

# ECONOMIC CONDITIONS in New Hampshire



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## New Hampshire is Ranked the Second Safest State

### Northern New England is one of the safest and healthiest areas in the nation

According to Morgan Quitno Press, New Hampshire was the safest state in New England and second safest in the nation for 2001. The Granite State has been the second safest state for five straight years and has been in the top six since the first report was released in 1994. From 1994 through 1996, however, there was a different methodology. For the fifth consecutive year, North Dakota was ranked the safest state in the nation. Maine and Vermont followed close behind occupying the third and fourth positions nationally. Both Maine and Vermont have been in the top five since 1994.

The *Most Dangerous/Safest State Award* is based on six areas of crime: murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, and motor vehicle theft. New Hampshire was ranked the safest with the lowest burglary and motor vehicle theft rates and had the second lowest assault and murder rates based on instances per 100,000 population. The worst crime rate New Hampshire had was rape, with a ranking of 22<sup>nd</sup> for 2001. This was an improvement from last year's 27<sup>th</sup> rank in this category.

over 75,000 each and provided the Federal Bureau of Investigations with crime data.

#### Healthy State

Morgan Quitno Press ranked New Hampshire the second healthiest state in New England and the third healthiest in the nation. Vermont and Minnesota moved past New Hampshire and claimed the top two *Healthiest State Awards* respectively.

The *Healthiest State Award* was based on twenty-one health related factors. New Hampshire was one of the top ten states in nearly half of the factors. The Granite State had one of the lowest teenage birth rates in the nation. The state also had one of the lowest occurrences of sexually transmitted diseases and a low percentage of overweight adults.

The Granite State did poorly in a few areas. The state had a low safety belt usage rate and a high age-adjusted death rate by malignant neoplasms (tumors). New Hampshire had a high percent of

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*Employment*  
**SECURITY**

Manchester was the 77<sup>th</sup> *Safest City in America*. Morgan Quitno Press ranked 322 cities nationwide, based on the same six crime categories. The 322 cities ranked have a population of

### New Hampshire is the safest state in New England for five consecutive years

	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Connecticut	20	15	21	19	19	16	17	14
Maine	2	1	2	3	3	3	3	3
Massachusetts	22	23	20	25	23	21	22	21
New Hampshire	6	4	4	2	2	2	2	2
Rhode Island	15	10	7	15	15	13	13	19
Vermont	1	2	1	4	4	4	5	4

## Morgan Quitno Ranking

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adults who are binge drinkers, ranking it the third worst state in this category.

### Livable State

New Hampshire dropped to thirteenth place in 2001, from its fifth place spot in 2000 for the *Most Livable State Award*. The Granite State also dropped from first to third place within New England, as Connecticut and Massachusetts moved ahead. This was the first time that Connecticut held the first place spot in New England and the second time in eleven years that Massachusetts has ranked higher than New Hampshire.

The *Most Livable State Award* was based on 43 factors. Two major factors caused New Hampshire's eight place drop.

According to preliminary estimates used by Morgan Quitno Press, the Granite State had one of the lowest job growths from 1999 to 2000. The state also had a high percent change in number of crimes, although it maintained the lowest crime rate in the nation. New Hampshire did poorly in a couple of other areas. The Granite State had the second highest electricity prices. The State had a high percent of fatalities in alcohol-related crashes as a percent of all highway fatalities. There may be a relationship between this and the percentage of binge drinkers in New Hampshire.

A large increase in the marriage rate helped offset some of the negative areas felt from the prior factors. New Hampshire was the top state in four of the factors, the lowest crime rate, the lowest infant mortality rate, the lowest percent of households receiving food stamps, and the highest per capita gross state product.

New England is one of the best areas to reside. The region claimed three of the top five safest states in the nation, four of the top ten healthiest states in the nation, and four of the top fifteen most livable states. All New England states ranked in the top 25 for all three Awards, except for Rhode Island, which was ranked the 28<sup>th</sup> Most Livable State. Within New England, New Hampshire was the best state, ranking in the top three for all three awards.

Gail Houston

### New Hampshire is the second healthiest state in New England

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Connecticut	19	8	4	6	3	9	20	9	14
Maine	43	17	7	21	27	14	7	6	8
Massachusetts	34	9	15	20	10	16	8	8	10
New Hampshire	12	3	1	7	4	3	4	1	3
Rhode Island	43	11	22	29	30	22	21	13	15
Vermont	15	2	2	2	6	4	3	2	1

### New Hampshire and Connecticut switched places as the most livable state in New England between 2000 and 2001

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Connecticut	16	11	17	9	12	15	11	12	11	13	6
Maine	9	17	13	18	16	16	16	26	15	15	17
Massachusetts	24	22	20	11	15	12	7	7	9	10	9
New Hampshire	1	2	1	1	8	7	2	11	8	5	13
Rhode Island	32	34	37	30	32	30	28	31	34	31	28
Vermont	6	9	11	8	17	8	13	17	14	12	15