

# New Hampshire Among Most Livable States

## State ranked fifth in the nation

New Hampshire was rated number one in New England and fifth among all states in a recent national ranking of most livable factors.

According to Morgan Quitno Press, a Lawrence, Kansas, based independent research and publishing company, Minnesota ranked number one overall for the fourth consecutive year.

The Most Livable State award is based on 43 factors comparing states in more than 550 categories. The award recognizes a state for its high quality of life. According to Scott Morgan, President of Morgan Quitno Press: "We issue the award every year because it tells an interesting story about life and government in the 50 United States. It is based on statistical indicators that reflect the kind of lifestyle that most Americans agree is positive - affordable housing, safe streets, good employment opportunities, a strong education system and a healthy state economy."

New Hampshire has placed well in the ten-year history of these rankings. Previously, New Hampshire was named Most Livable State in 1991, 1993, 1994, and placed second in 1992 and 1997. In the 2000 ranking, New Hampshire is the only state east of the Mississippi in the top five and, with Massachusetts, one of two New England States in the top ten.

New Hampshire achieved the top score in six factors, more than any other state. No other state, including number one ranked Minnesota, took a top score in

more than two factors. New Hampshire did have the lowest ranking in one factor, electricity prices.

New Hampshire scored best in the nation in the following indicators:

- ❖ Crime rate
- ❖ State and local taxes as a percent of personal income
- ❖ Infant mortality rate
- ❖ Poverty rate
- ❖ Percent change in per capita gross state product
- ❖ Job growth

The Granite State was among the best five states in:

- ❖ Unemployment rate (2)
- ❖ Percent of births to teenage mothers (2)
- ❖ Percent of households receiving food stamps (2)
- ❖ Births of low birthweight as a percent of all births (3)
- ❖ Highway fatality rate (3)
- ❖ State prisoner incarceration rate (4)
- ❖ Percent of nonfarm employees in government (4)

New Hampshire rated among the lowest five states in:

- ❖ Electricity prices (50)
- ❖ State and local government spending for welfare programs as a percent of all spending (49)
- ❖ Fatalities in alcohol-related crashes as a percent of all highway fatalities (47)

*Henry Goode*

Most Livable State Ranking Based on 43 Factors										
State	National Ranking (1=best)									
	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
NH	5	8	11	2	7	8	1	1	2	1
CT	13	11	12	11	15	12	9	17	11	16
ME	15	15	26	16	16	16	18	13	17	9
MA	10	9	7	7	12	15	11	20	22	24
RI	31	34	31	28	30	32	30	37	34	32
VT	12	14	17	13	8	17	8	11	9	6