

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



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New Hampshire is a Tax-Friendly State 2

User's Guide is released 3

Local Area Unemployment Statistics 5

Current Employment Statistics 6

For Additional Information 8

New Hampshire Ranks 7th Most Competitive Human Resources and infrastructure are among strengths

“A state is competitive if it has in place the policies and conditions that ensure and sustain a high level of per capita income and its continued growth.” According to a report from the Beacon Hill Institute, which rated various state policies, New Hampshire ranked 7th in the nation in economic competitiveness.

The ranking was a product of many variables consolidated into nine topics. These were weighted to produce a final index. New Hampshire was in the 10 best in the nation in six of the nine.

New Hampshire's highest ranking was in the area of *human resources*. There, the Granite State ranked best in the nation for the lowest infant mortality rate. Other strengths were low unemployment and high labor participation. New Hampshire's highest percent of households with Internet access and

second highest percent of installed phones helped its *infrastructure* rating. *Institutions and security* with the lowest crime index and murder index, also enhanced the state's competitiveness.

The two most prominent weaknesses in the state's ranking were in *environmental policy* and *openness*. Environmentally, a ninth best ranking in toxic release inventory could not offset the high cost of electricity, where we ranked 49th in the nation. Openness was the product of a 40th ranking in incoming foreign direct investment per capita and 30th in exports per capita.

New England had four of the top eight rankings, led by second place Massachusetts. Among all the states, Delaware ranked most competitive; Mississippi least. Only Wyoming had as many top-10 rankings as New Hampshire.

Martin Capodice

Competitive Ranking of States Top 10 Plus Balance of New England

	Overall Index	Overall rank	Gov & fiscal policy	Institutions and Security	Infrastructure	Human Resources	Technology	Finance	Openness	Domestic competition	Environmental policy
Delaware	7.2	1	5	19	11	28	4	2	6	11	30
Massachusetts	6.8	2	47	10	36	1	1	1	13	34	41
Wyoming	6.7	3	2	7	5	20	34	18	10	2	5
Washington	6.5	4	48	24	17	24	13	29	3	1	1
Vermont	6.4	5	25	3	22	2	7	39	2	16	39
Colorado	6.4	6	21	18	3	9	5	10	37	4	15
New Hampshire	6.3	7	9	4	4	3	10	13	34	8	46
Connecticut	6.2	8	41	8	20	7	2	3	18	21	42
Minnesota	6.0	9	29	6	7	4	12	7	25	39	10
California	5.8	10	28	14	33	21	8	5	9	10	38
Maine	5.3	19	31	9	13	18	33	33	29	7	37
Rhode Island	4.9	25	33	33	26	10	6	38	43	17	44

Source: *Competitiveness Report 2001*, the Beacon Hill Institute, Suffolk University, December 2001



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Employment
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