

- **Total Crime Rate.** Just like taxes, a high crime rate acts as a disincentive to entrepreneurs and small businesses. If government is unable to adequately protect life, limb, and property—the basic duties of any government—then entrepreneurs and businesses will flee to safer environments.

State’s Crime Rate per 100 Residents.

RANK	STATE	CRIME RATE
21	Colorado	3.00
23	California	3.20
29	Utah	3.49
33	Nevada	3.76
37	Arizona	3.96
45	New Mexico	4.35

- **Highway Cost Efficiency.** The condition and performance of roads and highways are of significant importance – one way or another – to most businesses. At the same time, just mindlessly throwing more and more tax dollars at roads does not necessarily enhance quality. Fortunately, an annual study considers both cost and effectiveness.

Highway Cost Effectiveness

RANK	STATE	HIGHWAY EFFECTIVENESS
4	New Mexico	0.20
15	Nevada	0.75
22	Utah	1.10
26	Arizona	1.30
34	Colorado	1.70
48	California	2.40

Score is based on an assigned score of “0.05” for the state’s cost effectiveness ranking – so the best state receives a score of “0.05” and the worst receives “2.50”.