



FUTURE READY STATES 2023

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Introduction

When a business makes a location decision, it is usually a long-term commitment. Talent will put down roots in an area and may be reluctant to move again; custom buildings and equipment are difficult or costly to move or replace; and business and supply chain networks and logistics will take time to re-establish. Therefore, before making significant location investments, companies want to ensure they are choosing a location that will provide a solid foundation for long-term growth. As part of the decision-making process, leaders with foresight must consider factors that impact the region's future economic and business environment.

Similarly, states must consider the long-term economic and business impacts of their investments. Positioning regional economies for future success requires ongoing development of a skilled labor force, strategic long-term policy decisions, and effective management of resources. Furthermore, the increasing frequency of unexpected events, from climate driven hazards to public health emergencies and geopolitical unrest, means states also need to be prepared for possible economic shocks. Elected leaders and other stakeholders need foresight to ensure their regions' long-term economic stability.

These considerations inspired the development of the Future Ready States index. Future Ready States provides a benchmark for assessing which states are working to address these long-term challenges and lay the groundwork for future economic success.

The index includes seven categories that industry leaders frequently investigate when making their location decisions:

- Quality Workforce
- Building the Future Workforce
- Innovative Economy
- Infrastructure
- Government Stability and Regulatory Environment
- Clean Energy and Climate Policy
- Livability and Equity

Methodology

The Future Ready States index is comprised of 52 unique data points, collected from more than a dozen reputable primary sources. (See [Appendix A](#) for a comprehensive list of sources.) Once the data were collected, state rankings were produced for each metric. In some cases, a group of related metrics were combined into one subcategory to avoid disproportionately emphasizing a particular area.¹ Metrics or subcategories were scaled for comparability where appropriate² and were weighted equally within each category. The final ranking reflects the composite score that each state received in the index. Indicators were selected based on the top concerns of site selectors and companies making a location decision, as well as factors related to long-term economic vitality, resilience, and endurance.

Results

A number of factors impacted the 2023 Future Ready States rankings. As workforce is a primary driver of economic vitality, endurance, and resilience, shifts in remote work policies following the pandemic provided small- and mid-sized metros with an opportunity to absorb talent from large coastal hubs.³ Many of the traditional economic centers have faced increasing challenges such as poor housing availability, high costs, and sharp inequality among communities within regions in recent years.^{4,5} In addition, there is a growing trend for businesses and workers to opt

¹ For example, the various school performance metrics are combined into one “school quality” subcategory.

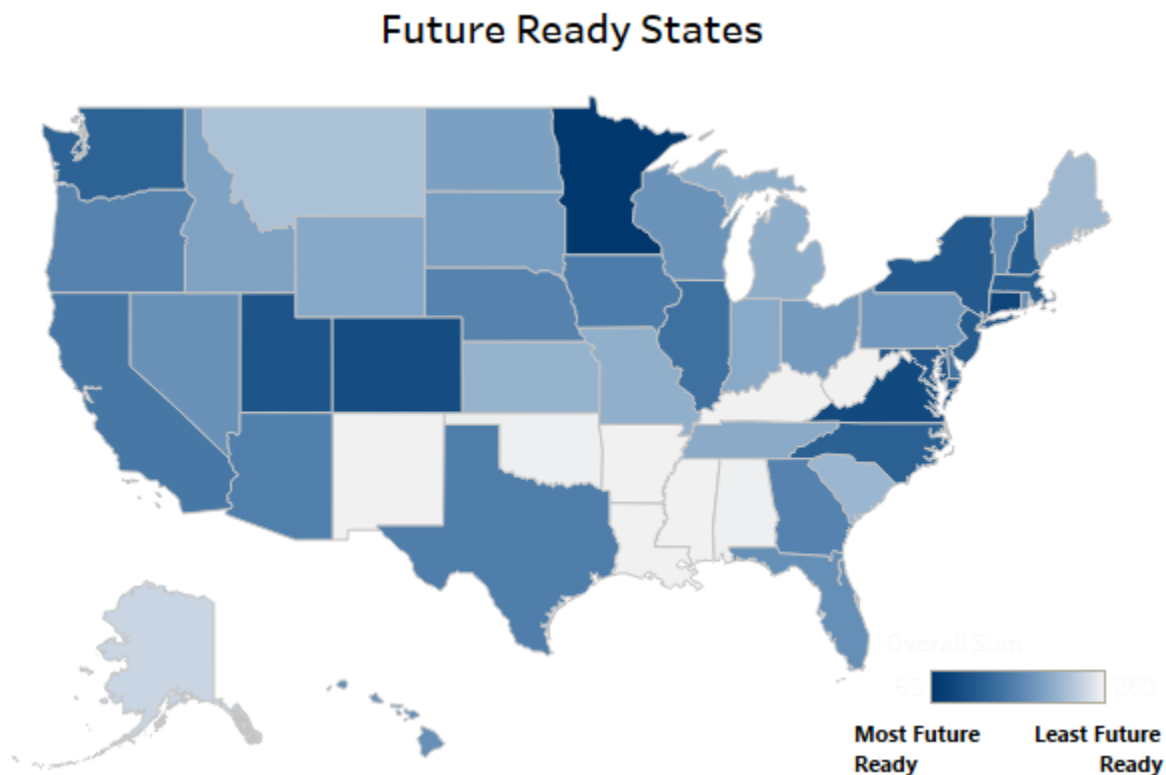
² Many metrics were measured on a per capita, per job, or percentage basis in order to appropriately compare states of different sizes.

³ Florida, Richard, et.al. “Heartland of Talent: How Heartland Metropolitans are Changing the Map of Talent in the U.S.” Heartland Forward, 2022. <https://heartlandforward.org/case-study/heartland-of-talent-how-heartland-metropolitans-are-changing-the-map-of-talent-in-the-u-s/>.

⁴ Florida, Richard. “The New Urban Crisis.” Basic Books, 2017.

⁵ Liew, Amy, et al. “Making local economies prosperous and resilient: The case for a modern Economic Development Administration.” Brookings, June 2022. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/making-local-economies-prosperous-and-resilient-the-case-for-a-modern-economic-development-administration/>.

for relatively less expensive locations, seeing future economic activity as more viable outside large economic hubs.^{6,7,8,9}



⁶ Konrad, Alex. "A Bevy of Billionaires Join Steve Case's \$150 Million 'Rise Of The Rest' Startup Fund." Forbes, 2017. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/alexkonrad/2017/12/05/steve-case-raises-150-million-rise-of-the-rest-fund/?sh=5fbc5ca4362c>.

⁷ Mischke, Jan, et al. "Empty Spaces & Hybrid Places." McKinsey, July 2023. <https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/our-research/empty-spaces-and-hybrid-places>.

⁸ Hegarty, Emelie. "The Rise of Mid-Size U.S. Cities: The Industrial Development Boom." Area Development, Q3 2023. <https://www.areadevelopment.com/corporate-site-selection-factors/Q3-2023/the-rise-of-mid-Size-US-cities-the-industrial-development-boom.shtml>.

⁹ Hickey, David. "Mid-size Markets Competing for Business and Winning." Area Development, Q1 2020. <https://www.areadevelopment.com/economic-analysis/Q1-2020/mid-size-markets-competing-for-business-and-winning.shtml>.

Minnesota took the top spot in this year's ranking, with solid performance across a range of categories. This top billing was driven by Minnesota's #1 ranking in the Building the Future Workforce and Livability and Equity categories, as well as a top five place for Infrastructure. The state was also among the top ten states in the Innovative Economy and Clean Energy and Climate Policy categories.

Connecticut and Virginia came in second and third, respectively. Both states ranked in the top ten for Quality Workforce, Building the Future Workforce, Innovative Economy, and Livability and Equity. Connecticut also had a top ten placement for Clean Energy and Climate Policy.

Rounding out the top five were Colorado and Utah. Both states reached the top ten in the Building the Future Workforce, Infrastructure, and Livability and Equity categories. See [Appendix B](#) for the full rankings list.

Rankings by Category

Quality Workforce

Talent is arguably companies' number one concern. With recent worker shortages across the U.S., companies are moving to where skilled, productive talent is located. Increasingly, companies are also looking for high concentrations of STEM talent and global connections.¹⁰ Even before the current workforce crunch, it was well established that a location's economic resilience depended on productivity, and negative economic shocks are less impactful in places where more households have multiple sources of income and higher savings and wealth.¹¹ Higher income, wealth, and savings are also associated with higher educational attainment.¹² As such, the Quality Workforce metrics in the Future Ready States ranking focus on educational attainment, workforce productivity, and talent availability, both overall and specifically as relevant to STEM occupations and global in-migration.

The highest performing states in this category did well across a range of metrics. Washington took the top spot, largely driven by a high concentration of STEM occupations, workforce productivity and availability, and attraction of global talent, with the state placing in the top 5 in each category. Connecticut and Massachusetts scored second and third, respectively, and were both in the top ten for all metrics but one each. New Jersey came in fourth with a tight score cluster between 6th and 11th on all metrics while Maryland secured fifth place by placing among the top 10 scores for all metrics except labor force availability.

Top Ranked States for
Quality Workforce

Rank	State
1	Washington
2	Connecticut
3	Massachusetts
4	New Jersey
5	Maryland

¹⁰ "H-1B Visa Program and Its Impact on the U.S. Economy." American Immigration Council, July 2022, modified August 2023. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/h1b-visa-program-fact-sheet>.

¹¹ Hallegatte, Stephane. "Economic Resilience Definition and Measurement." The World Bank Climate Change Group, May 2014, p 21-2.

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/350411468149663792/pdf/WPS6852.pdf>.

¹² Wolla, Scott A. and Sullivan, Jessica. "Education, Income, and Wealth." Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2017. [https://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/page1-econ/2017/01/03/education-income-and-wealth#:~:text=The%20relationship%20between%20education%20and,incomes%20\(see%20the%20table\)](https://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/page1-econ/2017/01/03/education-income-and-wealth#:~:text=The%20relationship%20between%20education%20and,incomes%20(see%20the%20table).).

Building the Future Workforce

Because talent is so crucial to economies, a region's talent pipeline is also pivotal to maintaining a quality labor force over a longer time frame. Company leadership taking a long-term view regarding their location decision will frequently inquire about educational systems—both for programs of study relevant to their company's most essential or difficult-to-hire talent as well as for their employees' own children. Furthermore, regions investing in their youth are viewed as more prepared to weather shifting economic conditions. Thought leaders from the national¹³ to the local level¹⁴ have weighed in on the need to invest in our young people.

Though lifelong learning is important, the metrics in the Building the Future Workforce category concentrate on a state's investment in the next generation of its workforce—quality and outcomes of early childhood through secondary school education, vocational school availability, and outcomes and earnings for young professionals.

Top Ranked States for
Building the Future Workforce

Rank	State
1	Minnesota
2	Connecticut
3	Virginia
4	Massachusetts
5	New York

Minnesota was the highest-ranking state in the Building the Future Workforce category, with solid performance across the board. The state came in between 8th and 14th on every metric in this category. Connecticut, Virginia, and Massachusetts, on the other hand, scored highly for college preparation, early childhood education, school quality, and youth wages, but performed less well for vocational school availability. New York, similarly, did well in the college preparation, school quality, and youth wages categories.

¹³ Athanasia, Gabrielle and Jillian Cota. "The US Should Strengthen STEM Education to Remain Globally Competitive." Center for Strategic and International Studies, April 1, 2022.
<https://www.csis.org/blogs/perspectives-innovation/us-should-strengthen-stem-education-remain-globally-competitive>.

¹⁴ "Connecting Our Future: 2020 Disconnected Youth Task Force Report." City of New York, 2020, p. 9.
<https://www.nyc.gov/assets/youthemployment/downloads/pdf/dytf-connecting-our-future-report.pdf>.

Innovative Economy

Innovation is widely cited as one of the most important components of long-term economic growth. New technology and processes increase efficiency and workforce productivity; higher quality products and services create new revenue streams and increase quality for consumers.¹⁵ Innovation can also impact factors such as sustainability¹⁶ and social equality.¹⁷ Businesses making a location decision—especially those developing novel technologies—often benefit from close proximity to their investors and funders. The Innovative Economy category aims to measure the presence of an innovative ecosystem, with indicators such as concentration of innovative firms, funding and investment, and technology transfer markers such as patent activity serving as signals that the region’s economy can grow and adapt over the long term.

The most innovative state, Connecticut, ranked in the top 10 for all subcategories of Innovative Economy except new business development. Massachusetts came in second, but with slightly lower rankings for new business development and FDI attraction. Performance for Illinois (3rd) and New York (4th) varied significantly between metrics, though Illinois was in the top 5 for FDI attraction and Fortune 1000 companies per capita and New York hit the top 10 for patent activity, Fortune 1000 companies and new business development. Despite scoring higher than Connecticut for patents, Fortune 1000 headquarters, and new business creation, Delaware’s lower scores for R&D funding and FDI attraction brought it to 5th place.

Top Ranked States for
Innovative Economy

Rank	State
1	Connecticut
2	Massachusetts
3	Illinois
4	New York
5	Delaware

¹⁵ Rosenberg, Nathan. “Innovation and Economic Growth.” OECD, 2004.

<https://www.oecd.org/cfe/tourism/34267902.pdf>. See also Sarangi, Ajoy K., et.al. “How Does Innovation Affect Economic Growth? Evidence from G20 Countries.” The Indian Economic Journal, Vol 70, Issue 1, Dec 9, 2021. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/00194662211063562>.

¹⁶ Gualt, Fred and Soete, Luc. “Innovation Indicators.” Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Business and Management, 2022. <https://oxfordre.com/business/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780190224851.001.0001/acrefore-9780190224851-e-331>.

¹⁷ Snyder, Bill. “How Innovation Drives Economic Growth.” Insights by Stanford Business, June 24, 2019. <https://www.gsb.stanford.edu/insights/how-innovation-drives-economic-growth>.

Infrastructure

Regions primed for economic growth should possess vital infrastructure to transport materials to factories, finished products to market, and workforce to job sites. Positive impacts from high quality infrastructure range from efficiency and safety, to less-frequently cited but perhaps equally important benefits including decreased environmental impact, job creation, FDI, and increased revenue collection.¹⁸ Closing the digital divide is also critical,¹⁹ and productivity after natural disasters is dependent on infrastructure efficiency.²⁰ Conversely, poor infrastructure can create inefficiencies in production processes. The indicators included in this category—electrical infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, broadband access, and housing construction—all influence a business’s ability to produce, deliver, or expand production and accommodate an appropriate workforce. States investing in quality infrastructure will be better-positioned for long-term growth.

Measuring Infrastructure quality introduces a group of states largely unseen in the top 5 so far. Utah’s success in this category is largely driven by its high quality and safe transportation infrastructure, while Delaware secured the #2 slot with high quality broadband. Neither of the top two states scored below 13th in any subcategory. Third place goes to Florida for good electrical infrastructure and construction of housing to meet future demand. Nevada came in 4th, with stable electrical infrastructure and quality roads and bridges. Minnesota secured the 5th place spot.

Top Ranked States for Infrastructure

Rank	State
1	Utah
2	Delaware
3	Florida
4	Nevada
5	Minnesota

¹⁸ Runde, Daniel F. “Quality Infrastructure.” Center for Strategic and International Studies, Jan 9, 2017. <https://www.csis.org/analysis/quality-infrastructure>.

¹⁹ Puentes, Robert. “Why Infrastructure Matters: Rotten Roads, Bum Economy.” Brookings, Jan 20, 2015. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/why-infrastructure-matters-rotten-roads-bum-economy/>.

²⁰ Hallegatte, Stephane. “Economic Resilience Definition and Measurement.” The World Bank Climate Change Group, May 2014, p. 31. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/350411468149663792/pdf/WPS6852.pdf>.

Government Stability and Regulatory Environment

Stability and predictability are critical components of long-term business growth. Rule of law, strong institutions, a responsive and efficient bureaucracy, and low corruption contribute to a business climate that is conducive to investment.²¹ States who overregulate their economies can cause higher consumer prices and create barriers to entry for new businesses.²² Furthermore, macroeconomic resilience affects the ability of a state to cope, recover, and reconstruct, if necessary, after natural disasters or during economic downturns.²³ As policymakers engage in fiscal planning, they must consider whether their state is sufficiently prepared for unexpected shocks like recessions or natural disasters.²⁴ Future Ready States includes indicators that show how much regulation states impose on businesses and residents, and how fiscally prepared they are for current and future economic disruptions.

South Dakota won this category by a significant margin with the strongest fiscal health and second fewest regulatory restrictions. The four remaining top 5 states were all very close. Montana (2nd), North Dakota (3rd), and Nevada (5th) scored in the top ten for regulation and fiscal stability while Idaho (4th), lowest of the group at 14th for stability, came in first for number of restrictions.

Top Ranked States for
Government Stability and Regulatory
Environment

Rank	State
1	South Dakota
2	Montana
3	North Dakota
4	Idaho
5	Nevada

²¹ Shepherd, Ben. "Political Stability: Crucial for Growth?" London School of Economics, n.d. <https://www.lse.ac.uk/international-relations/assets/documents/dinam/Dinam.Shepherd.Ben.Political-Stability-Crucial-for-Growth.pdf>.

²² Millsap, Adam A. "How Too Much Regulation Hurts America's Poor." Forbes, July 2019. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/adammillsap/2019/07/23/how-too-much-regulation-hurts-americas-poor/?sh=24d34b96271f>.

²³ Hallegatte, Stephane. "Economic Resilience Definition and Measurement." The World Bank Climate Change Group, May 2014, p. 31. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/350411468149663792/pdf/WPS6852.pdf>.

²⁴ Chapman, Jeff, et al. "How Today's Surpluses Can Help States Invest in Budget Stability." Pew, April 2023. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2023/04/13/how-todays-surpluses-can-help-states-invest-in-budget-stability>.

Clean Energy and Climate Policy

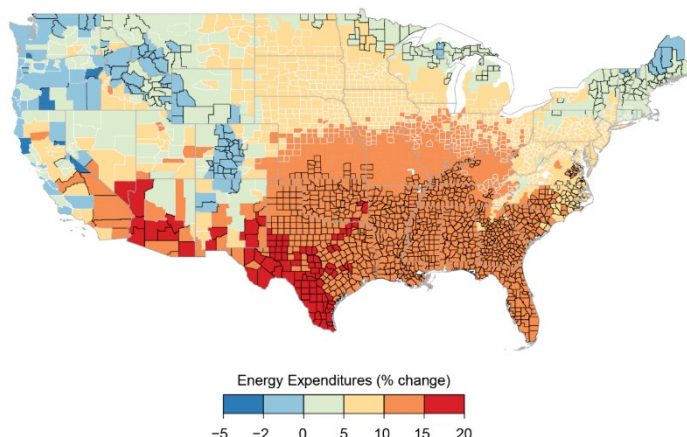
Climate change is one of the major causes of natural disasters that can have devastating effects on businesses and economies.

Physical and weather risks, and large shifts in asset value are two of the ways climate change could cause significant business and economic disruption.²⁵ Climate change will also continue to increase the demand for energy in the future, with impacts on both businesses and residents²⁶—and states with hotter climates will see larger increases in energy demand (see image). States that are future ready are working now to reduce their carbon footprint and

mitigate the impending impacts of climate change. The Future Ready States index includes metrics on transportation modes that reduce fossil fuel reliance, climate policy efforts, and state carbon emissions.

States that performed well for Clean Energy and Climate Policy did so consistently—each of the top 5 states in this category ranked in the top 10 in every subcategory. California, with top rank for progress towards zero-carbon, number two in transportation, and third for economic carbon intensity, was secure in taking first place for the category. In second place, New York scored best for energy intensity of the economy while Massachusetts' fourth place was bolstered by a number one ranking in transportation.

Projected Changes in Median Energy Expenditures by 2080-2099



Source: NOAA U.S. Global Change Research Program, 2018.

Top Ranked States for Clean Energy and Climate Policy

Rank	State
1	California
2	New York
3	Washington
4	Massachusetts
5	Oregon

²⁵ "The Economics of Climate Change." Swiss Re Institute, April 22, 2021. <https://www.swissre.com/institute/research/topics-and-risk-dialogues/climate-and-natural-catastrophe-risk/expertise-publication-economics-of-climate-change.html>.

²⁶ "Climate Change Impacts on Energy." U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, last updated May 2023. <https://www.epa.gov/climateimpacts/climate-change-impacts-energy#26foot>.

Livability and Equity

Talent attraction is vital to a state's workforce in the long term. Affordability, ability to live proximate to work, safety, health, and equality all play a role in attracting talent. Though all the aforementioned factors are important to more than talent attraction, there is long standing evidence that economies with higher inequality across populations are less resilient.²⁷ One of the reasons is that low-income populations are more vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters and economic disruptions than are those with higher incomes.²⁸

Top Ranked States for
Livability and Equity

Rank	State
1	Minnesota
2	Vermont
3	Utah (tie) Virginia (tie)
5	Connecticut

Minnesota makes another appearance at the top of the Livability and Equity category, again scoring in the top 10 for every subcategory. Vermont performed well in all subcategories except for cost of living. Virginia and Utah tied for 3rd, generally flip flopping for performance in different categories. Connecticut makes another appearance with top 5 performance for Crime, Health, and Equality making up for lower cost of living scores.

Conclusion

The Future Ready States ranking highlights states that are best positioned for long-term business and economic success. The focus on metrics that have been deemed significant by industry leaders means that these results are not simply theoretical, but grounded in practical experience. This ranking also illuminates the advantages and disadvantages that each state has relative to future readiness. While Minnesota, Connecticut, Virginia, Colorado and Utah may have taken the top spots, states across the country and in each region excelled in various ways. It's our hope that companies, site selectors, and policy makers can use these results to make informed decisions as they execute their long-term visions.

²⁷ Hallegatte, Stephane. "Economic Resilience Definition and Measurement." The World Bank Climate Change Group, May 2014, p. 32. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/350411468149663792/pdf/WPS6852.pdf>

²⁸ Hallegatte, Stephane. "Economic Resilience Definition and Measurement." The World Bank Climate Change Group, May 2014, p.22. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/350411468149663792/pdf/WPS6852.pdf>

Appendix A

Sources and Metrics

Data was gathered until September 1, 2023. Analysis incorporates the most recent data available at the time of collection.

<i>Quality Workforce</i>	
Metric	Source
Percentage of Population with High School Degree or Equivalent	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS
Percentage of Population with a Bachelor Degree	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS
Percentage of Population with a Graduate Degree	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS
Workforce Productivity	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2022 State Annual Summary Statistics; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022 OEWS
Unemployed Workers per Job Opening	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022 JOLTS
International In-Migration as a percent of Population	U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Population Estimates
STEM Concentration	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, OEWS 2022
<i>Building the Future Workforce</i>	
Metric	Source
ACT Scores and Percent of Students Taking	ACT, 2022
SAT Scores and Percent of Students Taking	College Board, 2022
AP Scholar Awards per Capita	College Board, 2022; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Population Estimates
School Enrollment Percentage, Ages 3-4	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS
Cost of Child Care as Percentage of Median Income for families with Children	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, OEWS 2021; U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS
Vocational Completions per Capita	National Center for Education Statistics, 2021; U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2022 Population Estimates
Vocational Institutions per Capita	National Center for Education Statistics, 2021; U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2022 Population Estimates
Performance on Statewide Reading/Language Arts Assessment	U.S. Department of Education, 2021
Performance on Statewide Mathematics Assessment	U.S. Department of Education, 2021
Four-Year Adjusted-Cohort Graduation Rate	U.S. Department of Education, 2021
Performance of English Learners on English Language Proficiency Assessment, Percent Proficient	U.S. Department of Education, 2021
Blue Ribbon Schools per Capita	U.S. Department of Education, 2022; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Population Estimates
Average Earnings Workers Aged 16-29	U.S. Census Bureau, Microdata 2022 CPS
<i>Innovative Economy</i>	
Metric	Source
Patents per Capita	USPTO, 2022; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Population Estimates
Federal R&D Funds per Capita	National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Survey of Federal Funds for Research and Development, FYs 2020-21; U.S. Census Bureau, 2020-2022 Population Estimates
Fortune 500 Companies per Capita	Fortune 1000, U.S. Census Bureau; 2022
Business Applications per Capita	U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Business Formation Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Population Estimates
Venture Capital Invested per Capita	NVCA 2023 Yearbook; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Population Estimates
New FDI Employment, Percentage of Total Employment	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Data on new foreign direct investment in the United States" 2022; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics OEWS 2022

Total FDI Employment, Percentage of Total Employment	U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, "Data on activities of multinational enterprises", MOUSA 2021; U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, QCEW 2021
<i>Infrastructure</i>	
Metric	Source
Percent of Customers Reporting Electric Utility Outage	U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2021
Electric Utility Outage Minutes, With Major Events	U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2021
Electric Utility Outage Times	U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2021
Bridge Quality	U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 2022
Percent Acceptable Road Quality	U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 2020
Transportation Fatalities per Capita	U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 2021
New Residential Construction per capita	U.S. Census Bureau, Building Permits Survey, Population Estimates, 2022
Best & Worst States for Broadband	BroadbandNow, 2023
<i>Government Stability Regulatory Environment</i>	
Metric	Source
Total Number of Restrictions, ranked fewest to most	QuantGov RegCensus, 2022 (2021 data for West Virginia, Arkansas data unavailable)
State Tax Revenue Volatility, 2002 – 2021	Pew Fiscal 50, 2023
Debt Obligations as share of state personal income, 2020	Pew Fiscal 50, 2023
State revenue as share of total expenses, 2006-2020	Pew Fiscal 50, 2023
<i>Clean Energy and Climate Policy</i>	
Metric	Source
Carbon Intensity per Dollar GDP	U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2021
Number of Climate Policies	NC State University, Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency, 2023
Use of Public Transit	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS
Alternative Fueling Stations	U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics, 2023; U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 Population Estimates
<i>Livability and Equity</i>	
Metric	Source
Cost of Living	C2ER, 2023 State Cost of Living Index
Average travel time to work	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS
Crimes Against Persons and Property per Capita, Crime Reporting Participation Rate	FBI National Incidence Based Reporting System, 2021; U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 Population Estimates
Health	United Health Foundation, 2022 America's Health Ranking
Percentage 16+ that work from home	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS
Poverty Rate	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS
Equality	Human Rights Campaign Equality Index, 2022
Wage Demographics	U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 1 Year ACS

Appendix B

Full Rankings

OVERALL RANK	State	Quality Workforce Rank	Building the Future Workforce Rank	Innovative Economy Rank	Infra-structure Rank	Gov. Stability & Regulatory Environment Rank	Clean Energy and Climate Policy Rank	Livability Rank
1	Minnesota	19	1	9	5	18	10	1
2	Connecticut	2	2	1	22	39	7	5
3	Virginia	8	3	8	11	31	15	3
4	Colorado	12	7	7	7	41	7	9
5	Utah	27	7	23	1	16	27	3
6	Maryland	5	17	20	8	34	6	18
6	North Carolina	18	11	9	14	14	16	26
8	New Jersey	4	6	12	13	49	11	17
8	New York	7	5	4	20	47	2	27
10	New Hampshire	13	9	28	9	30	20	6
11	Massachusetts	3	4	2	46	46	4	11
12	Washington	1	24	17	26	41	3	11
13	Illinois	11	15	3	28	49	12	20
14	Delaware	9	36	5	2	38	24	27
15	Iowa	31	13	35	18	15	30	7
16	California	6	18	6	35	48	1	37
17	Arizona	21	40	29	15	11	14	23
18	Georgia	25	23	18	6	26	22	36
18	Nebraska	28	10	40	22	6	37	13
20	Texas	15	27	14	18	23	25	40
21	Vermont	32	46	25	37	16	9	2
22	Florida	24	19	30	3	36	12	45
23	Ohio	26	12	11	30	37	31	25
23	Oregon	13	49	31	15	44	5	15
25	Wisconsin	34	28	24	30	26	28	8
26	Rhode Island	22	42	15	38	29	17	16
27	Pennsylvania	16	22	13	29	43	19	38
28	Idaho	47	41	21	24	4	35	9
29	Nevada	30	48	27	4	5	21	48
30	South Dakota	36	20	49	21	1	35	23
31	Michigan	20	42	18	43	19	26	19
32	North Dakota	38	25	43	12	3	47	27
33	Hawaii	16	30	36	33	33	17	32
33	Indiana	37	39	26	24	9	32	30
33	Tennessee	40	31	15	17	11	40	43
36	Wyoming	35	16	38	32	6	43	31
37	Kansas	29	13	42	40	21	39	22
37	Missouri	40	32	22	45	13	22	32
39	South Carolina	44	34	32	10	6	34	49
40	Maine	33	44	47	36	20	28	14
41	Montana	43	37	39	44	2	41	21
42	Alaska	10	50	45	48	10	44	35
43	Alabama	45	33	34	26	28	48	47
43	New Mexico	22	47	37	41	40	33	41
45	Oklahoma	39	45	44	34	23	38	39
46	Kentucky	45	29	41	39	31	44	34
47	Arkansas	49	34	33	42	35	42	44
48	Mississippi	50	25	46	49	25	49	46
49	Louisiana	40	21	47	47	45	46	50
50	West Virginia	48	38	50	50	21	50	42