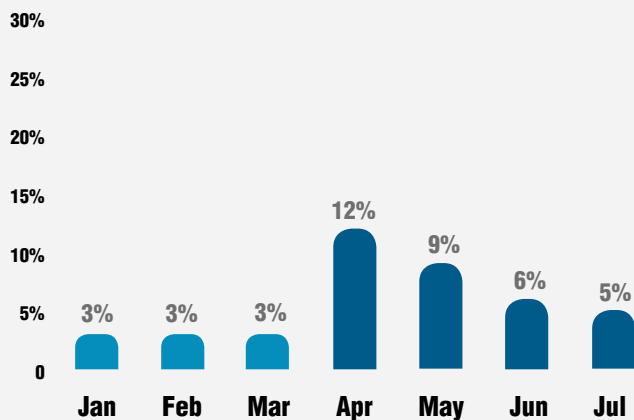
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	6.93%	34
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.93%	26
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$14.91	36
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$24.91	15
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$23.57	26
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$15.56	13
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$1.31	2
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	3.8%	3

MO

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Mike Parson

Missouri

Inauguration: Jun 2018

Next Election: 2020



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Eric Greitens	2017-2018
Jay Nixon	2009-2017
Matt Blunt	2005-2009
Bob Holden	2001-2005

SENATE



Democrat 8 Republican 23 Other 3

HOUSE



Democrat 48 Republican 113 Other 2

ABOUT GOVERNOR MIKE PARSON

Following corporate and personal income tax cuts in 2018, Missouri now has a more competitive state tax policy. In fact, Gov. Parson ranks fourth best out of any governor when it comes to tax policy. Missouri was one of the states least prepared for an economic shock like the COVID-19 pandemic. With a budget shortfall exceeding 23%, Missouri leaders needed to do more to make state finances better prepared for an economic downturn. Working with the legislature to make government even more efficient would free up revenues and allow the state to cultivate a reliable budget stabilization fund.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	4
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	16
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	36
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	10
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	15

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



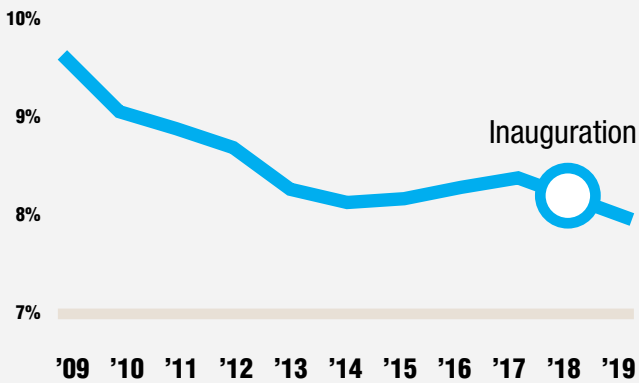
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

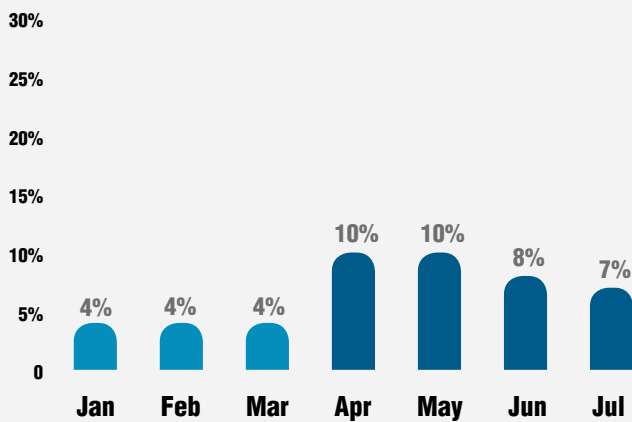
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	6.40%	28
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	4.58%	9
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$12.53	31
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$23.13	11
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$23.32	24
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$13.30	7
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.07	15
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.6%	37

AZ

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Doug Ducey

Arizona

Inauguration: Jan 2015

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Jan Brewer	2009-2015
	Janet Napolitano	2003-2009
	Jane Dee Hull	1997-2003
	Fife Symington	1991-1997

SENATE



Democrat 13 Republican 17

HOUSE



Democrat 29 Republican 31

ABOUT GOVERNOR DOUG DUCEY

Enacting net tax cuts nearly every year of his tenure has certainly contributed to Governor Doug Ducey ranking among the top 15 governors. After assuming office in 2015, Gov. Ducey has signed four budgets, keeping spending low and state government at a manageable size. Arizona has experienced economic growth in recent years as its proximity to high-tax, high-regulation California has made Arizona's low-tax locales much more attractive places to live and work. While California and New Mexico lose residents every year, Arizona has gained over 385,000 residents on net since 2008. Keeping taxes low and cultivating a pro-business environment have been hallmark policies of Gov. Ducey's administration and are key factors contributing to Arizona's recent success.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	9
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	46
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	40
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	3
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	40
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	7

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



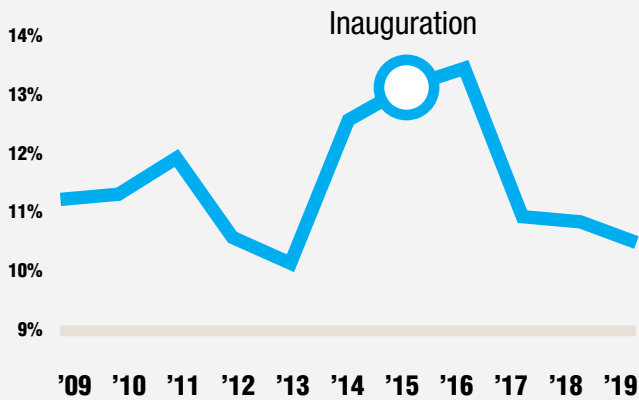
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

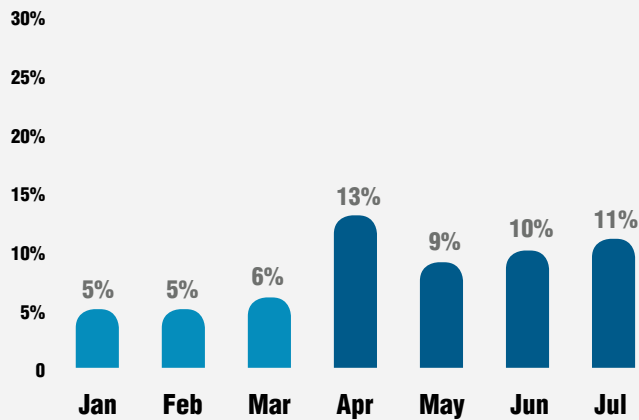
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	4.50%	13
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	4.90%	11
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$12.85	32
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$26.66	18
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$33.25	43
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$11.11	1
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.12	22
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.7%	38

NC

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Democrat

Roy Cooper North Carolina

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Pat McCrory	2013-2017
Bev Perdue	2009-2013
Mike Easley	2001-2009
Jim Hunt	1993-2001

SENATE



Democrat 21 Republican 29

HOUSE



Democrat 55 Republican 65

ABOUT GOVERNOR ROY COOPER

While Governor Roy Cooper ranks just outside of the top 10 governors, the North Carolina General Assembly and Gov. Cooper's predecessors deserve much of the credit for the North Carolina economy's stellar performance. North Carolina's economy performed the 12th best of any state, likely fueled by substantial tax cuts signed by former Governor Pat McCrory. North Carolina also has one of the lowest outstanding debt obligations of any state including pension obligations. Again, this is the result of fiscally conservative decisions made about the budget in the North Carolina General Assembly and pension reforms signed prior to Gov. Cooper's term in office.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	43
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	35
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	24
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	12
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	20
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	19

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



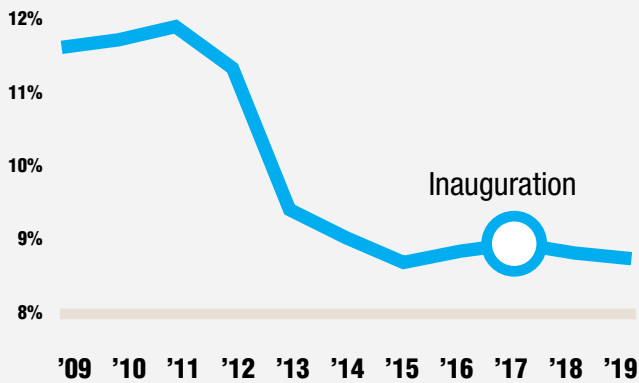
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

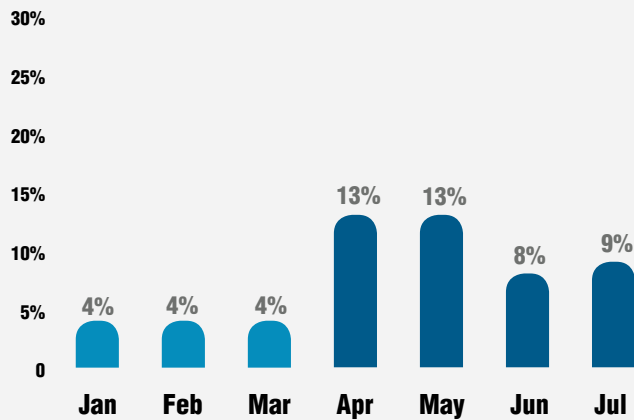
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.25%	21
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	2.50%	4
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$7.53	19
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$22.58	10
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$23.79	28
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$16.45	23
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.84	6
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.0%	12

SC

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Henry McMaster

South Carolina

Inauguration: Jan 2017

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Nikki Haley	2011-2017
	Mark Sanford	2003-2011
	Jim Hodges	1999-2003
	David Beasley	1995-1999

SENATE



Democrat 19 Republican 27

HOUSE



Democrat 44 Republican 78 Other 2

ABOUT GOVERNOR HENRY MCMASTER

Since taking office in 2017 following the appointment of former Governor Nikki Haley to UN Ambassador, Governor Henry McMaster has capitalized on South Carolina's economic growth. Since 2018, South Carolina is the sixth-strongest state economy and has seen the third-highest GDP growth of any state. Attracting new businesses and making South Carolina an attract place to live and work has been key to the Palmetto State's newfound prosperity. This does not mean Gov. McMaster's work is done. South Carolina also has 11th highest outstanding debt of any state, including outstanding pension obligations. Wisely, Gov. McMaster has called for significant income tax relief and fundamental pension reforms.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	35
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	34
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	8
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	14
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	22

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



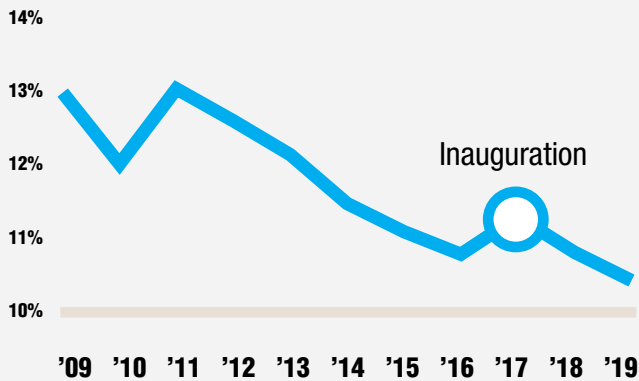
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

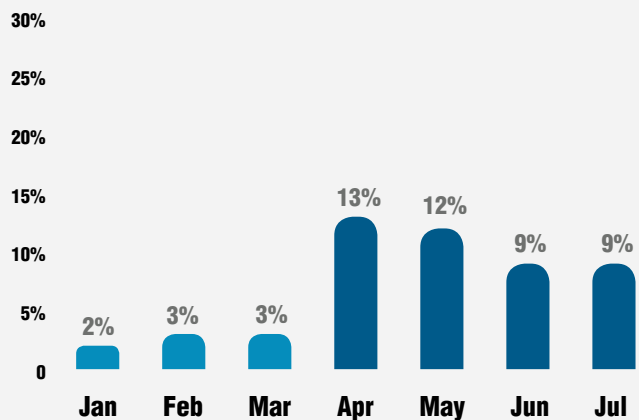
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	7.00%	37
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	5.00%	13
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$18.55	43
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$29.29	27
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$18.54	14
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$16.12	21
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$1.47	42
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	8.1%	40

AL

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Kay Ivey

Alabama

Inauguration: Apr 2017

Next Election: 2022

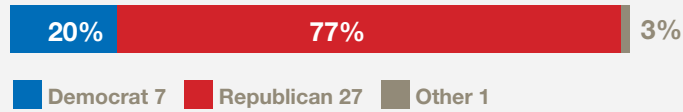


OVERALL RANK

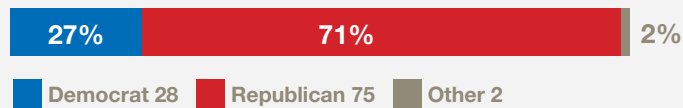
PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Robert J. Bentley	2011-2017
	Bob Riley	2003-2011
	Don Siegelman	1999-2003
	Fob James	1995-1999

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR KAY IVEY

Governor Ivey was inaugurated in 2017, following the resignation of former Governor Robert Bentley. During her three years of governance, Alabama has declined from 21st to 23rd in Rich States, Poor States' economic outlook ranking. During Gov. Ivey's tenure, neighboring states like Tennessee, Florida and Georgia have cut taxes and passed government reforms to make themselves more competitive, leaving Alabama behind in a highly competitive region. Of note, Gov. Ivey advocated for, and signed into law, an increase in the state's gasoline tax.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.



POLICY RANK

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	39
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	46
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	21
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	22
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	14
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	22

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



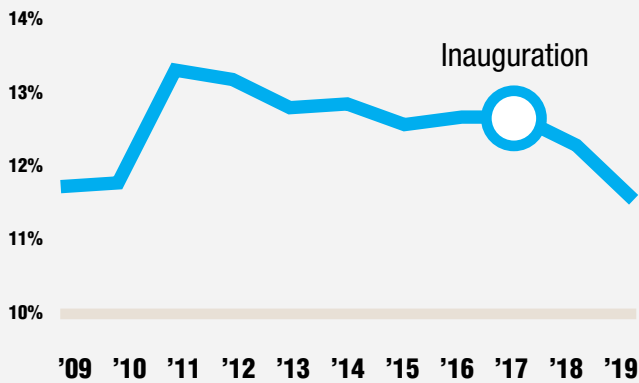
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

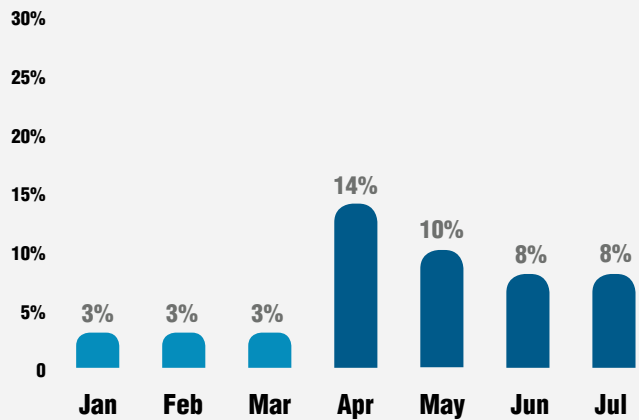
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	4.15%	12
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.07%	18
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	-\$1.88	1
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$14.65	1
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$26.16	35
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$21.70	40
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$1.20	39
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.0%	33

OK

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Kevin Stitt

Oklahoma

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

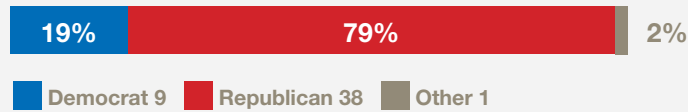


OVERALL RANK

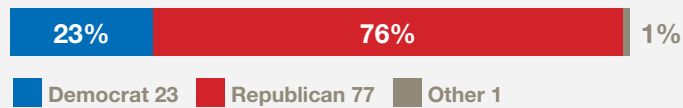
PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Mary Fallin	2011-2019
	Brad Henry	2003-2011
	Frank Keating	1995-2003
	David Walters	1991-1995

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR KEVIN STITT

After taking office in 2019, Governor Kevin Stitt has worked hard to keep spending low and Oklahoma's state debt minimal. A ballot referendum passed in 2020 expanding the state's Medicaid system will make it much more difficult to manage the growth of government in Oklahoma. Remarkably, even under the most generous assumptions, Oklahoma's Medicaid expansion which was narrowly passed by voters is expected to cost the state more money year-over-year. Gov. Stitt has a challenge in the remaining two years of his first term to shore up Oklahoma's state finances against expected rising Medicaid costs while avoiding tax increases that could be harmful to the state economy.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	5
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	25
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	12
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	24

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



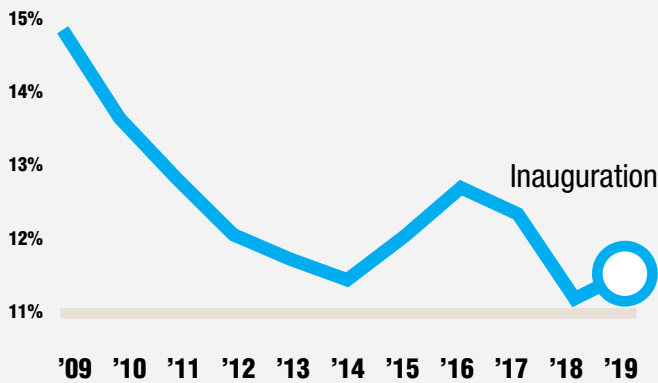
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

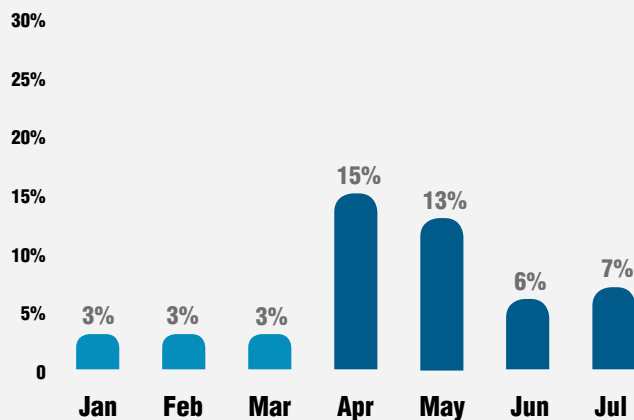
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.00%	18
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.00%	17
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$7.41	18
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$17.20	2
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$27.92	36
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$16.04	20
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$4.14	49
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	4.9%	11

NV

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Steve Sisolak

Nevada

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Brian Sandoval	2011-2019
	Jim Gibbons	2007-2011
	Kenny Guinn	1999-2007
	Bob Miller	1989-1999

SENATE



Democrat 13 Republican 8

HOUSE



Democrat 29 Republican 13

ABOUT GOVERNOR STEVE SISOLAK

Nevada has the enviable position of a no-income-tax state located next to California, one of the highest taxed states in the country. Nevada's low-tax advantage has resulted in a record migration of taxpayers and businesses into the state over many years. Inaugurated in 2019, Governor Steve Sisolak recognizes how Nevada's tax policy is an asset when it comes to economic development. Rather than enacting new taxes to push state spending upwards, Gov. Sisolak signed budgets that kept spending low compared to previous fiscal years. This is not to say Nevada does not have policy areas that need improvement. Labor reforms would help Nevada job creators and more investment would come into the Silver State as a result. Gov. Sisolak also deserves recognition for bucking the official politics of his party and being one of the only state executives to veto a law supporting abolition of the Electoral College.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	46
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	29
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	23
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	11
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	35

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



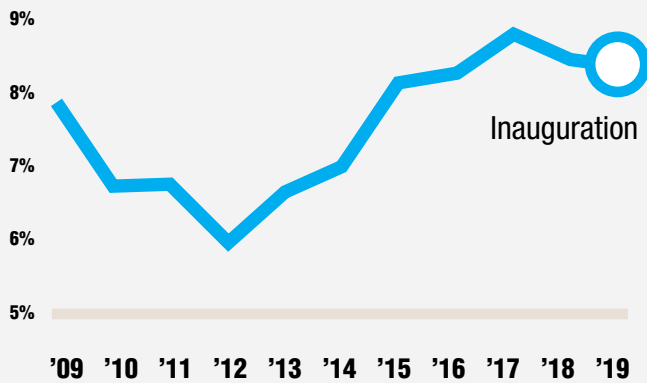
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

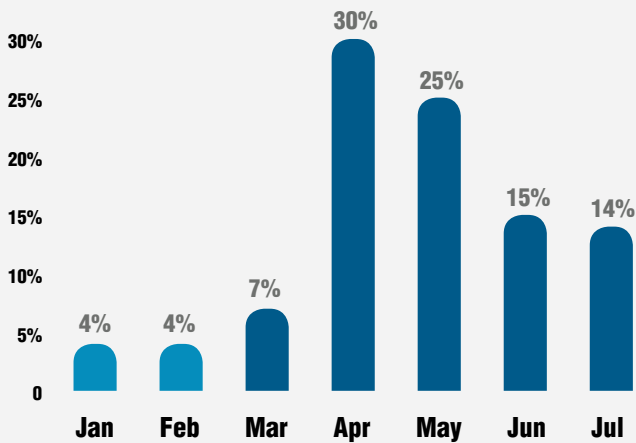
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	0.00%	①
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	0.66%	③
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	②
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$22.20	⑨
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$40.51	④7
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$35.42	④9
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	①
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.46	②8
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.3%	③6

WI

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Democrat

Tony Evers

Wisconsin

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Scott Walker	2011-2019
	Jim Doyle	2003-2011
	Scott McCallum	2001-2003
	Tommy Thompson	1987-2001

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR TONY EVERS

Inaugurated in 2019, Governor Tony Evers ranks well when it comes to Wisconsin's policy environment, but former Governor Scott Walker and legislature enacted much of Wisconsin's pro-growth success by passing free market and limited government policies. While Gov. Evers and the legislature certainly deserve credit for keeping bonded debt low during his two years in office, pension reforms undertaken during Gov. Walker's administration is the reason for Wisconsin's favorable financial standing. Similarly, public sector union reforms enacted by Gov. Walker are the reason for Wisconsin's favorable ranking in labor policy.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	4
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	35
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	19
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	8
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	21
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	28

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



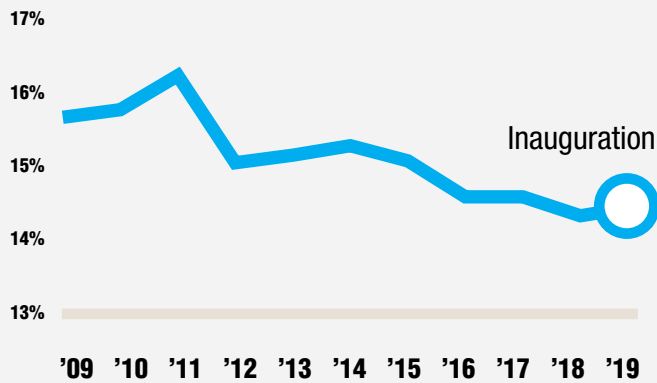
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

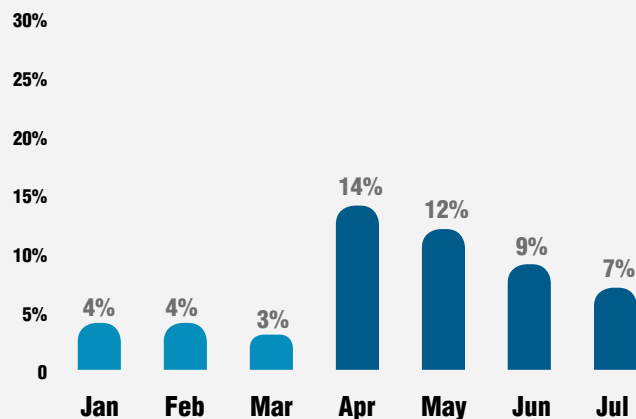
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	7.65%	41
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	7.90%	35
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$14.63	35
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$34.31	35
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.08	17
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$15.64	14
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$1.18	3
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.0%	13

IA

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Kim Reynolds

Iowa

Inauguration: May 2017
Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Terry Branstad	2011-2017
	Chet Culver	2007-2011
	Tom Vilsack	1999-2007
	Terry Branstad	1983-1999

SENATE



Democrat 18 Republican 32

HOUSE



Democrat 47 Republican 53

ABOUT GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS

Upon taking office in 2017, Governor Kim Reynolds inherited a state with an uncompetitive tax code on both businesses and individuals. While her first budget wasn't until 2019, Gov. Reynolds and the legislature passed a tax cut bill designed to improve both the corporate and personal income tax codes. Each of these bills resulted in a net tax cut of more than \$100 million in its first year. Despite passing a large net tax cut, Iowa also has the tenth-lowest state debt of any state. Including unfunded pension liabilities, Iowa's state debt amounts to just over 7% of state GDP. Much work remains to be done in order to improve the state's economic competitiveness and turn Iowa into a truly pro-growth state, but Gov. Reynolds' leadership has provided Iowa with a firm fiscal footing critical to reforming state tax policy.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	24
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	27
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	14
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	29
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	15

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



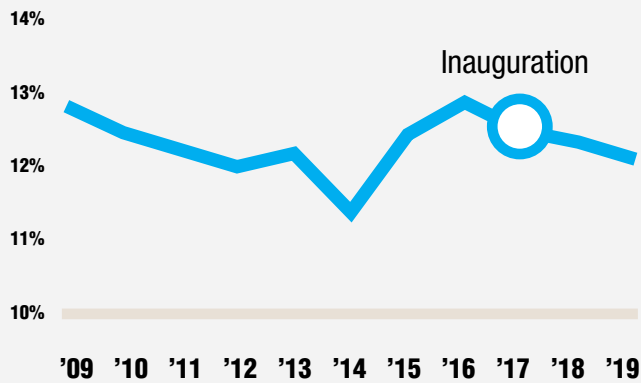
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

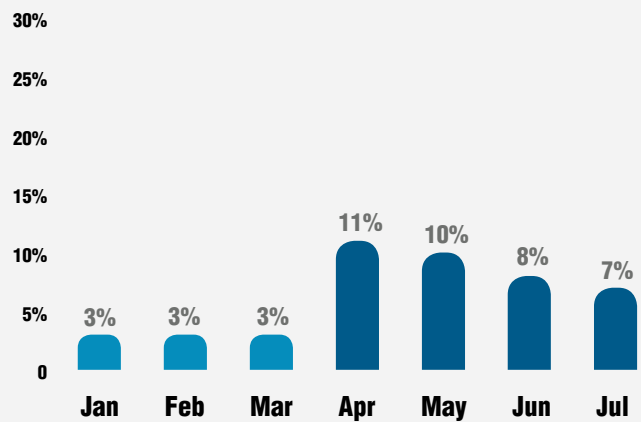
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

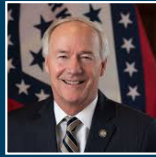
RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.37%	23
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	11.67%	46
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$13.11	33
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$34.81	36
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$24.06	29
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.16	33
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.44	9
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	4.1%	6

AR

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Asa Hutchinson

Arkansas

Inauguration: Jan 2015

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Mike Beebe	2007-2015
Mike Huckabee	1996-2007
Jim Guy Tucker	1992-1996
Bill Clinton	1983-1992

SENATE



Democrat 9 Republican 26

HOUSE



Democrat 23 Republican 75 Other 2

ABOUT GOVERNOR ASA HUTCHINSON

After assuming office in 2015, Governor Asa Hutchinson has made it his goal to improve Arkansas' economic competitiveness relative to states in the competitive Southeast. His plan to reform Arkansas' byzantine tax code in a three-part process has led to Arkansas' income tax code having lower effective rates, simpler brackets and a fairer structure. Bringing Arkansas' income tax code to a single flat rate would save taxpayers millions on complicated filing compliance and allow families and businesses to keep more of their hard-earned dollars. Arkansas still has more work to do toward making it a competitive state for business, and Gov. Hutchinson has two more years before he is term limited to leave a lasting mark on Arkansas' fiscal policy.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	9
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	24
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	30
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	11
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	45
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	31

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



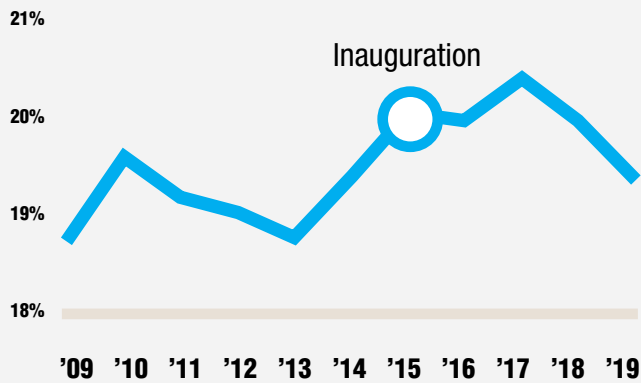
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

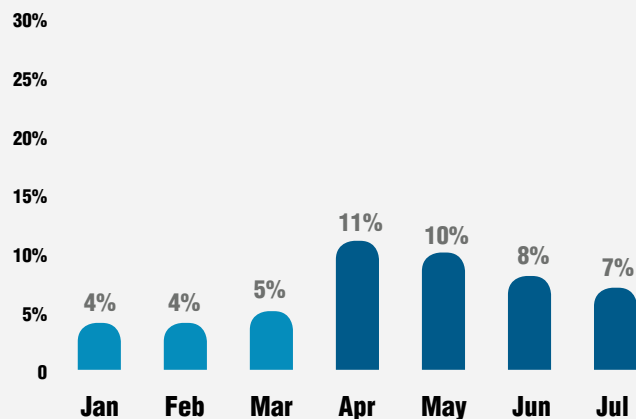
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	6.60%	30
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.50%	22
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$18.68	45
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$18.15	3
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$37.07	46
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$16.61	24
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.47	29
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	4.5%	8

MN

State Control Party

Split



Governor Party

Democrat

Tim Walz

Minnesota

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Mark Dayton	2011-2019
Tim Pawlenty	2003-2011
Jesse Ventura*(ind.)	1999-2003
Arne Carlson	1991-1999

SENATE



Democrat 32 Republican 35

HOUSE



Democrat 75 Republican 59

ABOUT GOVERNOR TIM WALZ

Leading into the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesota's state savings accounts were among the best funded of any state. Minnesota's state government also has less outstanding debt obligations than most states, which enabled Gov. Walz to sign tax cuts as a part of Minnesota's conformity to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act in 2019. While Minnesota scores among the worst states when it comes to Rich States, Poor States economic outlook rankings, capitalizing on Minnesota's favorable financial standing coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic would go far in making the Land of 10,000 Lakes a more competitive place for business and investment.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



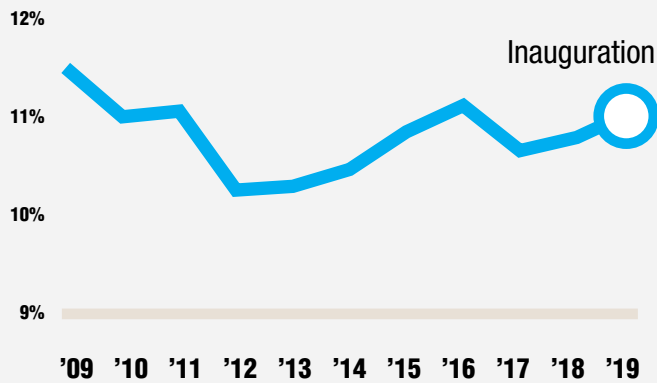
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

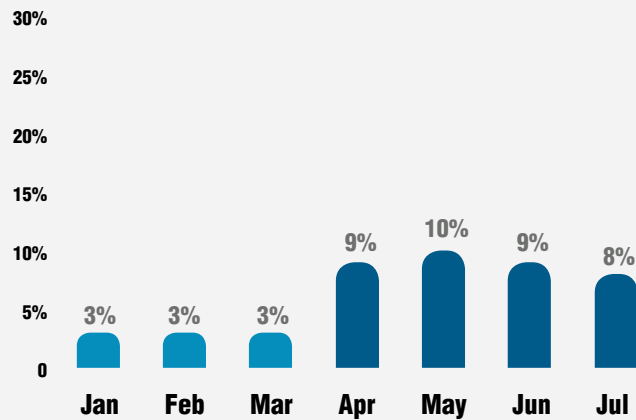
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	9.85%	45
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	9.80%	44
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$19.89	46
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$29.62	28
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.32	19
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$23.79	44
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.71	7
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.1%	14

MT

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Democrat

Steve Bullock

Montana

Inauguration: Jan 2013

Next Election: 2020*



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Brian Schweitzer	2005-2013
Judy Martz	2001-2005
Marc Racicot	1993-2001
Stan Stephens	1989-1993

SENATE



Democrat 20 Republican 30

HOUSE



Democrat 42 Republican 58

ABOUT GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK

One of America's longest serving governors, Governor Steve Bullock was sworn into office in 2013 following his election. While governing as a moderate-liberal helped boost his popularity in conservative Montana, his tenure as governor has seen Montana fall behind regional competitors Idaho and Utah. Consequently, Montana ranks 33rd in Rich States, Poor States' economic outlook metric. Spending also continues to grow in Montana. After the Montana Legislature passed a law expanding access to private health insurance designed to lessen the burden on Montana's Medicaid program, Gov. Bullock vetoed the proposal. For the time being, it appears free market policy is at a standstill in Big Sky Country.

NOTE

**Due to term limits, Governor Steve Bullock will not be on the ballot.*



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



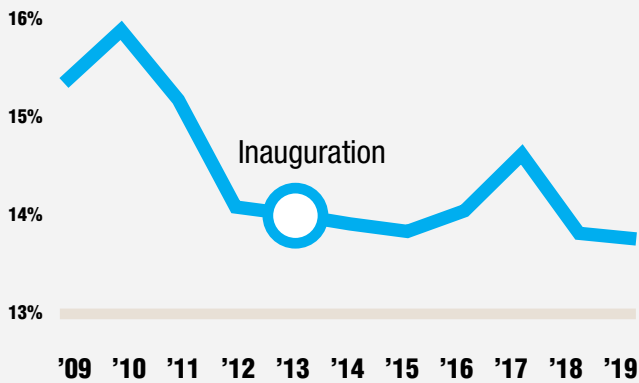
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

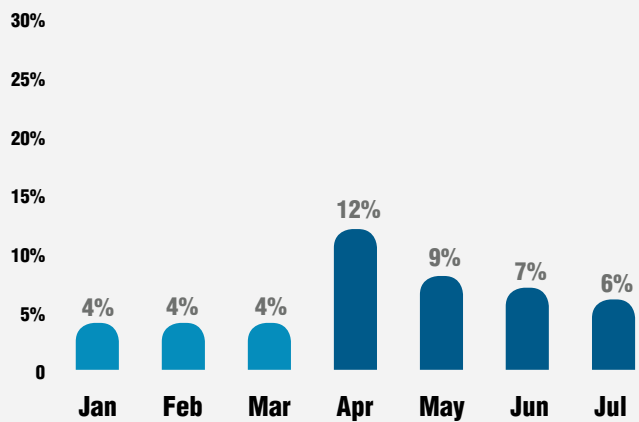
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	6.90%	33
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.75%	25
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$18.12	42
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$35.39	37
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.00	1
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.65	38
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.20	26
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	4.6%	9

VA

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Ralph Northam

Virginia

Inauguration: Jan 2018

Next Election: 2021



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Terry McAuliffe	2014-2018
Bob McDonnell	2010-2014
Tim Kaine	2006-2010
Mark Warner	2002-2006

SENATE



Democrat 21 Republican 19

HOUSE



Democrat 55 Republican 44 Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR RALPH NORTHAM

Taking office in 2018, Governor Ralph Northam inherited many fiscal benefits accrued over time by his predecessors. The state's AAA bond rating gives Virginia low borrowing costs and a manageable bonded debt portfolio, while a culture of fiscal responsibility in past General Assemblies has kept spending levels low over time. However, now that Gov. Northam has political allies governing the General Assembly, record spending growth and tax increases threaten to undo many of these benefits. While Gov. Northam enjoys an average rating in this year's report, his agenda may undo the hard work of his predecessors, and Virginia's financial footing may begin to decline as a consequence. If Virginia's debt increases and spending growth accelerates, Gov. Northam's ranking will certainly decline.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



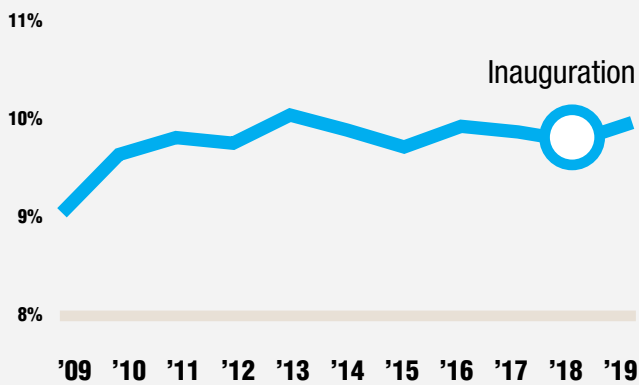
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

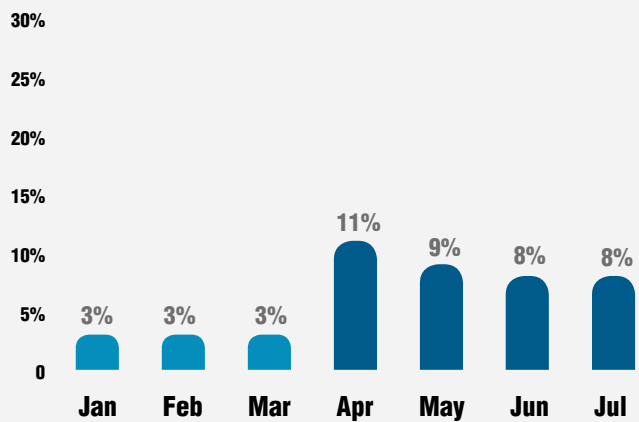
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.75%	25
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	7.68%	32
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$7.60	20
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$30.48	29
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$11.83	6
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$15.92	19
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.49	30
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	6.1%	25

MA

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Republican

Charlie Baker

Massachusetts

Inauguration: Jan 2015

Next Election: 2022

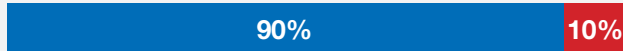


OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Deval Patrick	2007-2015
Mitt Romney	2003-2007
Jane Swift	2001-2003
Paul Cellucci	1997-2001

SENATE



Democrat 36 Republican 4

HOUSE



Democrat 127 Republican 31 Other 2

ABOUT GOVERNOR CHARLIE BAKER

Governor Charlie Baker's reelection in 2018 during a tough cycle for Republicans is a testament to his popularity in a famously left-leaning state. Gov. Baker was able to capitalize on his favorability and oversaw scheduled tax rate cuts that brought Massachusetts' personal income tax to a flat rate of 5%. Despite scheduled tax cuts taking place in 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2020, Massachusetts favorable financial standing enabled it to cover all COVID-19 related budget shortfalls with rainy day funds and avoid raising taxes. In fact, Massachusetts was one of the states best prepared for a fiscal shock like the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite being well-prepared for a fiscal shock, Massachusetts' economy ranks 40th in economic performance compared to all 50 states. Furthermore, recent legislation has markedly increased the state's minimum wage, which is now the third highest in America. Also concerning for taxpayers, Massachusetts has some of the highest levels of debt service as a share of tax revenue.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



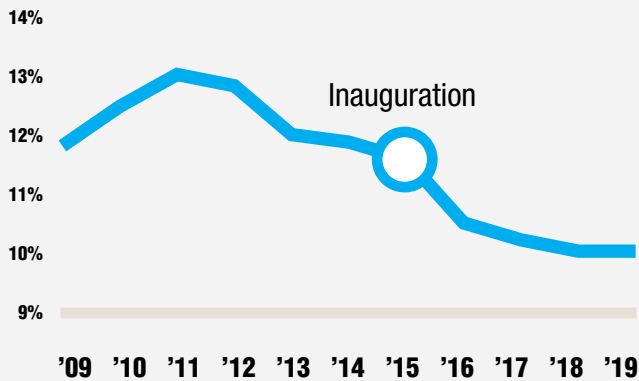
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

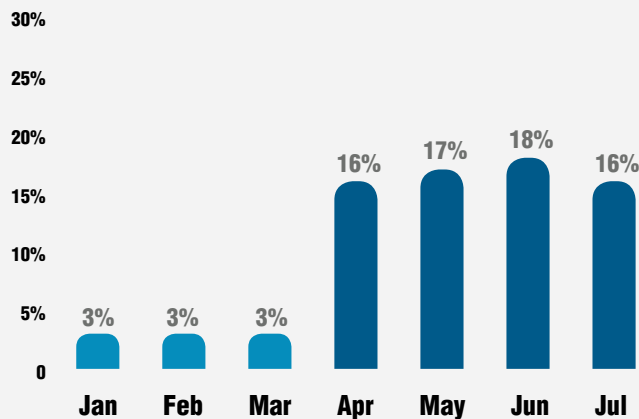
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.00%	18
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	8.00%	36
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$2.93	17
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$36.55	38
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$13.66	9
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$11.35	2
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$1.72	43
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	8.7%	44

ND

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Doug Burgum

North Dakota

Inauguration: Dec 2016

Next Election: 2020



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Jack Dalrymple	2010-2016
John Hoeven	2000-2010
Ed Schafer	1992-2000
George A. Sinner	1985-1992

SENATE



Democrat 10 Republican 37

HOUSE



Democrat 15 Republican 79

ABOUT GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM

Taking office in 2016, Governor Doug Burgum has overseen North Dakota's development as a resource-rich state in the production of oil and natural gas. Exploitation of the Bakken shale has brought billions in business investment into North Dakota, and the Peace Garden State's finances have improved as a result. However, after the North Dakota House overwhelmingly passed legislation to phase out the personal and corporate income tax in 2019, Gov. Burgum sadly threw cold water on one of the most pro-growth policies in recent memory. Depending on the results of the 2020 North Dakota gubernatorial election, Gov. Burgum may have four more years to determine whether this newfound state revenue will go toward increased spending or whether North Dakota will join South Dakota as a no-income-tax state.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



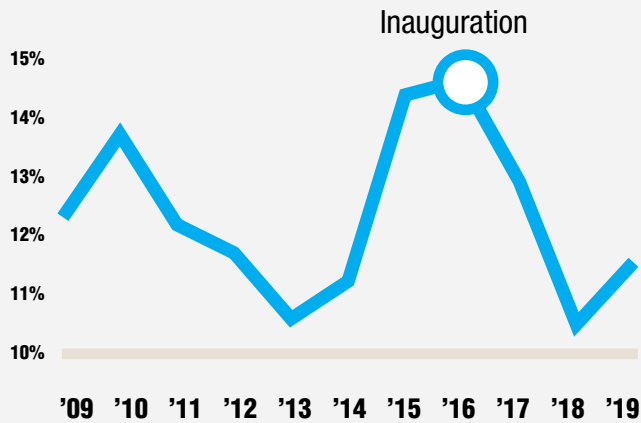
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

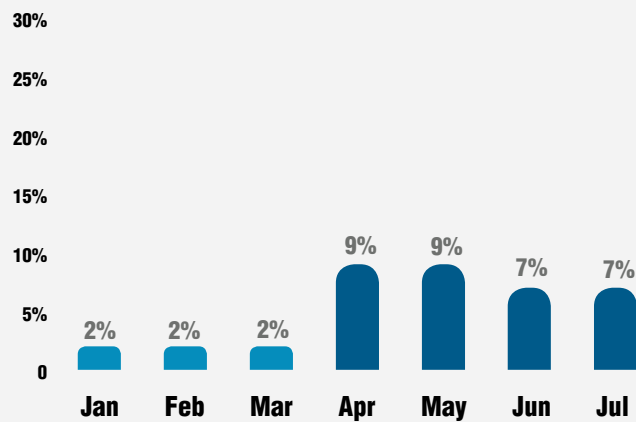
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	2.90%	10
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	4.31%	7
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$8.55	25
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$31.38	31
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$28.00	37
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$18.81	29
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.03	16
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	4.2%	7

KS

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Democrat

Laura Kelly

Kansas

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Jeff Colyer	2018-2019
Sam Brownback	2011-2018
Mark Parkinson	2009-2011
Kathleen Sebelius	2003-2009

SENATE



Democrat 11 Republican 29

HOUSE



Democrat 41 Republican 84

ABOUT GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

Governor Laura Kelly succeeded former Governor Sam Brownback as Kansas' executive after winning election in 2018. One of the most important items on Gov. Kelly's policy agenda is to expand Kansas' Medicaid program, which is guaranteed to cause mandatory state spending to increase markedly. Expanding Medicaid would also make Kansas more vulnerable to federal fiscal policy in case Medicaid cost sharing changes. A sudden decrease in federal Medicaid matching dollars could cause a fiscal calamity for Kansas' state finances. If Medicaid expansion takes place in Kansas, it is likely Gov. Kelly's performance relative to other governors becomes much less favorable as Kansas' fiscal situation worsens.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	35
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	33
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	27
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	18
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	32

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



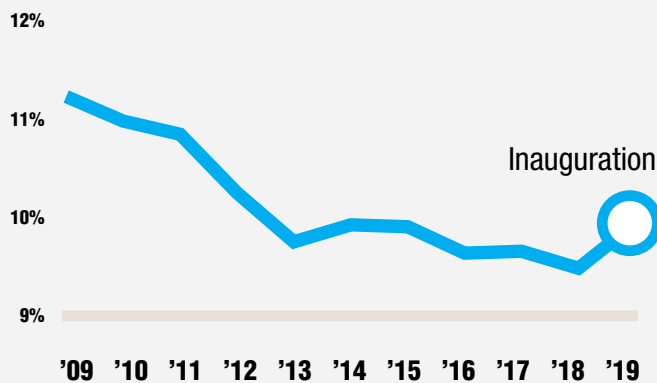
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

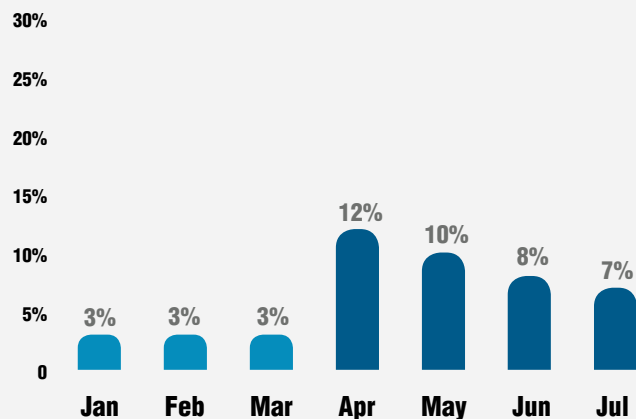
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.70%	24
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	7.00%	28
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$10.09	27
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$32.20	33
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$30.64	40
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$13.75	10
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.00	17
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.0%	31

MS

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Tate Reeves

Mississippi

Inauguration: Jan 2020

Next Election: 2023



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Phil Bryant	2012-2020
Haley Barbour	2004-2012
Ronnie Musgrove	2000-2004
Kirk Fordice	1992-2000

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR TATE REEVES

After taking office in 2020, Governor Tate Reeves has made it his mission to turn Mississippi into a more business friendly state. Reforming taxes and regulation to facilitate business investment has helped Mississippi increase employment growth to the seventh highest rate of any state. As the economy grows, Gov. Reeves would be wise to work more with the legislature to continue improving Mississippi's state finances. Mississippi has one of the worst state debt situations of any state. Reforming state pension and OPEB systems will help reduce future burdens on Mississippi state finances. Turning Mississippi's economy around is a difficult task, but Gov. Reeves is leading the state in the right direction. Capitalizing on positive economic improvement figures by improving the state's outstanding debt and pension obligations will build a brighter future for Mississippi's finances.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.



POLICY RANK

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



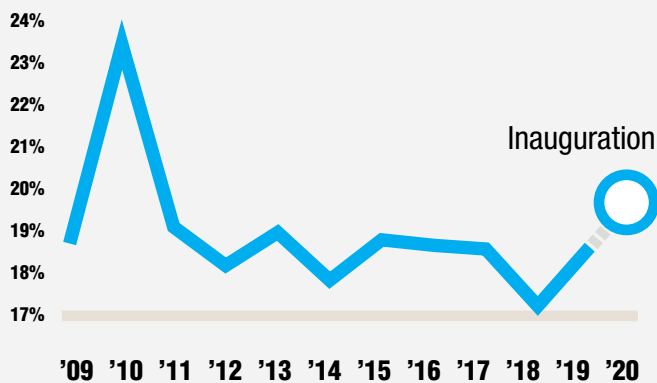
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

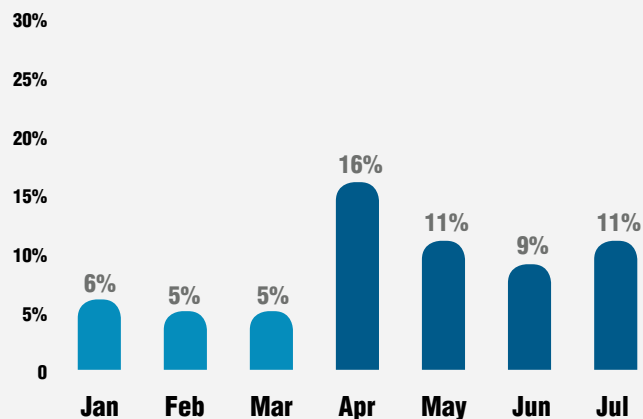
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.00%	18
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	5.00%	13
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$7.93	24
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$28.30	22
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$32.83	42
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.94	37
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.41	10
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.3%	16

MD

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Republican

Larry Hogan Maryland

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Martin O'Malley	2007-2015
Bob Ehrlich	2003-2007
Parris Glendening	1995-2003
William Donald Schaefer	1987-1995

SENATE



Democrat 32 Republican 15

HOUSE



Democrat 99 Republican 41 Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN

Since taking office in 2015, Governor Larry Hogan deserves credit for defending Maryland from many tax increases and new regulations passed by the General Assembly. While Gov. Hogan does have a free market and limited government record, his lobbying for a federal bailout of state finances serves to undermine fiscally conservative approaches executed by fellow governors. A federal bailout of states rewards fiscally irresponsible lawmakers at the cost of constituents in states that made responsible fiscal choices. Gov. Hogan's support for such a bailout works against his own personal record of fiscal restraint. Maryland, as a result of Gov. Hogan's efforts, was better prepared for the COVID-19 crisis than 33 other states. Coming out of the pandemic, passing pro-business reforms and making Maryland's tax code more competitive will help the state economy recover after performing worse than most states prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	46
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	35
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	28
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	38
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	26

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



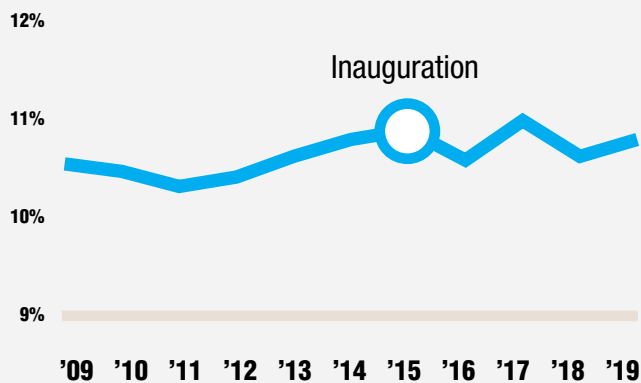
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

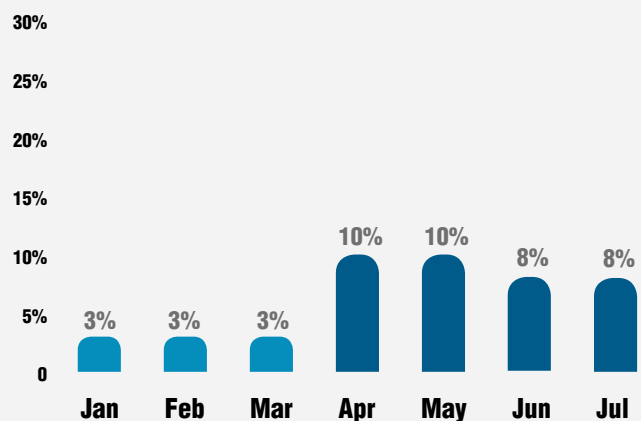
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	8.95%	44
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	8.25%	38
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$8.95	26
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$27.21	20
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$12.83	8
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$22.74	43
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$1.07	4
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.2%	15

WA

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Jay Inslee

Washington

Inauguration: Jan 2013

Next Election: 2020



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Christine Gregoire	2005-2013
Gary Locke	1997-2005
Mike Lowry	1993-1997
Booth Gardner	1985-1993

SENATE



Democrat 29 Republican 20

HOUSE



Democrat 57 Republican 41

ABOUT GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

One of America's longest-serving state executives after his inauguration in 2013, Governor Jay Inslee has presided over an economic boom in Washington State. Washington has the ninth-strongest economy of any state – and much of the state's success can be traced to their avoidance of a personal income tax. However, Gov. Inslee's anti-growth record when it comes to business regulation and taxes threatens to undo Washington's recent economic success. In fact, Gov. Inslee has the worst ranking of any governor when it comes to pro-growth policy. Gov. Inslee's hostility to business is already resulting in cracks to the foundation of Washington's longstanding growth. Governor Inslee should not take Washington's current economic boom for granted. If he continues to raise taxes on business, Washington could begin losing job creators to other states.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	49
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	46
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	37
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	47
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	37
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	36

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



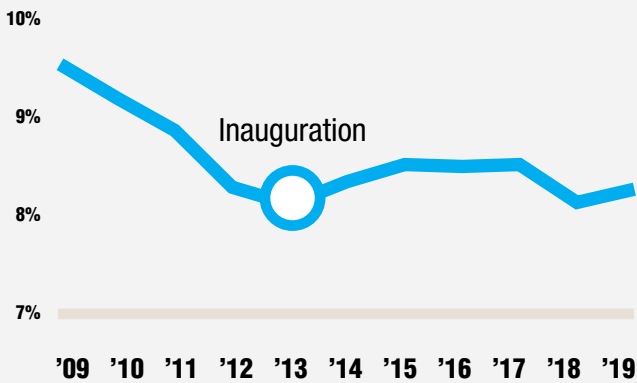
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

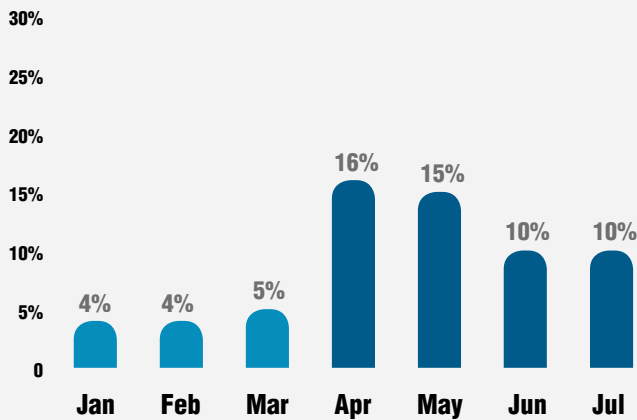
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	0.00%	1
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.98%	27
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	2
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$26.43	17
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$33.51	44
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$24.01	45
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.50	31
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	8.9%	45

KY

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Democrat

Andy Beshear Kentucky

Inauguration: Dec 2019
Next Election: 2023



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Matt Bevin	2015-2019
Steve Beshear	2007-2015
Ernie Fletcher	2003-2007
Paul Patton	1995-2003

SENATE



Democrat 10 Republican 28

HOUSE



Democrat 38 Republican 62

ABOUT GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR

Following his inauguration in 2020, Governor Andy Beshear faces an uphill battle. Kentucky performs poorly in many economic metrics and the state has a significant looming debt crisis. Kentucky currently ranks in the bottom 10 states in total state debt and spending. Kentucky was also one of the states least prepared for the COVID-19 crisis from a state fiscal perspective. Gov. Beshear must govern from a fiscally responsible perspective in order to save Kentucky's finances, but his recent 2019 campaign promises suggest otherwise. While Gov. Beshear is only in the first year of his term, he still has time to define how he will approach Kentucky's fiscal woes.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	2
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	17
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	47
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	33

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



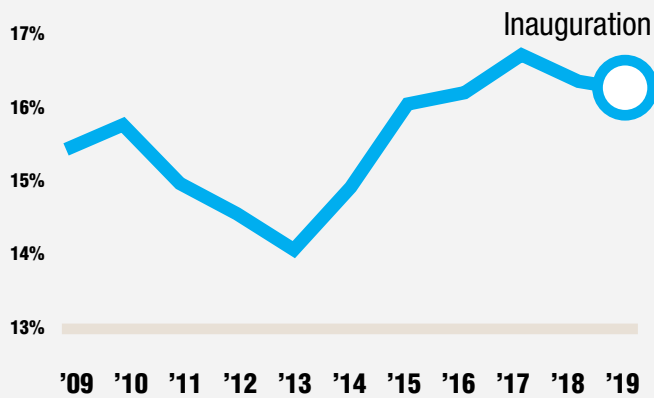
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

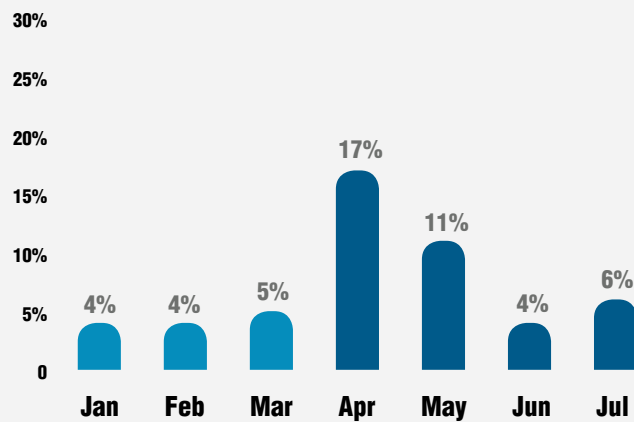
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	7.20%	39
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	7.20%	30
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$1.77	15
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.65	7
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.48	15
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.63	36
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$1.01	38
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	8.6%	43

OR

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Kate Brown

Oregon

Inauguration: Feb 2015

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

John Kitzhaber	2011-2015
Ted Kulongoski	2003-2011
John Kitzhaber	1995-2003
Barbara Roberts	1991-1995

SENATE



Democrat 18 Republican 12

HOUSE



Democrat 38 Republican 22

ABOUT GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

During her tenure after taking office in 2015, Governor Kate Brown has used tax increases to fuel a growth in government unseen in many other states. In fact, government spending in Oregon has risen at the fifth-fastest rate of any state. A gross receipts tax levied on Oregon businesses is expected to raise taxes by over \$1.3 billion in its first year. While free market and business groups were able to defeat proposals to enact a carbon tax in 2019 and 2020, Gov. Brown has made it clear she will enact a carbon tax if given the opportunity, which would make Oregon one of two states to have such a tax. While Oregon has some positive economic figures currently, it will not last if Gov. Brown continues to raise taxes on businesses.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	43
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	46
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	18
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	45
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	42
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	38

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



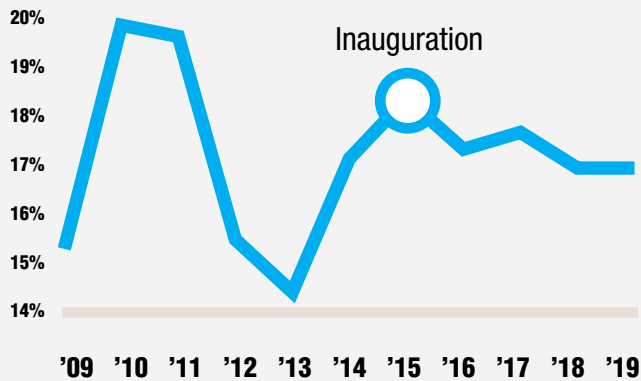
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

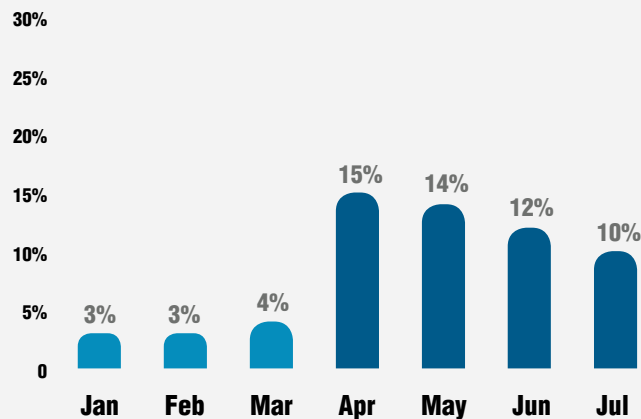
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	10.67%	46
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	14.30%	48
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$14.98	37
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$31.63	32
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.00	1
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$22.26	41
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$3.72	47
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	6.6%	27

DE

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

John Carney

Delaware

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Jack Markell	2009-2017
Ruth Ann Minner	2001-2009
Thomas R. Carper	1993-2001
Dale E. Wolf	1992-1993

SENATE



Democrat 12 Republican 9

HOUSE



Democrat 26 Republican 15

ABOUT GOVERNOR JOHN CARNEY

After taking office in 2017, Governor John Carney has allowed state spending in Delaware to soar to over 15% of total state GDP. With state economic growth well below average, Delaware would be wise to reform state government in a more pro-business direction. Gov. Carney is up for re-election in 2020, which would grant him a chance to improve Delaware's economy over his next four-year term. While Delaware avoids much of the economic malaise facing other states in the Northeast, voters should not take this for granted. As states to its south become more economically competitive, Delaware could see its fortunes decline. Holding state leaders accountable to pro-growth economic policy will help keep opportunity in Delaware.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



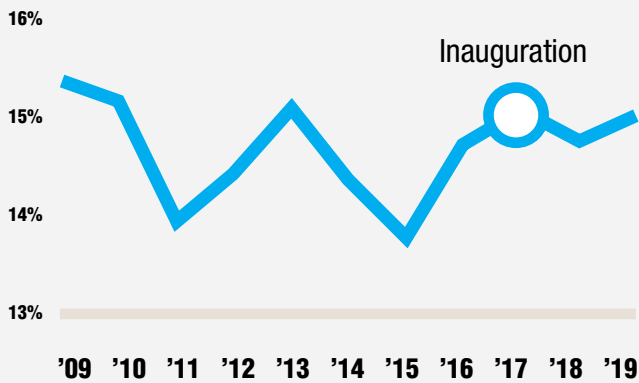
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

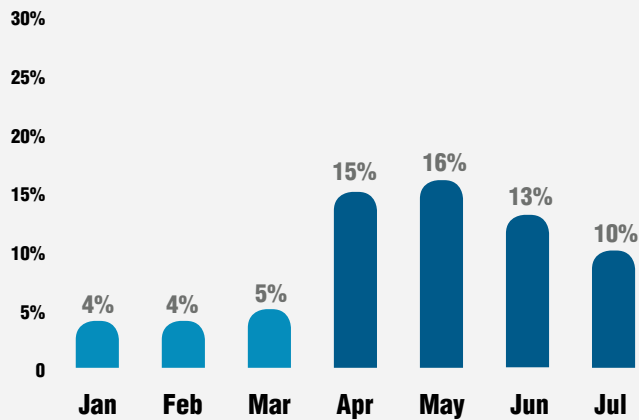
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

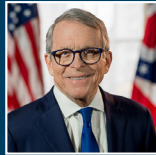
RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	7.85%	42
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	11.80%	47
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$15.10	38
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$18.77	4
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0	1
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$48.86	50
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.18	13
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.7%	21

OH

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Mike DeWine

Ohio

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

John Kasich	2011-2019
Ted Strickland	2007-2011
Bob Taft	1999-2007
Nancy Hollister	1998-1999

SENATE



Democrat 9 Republican 24

HOUSE



Democrat 38 Republican 61

ABOUT GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE

Governor Mike DeWine has an important task in the remaining years of his term, as Ohio's economy is one of the 10 worst performing in the nation. While Gov. DeWine has worked to keep spending growth low, a 2019 gas tax increase gave Ohio one of the highest gas tax rates in the nation. Net outmigration of residents means the Buckeye State needs to do more to encourage living and working in Ohio. With two more years in his term, and a potential for reelection, Gov. DeWine should focus on making Ohio a more attractive state for potential residents in order to improve Ohio's long-term economic outlook.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	39
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	24
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	36
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	29
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	43
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	15

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



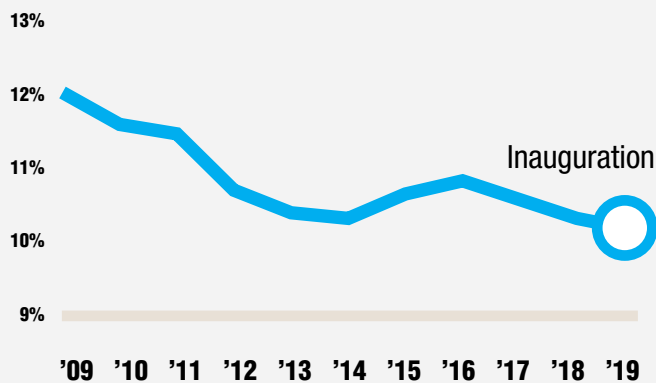
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

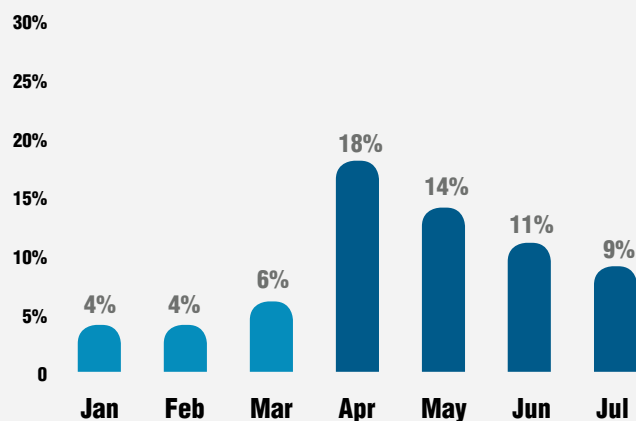
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	7.30%	40
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	3.71%	6
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$15.56	40
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$28.78	24
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$25.83	34
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$17.49	25
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.76	35
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.7%	20

VT

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Republican

Phil Scott

Vermont

Inauguration: Jan 2017

Next Election: 2020



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Peter Shumlin	2011-2017
Jim Douglas	2003-2011
Howard Dean	1991-2003
Richard A. Snelling	1991-1991

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT

Taking office in 2017, Governor Phil Scott is in a unique position as a Republican governor in the second-most Democratic state in the nation. While he succeeded in enacting tax cuts in 2018 and has stressed the need for Vermont to become more economically competitive, he has been unable to significantly reduce high levels of state spending. Vermont has the sixth-highest state spending as a proportion of GDP. Vermont must get its spending under control to begin reining in its debt problem. Vermont has the 12th highest outstanding debt of any state due to its propensity to issue bonds to pay for projects rather than paying out of state coffers. Vermont's outstanding bonded debt amounts to over 10% of the state GDP. Including outstanding pension debt, this Vermont's unfunded liabilities near 18% of the state GDP. Gov. Scott must adopt a fiscally conservative approach to get Vermont's spending under control and improve the state's financial standing. Barring any reforms, lowering tax rates to make Vermont's economy more competitive would help bring new business investment into the state and grow Vermont's tax base to help tackle the Green Mountain State's debt problem.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.



POLICY RANK

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	43
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	26
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	39
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	31
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	20

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



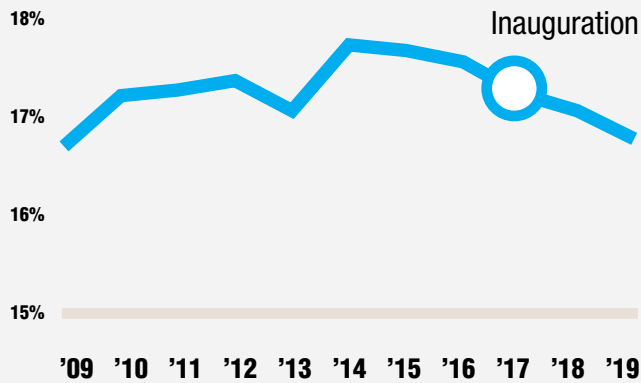
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

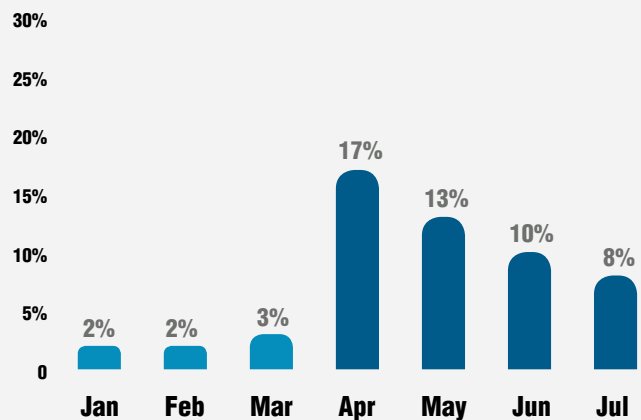
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	8.75%	43
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	8.50%	39
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$28.94	49
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$52.10	49
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$12.23	7
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$27.84	48
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.81	36
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	3.8%	2

CT

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Ned Lamont

Connecticut

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Dan Malloy	2011-2019
Jodi Rell	2004-2011
John G. Rowland	1995-2004
Lowell Weicker	1991-1995

SENATE



Democrat 22 Republican 14

HOUSE



Democrat 91 Republican 60

ABOUT GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

Connecticut is consistently in the bottom 10 states for economic outlook in the Rich States, Poor States economic competitiveness rankings. High taxes at the state and local levels have created economic conditions where Connecticut has still not recovered from the 2008 recession. Anemic job growth and outmigration to low-tax states made former Governor Dannel Malloy one of the least popular governors in America. After a close election, Governor Ned Lamont inherited Malloy's economic woes in 2019. Unfortunately for taxpayers, it seems Gov. Lamont's administration does not intend to change course from the high-tax, high-regulation status quo of past state leaders. In fact, Gov. Lamont's refusal to reform Connecticut's tax and fiscal policy gives his economic performance as governor the seventh-lowest ranking. New England faces serious economic problems as a region, but proximity to New York City should make Connecticut an outlier, not an indicator.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



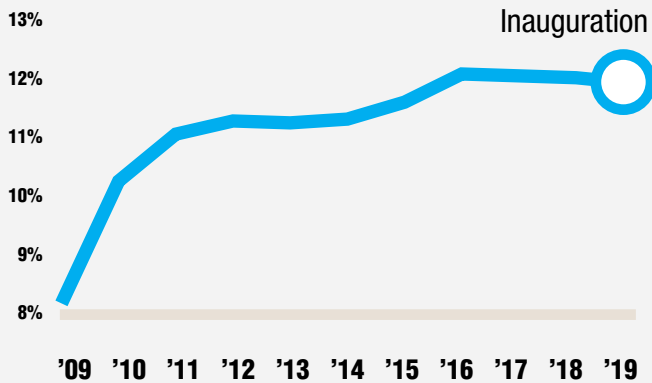
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

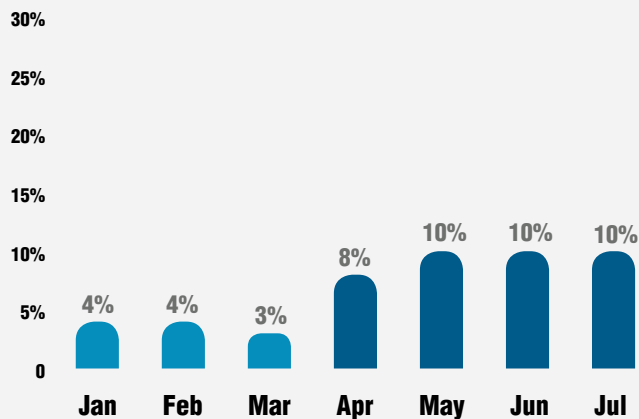
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	6.99%	36
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	7.50%	31
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$7.67	22
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$42.68	44
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$16.76	10
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$13.49	9
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$4.76	50
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.3%	34

ME

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Janet Mills

Maine

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

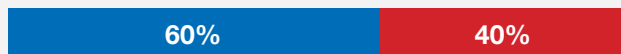


OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

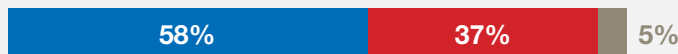
	Paul LePage	2011-2019
	John Baldacci	2003-2011
	Angus King	1995-2003
	John R. McKernan	1987-1995

SENATE



Democrat 21 Republican 14

HOUSE



Democrat 87 Republican 56 Other 8

ABOUT GOVERNOR JANET T. MILLS

Taking office in 2019, Governor Janet Mills has spent less than two years as Maine’s executive, but she has already completed her campaign promise to expand Maine’s Medicaid program. Coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic, Gov. Mills’ Medicaid expansion increased Medicaid costs by nearly \$110 million for fiscal year 2020. Combined with Maine’s nearly 20% budget shortfall arising from the COVID-19 economic shutdown, Gov. Mills’ decision to expand Medicaid has left Maine as one of the least fiscally prepared states in the country. Maine’s anemic employment growth indicates the recent decade of nationwide economic growth has left Maine behind. Attracting more businesses to Maine and not growing government are the keys to a more prosperous Pine Tree State.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state’s economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor’s policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor’s legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	46
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	33
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	44
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	33
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	40

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



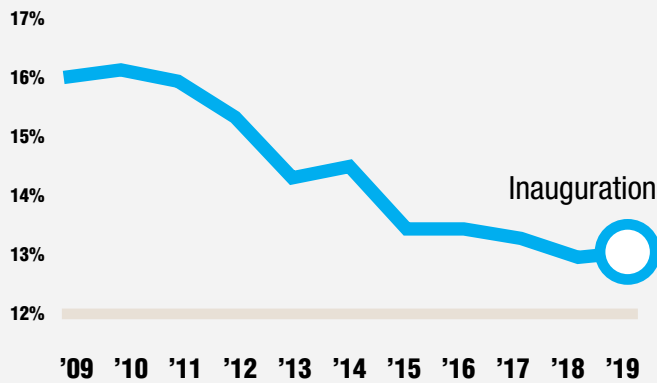
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

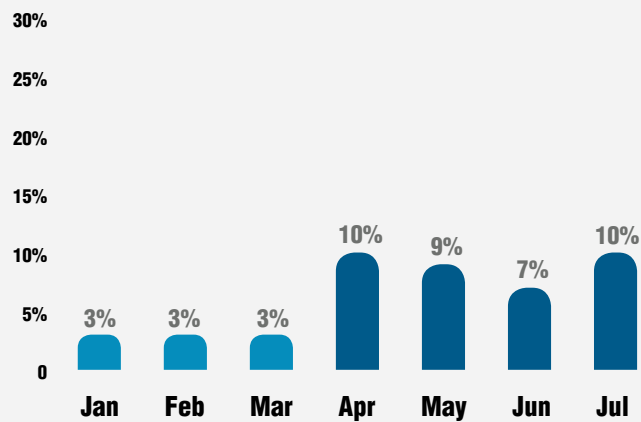
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	7.15%	38
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	8.93%	41
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$25.43	48
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$46.96	46
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$23.72	27
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$17.64	26
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.15	14
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	4.0%	5

NY

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Andrew Cuomo

New York

Inauguration: Jan 2011

Next Election: 2022

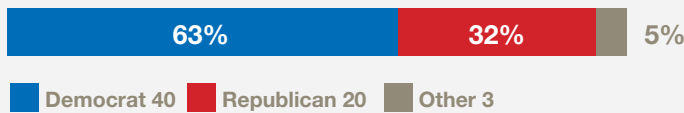


OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

David Paterson	2008-2010
Eliot Spitzer	2007-2008
George Pataki	1995-2006
Mario Cuomo	1983-1994

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR ANDREW CUOMO

Now in his third term after taking office in 2011, Governor Andrew Cuomo has presided over significant economic decline for the State of New York. While New York City is a center of global commerce and financial capital, big government policies coming from Albany have significantly damaged upstate New York's economic prospects. The situation in upstate New York is so dire, GDP and employment growth figures for the entire state are negative despite New York City's wealth. In fact, New York's aggregate economy performs the third-worst of any state. Gov. Cuomo cannot ignore upstate New York's economic crisis by focusing on the prosperity of downstate New York, and he must adopt policies that work for all New Yorkers. Also, Gov. Cuomo has been on the forefront of advocating for a dangerous federal bailout of the states.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.



POLICY RANK

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	49
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	50
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	32
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	36
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	45

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



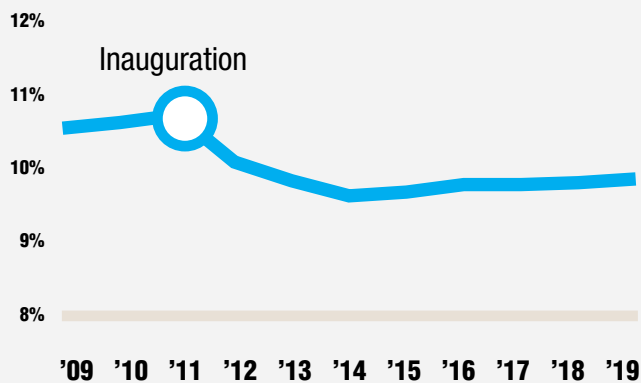
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

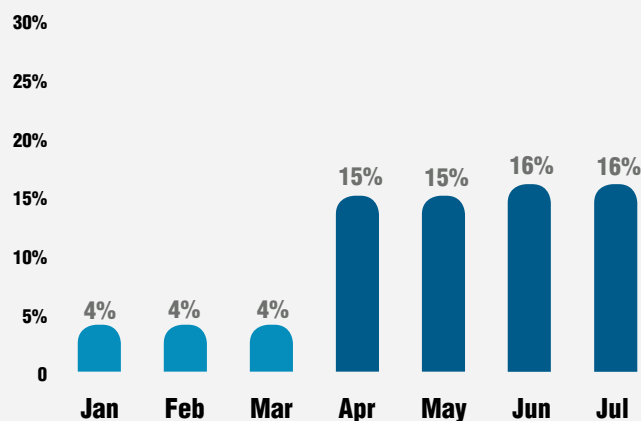
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	12.70%	49
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	17.26%	50
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$17.30	41
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$45.90	45
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$24.53	30
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$19.01	30
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$1.84	44
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	9.6%	48

CA

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Gavin Newsom

California

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Jerry Brown	2011-2019
Arnold Schwarzenegger	2003-2011
Gray Davis	1999-2003
Pete Wilson	1991-1999

SENATE



Democrat 29 Republican 11

HOUSE



Democrat 61 Republican 17 Other 2

ABOUT GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

Governor Gavin Newsom has yet to make policy changes significant enough to reverse California's looming economic decline. The state has seen net outmigration of nearly 1 million residents over the past decade, with former Californians citing high taxes as a common reason for leaving the state. Despite having some of the highest tax rates in the nation, California is also one of the most indebted states. Over \$400 billion in state debt and famously naïve investment decisions leave California with serious fiscal problems on the horizon. If Gov. Newsom cannot succeed in making California's economy more competitive and retain residents looking to leave the state, California's fiscal policy is at risk of cannibalizing its own tax base, and the state will be unable to pay its debt obligations. California must get its fiscal situation under control, and Gov. Newsom's performance thus far does not instill confidence that necessary reforms will take place.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



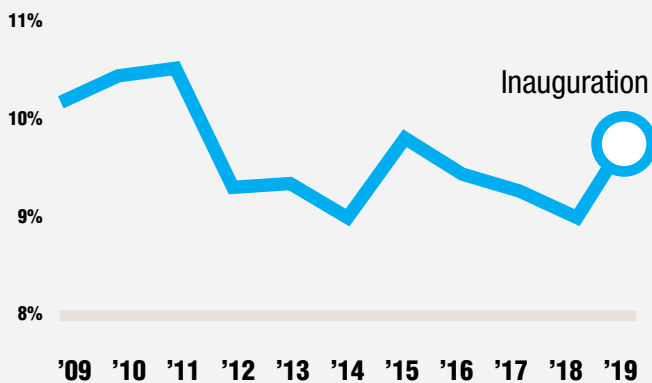
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

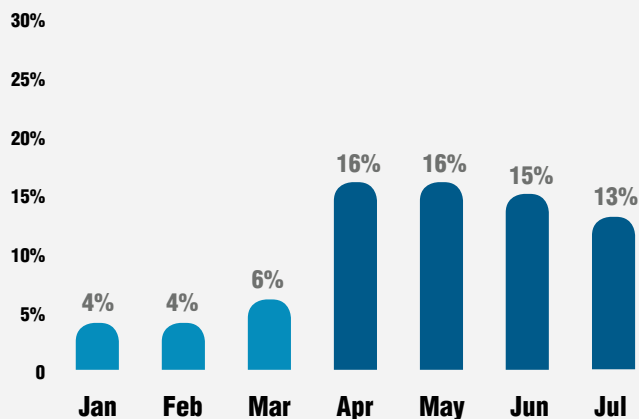
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	13.30%	50
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	8.84%	40
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$40.13	50
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$27.36	21
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$21.21	22
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$15.69	15
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$1.43	41
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	8.3%	41

PA

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Democrat

Tom Wolf Pennsylvania

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Tom Corbett	2011-2015
	Ed Rendell	2003-2011
	Mark Schweiker	2001-2003
	Tom Ridge	1995-2001

SENATE



Democrat 21 Republican 28 Other 1

HOUSE



Democrat 93 Republican 109 Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR TOM WOLF

While Pennsylvania had dismal economic figures at the turn of the millennium, the fracking revolution has brought billions in new investment into the Keystone State. Following his inauguration in 2015, Governor Tom Wolf has walked a fine line between enacting policies targeting fracking companies while also declining to ban fracking outright like neighboring New York. While a blessing of natural resources has improved Pennsylvania's economy in recent years, other tax policies have harmed Pennsylvania's ability to attract other potential businesses into the state. One of the highest corporate income tax rates and the second-highest gas tax rate of any state make Pennsylvania less competitive compared to neighboring Ohio and Maryland. Gov. Wolf has refused to improve Pennsylvania's business climate, vetoing many tax cuts passed by the Pennsylvania Legislature. If Gov. Wolf hopes to turn the fracking revolution into permanent prosperity for Pennsylvania, he would be wise to improve Pennsylvania's economic competitiveness during the remaining years in his term. Gov. Wolf has also enacted one of the most extreme government lockdowns of the economy in the COVID-19 era.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	43
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	35
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	25
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	33
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	42
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	40

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



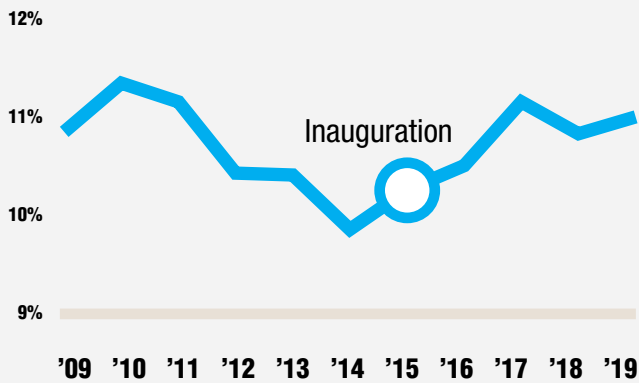
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

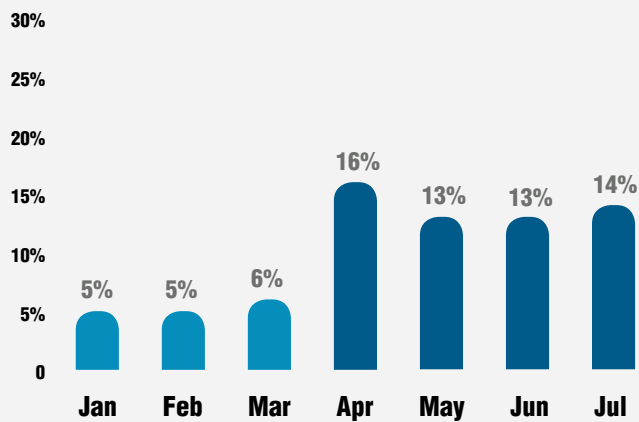
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	6.94%	35
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	16.90%	49
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	2
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$29.24	26
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$17.10	12
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$22.61	42
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.09	21
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	6.8%	28

LA

State Control Party
Republican



Governor Party
Democrat

John Bel Edwards

Louisiana

Inauguration: Jan 2016
Next Election: 2023



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Bobby Jindal	2008-2016
Kathleen Blanco	2004-2008
Mike Foster	1996-2004
Edwin Edwards	1992-1996

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS

Governor John Bel Edwards continues to struggle with Louisiana’s fiscal and economic situation after taking office in 2016. Louisiana has the fifth-weakest economy nationwide, and Gov. Edwards inability to improve Louisiana’s fiscal outlook contributed to his state being the least prepared for the COVID-19 pandemic of any state. Adopting a pro-business regulatory climate or improving Louisiana’s tax code to make the Pelican State more competitive compared to regional competitors like Texas or Florida would help to bring new business investment and jobs into Louisiana. While a Democrat working with a Republican-controlled legislature can be a tall order, a pro-growth agenda would likely earn Gov. Edwards bipartisan allies.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state’s economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor’s policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor’s legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	24
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	44
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	21
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	45
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	37

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



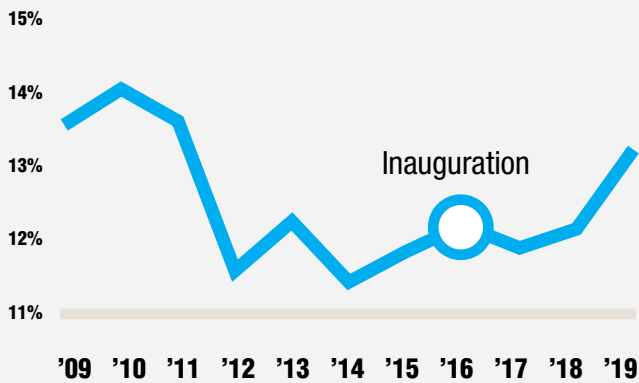
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

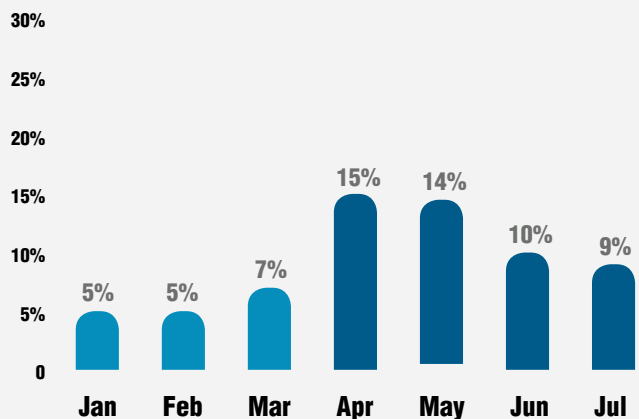
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	3.78%	11
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.32%	19
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$11.04	28
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.78	8
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$42.72	49
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$18.34	28
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$2.09	45
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.3%	35

NM

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Michelle Lujan Grisham

New Mexico

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Susana Martinez	2011-2019
	Bill Richardson	2003-2011
	Gary Johnson	1995-2003
	Bruce King	1991-1995

SENATE



Democrat 26 Republican 16

HOUSE



Democrat 45 Republican 24 Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

Taking over from former Governor Susanna Martinez after her inauguration in 2019, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham reversed much of the fiscally conservative policy championed by former Gov. Martinez. In Gov. Grisham's first term, New Mexico saw the highest spending increase of any state. Gov. Grisham also signed into law numerous tax increases, such as levying the gross receipts tax on internet sales and hospitals, increasing the excise tax rate on vehicles and adding a new personal income tax bracket to be paid primarily by job creators. Worse yet, these tax increases are meant for a host of new spending, not paying down New Mexico's outstanding debt and unfunded pension obligations, the sixth-highest of any state. Increasing spending funded by higher taxes all while ignoring a growing debt problem contribute to Gov. Grisham ranking the seventh-lowest out of any American governor. Gov. Grisham also enacted some of the most extreme COVID lockdown measures that have significantly harmed individuals and businesses.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	46
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	43
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	46
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	49
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	41

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



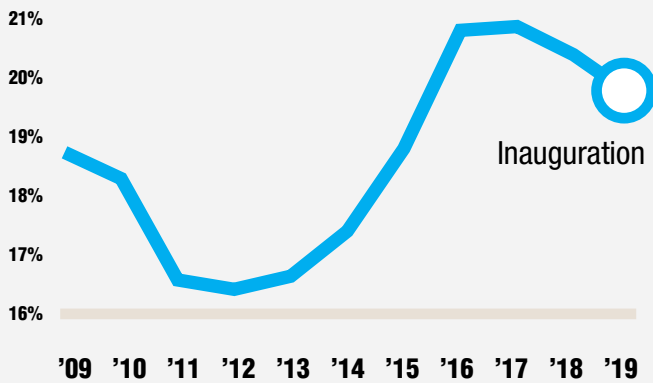
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

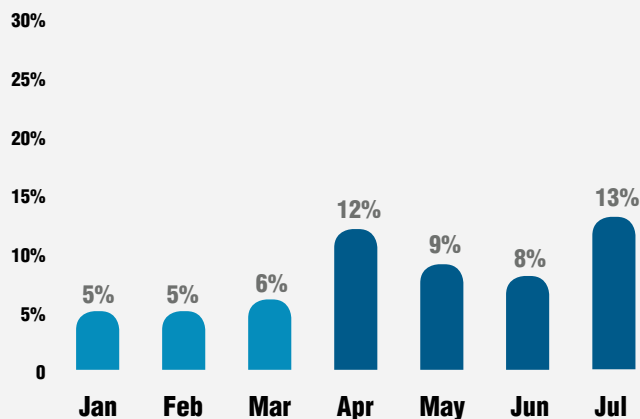
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	4.90%	15
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	5.90%	16
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$11.83	30
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.25	6
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$41.01	48
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$15.72	16
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$2.32	46
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.0%	30



State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

J.B. Pritzker

Illinois

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

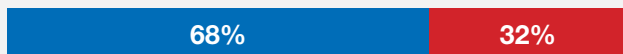


OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

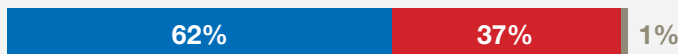
	Bruce Rauner	2015-2019
	Pat Quinn	2009-2015
	Rod Blagojevich	2003-2009
	George Ryan	1999-2003

SENATE



Democrat 40 Republican 19

HOUSE



Democrat 73 Republican 44 Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR J.B. PRITZKER

After defeating former Republican Governor Bruce Rauner in the 2018 election, Governor J.B. Pritzker looked to reverse Illinois' political direction away from Rauner's fiscally conservative reforms. Advocating for a progressive income tax that targets job creators is part of the reason Gov. Pritzker ranks among the bottom 10 governors when it comes to economic policy. Illinois is currently teetering on the edge of financial peril as rating agencies downgrade Illinois' credit toward "junk status." While Gov. Rauner attempted to fiscal reform and improve state finances, Gov. Pritzker's tenure has seen Illinois' finances go from bad to worse. In fact, including unfunded pension obligations, Illinois' debt-to-GDP ratio nears 24%. With abysmal GDP and employment growth figures and some of the highest rates of population loss to other states, the future of Illinois appears grim. To save his state, Gov. Pritzker needs serious reforms to make government more efficient, secure a stable pension plan and reform policies driving residents to other states.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	49
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	24
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	48
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	24
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	32
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	47

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



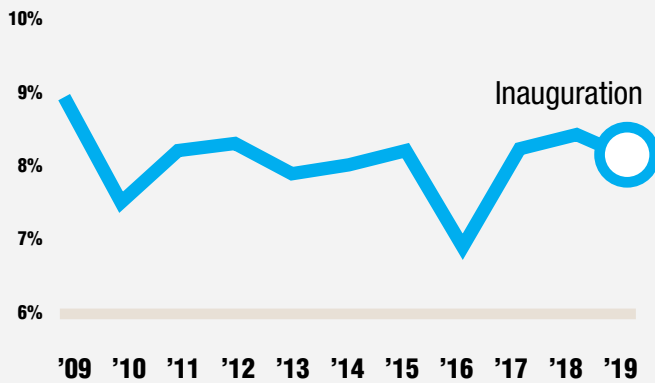
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

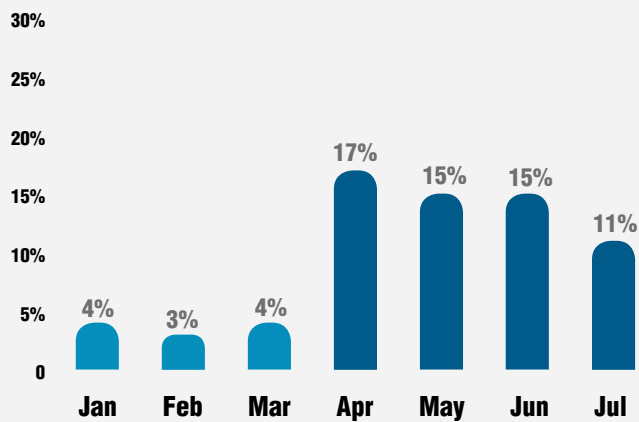
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	4.95%	16
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	9.50%	43
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$1.53	14
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$42.21	43
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$21.25	23
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$21.43	39
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$3.95	48
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	10.1%	49

HI

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

David Ige

Hawaii

Inauguration: Dec 2014

Next Election: 2022

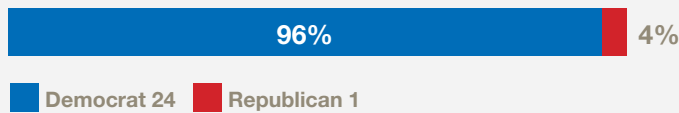


OVERALL RANK

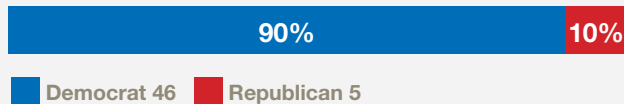
PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Neil Abercrombie	2010-2014
Linda Lingle	2002-2010
Ben Cayetano	1994-2002
John Waihe'e	1986-1994

SENATE



HOUSE



ABOUT GOVERNOR DAVID IGE

Despite sunny beaches and gorgeous weather, Hawaii's economy is suffering. High taxes and onerous regulations make it difficult for businesses to operate in Hawaii, and barriers to development contribute to the rising cost of living. After Governor Ige assumed the responsibilities of governor in 2014, Hawaii's economic situation has gone from bad to worse. Originally ranked 36th in 2014, Hawaii now ranks 44th in economic outlook according to Rich States, Poor States economic competitiveness rankings. Hawaii's poor performance is partly due to its status as one of the most indebted states in the country. Including unfunded pension obligations, Hawaii's debt to GDP ratio nears 30%. Hawaii's debt to GDP ratio is second-highest only to New Jersey. If Gov. Ige wants to improve the fiscal position of his state, he should look to reforming pensions and practice greater discipline over borrowing decisions. Barring financial reforms to improve Hawaii's debt position, improving Hawaii's business climate will help grow the economy and increase the state's tax base. Growing the economy through pro-growth policy reforms is another method Hawaii can use to bring its debt under control.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	35
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	22
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	50
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	34
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	44

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



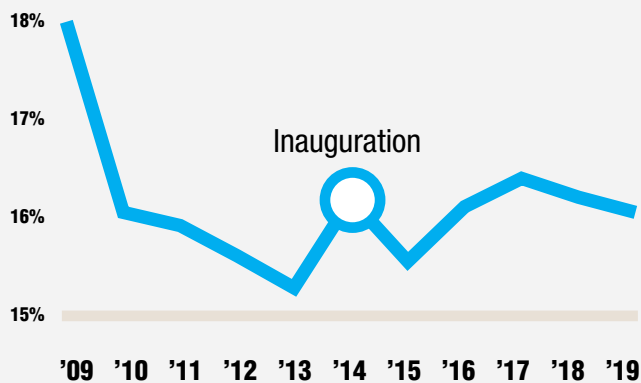
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

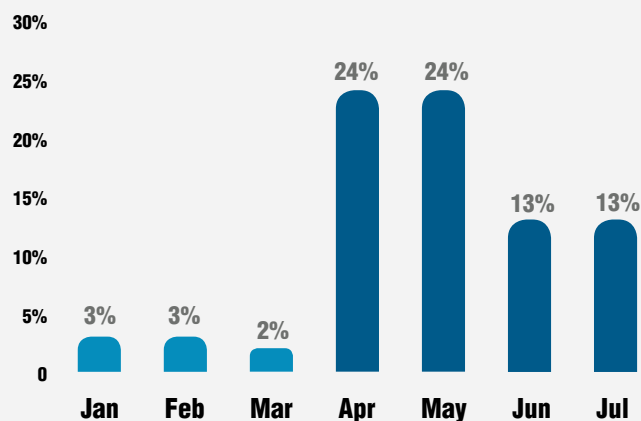
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	11.00%	47
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.40%	20
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$13.54	34
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$23.70	13
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$46.64	50
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$26.33	46
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.89	37
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	3.8%	4

MI

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Democrat

Gretchen Whitmer

Michigan

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Rick Snyder	2011-2019
Jennifer M. Granholm	2003-2011
John M. Engler	1991-2003
James Blanchard	1983-1991

SENATE



Democrat 16 Republican 22

HOUSE



Democrat 51 Republican 58 Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

Governor Gretchen Whitmer's led the most draconian COVID-19 response of any governor, and her state's finances were among the least prepared nationwide. Gov. Whitmer's propensity to rely on shutdown orders to fight the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in one of the most acute revenue shortfalls of any state and made it much more difficult for the Michigan legislature to close their budget deficit. Gov. Whitmer's actively anti-business approach will only make it more difficult for businesses coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, as Michigan's economy was already struggling. Michigan's economy was in trouble prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and Gov. Whitmer's anti-business approach does Michigan small businesses and workers no favors.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



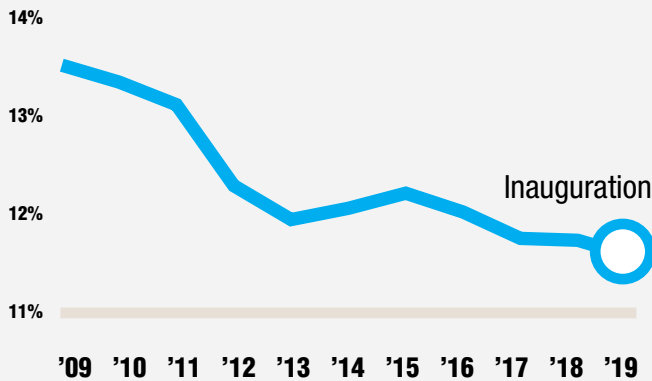
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

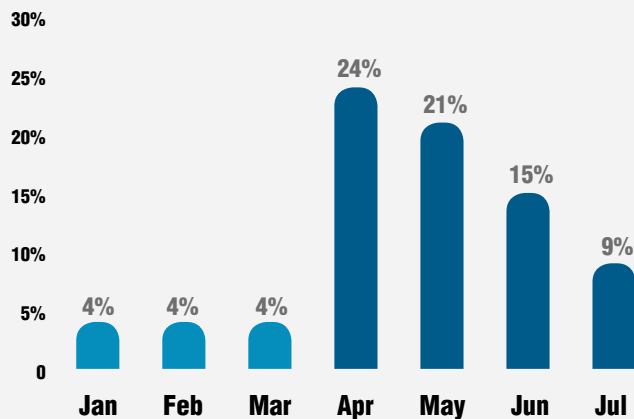
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	6.65%	31
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	8.00%	36
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$2.69	16
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$31.11	30
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.32	20
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$15.83	18
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	-\$0.66	8
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	7.0%	32



State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Jim Justice

West Virginia

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2020



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

	Earl Ray Tomblin	2010-2017
	Joe Manchin	2005-2010
	Bob Wise	2001-2005
	Cecil H. Underwood	1997-2001

SENATE



Democrat 14 Republican 20

HOUSE



Democrat 41 Republican 58 Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR JIM JUSTICE

Governor Jim Justice was inaugurated in 2017 after winning election as a Democrat, and ultimately switched parties. While he is now a Republican, Gov. Justice has not adopted fiscal conservatism as a governing principle to his administration. As a proportion of GDP, West Virginia has the highest state spending in the nation. While outmigration and low employment and GDP growth are problems for Gov. Justice's administration to overcome, making West Virginia's economy more competitive for growth will help the state diversify its economy and bring in new investment and opportunity. Gov. Justice has a lot of work to do to improve West Virginia's outlook, and adopting a more free market, limited government approach would help his administration in those efforts.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

	TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	24
	SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
	CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	31
	UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	41
	WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	46
	EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	48

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



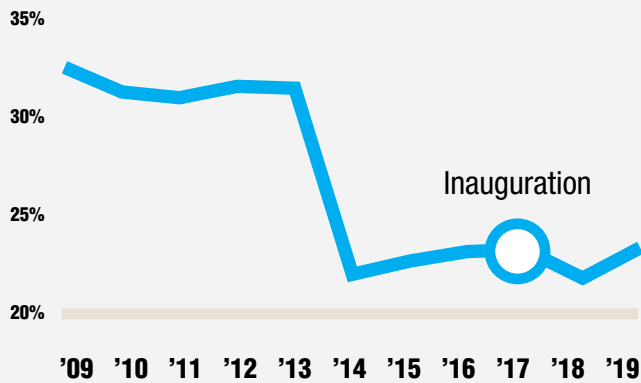
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

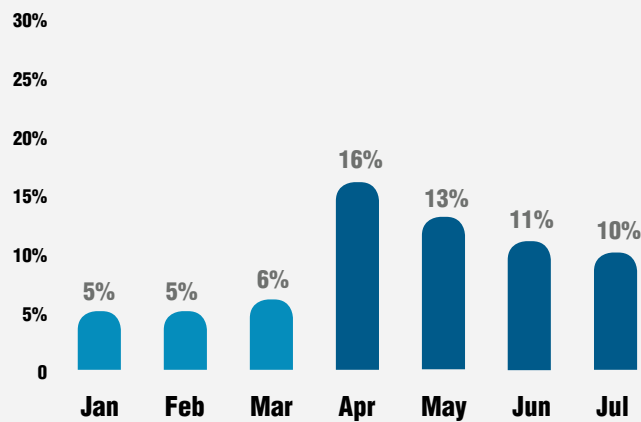
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	6.50%	29
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	6.50%	22
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$15.53	39
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$25.08	16
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$20.05	16
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$26.71	47
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.22	27
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	4.6%	10

NJ

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Phil Murphy

New Jersey

Inauguration: Jan 2018

Next Election: 2021



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Chris Christie	2010-2018
Jon Corzine	2006-2010
Richard Codey	2004-2006
Jim McGreevey	2002-2004

SENATE



Democrat 25 Republican 15

HOUSE



Democrat 52 Republican 28

ABOUT GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

If New Jersey' economy was a ship, it would be the Titanic, and Governor Phil Murphy would be Captain Edward Smith. New Jersey's economy has performed the second worst of any state and is the most indebted state in the nation. New Jersey's underwater finances are the result of a low credit rating leading to high borrowing costs, a propensity to issue bonds rather than pay for projects from the state capital budget and a pension program in grievous need of reform. Underwater state finances, a generous Medicaid program and a strict shutdown policy led to New Jersey being the state most unprepared for a fiscal crisis like COVID-19, second only to Louisiana. While New Jersey's pension problem is nothing new, Gov. Murphy had a chance to begin the process of reform when Senate President Stephen Sweeney indicated pension reform would be on his policy agenda. Instead, political infighting remained the issue du jour in New Jersey, and no substantive reforms were enacted. Proximity to New York City and Philadelphia gives New Jersey a fantastic opportunity for economic growth, but a decidedly anti-business environment and no indications of reform from Gov. Murphy's office keep potential investment and job creators at bay. In addition, Gov. Murphy has advocated for a dangerous federal bailout of states



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	47
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	12
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	50
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	40
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	16
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	34

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



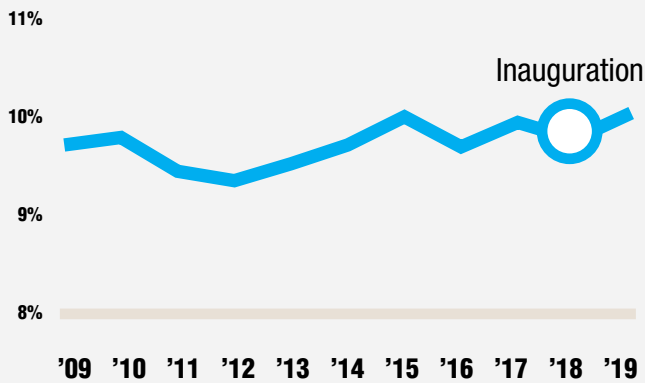
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

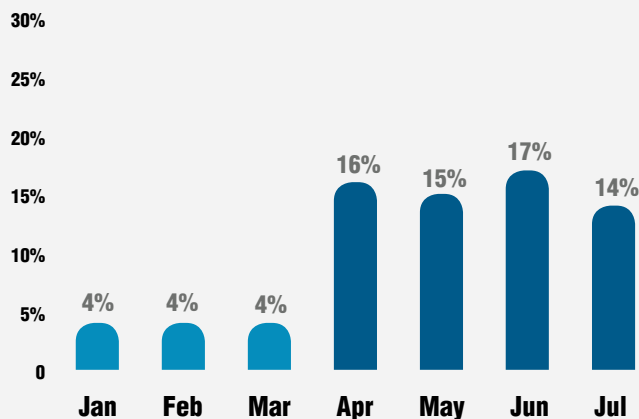
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

TAX POLICY	DATA	RANK
Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	11.75%	48
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	10.50%	45
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$24.81	47
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$51.51	48
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$16.97	11
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$12.82	4
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$1.24	40
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	5.5%	18

AK

State Control Party

Republican



Governor Party

Republican

Mike Dunleavy

Alaska

Inauguration: Dec 2018

Next Election: 2022



OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■ Bill Walker	2014-2018
■ Sean Parnell	2009-2014
■ Sarah Palin	2006-2009
■ Frank Murkowski	2002-2006

SENATE



Democrat 7 Republican 13

HOUSE



Democrat 15 Republican 22 Other 3

ABOUT GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Alaska has challenging times ahead as oil and gas prices – a key sector of the Last Frontier’s economy – remain at record lows. Inaugurated in 2018, Governor Mike Dunleavy faces the complicated task of reversing Alaska’s downward economic trend. While Gov. Mike Dunleavy has been unable to ameliorate these problems thus far, he has only signed one budget due to his short time in office. Despite Alaska’s continuing economic problems, Gov. Dunleavy does deserve credit for refusing to levy a personal income tax to close state budget gaps. Alaska is one of nine states that does not impose a personal income tax. For Alaska’s long-term economic success, it is imperative Alaska retains a competitive edge over other states by remaining personal income tax-free. Fortunately for Alaskans, the recent decision by the Trump Administration to open part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil drilling will bring new jobs and development to the state. This new opportunity for economic growth is welcome news for Alaska.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state’s economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor’s policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor’s legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	43
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	3
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	13
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	49
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	48
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	46

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



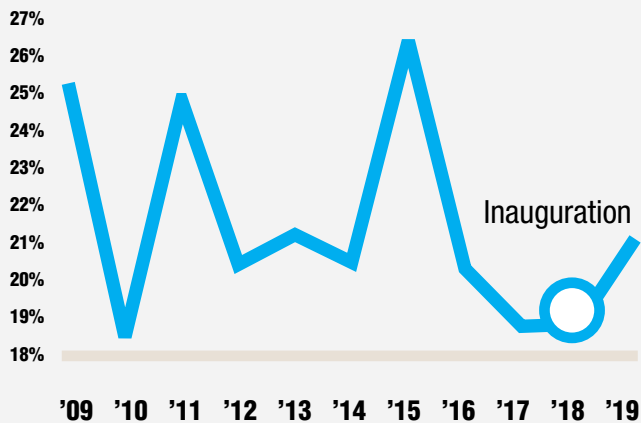
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

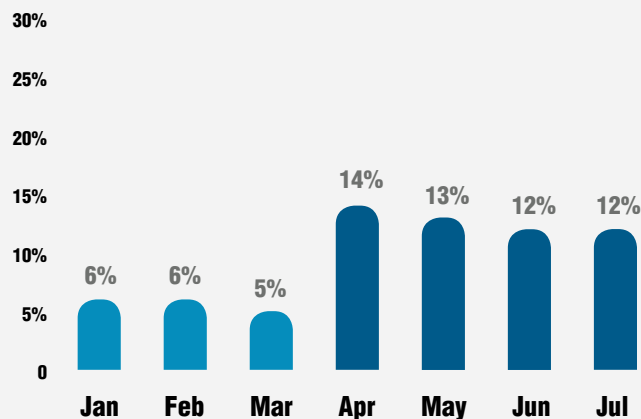
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	0.00%	1
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	9.40%	42
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$0.00	2
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$37.66	39
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$5.61	5
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$13.34	8
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	No	1
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.00	17
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	11.4%	50

RI

State Control Party

Democrat



Governor Party

Democrat

Gina Raimondo

Rhode Island

Inauguration: Jan 2019

Next Election: 2022

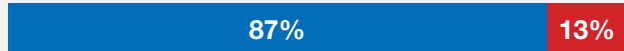


OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Lincoln Chafee	2011-2015
Donald Carcieri	2003-2011
Lincoln Almond	1995-2003
Bruce Sundlun	1991-1995

SENATE



Democrat 33 Republican 5

HOUSE



Democrat 66 Republican 8 Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR GINA RAIMONDO

Despite enacting net tax cuts during two of her years in office since becoming Rhode Island's chief executive in 2015, Governor Gina Raimondo has allowed state spending to remain higher than 40 other states. Increased state spending has undermined Rhode Island's financial position, as the state has the fifth-largest outstanding debt figures of any state. Not including unfunded pension liabilities, Rhode Island's bonded debt amounts to over 14% of the state GDP. Combined with unfunded pension obligations, this figure rises to nearly 27% of the state GDP. Rhode Island's fiscal situation is underwater, and rampant state spending is to blame. Fiscal discipline and getting state spending growth under control are other strategies Gov. Raimondo must utilize to make Rhode Island's financial standing more stable.



RESULTS RANK

Results Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A situational measure based on the state's economic outcomes (equal-weighted average). These variables are highly influenced by the Governor's policy.

Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A Measure of policy stances and decisions based on each Governor's legislative history regarding 6 key areas (equal-weighted average).



POLICY RANK

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

RANK

TAX POLICY Sales, Personal Income, Fuel, and Other Tax Changes	
SPENDING POLICY Proposed and Enacted Changes in State Spending	
CARES POLICY Handling of Federal Funds as of July 2020	
UNION POLICY Public Employees, Public Employee Raises, and Prevailing Wage Laws	
WELFARE POLICY Welfare Spending per Capita	
EDUCATION POLICY School Choice Participation, NAEP Scores, and per Pupil Spending	

RESULTS



DEBT RANK



SPENDING RANK



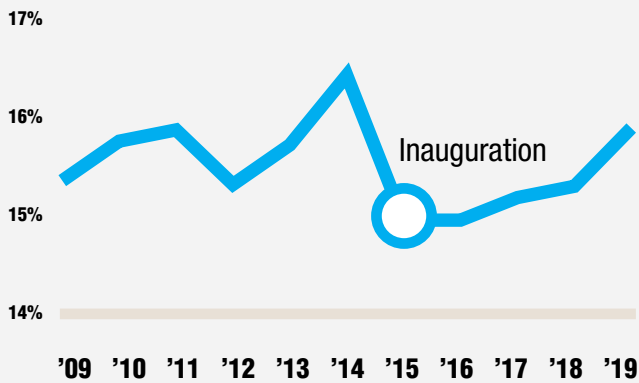
PREPAREDNESS RANK



ECONOMIC RANK

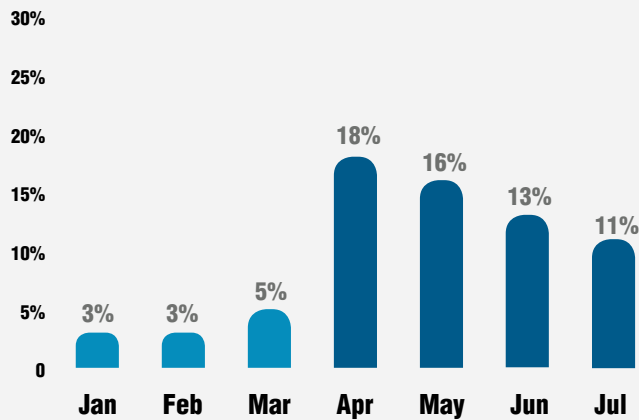
State Spending

Yearly Spending per GSP, 2009-2019:



2020 Unemployment Rate

Monthly Unemployment Rate from January to July, 2020:



TAX POLICY

DATA

RANK

Top Marginal Personal Income Tax Rate	5.99%	27
Top Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rate	7.00%	28
Personal Income Tax Progressivity (change in tax liability per \$1,000 of income)	\$11.31	29
Property Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$46.97	47
Sales Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$18.40	13
Remaining Tax Burden (per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$17.88	27
Estate/Inheritance Tax Levied	Yes	50
Recently Legislated Tax Changes (2018 & 2019, per \$1,000 of personal income)	\$0.72	33
Debt Service as a Share of Tax Revenue	9.6%	47



APPENDIX

Overall Rank	Results Rank	Policy Rank	State	Abbr	Governor	Party	Inauguration Date	Stars by Quintile
1	1	4	Texas	TX	Greg Abbott	R	Jan-2015	*****
2	2	7	Georgia	GA	Brian Kemp	R	Jan-2019	*****
3	8	1	South Dakota	SD	Kristi Noem	R	Jan-2019	*****
4	4	6	Nebraska	NE	Pete Ricketts	R	Jan-2015	*****
5	3	9	Utah	UT	Gary Herbert	R	Aug-2009	*****
6	10	2	Florida	FL	Ron DeSantis	R	Jan-2019	*****
7	7	8	Tennessee	TN	Bill Lee	R	Jan-2019	*****
8	15	5	Indiana	IN	Eric Holcomb	R	Jan-2017	*****
9	12	10	Colorado	CO	Jared Polis	D	Jan-2019	*****
10	5	17	New Hampshire	NH	Chris Sununu	R	Jan-2017	*****
11	20	3	Wyoming	WY	Mark Gordon	R	Jan-2019	****
12	14	12	Idaho	ID	Brad Little	R	Jan-2019	****
13	17	11	Missouri	MO	Mike Parson	R	Jun-2018	****
14	9	22	Arizona	AZ	Doug Ducey	R	Jan-2015	****
15	6	25	North Carolina	NC	Roy Cooper	D	Jan-2017	****
16	18	20	South Carolina	SC	Henry McMaster	R	Jan-2017	****
17	11	28	Alabama	AL	Kay Ivey	R	Apr-2017	****
18	27	13	Oklahoma	OK	Kevin Stitt	R	Jan-2019	****
19	13	29	Nevada	NV	Steve Sisolak	D	Jan-2019	****
20	28	14	Wisconsin	WI	Tony Evers	D	Jan-2019	****
21	26	18	Iowa	IA	Kim Reynolds	R	May-2017	***
22	23	23	Arkansas	AR	Asa Hutchinson	R	Jan-2015	***
23	19	27	Minnesota	MN	Tim Waltz	D	Jan-2019	***
24	21	26	Montana	MT	Steve Bullock	D	Jan-2013	***
25	24	24	Virginia	VA	Ralph Northam	D	Jan-2018	***
26	31	21	Massachusetts	MA	Charlie Baker	R	Jan-2015	***
27	36	16	North Dakota	ND	Doug Burgum	R	Dec-2016	***
28	25	30	Kansas	KS	Laura Kelly	D	Jan-2019	***
29	41	15	Mississippi	MS	Tate Reeves	R	Jan-2020	***
30	30	35	Maryland	MD	Larry Hogan	R	Jan-2015	***
31	16	50	Washington	WA	Jay Inslee	D	Jan-2013	**
32	48	19	Kentucky	KY	Andy Beshear	D	Dec-2019	**
33	22	47	Oregon	OR	Kate Brown	D	Feb-2015	**
34	29	40	Delaware	DE	John Carney	D	Jan-2017	**
35	37	33	Ohio	OH	Mike DeWine	R	Jan-2019	**
36	40	31	Vermont	VT	Phil Scott	R	Jan-2017	**
37	42	32	Connecticut	CT	Ned Lamont	D	Jan-2019	**
38	34	43	Maine	ME	Janet Mills	D	Jan-2019	**
39	35	44	New York	NY	Andrew Cuomo	D	Jan-2011	**
40	32	48	California	CA	Gavin Newsom	D	Jan-2019	**
41	39	42	Pennsylvania	PA	Tom Wolf	D	Jan-2015	*
42	47	34	Louisiana	LA	John Bel Edwards	D	Jan-2016	*
43	33	49	New Mexico	NM	Michelle Lujan Grisham	D	Jan-2019	*
44	38	45	Illinois	IL	J.B. Pritzker	D	Jan-2019	*
45	44	39	Hawaii	HI	David Ige	D	Dec-2014	*
46	43	41	Michigan	MI	Gretchen Whitmer	D	Jan-2019	*
47	46	38	West Virginia	WV	Jim Justice	R	Jan-2017	*
48	49	36	New Jersey	NJ	Phil Murphy	D	Jan-2018	*
49	50	37	Alaska	AK	Mike Dunleavy	R	Dec-2018	*
50	45	46	Rhode Island	RI	Gina Raimondo	D	Jan-2015	*

Tax Policy	Spending Policy	Welfare Policy	CARES Policy	Education Policy	Union Policy	Debt Results	Spending Results	Preparedness Results	Economic Results
1	35	4	12	12	1	19	1	10	3
24	12	5	18	17	2	12	9	6	10
24	12	2	1	2	13	6	8	16	22
9	24	6	4	12	20	2	13	8	26
24	24	1	9	1	19	9	11	15	2
4	12	9	20	3	9	8	5	44	5
24	12	17	15	6	5	1	14	28	8
4	12	22	23	4	6	4	12	34	26
4	3	30	4	6	39	29	25	13	7
24	35	24	12	15	18	17	2	12	18
24	1	3	7	10	16	26	33	1	31
24	46	9	7	8	4	3	29	39	4
4	12	10	16	15	36	10	3	47	17
9	46	40	40	7	3	16	22	22	1
43	35	20	24	19	12	5	10	23	13
24	35	14	34	22	8	40	23	11	6
39	46	14	21	22	22	22	31	9	11
24	12	12	5	24	25	14	32	42	20
24	46	11	29	35	23	28	7	24	15
4	35	21	19	28	8	7	39	26	36
24	24	29	27	15	14	15	35	21	36
9	24	45	30	31	11	11	47	25	14
24	35	25	14	27	37	23	28	5	31
24	24	36	8	30	35	18	38	20	16
43	24	7	42	25	11	24	18	37	20
9	12	26	42	24	30	44	19	7	40
24	35	23	10	18	15	32	30	31	33
24	35	18	33	32	27	21	17	32	29
24	12	20	28	9	26	37	46	36	24
24	46	38	35	26	28	35	26	17	32
49	46	37	37	36	47	30	6	30	10
24	12	47	2	33	17	41	43	46	38
43	46	42	18	38	45	36	45	3	13
24	35	28	46	50	31	27	40	4	37
39	24	43	36	15	29	34	21	29	42
43	12	31	26	20	39	39	44	27	29
24	12	15	45	29	48	49	34	18	44
24	46	33	33	40	44	20	36	43	22
49	12	36	50	45	32	13	15	48	48
47	12	50	38	42	43	42	16	19	34
43	35	42	25	40	33	38	27	34	39
24	24	45	44	37	21	33	37	50	46
24	46	49	43	41	46	43	48	2	23
49	24	32	48	47	24	46	4	45	41
24	35	34	22	44	50	47	42	14	45
24	35	39	39	43	35	31	24	40	50
24	12	46	31	48	41	25	50	38	43
47	12	16	50	34	40	50	20	49	49
43	3	48	13	46	49	48	49	35	47
24	35	28	47	49	42	45	41	42	27



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