GRADING
AMERICA'S

50

GOVERNORS

2021

THE LAFFER-ALEC REPORT ON

ECONOMIC

FREEDOM

GRADING AMERICA'S 50 GOVERNORS

DR. ARTHUR B. LAFFER
DONNA ARDUIN
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The Laffer-ALEC Report on Economic Freedom
Grading America's 50 Governors
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The Laffer-ALEC Report on Economic Freedom: Grading America's 50 Governors has been published by the American Legislative Exchange Council, America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state legislators dedicated to the principles of limited government, free markets and federalism. Comprised of nearly one-quarter of the country's state legislators and stakeholders from across the policy spectrum, ALEC members represent more than 60 million Americans and provide jobs to more than 30 million people in the United States.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

DR. ARTHUR B. LAFFER

Dr. Arthur B. Laffer is the founder and chairman of Laffer Associates and Laffer Investments, and many publications have named him "The Father of Supply-Side Economics." Dr. Laffer served as a member of President Reagan's Economic Policy Advisory Board for both terms and advised Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on fiscal policy in the United Kingdom during the 1980s. He has been a faculty member at the University of Chicago and University of Southern California. One of his earliest successes in shaping public policy was his involvement in Proposition 13, the groundbreaking California initiative that drastically cut property taxes in the state in 1978. In March 1999, he was noted by Time magazine as one of "the Century's Greatest Minds" for his invention of the Laffer Curve, which has been called one of "a few of the advances that powered this extraordinary century." He has received many awards for his economic research, including two Graham and Dodd Awards from the Financial Analyst Federation and The Hayek Lifetime Achievement Award in 2016. In December 2017, Dr. Laffer became the first recipient of the American Legislative Exchange Council's Laffer Award for Economic Excellence, and in December 2019, President Donald Trump awarded Dr. Laffer with the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his contributions in the field of economics. He graduated from Yale with a bachelor's degree in economics in 1963 and received both his MBA and Ph.D. in economics from Stanford University.

DONNA ARDUIN

Donna Arduin is one of the nation's most successful veterans of state budget management and tax reform, and, as Budget Director/Deputy Director, led toward responsibility the budgets of Michigan (Governor John Engler), New York (Governor George Pataki), Florida (Governor Jeb Bush) and California (Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger). She established a reputation for long-term policy planning linked with fiscally conservative budgeting. For the past 15 years, together with economists Dr. Arthur Laffer and Steve Moore, the Arduin, Laffer, and Moore consulting firm has worked on economic studies for a vast number of industries and think tanks across the country, and on successful economic development projects. She also consults for governors and governor candidates, including Florida Governor Rick Scott, Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner, and California Governor Candidate Meg Whitman. She also consulted for Florida Speaker of the House Marco Rubio. Ms. Arduin sits on a number of boards, both private and not-for-profit, and has been a senior fellow for several state think tanks. A graduate of Duke University, Ms. Arduin graduated with honors in economics and public policy. Prior to her career in the public sector, she worked as an investment banker in New York and Tokyo.

STEPHEN MOORE

Stephen Moore formerly served on The Wall Street Journal's editorial board and frequently wrote on the economy and public policy. In January 2014, Moore returned to The Heritage Foundation—about 25 years after his tenure as the Grover M. Hermann Fellow in Budgetary Affairs from 1984 to 1987. Moore now serves as the Chairman of the FreedomWorks Task Force on Economic Revival. He was previously the founder and president of the Club for Growth, which raises money for political candidates who favor free-market economic policies. Moore also founded the Free Enterprise Fund before joining The Wall Street Journal. Over the years, Moore has served as a senior economist at the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and as a senior economics fellow at the Cato Institute, where he published dozens of studies on federal and state fiscal policy. He was also a consultant to the National Economic Commission in 1987 and research director for President Ronald Reagan's Commission on Privatization. During the 2016 presidential campaign, Moore served as a senior economic adviser to Donald Trump, where he worked on tax reform, regulatory reform, and energy policy. Moore is a Senior Economic Analyst at CNN along with writing regularly for National Review, Forbes, Investor's Business Daily, The Washington Times, and Orange County Register. Moore holds a Master of Arts in economics from George Mason University. He has authored numerous books, including Who's the Fairest of Them All, It's Getting Better All the Time, Still an Open Door?, An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of States, Fueling Freedom: Exposing the Mad War on Energy and the recently released Trumponomics: Inside the America First Plan to Revive Our Economy with Dr. Arthur Laffer.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS

Jonathan Williams is Chief Economist and Executive Vice President of Policy at the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), where he works with state policymakers, congressional leaders and members of the private sector to develop economic policy solutions for the states. Williams also founded the ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform in 2011. Prior to joining ALEC in 2007, Williams served as staff economist at the nonpartisan Tax Foundation, authoring numerous tax policy studies. Williams' work has appeared in many publications, including The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, The Financial Times, Toronto Star, The Australian and Investor's Business Daily. He is a contributor for The Hill and a columnist at Tax Analysts, the leading provider of tax news and analysis for the global community. Williams also serves on the Advisory Board of the State Financial Officers Foundation (SFOF) and as an adjunct fellow at the Kansas Policy Institute. He has written for the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. In addition, Williams was a contributing author of In Defense of Capitalism (Northwood University Press). He has spoken to audiences across all 50 states and provided testimony for the U.S. Congress, as well as numerous state legislative bodies. His work has been featured at the federal level by The White House, the Congressional Joint Economic Committee and the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means. He is a frequent guest on talk radio shows and has appeared on numerous television outlets, including the PBS NewsHour, Fox Business News and Bloomberg. Williams was also the recipient of the prestigious Ludwig von Mises Award in Economics.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

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ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

Economic performance is a key component of this report's rankings, as the vitality of a state's economy is a wonderful proxy for the standard of living in each state, and perhaps more importantly, the rate at which the standard-of-living is improving. The economic performance rankings are based on two measurements of current economic growth (gross state product growth and the unemployment rate), and two measurements of potential economic growth (interstate migration and the quality of education).

GROSS STATE PRODUCT GROWTH

The growth of gross state product (GSP) is a classic and broad measure of economic well-being. A state may have high employment rates, fantastic public education and elevated in-migration, but none of these measures are truly adequate in fully measuring productivity. A state may be a destination for retirees, a boondoggle of government employees or losing many of their students to other states upon finishing their education, all of which do little to add to state production. A governor's policies can either impede or foster economic growth, and the effects of those policies can linger for years after a governor's term.

The highest ranked governors and their states in GSP growth include Tate Reeves (MS), Brad Little (ID), Spencer Cox (UT), Kristi Noem (SD) and Jared Polis (CO). In a time of economic uncertainty, these states found ways to grow their economies. A notable governor in this category is Governor Kristi Noem (SD). Prior to Noem's inauguration, South Dakota was, for some, an afterthought in the national economic conversation—but no longer. Since Noem began her term, South Dakota's average GSP growth has been nearly 1% for every quarter. If these trends continue, South Dakota may become a major player in the nation's overall economy.

When Governor Jared Polis (CO) entered office, his state was already growing rapidly. While sustained high economic growth is difficult to maintain because of business cycle effects, Colorado has managed to grow by nearly a full percentage point on average for every quarter since Polis' inauguration.

The lowest ranked states in GSP growth were Wyoming (50th), Oklahoma (49th), Alaska (48th), Louisiana (47th) and Michigan (46th). We see a trend with this grouping of energy dependent state economies, excluding Michigan. For these states, the volatility of global prices over the last year has had a disparate impact on the hydrocarbon production industry and helps to explain their underperformance. In most cases, global and intranational phenomena such as pandemics, supply chain disruptions or overarching federal policy shifts have an approximately proportional impact on each state. The year 2020 witnessed all-time low oil prices, with global market crude oil prices even briefly falling below zero. Inevitably, the low prices within the market were accompanied by low revenues and profits for producers, intensely damaging states relying on energy production to fuel GSP growth.

However, as any money manager would advise, portfolio diversification is a necessity. Governing a state with abundant natural resources is a wonderful opportunity but focusing solely on energy production leaves the state exposed to the fluctuations of that industry. These governors are expected to hedge their economic portfolios over time, providing a welcoming environment for migrating businesses outside of the energy sector. These sentiments hold especially true presently, with the rhetoric from the Biden Administration.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Unemployment rates are often used as barometers for the state of an economy. Governors can play a role in influencing their states' economies by encouraging private investment in their states, making work more attractive for potential workers through lower taxes and limiting welfare benefits which often reduce the incentive to work. Governor Greg Gianforte (MT) and Governor Henry McMaster (SC) deserve special recognition for being the first two executives who took the politically difficult, but principled, approach of decoupling from the enhanced federal unemployment benefits in June of 2021. This policy decision began a trend of governors ending enhanced federal unemployment benefits in their respective states. The catalyst for this was the disincentive to work created by increasing the amount of unemployment benefits as well as the eligibility expansion.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and government-imposed lockdowns caused some of the highest state unemployment rates on record. For example, Nevada, a state with a thriving employment environment has seen unemployment rates as high as nearly 15% during the pandemic. However, Nevada's employment levels today are not nearly what they were in early 2020.

The states with the largest improvements in unemployment rates were Montana (1st), North Dakota (2nd), Vermont (3rd), Nebraska (4th) and South Dakota (5th). Meanwhile, states like New Mexico (50th), Alaska (49th), California (48th), West Virginia (47th) and Louisiana (46th) are bringing up the rear.

INTERSTATE MIGRATION

People vote with their feet. If a state is losing residents and employment to other states, it is expected that the governor will react by adjusting current policy priorities to counteract the outbound migration. Domestic migration patterns of individuals, businesses and taxpayers provide one of the most holistic measures of state economic performance. The metric provides quantitative and qualitative insight as to why taxpayers are leaving or entering a state. There are numerous economic factors at play in an individual's decision-making process when it comes to moving across state lines, all of which become quantifiable when interstate migration is calculated. Few people are moving to states in which

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

FIGURE 1, TABLE 1: STATE POPULATION CHANGE IN 2021

Legend:
- TOP 10 States for Inbound Migration
- TOP 10 States for Outbound Migration
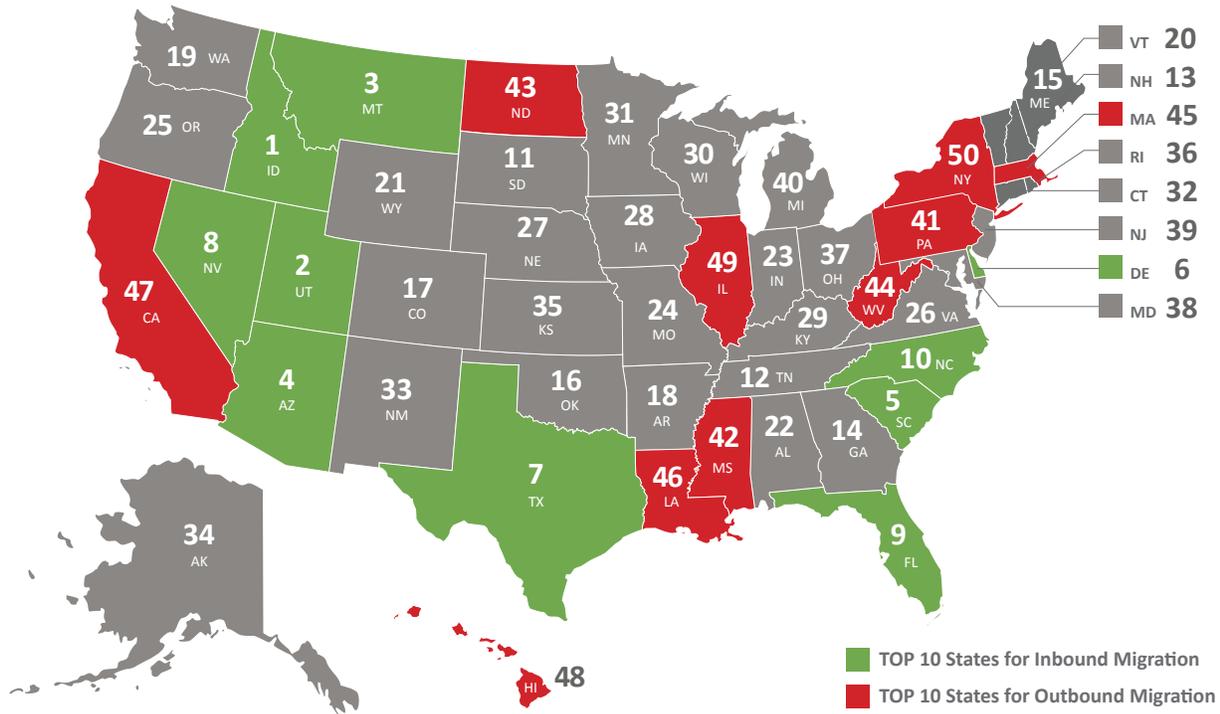
Rank	State	Percent Change
1	Idaho	3.4%
2	Utah	2.0%
3	Montana	1.8%
4	Arizona	1.7%
5	South Carolina	1.4%
6	Delaware	1.4%
7	Texas	1.3%
8	Nevada	1.3%
9	Florida	1.1%
10	North Carolina	1.1%
11	South Dakota	1.0%
12	Tennessee	0.9%
13	New Hampshire	0.8%
14	Georgia	0.8%
15	Maine	0.7%
16	Oklahoma	0.7%
17	Colorado	0.7%
18	Arkansas	0.5%
19	Washington	0.4%
20	Vermont	0.4%
21	Wyoming	0.3%
22	Alabama	0.3%
23	Indiana	0.3%
24	Missouri	0.2%
25	Oregon	0.2%

Rank	State	Percent Change
26	Virginia	0.1%
27	Nebraska	0.1%
28	Iowa	0.1%
29	Kentucky	0.1%
30	Wisconsin	0.0%
31	Minnesota	0.0%
32	Connecticut	0.0%
33	New Mexico	-0.1%
34	Alaska	-0.1%
35	Kansas	-0.1%
36	Rhode Island	-0.2%
37	Ohio	-0.2%
38	Maryland	-0.2%
39	New Jersey	-0.2%
40	Michigan	-0.3%
41	Pennsylvania	-0.3%
42	Mississippi	-0.4%
43	North Dakota	-0.5%
44	West Virginia	-0.6%
45	Massachusetts	-0.6%
46	Louisiana	-0.7%
47	California	-0.8%
48	Hawaii	-0.9%
49	Illinois	-1.1%
50	New York	-1.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Tax Foundation

employment opportunities are scarce and state-level policies hinder growth and prosperity. The reverse is certainly true for economically prosperous states. They experience an influx of domestic migrants who open businesses, pay state taxes and add their unique skill sets to the local economy. In all, interstate migration acts as a measurable stand-in for state desirability and competitiveness.

The data used to calculate interstate migration is a normalized net domestic migration statistic.[1] The variable is normalized to adjust for each state's population. Out-migration to other states is subtracted from in-migration to each state and ranked accordingly after normalizing the results to adjust for state population differentials. It is no surprise to see the policy and performance commonalities among the top ranked governors.

TABLE 2: BEST AND WORST TOTAL ABSOLUTE NET IN-MIGRATION

TOP 5				
Population Adjusted In-Migration Rank*	Governor	State	Inauguration Year	Total Absolute Net In-Migration**
1	Ron DeSantis	Florida	2019	313,975
2	Doug Ducey	Arizona	2015	457,732
3	Greg Abbott	Texas	2015	746,316
4	Henry McMaster	South Carolina	2017	207,564
5	Steve Sisolak	Nevada	2019	79,074

BOTTOM 5				
45	John Bel Edwards	Louisiana	2016	-118,507
46	Phil Murphy	New Jersey	2018	-145,385
47	J.B. Pritzker	Illinois	2019	-217,261
48	Andrew Cuomo	New York	2011	-1,563,117
49	Gavin Newsom	California	2019	-450,720

*Rank in this year's report.
**Total since each respective governor's inauguration day.
Note: Governor Greg Gianforte is not ranked in this variable. See methodology.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Authors' calculations

Governor Ron DeSantis (FL) is the clear winner in this category. Carrying on Florida's previous success in providing a pro-growth business environment has done wonders for the state's economy. With no personal income tax and no pervasive lockdowns, Florida has been a shining example, keeping its economy open throughout Governor DeSantis' term. A similar story plays out with Governor Greg Abbott (TX), a staunch supporter of pro-growth policy. Texas has also seen an influx of domestic migrants, especially throughout the past year.

1. See Methodology for details

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE

The nine states that avoid a personal income tax have a strong showing in this category with five of those states appearing in the top 10 of the normalized domestic migration rankings. Those five states and their rankings are Florida (1st), Texas (3rd), Nevada (5th), Tennessee (9th) and Washington (10th). Overall, the nine states with no personal income tax have an unweighted average rank of 14.4, while states with a personal income tax have an unweighted average rank of 27.9.

The difference maker can also be what neighboring states are doing wrong. For example, Arizona ranked second in the net domestic migration category. While Arizona has a relatively low personal income tax, it also shares a border with California—which carries a top marginal personal income tax rate of 13.3%. The mistakes of California are economic fuel for Arizona as Americans leave the Golden State for the Copper State. People and jobs are mobile, so state lawmakers must remain cognizant of the economic policies of surrounding states in order to maintain a competitive business environment. Additionally, Arizona's significant pro-growth tax cuts from this session, which were passed by free market majorities in the legislature and signed into law by Governor Doug Ducey, will substantially improve Arizona's competitiveness in the years to come.[2]

EDUCATION PERFORMANCE

TABLE 3: EDUCATION QUALITY RANKINGS

Rank	Governor	State	Rank	Governor	State
1	Mark Gordon	Wyoming	26	Daniel McKee	Rhode Island
1	Jared Polis	Colorado	27	Eric Holcomb	Indiana
3	Charlie Baker	Massachusetts	27	Steve Sisolak	Nevada
4	Spencer Cox	Utah	29	Phil Scott	Vermont
5	Kristi Noem	South Dakota	30	David Ige	Hawaii
6	Brad Little	Idaho	31	Gavin Newsom	California
7	Pete Ricketts	Nebraska	32	Doug Ducey	Arizona
8	Ron DeSantis	Florida	32	J.B. Pritzker	Illinois
8	Tim Walz	Minnesota	34	Brian Kemp	Georgia
10	Phil Murphy	New Jersey	35	Kate Brown	Oregon
11	Janet Mills	Maine	36	Kevin Stitt	Oklahoma
12	Ned Lamont	Connecticut	37	Andrew Cuomo	New York
12	Tom Wolf	Pennsylvania	37	Larry Hogan	Maryland
14	Ralph Northam	Virginia	39	Laura Kelly	Kansas
15	Tate Reeves	Mississippi	40	Greg Abbott	Texas
16	Tony Evers	Wisconsin	41	Michelle Lujan-Grisham	New Mexico
17	Mike DeWine	Ohio	41	Henry McMaster	South Carolina
18	Chris Sununu	New Hampshire	41	Mike Parson	Missouri
19	Jay Inslee	Washington	44	John Carney	Delaware
19	Gretchen Whitmer	Michigan	44	Jim Justice	West Virginia
21	Bill Lee	Tennessee	46	Asa Hutchinson	Arkansas
22	Andy Beshear	Kentucky	47	Mike Dunleavy	Alaska
23	Kim Reynolds	Iowa	48	Kay Ivey	Alabama
24	Doug Burgum	North Dakota	49	John Bel Edwards	Louisiana
25	Roy Cooper	North Carolina	NR*	Greg Gianforte	Montana

*Not Ranked. See methodology.

2. https://www.alec.org/article/arizona-lawmakers-approve-historic-tax-relief/

Incentives matter, and people respond to incentives in a variety of different ways. Positive incentives—like ease of doing business—tell people what to do. Negative incentives—like taxes—tell people what not to do. If a governor wants to see domestic migration to their state, they need to create a policy environment that fosters economic growth and opportunity.

Education performance is a crucial economic indicator of a state's future economic performance. The policies a governor implements to improve the education system will have repercussions for decades to come, as the students during their term in office are the future wage-earners and taxpayers of that state. Education performance is based on fourth grade reading scores and progress as measured by the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Nation's Report Card. Among the core subjects studied throughout a student's K-12 education, literacy is a critical foundational skill. Proficiency in reading, especially following fourth grade, will have a lasting impact on all other areas of study. Retention of concepts in science, history and mathematics beyond the fourth grade becomes difficult without an adequate ability to analyze and interpret reading materials. Fourth grade reading scores act as a predictive metric for proficiency in other areas of study and all successive grade levels.

The 2019 Nation's Report Card had mixed results. The fourth grade reading and writing scores show more states with students performing significantly above the national average than those that scored significantly below. This tells us median test scores are above the average test score, and, more directly,

MISSISSIPPI'S PROGRESS ON EDUCATION

Highlights from the 2019 NAEP show:

- Mississippi is the only state in the nation to show significant increases in three of the four core NAEP subjects in 2018: fourth grade math and reading and eighth grade math.

- For the first time, Mississippi fourth-graders scored higher than the nation's public school average in mathematics and tied the national average in reading.

- Mississippi's black and white students living in poverty outperformed their peers nationally with students from low-income homes earning higher scores than the national average in all four NAEP subjects. Hispanic students from low-income families outperformed peers within their demographic nationally.

it means those states at the bottom are bringing the U.S. average down. Students in nine states did not read at basic achievement levels, and 18 states' fourth grade math scores were below basic proficiency. Only 12 states had fourth grade students reading above proficient levels.

Only 10 states improved their fourth grade reading scores from 2017 to 2019. Those states, listed in order of most improved, are Mississippi, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, California, Michigan, South Dakota, Colorado, Tennessee and Wisconsin. Colorado was the only state ranked in the top 10 for both improvement (8th) and overall test scores (5th).

Colorado's progress in fourth grade reading measures follows substantial restructuring of state education standards through the Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act of 2012, which shares similarities with the "Just Read, Florida!" program established in 2001. The Colorado READ Act was implemented to ensure all students achieved grade-level reading proficiency upon completion of grade three.[3] Governor Polis has been a strong supporter of these priorities, strengthening the READ Act implementation measures in a 2019 amendment.[4] The Administration has developed strategies to continue Colorado's focus on literacy education.

CONCLUSION

Economic Performance provides a succinct description of each governor's achievement relative to their peers. However, the performance metrics outlined within this Key Performance Indicator (KPI) only show which governors are producing superior or improving results. Economic Performance tells us where we are but not how we got here. Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 will discuss the Fiscal Policy KPI and Executive Policy KPI respectively. These discussions will help explain how we got to where we are now.

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3. https://www.cde.state.co.us/communications/20171219readhighlights
4. https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb19-199

CHAPTER

2

FISCAL POLICY

FISCAL POLICY

FISCAL POLICY

Among the 50 governors, there is a vast array of differences in individual approaches to governing. Setting aside the disputes and controversies among state executives, it is important to acknowledge that all of these political leaders, regardless of party affiliation, are striving to reach the same goal. All governors, in general terms, are pursuing the expansion of wealth and prosperity for their residents, aiming to maximize well-being. Of course, there are differing perspectives on how "well-being" or "prosperity" are defined. However, most agree that successful governing results in lower unemployment, rapid advances in the standard-of-living (measurable in gross state product) and higher real incomes. Those measures of economic performance can be easily and objectively measured. It is simple to sort performance metrics into echelons that draw either applause or criticism.

It is a much more difficult task to quantify the methods governors employ to reach those goals and to determine which strategies are preferable over others. To do this, the rankings rely heavily on empirical analysis in conjunction with economic theory. We review economic performance and policy fluctuations over time and apply an understanding of rational human responses to incentives.

Setting out to achieve prosperity for their respective states, each governor utilizes a set of fiscal policy tools. Of course, the degree of control over those tools varies as the constitutional authority granted to governors by their state constitutions differ. While not every governor enjoys a partisan trifecta (single party control over both chambers of the state legislature plus the governor's office), their options remain essentially the same. Every governor proposes state spending and collects taxes to finance state spending. The operational limit faced by each state executive is solely the magnitude of their tax collections (tax rates and bases) and how much they plan to spend.

With the tax-and-spend portfolio comes an obligation of fiscal responsibility. It is unlikely voters will flock to the polls to support a candidate raising their taxes, and some may not support a budget cut to their state's benefit programs either. The seemingly impossible task is to raise enough tax revenue to fund essential programs without causing severe economic damage. This balancing act begins with the budget proposal.

All governors propose a budget and corresponding tax policy to their legislature for an annual or biennial period, depending on the state. These budget proposals have a direct impact on a state's economy. Governors propose changes to the state's tax system with focus on how and where the revenue stream for state programs and support systems will be collected and distributed. The method of taxation informs economic decisions made by people and businesses who are directly impacted by changes to policies such as state personal income taxes, property taxes or corporate taxes. Establishing a successful state budget is a difficult task to navigate, but the answer to solving statewide issues is generally not more spending. The size of a state budget should be proportionate to a state's private economy. If government is too large, it crowds out private economic activity and leads to an economic decline. Likewise, if

politicians use debt as a tool to fund unproductive activities that blunt incentives to work or use debt to paper over budget deficits, debt can be a serious drag on future economic performance.

TAXES

Income taxes are a tax on production, as opposed to taxes on consumption, like sales taxes. Income taxes of all kinds are detrimental to economic activity because they reduce the incentives to work, earn and invest. This is particularly harmful because production is the source of economic growth. If producing becomes too expensive, economic growth stagnates and people and businesses move to states with lower costs of living. Progressive income taxes exacerbate the negative effects of an income tax, creating an incentive for businesses and individuals to move out of state. The existence of high corporate tax rates in one state creates an incentive for businesses to leave, while low tax rates in another state may draw more business, employees and investment. Most people do not enjoy sacrificing a portion of their paycheck to taxation and will go above and beyond to avoid doing so—including migrating to a more tax-friendly state.

In Tennessee, a state with no traditional state tax on earned income, Governor Bill Lee (TN) has fully eliminated the Volunteer State's "unearned" income tax, which taxed income derived from capital gains, dividends and interest. Governor Chris Sununu (NH) approved a phaseout of a similar tax, known as the Interest and Dividend Tax, by the end of 2026. This will strengthen both New Hampshire's and Tennessee's ability to attract new residents. In addition to the removal of "unearned" income taxation, New Hampshire will reduce its major business taxes. Governor Sununu has earned New Hampshire a full-fledged membership to the personal-income-tax-free club of 9, living up to their "live free or die" motto.

Several other states enacted reductions to their top personal income tax rates prior to the publication of these rankings in November of 2021. Those states are Arizona, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin.

Idaho Governor Brad Little signed a bill reducing the state's flat corporate income tax rate and top personal income tax rate from 6.925 percent to 6.5 percent, while consolidating seven personal income tax brackets into five. Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds signed into law a bill that consolidated the state's nine personal income tax brackets into four and will reduce the top rate from 8.53 percent to 6.5 percent, if state revenues grow at least 4 percent. Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts signed legislation reducing the state's top corporate income tax rate from 7.81 percent to 7.25 percent, with legislative intent to further reduce this rate to 6.84 percent in 2025. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's budget consolidated personal income tax brackets from five into four, reduced the top marginal rate from 4.797 percent to 3.99 percent and cut the remaining rates by 3 percentage points across the board. Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' budget reduced the second highest personal income tax rate from 6.27 to 5.3 percent.

FIGURE 2: STATE PERSONAL AND CORPORATE INCOME TAX REDUCTIONS IN 2021 (as of October 1, 2021)

Legend:
- Personal Income Tax Reduction
- Corporate Income Tax Reduction
- Both Personal & Corporate Income Tax Reduction
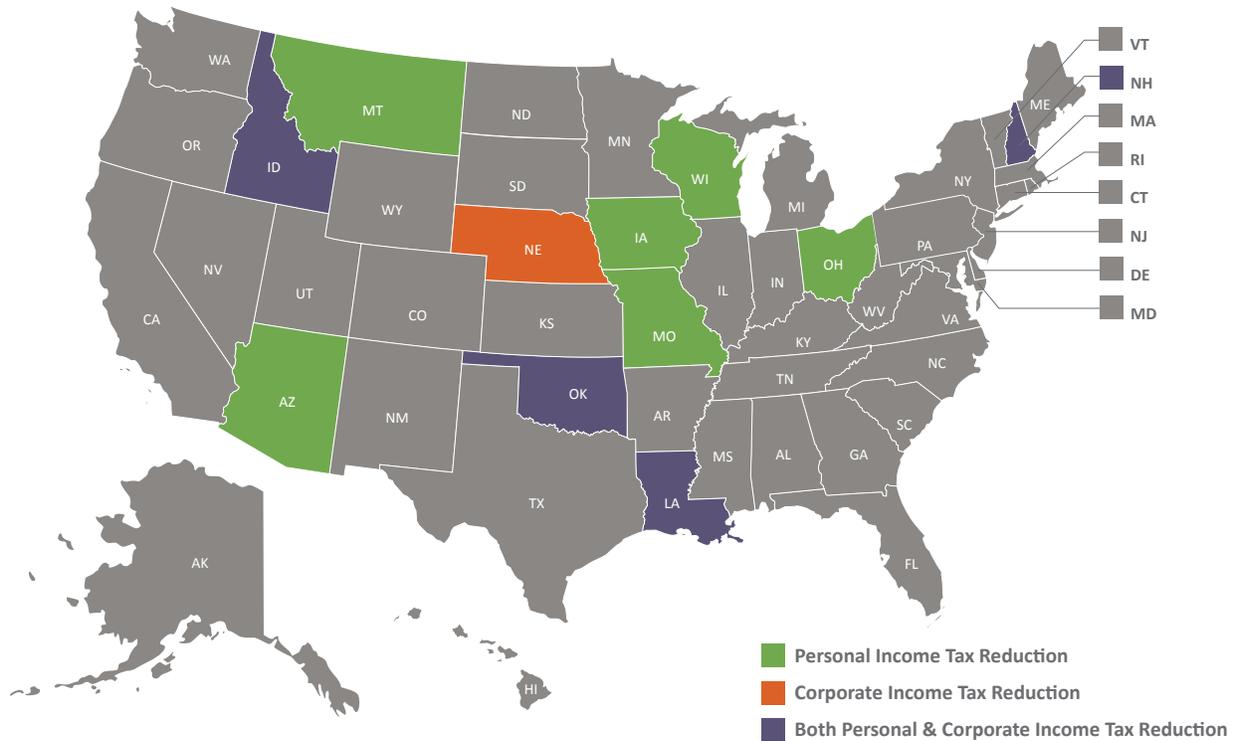
Source: Tax Foundation

ARIZONA GOVERNOR DOUG DUCEY

Governor Ducey is a businessman who understands how to attract customers to his state. As a former CEO of Cold Stone Creamery, Ducey and his business partner grew their franchise to more than 1,400 locations before they sold the company in 2007. When he took office in 2015, Ducey shifted his focus from balancing customer satisfaction and profits to spending and taxes. That year, Arizona faced a $1.5 billion budget deficit which he eliminated by reducing spending without raising taxes. Arizona's economy has taken off. The state is using surplus funds to pay down debt and unfunded pension liabilities, bolster its choice-based education system and reduce income and property taxes.

Arizona voters narrowly adopted Proposition 208 in November 2020, adding a 3.5 percentage point surcharge to incomes over $250,000, raising the state's top personal income tax rate from 4.5 percent to 8 percent. Governor Ducey and the Arizona legislature came into session in 2021 and promptly reversed these tax increases, reduced its four brackets into two and lowered the top marginal rate. In a column for The Phoenix Business Journal, Governor Ducey, Senate President Karen Fann (ALEC's 2022 National Board of Directors Chairwoman) and Speaker Rusty Bowers wrote: "There's a reason that Arizona has become a beacon of economic prosperity. This economic growth, combined with restrained spending and conservative budgeting by our legislature and the Governor's office, has us sitting on billions of surplus dollars. Our view is those dollars aren't the government's money—those dollars belong to hardworking taxpayers."[1]

COLORADO GOVERNOR JARED POLIS

Governor Polis is a businessman as well. He started his first business, American Information Systems, from his college dorm room. By the time he was 30, he had launched three successful companies, including ProFlowers, one of the world's leading online flower retailers. He previously served five terms as the Congressman from Colorado's 2nd district and was the only Democrat member of the Liberty Caucus. Polis exemplifies the importance of placing pro-growth income tax policy over partisanship.

Colorado reduced its flat personal income tax rate from 4.63 percent to 4.55 percent in exchange for reducing several exemptions. Business tax liability was reduced by allowing exemptions on the first $50,000 of the business equipment tax. This was achieved through the successful passage of a state constitution amendment ballot question in 2020 and key companion legislative victories.

MONTANA GOVERNOR GREG GIANFORTE

Governor Gianforte is a businessman and former Congressman. He and his wife Susan founded RightNow Technologies two decades ago in their Bozeman home and created over 500 jobs in Montana. Gianforte was elected to the governorship in November of 2020, campaigning on getting Montana open for business. He had been a U.S. Representative, representing Montana in Congress since 2017.

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1. https://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2021/06/23/our-view-arizona-taxpayers-need-relief.html

FISCAL POLICY

Montana reformed its personal and corporate income taxes in Governor Greg Gianforte's first legislative session, reducing personal income tax rates, repealing 16 tax credits and changing the apportionment factor for corporate income taxes. The state's top personal income tax rate will be reduced from 6.9 percent to 6.5 percent in 2022. Montana also cut business equipment taxes for 4,000 Montana businesses, including 1,500 farming and ranching operations, by raising the exemption threshold from $100,000 to $200,000.

OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR KEVIN STITT

Governor Stitt is a businessman who founded Gateway Mortgage Group in Tulsa on his personal computer and grew his business into more than 160 mortgage centers employing more than 1,400 people. Stitt's adherence to small government policies has reduced income taxes substantially and helped Oklahoma's economy to grow.

Governor Stitt signed legislation that will reduce the state's personal income tax rates by 0.25 percentage points across the board, bringing the top rate down from 5 percent to 4.75 percent. He also signed into law a corporate income tax reduction that lowered the rate from 6 percent to 4 percent, tying Missouri for one of the lowest corporate income tax rates in the nation, behind only North Carolina at 2.5 percent and Wyoming and South Dakota, the only two states that do not tax business income.

SPENDING

Government spending and taxation are two sides of the same fiscal coin. Every dollar spent by the government is a dollar removed from the private sector, which would have otherwise generated economic activity. Governors are faced with an opportunity cost calculation to determine where that dollar will be more useful to their states. Government spending per capita measures that extent, and this report tracks average spending over a governor's term. For 2021, we have included each governor's proposed budget. Most governors were required to propose their 2021 budgets prior to passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) at the federal level, providing isolated insight into the governor's own fiscal policies.

> *Keep your eye on one thing and one thing only; how much the government is spending, because that's the true tax. The thing you should keep your eye on is what government spends, and the real problem is to hold down government spending as a fraction of our income.*
> *— Milton Friedman*

Governors' general fund budget proposals for fiscal year 2022 collectively amounted to nearly $1 trillion, a five percent increase from FY 2021. For FY 2022, 39 governors have called for general fund spending increases.[2] FY 2021 is on track to see state spending three percent higher than in FY 2020.[3] Education spending has been significantly increased over last year, as well as pandemic-related expenditures which should be one-time expenses, not new, ongoing government programs. This increase in pandemic related spending reflects a growth in the state apparatus and the way governors and legislators perceive their role in crafting policy and directing people's everyday lives.

Monitoring total spending (all funds, including general funds, special funds, federal funds and rainy-day funds) is the best way to measure true state spending on an apples-to-apples comparison between states.

This report ranks governors on their spending patterns over their terms on a per-capita basis, in other words, relative to the population of the state.

TABLE 4: SPENDING PER CAPITA RANKINGS

Rank	Governor	State	Rank	Governor	State
1	Greg Abbott	Texas	26	Tom Wolf	Pennsylvania
2	Ron DeSantis	Florida	27	John Bel Edwards	Louisiana
3	Roy Cooper	North Carolina	28	Ralph Northam	Virginia
4	Chris Sununu	New Hampshire	29	Tate Reeves	Mississippi
5	Brian Kemp	Georgia	30	Kim Reynolds	Iowa
6	Steve Sisolak	Nevada	31	Larry Hogan	Maryland
7	Mike Parson	Missouri	32	Mark Gordon	Wyoming
8	Henry McMaster	South Carolina	33	Janet Mills	Maine
9	Brad Little	Idaho	34	Andrew Cuomo	New York
10	Kay Ivey	Alabama	35	Tony Evers	Wisconsin
11	Eric Holcomb	Indiana	36	Tim Walz	Minnesota
12	Bill Lee	Tennessee	37	Charlie Baker	Massachusetts
13	Spencer Cox	Utah	38	Asa Hutchinson	Arkansas
14	Doug Ducey	Arizona	39	Andy Beshear	Kentucky
15	Kristi Noem	South Dakota	40	Gavin Newsom	California
16	Jay Inslee	Washington	41	Doug Burgum	North Dakota
17	Pete Ricketts	Nebraska	42	Michelle Lujan Grisham	New Mexico
18	Kevin Stitt	Oklahoma	43	Ned Lamont	Connecticut
19	Gretchen Whitmer	Michigan	44	Jim Justice	West Virginia
20	Phil Murphy	New Jersey	45	Phil Scott	Vermont
21	Greg Gianforte	Montana	46	Daniel McKee	Rhode Island
22	Jared Polis	Colorado	47	David Ige	Hawaii
23	J.B. Pritzker	Illinois	48	Kate Brown	Oregon
24	Laura Kelly	Kansas	49	John Carney	Delaware
25	Mike DeWine	Ohio	50	Mike Dunleavy	Alaska

2. Authors' calculations
3. Authors' calculations

FISCAL POLICY

NOTABLE FY 2022 PRE-ARPA BUDGET PROPOSALS

- Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson proposed reducing the income tax rate for new residents.

- Colorado Governor Jared Polis proposed using surplus funds to reduce income tax rates, bolster reserves and provide direct aid to small businesses affected by the pandemic.

- Georgia Governor Brian Kemp proposed closing a projected budget gap with wide-ranging cost reductions and significant cutbacks in bond financing.

- Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves proposed eliminating the state's income tax. Mississippi Speaker, Philip Gunn, a member of the ALEC Board of Directors, led a successful, bipartisan effort in the Mississippi House to pass a phase out of the personal income tax over a 10-year period.

- Montana Governor Greg Gianforte proposed reducing the state's top marginal income tax rate, reducing business equipment taxes, reducing capital gains taxes on employee-owned stock sales and expanding a tax credit for apprenticeship training.

- Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts proposed over $1.3 billion in property tax reductions and exemptions for military retirement income from taxation.

- New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu proposed eliminating the income tax on investment earnings and reducing the state tourism and business enterprise taxes.

- Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt proposed reducing corporate income taxes, shifting more state employees from a classified to a merit system and paying for a voter-approved Medicaid expansion.

- Utah Governor Spencer Cox proposed tax credits for social security benefits and for dependents.

- West Virginia Governor Jim Justice proposed a phase-out of the state's personal income tax by expanding sales taxes.

- Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon proposed closing a projected budget gap through a 15 percent spending reduction for agencies and state higher education funding.

DEBT

Depending on how the government accounts for debt, state spending can vary widely. State government debt comes in many forms, primarily bonded debt and unfunded liabilities in government workers' pensions and other benefits. The change in state debt over a governor's term is included to shine a light on any significant changes, for better or for worse.

New Jersey and Illinois have significantly underfunded their state pensions for years, allowing their reported debt totals to appear smaller than they are, yet creating an enormous unfunded liability to be dealt with at a later date. Issuing bonded debt for state operations is a similarly discouraged fiscal practice but can also manipulate spending to appear artificially low. Unfunded state pension liabilities which totaled, collectively, in the trillions of dollars before the COVID-19 pandemic, jumped significantly from 2019 to 2020.[4] Most states' debt also grew during the pandemic.[5]

Governors' debt policies are ranked based on their track record of state debt per capita and relative level of pension fund debt. States typically issue debt for long-lasting capital projects. There are more risky uses of debt that some states employ, generally to avoid budget balancing requirements or to play sleight-of-hand games with their spending numbers. These budget gimmicks eventually catch up to reality and cause significant fiscal and economic problems down the road. These long-term problems compound and are often worse than avoiding accounting tricks altogether.

Similarly, prudent governors aim to keep their state employee pension funds actuarily sound. However, some states deliberately underfund required annual deposits for state budgets into pension funds, which can appear positive for short-term budget balancing, but is bad for the future. Governors cannot control every aspect of pension balance, which to some extent include actuarial assumptions, so their rank is influenced by significant fluctuations in pension funding ratios rather than the inconstancy of varying investment earnings.

4. https://www.alec.org/publication/unaccountable-and-unaffordable-2020/
5. https://www.alec.org/publication/state-bonded-obligations-2020/

FIGURE 3, TABLE 5: STATE PENSION PLAN FUNDING RATIOS
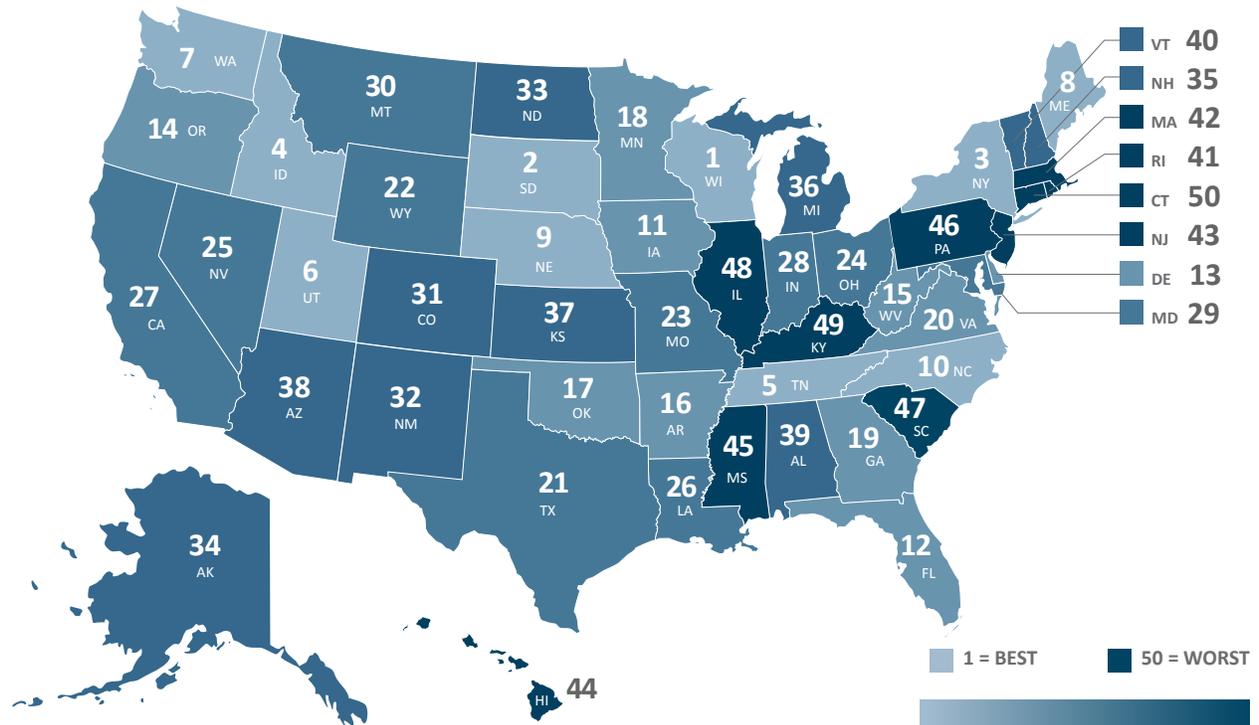
Rank	State	Funding Ratio
1	Wisconsin	64.27%
2	South Dakota	55.13%
3	New York	49.32%
4	Idaho	48.16%
5	Tennessee	47.86%
6	Utah	47.24%
7	Washington	46.71%
8	Maine	44.14%
9	Nebraska	43.82%
10	North Carolina	43.32%
11	Iowa	43.28%
12	Florida	42.96%
13	Delaware	40.91%
14	Oregon	40.00%
15	West Virginia	39.99%
16	Arkansas	39.27%
17	Oklahoma	39.24%
18	Minnesota	39.11%
19	Georgia	39.04%
20	Virginia	38.72%
21	Texas	38.66%
22	Wyoming	38.42%
23	Missouri	38.05%
24	Ohio	38.02%
25	Nevada	36.57%

Rank	State	Funding Ratio
26	Louisiana	36.52%
27	California	36.42%
28	Indiana	36.41%
29	Maryland	35.14%
30	Montana	33.96%
31	Colorado	33.95%
32	New Mexico	33.05%
33	North Dakota	32.95%
34	Alaska	32.71%
35	New Hampshire	32.46%
36	Michigan	32.34%
37	Kansas	32.27%
38	Arizona	32.09%
39	Alabama	31.72%
40	Vermont	30.51%
41	Rhode Island	30.41%
42	Massachusetts	28.96%
43	New Jersey	28.63%
44	Hawaii	28.14%
45	Mississippi	28.13%
46	Pennsylvania	27.78%
47	South Carolina	27.42%
48	Illinois	25.05%
49	Kentucky	24.69%
50	Connecticut	23.87%

Source: Data are based on ALEC Center for State Fiscal Reform calculations. To read the full report and methodology, see ALEC.org/PensionDebt2020

TABLE 6: DEBT RANKINGS

Rank	Governor	State
1	Pete Ricketts	Nebraska
2	Bill Lee	Tennessee
3	Brad Little	Idaho
4	Spencer Cox	Utah
4	Ron DeSantis	Florida
6	Kristi Noem	South Dakota
7	Tony Evers	Wisconsin
8	Asa Hutchinson	Arkansas
9	Mike Parson	Missouri
10	Roy Cooper	North Carolina
11	Kim Reynolds	Iowa
12	Janet Mills	Maine
13	Laura Kelly	Kansas
14	Tim Walz	Minnesota
15	John Carney	Delaware
16	Jim Justice	West Virginia
17	Jay Inslee	Washington
18	Brian Kemp	Georgia
19	Jared Polis	Colorado
20	Larry Hogan	Maryland
21	Steve Sisolak	Nevada
22	Mike DeWine	Ohio
23	Greg Abbott	Texas
24	Eric Holcomb	Indiana
25	Ralph Northam	Virginia

Rank	Governor	State
26	Mark Gordon	Wyoming
27	Kevin Stitt	Oklahoma
28	Gavin Newsom	California
29	Kay Ivey	Alabama
30	Chris Sununu	New Hampshire
31	Doug Ducey	Arizona
32	John Bel Edwards	Louisiana
33	Andrew Cuomo	New York
34	Gretchen Whitmer	Michigan
35	Tate Reeves	Mississippi
36	Doug Burgum	North Dakota
37	Henry McMaster	South Carolina
38	Charlie Baker	Massachusetts
39	Phil Scott	Vermont
40	Michelle L. Grisham	New Mexico
41	Daniel McKee	Rhode Island
42	Mike Dunleavy	Alaska
43	Kate Brown	Oregon
44	J.B. Pritzker	Illinois
45	Tom Wolf	Pennsylvania
46	Phil Murphy	New Jersey
47	Andy Beshear	Kentucky
48	David Ige	Hawaii
49	Ned Lamont	Connecticut
NR*	Greg Gianforte	Montana

*Not Ranked. See methodology.

ENHANCED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The U.S. economy was growing at a rapid pace prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, and unemployment was at an all-time low (just over 3%). The pandemic put a halt to the national growth trend, and growth has since varied widely by state, largely depending on economic policies put in place as a response to public health concerns. A significant factor determining how quickly states removed themselves from their pandemic slump revolved around the duration and magnitude of these economic policy responses, specifically when enhanced unemployment benefits were discontinued and how generous the unemployment benefits were compared to average incomes within the state.

"It is never a surprise that when you tax people who work, and pay people not to work, the result will be fewer people working."

– Dr. Arthur B. Laffer

FISCAL POLICY

The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) Program was approved by Congress under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act in 2020 to mitigate the impact of shutdowns, lockdowns and restrictions on business. Federal policymakers have pushed through a vast array of welfare benefits, unemployment insurance bonuses and tax-incentive increases, while also suspending many traditional requirements for eligibility and extending the eligibility term for benefit payments. The average state unemployment benefit in 2019 stands at about $330 per week according to Department of Labor Data. With the federal supplement, Americans received an average of $630 in weekly unemployment benefits. This is equivalent to over $15 per hour, or roughly a $32,000 annual salary. Extending aid into 2021, Congress passed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), promising $1.9 trillion in federal relief funding. Among several relief programs in the bill was the continuation of weekly bonus federal unemployment checks for $300 until September 6, 2021.

The Foundation for Government Accountability (FGA) calculated that a Florida father of two could receive $3,642 per month to stay home, roughly 144 percent more than a full-time minimum wage worker typically earns in Florida, and 17 percent more than the median salary of an average full-time worker in Florida.[6] Accounting for additional non-cash benefits available—such as housing vouchers, Medicaid, federal stimulus checks and tax credits—the FGA calculated potential benefits reaching as high as $5,311 per month, or nearly $64,000 annually.[7] Similarly, the Alaska Policy Forum calculated the total possible benefits for a similar family equivalent to more than $68,000 per year in Alaska.[8]

Consequently, there is an historic, unprecedented mismatch with regards to slack in the labor market. Stated in simple terms, the enhanced benefits have created a secondary pandemic of countless job openings that outnumber unemployment. With incentives to stay home, coupled with approximately equal or even higher wages for the unemployed, employers are having a difficult time enticing workers to come back, prompting governors across the U.S. to try their own strategies.

> " *As we emerge from Covid-19, retail and service companies, restaurants and industry are attempting to return to pre-pandemic employment levels, but employees are as scarce today as jobs were a year ago.*
>
> *— Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson* "

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6. https://thefga.org/paper/florida-unemployment-boost-pay-better-than-returning-to-work/
7. Ibid.
8. https://alaskapolicyforum.org/2021/05/alaska-should-reject-a-state-ui-bonus/

Several governors recognized the magnitude of these policy-induced disincentives to work and quickly ended bonus unemployment payments in their states. In order to incentivize the workforce in their respective states, 26 governors ceased participation in the $300 weekly enhancement sometime over the summer of 2021. Moreover, 22 states (listed in the table below) announced that they planned to stop subsidizing unemployed workers an extra $300 in benefits at various points in June.[9]

> *What was intended to be a short-term financial assistance for the vulnerable and displaced during the height of the pandemic has turned into a dangerous federal entitlement, incentivizing and paying workers to stay at home rather than encouraging them to return to the workplace.*
>
> *– South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster*

TABLE 7: STATES ENDING INCREASED AND EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS*

State	End Date	State	End Date
Alabama	6/19/2021	Nebraska	6/19/2021
Alaska	6/12/2021	New Hampshire	6/19/2021
Arkansas	6/26/2021	North Dakota	6/19/2021
Florida	6/26/2021	Ohio	6/26/2021
Georgia	6/26/2021	Oklahoma	6/27/2021
Idaho	6/19/2021	South Carolina	6/30/2021
Iowa	6/12/2021	South Dakota	6/26/2021
Mississippi	6/12/2021	Texas	6/26/2021
Missouri	6/12/2021	Utah	6/26/2021
Montana	6/27/2021	West Virginia	6/19/2021
		Wyoming	6/19/2021

*Some governors ended increased and expanded unemployment benefits early, but litigation kept the benefits in effect until September of 2021.

Four Governors, rather than end participation, are instead using federal funds to provide back-to-work bonuses for workers. Arizona Governor Ducey is providing a $2,000 back-to-work bonus; Montana Governor Gianforte a $1,200 bonus; Oklahoma Governor Stitt a $1,200 bonus for the first 20,000 laid-off workers who are rehired; and New Hampshire Governor Sununu, for those who work full-time for eight weeks, is providing up to $1,000, while part-time workers could receive up to $500.[10]

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9. https://thefga.org/unemployment-opt-out/
10. https://www.foxbusiness.com/economy/states-return-to-work-bonus-hiring-slowdown

CONCLUSION

The Fiscal Policy grades differ in application and measurement compared to Economic Performance. While Economic Performance rankings measure a more concrete sense of economic progress in each governor's state, Fiscal Policy rankings provide an explanation of how performance metrics were achieved as well as the direction in which those metrics are expected to move from a theoretical approach. As for measurability, Fiscal Policy rankings are much more effective in isolating discretionary actions of the state executives when compared to Economic Performance. Governors may struggle to expand their economies due to immutable state qualities and characteristics, however, they are fully capable of creating their own fiscal policy agendas. Governors may be limited by a state legislature standing in opposition to sound policy changes, however, with the rankings inclusion of the governors' stances on what fiscal policy ought to be, there is no reason a governor would be unable to earn a respectable Fiscal Policy rank. Within these rankings, the governors are responsible for their rankings. The highest ranked governors are deserving of praise, and those trailing have the unrestrained ability, and the responsibility, to reverse course.

CHAPTER

3

EXECUTIVE POLICY

EXECUTIVE POLICY

In an economically free society, the primary role of government is to protect individuals and their property from interference by others. It is also the government's responsibility to protect property rights, defend liberty and promote the character necessary to legitimize such a government.

The policy decisions a governor makes throughout their term, known in this report as Executive Policy, will have a long-term impact on a state's economic performance.

More often than not, excessive state rules and regulations tend to limit rather than expand individual freedom. Laws and mandates, even with the intention of protecting individuals from harm, can be detrimental to individual rights and freedoms. Some laws are written to protect government monopolies for the sake of price stability. Other laws simply attempt to redistribute wealth to promote notions of equity, which essentially expands the government's influence on the economy. The purpose of these edicts is often not to increase state tax revenue for public programs but to signal virtue on behalf of lawmakers.

A state government's responsibility to its citizenry is to operate effectively by collecting tax revenue from economic activity while also avoiding the negative impacts of taxation. The solution is not as simple as the arithmetic effect (raising tax rates), just as doubling the price of a product does not double profit. Instead, the dynamic economic effects of tax rate increases must also be considered. When the private sector flourishes and business activity increases, state tax revenue increases as well because the tax base grows. On the flip side, businesses face major headwinds to growth when taxes and regulations impede investment, which may shrink the tax base over the long run. In summary, a state's private economy cannot flourish with tremendous government imposition on property rights, individuals and businesses engaged in voluntary transactions.

In the 2020 edition of the Laffer-ALEC Report on Economic Freedom, a governor's response to COVID-19 was a significant policy concern. Because most states have opened their economies, this year's rankings are less dependent on COVID responses. This 2021 edition of the report continues to monitor states' education freedoms, resistance to welfare dependency and union control policies. These policies impact a state's fiscal and economic health—summarized in an Executive Policy ranking. Also, the Executive Policy grade rewards governors who have removed barriers to employment such as onerous occupational licensing requirements.

EDUCATION FREEDOM

Education freedom is defined as the availability of student-centered education. One silver lining from pandemic shutdowns has been a growing number of states pushing innovative school choice policies forward such as education savings accounts, private or charter school options and scholarships to low-income and disabled students. The COVID-19 pandemic opened many parents' eyes to flaws within the traditional public school system. No longer complacent with the status quo, new and different educational possibilities are now on the table. As parents viewed their children's education from home, eyes were opened to materials and values espoused in public schools while recognizing the value of personalized instruction available outside the standard classroom setting. In the Virginia gubernatorial race, for instance, former Governor Terry McAuliffe angered many parents by stating, "I don't think parents should be telling schools what they should teach."[1] The former governor doubled down, saying, "I'm not going to let parents come into schools and actually take books out and make their own decision." Many concerned parents responded on Election Day by delivering a victory to Republican Glenn Youngkin, who campaigned on the importance of parental rights in education.

Arizona, Florida and Indiana have had school choice programs for years and are continuously expanding options for parents. Vouchers and tax credit scholarship programs have been the traditional vehicles for school choice. This year Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma and South Dakota started or expanded such programs.

Educational Savings Accounts (ESAs) are the newest school choice instrument and provide tremendous flexibility to parents, upending the traditional school funding model. Traditionally, tax dollars fund school districts, and district administrators decide how to spend those funds. Conversely, with ESAs, the funding follows the children, and parents decide how to spend the money from their own accounts. Indiana, West Virginia, Kentucky and Missouri have passed new education savings account bills. West Virginia's new ESA bill, spearheaded by ALEC Board of Directors member, Senator Patricia Rucker, will provide the broadest eligibility of school choice in the nation.

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1. https://www.nationalreview.com/news/mcauliffe-argues-parents-shouldnt-have-control-over-public-school-curriculum/

FIGURE 4: STATES WITH SCHOOL CHOICE OPTIONS

Legend:
- Public Charter Schools
- Private School Choice Programs
- Both
- Neither

Source: American Federation for Children
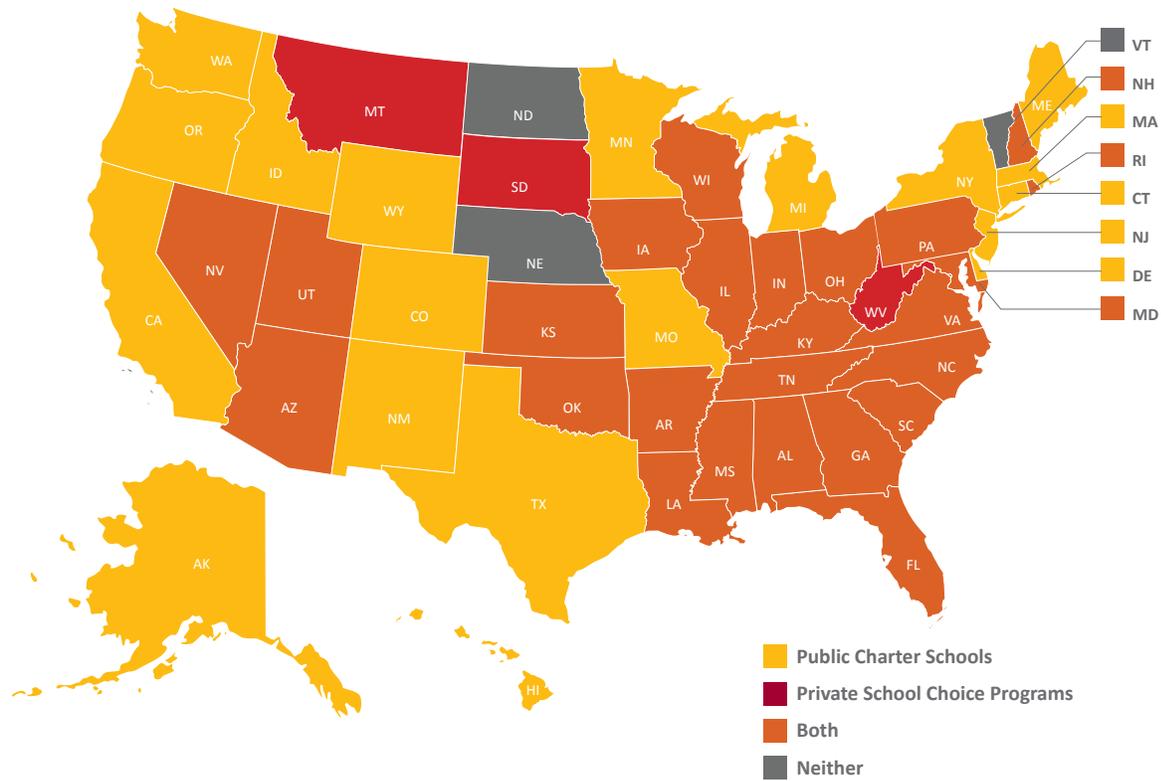
Education freedom is defined, in part, as having schools open to students whose parents choose for them to be in a classroom. The rankings focus primarily on the degree to which parents have the freedom to choose if that classroom is in a charter or magnet school and if their child is required to wear a mask. While some governors leave school openings up to districts,14 states require in-person instruction to be available in some or all K-12 grades. Eight states have mandated full-time, in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year, and 32 have left the decision up to local school districts.

FIRST IN EDUCATION FREEDOM GOVERNORS

The top scoring governors in education freedom have expanded school choice options, opened schools for in-person K-12 education and promoted education policies that place discretion in the hands of parents. In brief, highly ranked governors in this category transfer freedom of education from bureaucracy to parents.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS

In May of 2021, Governor DeSantis signed into law legislation that vastly expands Florida's need-based and special needs scholarships so more children will have access to educational options. These programs ensure parents will have the opportunity in future years to provide the very best educational options for their children. Beginning in the fall of 2021, disenfranchised families who may be awaiting a scholarship have the chance to enroll their child in a school of their choice.

"This legislation creates historical levels of flexibility in both schooling and educational services for millions of low-income families and families of students with unique abilities. There will be more opportunities for families and more children throughout the state of Florida as a result of this legislation. That is a good thing."

— Governor DeSantis.

IOWA GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS

Governor Reynolds signed a proclamation in July 2021 which ordered schools to reopen in the fall. School districts and local health departments have the authority to move certain students or classrooms to remote learning. However, they will not have the authority to make the transition for an entire school. Children would be allowed to receive remote learning with parental consent.

"While we all know the school year will be different than it's ever been before, it's critical that we prioritize bringing Iowa's children back to the classrooms safely and responsibly."

— Governor Reynolds

EXECUTIVE POLICY

WELFARE DEPENDENCY

While all welfare or transfer programs are designed with the intention to grant recipients a temporary safety-net, some function as a life-long dependency network in practice. Welfare reform in the 1990s under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 revised federal standards for states' welfare programs. Following its passage, states have been required to provide welfare programs that assist with work, education, job training and job search. The reform was a limited term program with funding for work programs and support for parents with child-care and health care. Some states have not kept pace with these goals, effectively establishing a dependency for those receiving relief from state programs.

In addition, the government funded health care program for low-income individuals, known as Medicaid, has grown far faster than the speed of the economy. The program has expanded, rather than contracted eligibility for enrollment. The Affordable Care Act provided funding for Medicaid expansion to nontraditional populations, such as childless, able-bodied adults who earn up to 138% of the federal poverty level. States' only tools are to reject the expansion completely, carefully monitor utilization and eligibility of the programs and provide reimbursements. For those states that chose to expand their Medicaid program, federal funding was at 100% until 2017 when it dropped to 95%, and it continued to drop in 2020 to 90%.[2] With the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), federal funding temporarily rose back to 95%. There is no guarantee that federal funding will stay at that level in the future. States that have expanded their Medicaid promises assume a big risk that they may wind up having to come up with a bigger share of state tax funding in the years to come.

A governor's rating on welfare dependency is based on welfare and Medicaid spending over a governor's term, relative to the size of the state's economy.

The states with the lowest welfare spending have several common policies. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) spending in the best ranked states is significantly lower than in the lowest ranked states, indicating minimal dependence on federal public assistance funding. The best ranked states also have the smallest percentage of their populations enrolled in the Medicaid program. Medicaid spending per enrollee in the best ranked states is lower than most states, and many had not expanded Medicaid under Obamacare, at least until recently. Future rankings for South Dakota and Utah, the best ranked states in Welfare Dependency, are in jeopardy due to recent ballot initiatives to expand Medicaid.

In November 2020, South Dakota's Secretary of State approved two 2022 Medicaid expansion ballot initiative petitions for circulation, filed by the organizing committee Dakotans for Health. One

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2. https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/op-eds/medicaid-expansion-and-the-provider-taxes-con-game

TABLE 8: WELFARE DEPENDENCY RANKINGS

Rank	Governor	State	Rank	Governor	State
1	Kristi Noem	South Dakota	25	Larry Hogan	Maryland
2	Spencer Cox	Utah	27	Tony Evers	Wisconsin
3	Mark Gordon	Wyoming	27	Eric Holcomb	Indiana
3	Ralph Northam	Virginia	29	Doug Ducey	Arizona
5	Steve Sisolak	Nevada	29	Phil Murphy	New Jersey
6	Greg Abbott	Texas	31	John Carney	Delaware
6	Pete Ricketts	Nebraska	31	David Ige	Hawaii
8	Brian Kemp	Georgia	33	Tim Walz	Minnesota
9	Doug Burgum	North Dakota	34	Kate Brown	Oregon
10	Kevin Stitt	Oklahoma	35	Ned Lamont	Connecticut
11	Bill Lee	Tennessee	36	Tom Wolf	Pennsylvania
12	Laura Kelly	Kansas	37	Asa Hutchinson	Arkansas
13	Ron DeSantis	Florida	38	Mike Dunleavy	Alaska
14	Brad Little	Idaho	38	Gavin Newsom	California
15	Jared Polis	Colorado	40	Charlie Baker	Massachusetts
16	Roy Cooper	North Carolina	41	Mike DeWine	Ohio
17	Henry McMaster	South Carolina	42	Andy Beshear	Kentucky
18	Kim Reynolds	Iowa	42	Janet Mills	Maine
19	Kay Ivey	Alabama	44	Gretchen Whitmer	Michigan
19	Chris Sununu	New Hampshire	45	Jim Justice	West Virginia
21	J.B. Pritzker	Illinois	46	Daniel McKee	Rhode Island
22	Mike Parson	Missouri	47	Andrew Cuomo	New York
23	Jay Inslee	Washington	48	Phil Scott	Vermont
23	Tate Reeves	Mississippi	49	Michelle Lujan Grisham	New Mexico
25	John Bel Edwards	Louisiana	NR*	Greg Gianforte	Montana

Not ranked. See methodology.

is a constitutional amendment, and the other is an initiated state statute. Separately, the organizing committee, South Dakotans Decide Healthcare, filed two similar petitions for the 2022 ballot in February 2021. Included was an initiated constitutional amendment subsequently approved for circulation on March 25, 2021.

In Utah, Medicaid coverage under the expansion began on January 1, 2020. Following a successful Medicaid expansion ballot measure in November 2018, the state legislature took steps to roll back the full expansion by directing the state to submit a series of waivers. On December 23, 2019, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved certain provisions in the state's "Fallback Plan" waiver request to amend its Primary Care Network Waiver which would expand Medicaid eligibility; the approval also included work requirements for the newly expanded adult Medicaid population. In February 2021, the Biden Administration began to withdraw waivers to states with work requirement provisions.

EXECUTIVE POLICY

UNION CONTROL

States with unaffordable governments, and therefore fiscal problems and ever-increasing tax burdens, often have high levels of union-controlled costs. Public sector unions appear to operate in a similar manner to their private counterparts. However, neither party in a public sector labor negotiation generates revenue; they are solely funded by taxpayer dollars. It's not a zero-sum game in which management sacrifices their gains for the benefit of the employee. Any benefits for union members derived from these negotiations come from higher tax burdens for state income earners, or loss in the government's efficiency. In any case, greater public sector union influence is a greater detriment to the state residents, leading to wasteful spending practices and ultimately fiscal crises through massive, unfunded pension and health care and other post-employment obligations. State government union membership directly affects state expenditures.

In addition, private sector employees' right to work without being controlled by a union improves a state's economic health. Employment is nothing more than a contract between an employee and an employer. Both parties negotiate wages, benefits and working conditions, all while neither is coerced to accept or decline the offer at hand. Forced union membership eliminates a private individual's ability to make personal decisions. Without the ability to freely negotiate one's own unique conditions for work, efficiency is lost on a macro-scale.

FIGURE 5: RIGHT TO WORK STATES IN 2021

Legend:
- Right to Work State
- Forced Union State
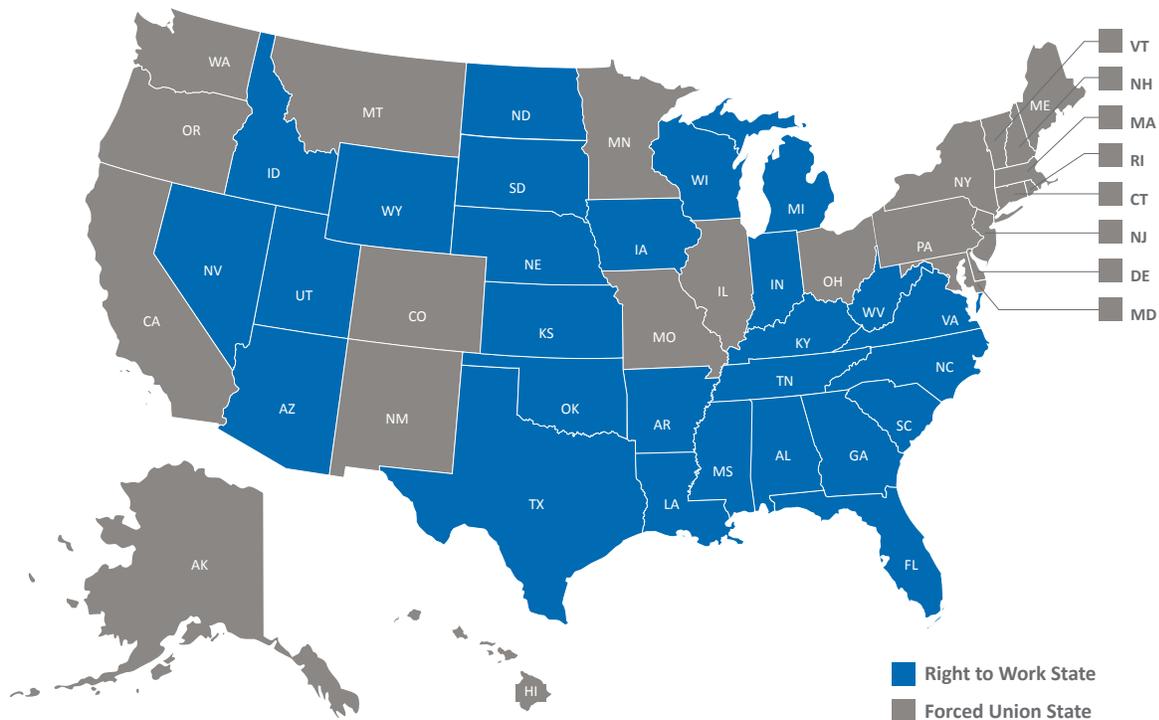
BARRIERS TO WORK

In the 1950's, five percent of workers needed an occupational license to work. Today, it is one in three workers. Licensing requirements vary by state and are burdensome for all workers, especially low-income entrants to the marketplace. Another silver lining to the pandemic shut down has been a movement to reform licensing laws in several states. The Executive Policy rankings rewards positive licensing reforms. Nine states advanced reforms in 2021. Florida, Kansas and Mississippi enacted universal reforms while Utah's governor signed an executive order to require review of all licenses. These universal reforms closely follow ALEC's "Model Interstate-Mobility and Universal Recognition Occupational Licensing Act,"[3] and the Utah executive order follows the concepts found in ALEC's "Occupational Licensing Review Act."[4]

MEDICAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY

At present, the U.S. healthcare system has a major market failure disrupting the marketplace: asymmetric information. In order for markets to function efficiently, market failures need to be minimized. Of course, we know it is extremely difficult to fully eliminate market failures, but we can play a role in reducing their effects. To understand the gravity of this imperfection, imagine, for example, you've been having back pain for several weeks and decide to go visit your doctor. Following an examination, your doctor describes (in medical jargon usually only understood by medical professionals) that you have what is known as disc degeneration, and there are three treatment options: self-guided physical therapy, professionally-guided physical therapy, or surgery. Naturally, a rational consumer would want to know the quality and cost of each of the treatment options in order to make a decision. Unfortunately, your doctor will tell you the cost depends on a variety of factors, and the quality of each type of treatment is difficult to quantify. More than likely, your doctor will recommend a treatment plan, and you will oblige because your doctor has a medical degree, and you do not. In this transaction, the supplier (your doctor) holds all the information, and the demander (you) is left holding the bag. This is not an acceptable transaction process in any other industry. Why should the medical field be the exception?

President Biden signed an executive order in July 2021 directing the department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to continue enforcing the "price transparency initiatives for hospitals, other providers and insurers" that were put in place by the Trump Administration. The transparency rules aim to increase competition in the healthcare marketplace by allowing consumers to make an informed decision about the quality and cost of their medical care.

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3. https://alec.org/model-policy/model-interstate-mobility-and-universal-recognition-occupational-licensing-act-the-freedom-to-travel-and-work-act/
4. https://alec.org/model-policy/occupational-licensing-review-act-formerly-part-of-occupational-board-reform-model-act/

The Trump-era rules called for regulations requiring medical charges and rates to be reported "in an easy to understand, consumer-friendly and machine-readable format." ALEC maintains model policy on health care price disclosures, and Florida, Colorado and New York have embraced transparency, providing mechanisms to make it more useful and consumer friendly.[5]

> "*People deserve to know what they are being charged for hospital services. In Colorado, we have made important strides to improve hospital transparency and help save consumers money so it's terrific to see the Biden Administration follow our lead and to have a federal administration focused on driving down costs for consumers. I was proud that one of the first bills I signed as Governor to improve hospital transparency in Colorado and determine the true cost of care, and there is more work to be done.*"
>
> — *Governor Polis*

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5. *https://www.alec.org/article/biden-continues-trumps-medical-price-transparency-rules/*

4

GOVERNORS ON THE MOVE

GOVERNORS ON THE MOVE

GOVERNORS ON THE MOVE

The 2021 Laffer-ALEC Report on Economic Freedom: Grading America's Governors is the second annual assessment of state executives. States are the incubators of competition and innovation in large part because of the numerous and varied policy priorities of the governors. These rankings aim to provide clear and usable evidence that a governor has pursued a proven, pro-growth economic agenda to foster prosperity for his or her state.

The hope is that governors will find widespread success and prosperity, regardless of their party affiliation. The rankings show successful governors, as well as those failing to meet expectations, belonging to both parties. Overall, America's Democrat governors lagged far behind their Republican counterparts in this year's report. However, rankings among the Democrat governors have improved slightly this year, with one earning a five-star, top 10 ranking, and another being ranked in the top 20. Republican governors held 9 of the top 10 spots and earned themselves varying degrees of praise and criticism within the rankings. There were six Republican governors who earned two stars, and three Republican governors with three stars in the 2021 results.

Compared to the 2020 Laffer-ALEC Report on Economic Freedom: Grading America's Governors, some governors have moved up in the rankings, while others have lost ground to their peers. Due to the ordinal nature of the rankings, any one governor's movement through the ranks is dependent upon the performance of 49 other governors in addition to their own performance. Movement across ranks from year to year does not necessarily translate to a decline or improvement in the Key Performance Indicators, though in certain instances it may. Instead, movement in rank typically reflects an improvement or decline with respect to other governors.

The first edition of the report captured the governor's economic responses to COVID-19, which led to economic disruptions and high unemployment rates. Moving into 2021, rankings reflect various amounts of continued COVID-19 disruption. An important change from the 2020 report is that the 2021 report measures a governor by the policies and performance over their term in office, rather than annually. The change, in most cases, allows for a larger sample size in determining the efficacy of each governor. Notable policy changes that drove improvement following the rankings include income tax reductions in Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana and West Virginia, and the expansion of education freedom in Arizona, Iowa, Mississippi and West Virginia.

Competition among four and five-star governors remains strong. Eight of the 10 five-star governors in 2020 remain five-star governors in this report. Four and five-star governors should be encouraged to continually improve because there are many terrific governors who continue to improve.

TABLE 9: 5-STAR GOVERNORS

Overall Rank	Governor	State	Executive Policy Rank	Economic Performance Rank	Fiscal Policy Rank
1	Kristi Noem	South Dakota	2	3	3
2	Spencer Cox	Utah	1	2	7
3	Ron DeSantis	Florida	10	5	1
4	Jared Polis	Colorado	7	4	11
5	Brad Little	Idaho	16	1	7
6	Bill Lee	Tennessee	3	17	5
7	Chris Sununu	New Hampshire	13	11	6
8	Doug Ducey	Arizona	9	20	4
9	Brian Kemp	Georgia	13	14	9
10	Greg Abbott	Texas	5	27	10

Each of the five-star governors earned outstanding Fiscal Policy ranks in this report. Governor Ron DeSantis (FL) had the highest Fiscal Policy rank, and only Governor Jared Polis (CO) fell out of the top 10 in Fiscal Policy. The five-star governors have a good track record of keeping government spending and debt under control, all while pushing for personal and corporate income tax reform. In addition, seven of these 10 governors ended expanded and increased unemployment benefits in June of 2021. The five-star governors also performed well in the Executive Policy rankings. Governor Spencer Cox (UT) ranked highest in Executive Policy. Only three governors fell out of the top 10 in the Executive Policy rankings, but none fell out of the top 20. Economic Performance rankings were a mixed bag. The top five governors each placed in the top five for Economic Performance. Governor Brad Little (ID) ranked 1st in Economic Performance. The remainder of the five-star governors each ranked outside of the top 10 in Economic Performance. Each of these governors' states are in varying stages of recovery from economic disruptions caused by the government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, their Economic Performance ranks are greatly affected by the impact of the pandemic in their states.

GOVERNORS ON THE MOVE

TABLE 10: 4-STAR GOVERNORS

Overall Rank	Governor	State	Executive Policy Rank	Economic Performance Rank	Fiscal Policy Rank
11	Pete Ricketts	Nebraska	24	8	12
12	Mike Parson	Missouri	15	27	2
13	Kim Reynolds	Iowa	8	25	14
14	Doug Burgum	North Dakota	6	19	26
15	Henry McMaster	South Carolina	19	15	19
16	Kevin Stitt	Oklahoma	3	32	18
17	Mark Gordon	Wyoming	10	29	17
18	Steve Sisolak	Nevada	20	22	16
19	Eric Holcomb	Indiana	23	23	13
20	Greg Gianforte	Montana	22	7	32

Four-star governors have competitive policy grades but fall just behind five-star governors. All but two governors fall in the top 20 for Fiscal Policy rankings, with Governor Mike Parson (MO) being ranked 2nd. Governor Greg Gianforte (MT), who was inaugurated in 2021, put an income tax reduction plan in place in his first legislative session and has already improved from his predecessor's rank. Improvement in Education Quality will be necessary for this group of governors to improve their rankings, and several of them are making strides in to do so. Governor Mike Parson, Governor Kim Reynolds (IA), Governor Kevin Stitt (OK) and Governor Eric Holcomb (IN) have expanded school choice opportunities, which has benefitted their Education Freedom rankings, but will also benefit their future Education Quality ranks.

TABLE 11: 3-STAR GOVERNORS

Overall Rank	Governor	State	Executive Policy Rank	Economic Performance Rank	Fiscal Policy Rank
21	Jay Inslee	Washington	32	9	21
22	Roy Cooper	North Carolina	28	16	20
23	Asa Hutchinson	Arkansas	12	38	15
24	Ralph Northam	Virginia	29	11	27
25	Andy Beshear	Kentucky	25	10	35
26	Tate Reeves	Mississippi	26	21	25
27	Laura Kelly	Kansas	17	31	28
28	Kay Ivey	Alabama	21	32	24
29	Janet Mills	Maine	38	6	37
30	Tony Evers	Wisconsin	31	24	33

Three-star governors appear to be stuck in the middle. They have the opportunity to improve their rankings by following the policies of those with higher rankings. Mississippi's Governor Tate Reeves, inaugurated last year, is working with the Mississippi Legislature to reduce or eliminate state income taxes. Following in the footsteps of his predecessor, he has also worked with the legislature to expand education freedom for Mississippi students. Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers signed a bill reducing his state's second highest income tax rate.

GOVERNORS ON THE MOVE

TABLE 12: 2-STAR GOVERNORS

Overall Rank	Governor	State	Executive Policy Rank	Economic Performance Rank	Fiscal Policy Rank
31	Tim Walz	Minnesota	37	13	40
32	Mike DeWine	Ohio	34	35	22
33	Jim Justice	West Virginia	18	47	30
34	Phil Scott	Vermont	30	30	39
35	Larry Hogan	Maryland	35	39	29
36	John Bel Edwards	Louisiana	33	50	23
37	Mike Dunleavy	Alaska	26	49	34
38	John Carney	Delaware	41	34	36
39	Charlie Baker	Massachusetts	44	25	42
40	Kate Brown	Oregon	46	17	50

The two-star governors face significant challenges. A few are taking these challenges head-on. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has reduced income taxes. West Virginia Governor Jim Justice has significantly expanded school choice. He has also proposed eliminating the income tax and is committed to convincing the legislature to pass his tax plan. Governor Larry Hogan (MD) expanded school choice opportunities. Governor John Bel Edwards (LA) joined Republican governors in ending federal unemployment enhanced benefits prior to the federal expiration.

TABLE 13: 1-STAR GOVERNORS

Overall Rank	Governor	State	Executive Policy Rank	Economic Performance Rank	Fiscal Policy Rank
41	Gretchen Whitmer	Michigan	39	44	31
42	Ned Lamont	Connecticut	42	36	44
43	Tom Wolf	Pennsylvania	40	42	43
44	David Ige	Hawaii	45	37	45
45	Phil Murphy	New Jersey	43	40	45
46	Andrew Cuomo	New York	47	45	38
47	J.B. Pritzker	Illinois	36	48	47
48	Gavin Newsom	California	48	43	41
49	Daniel McKee	Rhode Island	50	41	49
50	Michell Lujan Grisham	New Mexico	49	46	48

One-star governors mostly struggled to advance in 2021; seven of the 10 were one-star governors in the 2020 Laffer-ALEC Report on Economic Freedom: Grading America's Governors. Fiscal Policy rankings are abysmal among this group. Only two of the one-star governors (Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo) ranked above the bottom 10 in the Fiscal Policy. Similarly, only three of the one-star governors (Governor Whitmer, Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker) ranked above the bottom 10 in Executive Policy. It is hard to deny that the fiscal and executive policies of this group have impacted the factors that compose the Economic Performance grade. All but three of these governors (Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, Hawaii Governor David Ige and New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy) ranked in the bottom 10 in Economic Performance. The hope is that next year's publication will show improvements for each of these governors, not just in overall ranking but in the Economic Performance, Executive Policy and Fiscal Policy rankings as well.

CHAPTER

5

METHODOLOGY

METHODOLOGY

THE 2021 LAFFER-ALEC REPORT ON ECONOMIC FREEDOM: GRADING AMERICA'S 50 GOVERNORS

States have long been incubators of policy innovation, even in times when the Tenth Amendment has become an afterthought of the federal government. The "Laboratories of Democracy" concept is never more necessary or apparent than in times of national crisis. Governors, even those overseeing historically disadvantaged states or cooperating with unwilling legislatures, have numerous tools at hand, including the power to propose positive economic policies, veto poor ones and exercise the power of the podium. Governors' efforts to effectuate those policies have proven to improve the economic health of a state, the fiscal health of its government and the freedom of its citizens to pursue prosperity for themselves and the community at-large.

The *2021 Laffer-ALEC Report on Economic Freedom: Grading America's 50 Governors* assigns multiple rankings, subdivided into multiple metric categories, to each of our nation's governors. All of these overarching categorical rankings are then combined to compute an overall ranking of 1 to 50 for each governor. In all cases, a rank of 1 is most preferable and 50 is least preferable. These rankings are the result of sophisticated analyses of each governor's policies and the context in which each governor operates. Of course, there are many factors that may affect state policy and performance, including state legislatures, municipal officials, and federal policy changes, however, our rankings strive to isolate the actions and policy prescriptions of solely the governor. Throughout the process of ranking each metric with respect to the governor, several calculation methods are employed to control for outside influences. In most cases, state metrics are indexed to national averages to account for trends in U.S. performance, policies are recorded as those proposed by the governors themselves and changes in performance and policy are only measured over the governors' individual terms. Numerous hard data sources have been compiled and done so with insight into the governor's term and the unique circumstances related to those years, the government they inherit and the legislatures with which they partner.

As noted, each governor is ranked based upon his or her time in office. For our lieutenant governors who have been promoted to governor, whether it be through a presidential appointment to a cabinet position that has left a seat vacant (RI), or an election in which the lieutenant governor won the governor's seat (UT), the final term as lieutenant governor is included in our measurement period for rankings. This allows for a more holistic view of a governor's effect on the state through a larger sample size, granting us more confidence in the precision of the rankings. Due to the short amount of time Governor Greg Gianforte (MT) has been in office, and because he did not serve as lieutenant governor prior to serving as governor, there are some categories in which he has no ranking.

STAR RANKINGS
Consistent with the 2020 edition of this report, governors are ranked 1 (best performer) through 50 (worst performer) and are ranked on a one-to-five-star scale, with five stars being the highest rank, based on the governors' policies and their economic performance records. Each star-grade is divided into groups of 10 such that ranks 1 through 10 are five-star governors and 41 through 50 are one-star governors.

BEST PERFORMANCE AND HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT
The *2021 Laffer-ALEC Report on Economic Freedom: Grading America's 50 Governors* ranks each governor on their current economic performance and their fiscal and executive policies over their term in office. Governors who were inaugurated into high performing states and continue positive policies may not

be able to improve as much as others but receive credit for their positive performance. We believe that to those whom much is given, much is expected. Governors who are inaugurated into poor performing states and improve or try to improve their policies receive high policy rankings. Those who continue those policies receive low ranks for both policies and performance. Newer governors who do not have long track records to measure are ranked only on the data that is relevant to their policies since taking office. In the case of a new governor who served together with the prior governor, we look at the track record over their most recent term of influence as lieutenant governor.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPI'S)

Governors are ranked on three Key Performance Indicators: Economic Performance, Fiscal Policy and Executive Policy, based on current performance and change over their terms. Each of these KPI's is then combined with equal weight to calculate an overall rank for each governor.

EXECUTIVE POLICIES are those policy decisions a governor makes each year that will have a long-term impact on a state's economic performance. There are numerous government policies that could be included in this category; however, this report uses a sample of those that are meaningful and measurable. A governor's Executive Policy rank is based on the balance of government and personal control and dependency. School choice availability is an example of government versus parental control of a child's education and an indicator of future economic performance related to long-term educational attainment for children in any state. Executive Policy is empirically measured by the following but may also reflect a governor's policy priorities:

UNION CONTROL:[1] Labor union control over state employment is measured through total employees within each state that are represented by unions as well as each state's right-to-work status. Change in union membership in a state over a governor's term, change in state government employment relative to state population and right-to-work policy are combined to create union control grades for each governor that are then ranked accordingly.

EDUCATION FREEDOM:[2] This is a measure of the availability of school choice options for parents, including the availability of in-person schooling in the fall of 2021 free from state mandates. Several measures, such as in-person learning options, charter school option and voucher availability, were combined to generate a rank for education freedom. For our purposes, we use the term "freedom" with respect to the perspective of parents, not from the perspective of local school administrators, teachers' unions, etc.

WELFARE DEPENDENCY:[3] Welfare spending for each state is calculated as combined Medicaid spending and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) spending. Transfer payments intended for minors are not included within these aggregations seeing as those funding levels have little to no impact on state employment. Excluded spending categories include Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) funding, several line items within social security funding for the disabled and administrative funding for those efforts. Governors are ranked based upon funding levels throughout each of their terms with favorable rankings assigned to those with the least spending as a share of Gross State Product (GSP).

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1. https://www.bls.gov/news.release/union2.t05.htm
2. https://www.edchoice.org/engage/where-the-governors-stand-on-school-choice-2020/
3. data.medicaid.gov

METHODOLOGY

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE measures the economic performance of the state under each governor's leadership and is based on empirical data. These metrics are objective in nature, meaning there is little to no debate as to which performance results rank more favorably than others. Economic Performance ranks consist of the following variables:

INTERSTATE MIGRATION: In short, this measure is a calculation of net in-migration with several adjustments. Net in-migration is computed for each state as total in-migration minus total out-migration, with both series provided by the U.S. Census Bureau.[4] We then adjust the data for each state's population level by calculating net in-migration divided by the square root of the product of state population and the U.S. population minus the state population. This process normalizes our migration statistics, adjusting for drastic swings in net in-migration that would otherwise accompany states with less massive populations. We then measure the change in our correctly normalized variable over each governor's term. The final results are assigned to each governor, excluding Montana due to a lack of data, and ranked from 1 to 50. Governor Gianforte (MT) does not receive a ranking within this category.

EDUCATION QUALITY:[5] Change in 4th grade reading NAEP scores, as published by the U.S. Department of Education, is measured from the immediate data point before each term to 2019 scores (the most recent available). While we recognize the importance of results in other grade levels or subjects, literacy performance at the 4th grade level acts as a foundation for all other areas of study, extending into the entirety of each students' education – long after the current governors have left office. The change in these metrics is then measured over each governor's term. The improvement or decline metrics are then ranked from 1 to 50.

GROSS STATE PRODUCT GROWTH: Average compound quarterly Gross State Product (GSP) growth rates are measured in each state from the first quarter prior to each governor's term to present. GSP in current dollars is provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).[6] Each governor's term-specific compound quarterly growth rates are then indexed to the national GDP growth rates over consistent time periods, to control for instances of national recessions or widespread growth. This allows us to isolate the governors' impacts to their states and rank their measurable deviations from the U.S. trend.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: This metric is measured, like all others within the Economic Performance KPI, solely throughout each governor's total time in office. State unemployment rate data is distributed on a monthly basis by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).[7] State unemployment rates are indexed by U.S. unemployment rate which displays an unemployment rate for each state that is above or below the national average. All monthly values for each governor's term are arithmetically averaged to compute our ranking metric. The average state unemployment rates relative to U.S. unemployment rates are then ranked accordingly. Several adjustments are made to states to adjust for unequal impacts of major events including, but not limited to, industry-specific shocks, pandemic-derived shifts and federal policy changes.

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4. https://www.census.gov/topics/population/migration/data/tables/acs.html
5. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2019 Reading Assessment.https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile?chort=1&sub=RED&sj=AL&sfj=NP&st=MN&year=2019R3
6. https://apps.bea.gov/itable/iTable.cfm?ReqID=70&step=1
7. https://www.bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm

FISCAL POLICY ranks the fiscal policy decisions a governor makes each year that have a direct impact on economic performance, and are based on underlying empirical outcomes, but also the policies that are intrinsic to that governor, even if the governor has not yet achieved success. Fiscal Policy is empirically measured by the following but may also reflect a governor's policy priorities.

DEBT: This metric is inclusive of all types of state debt. We combine standard reported debt levels from the Census Bureau's State and Local Finances report[8] and each state's total pension unfunded liability. This metric is ranked based upon change in total debt and change in relative pension funded ratio.

CORPORATE INCOME TAX: This metric is calculated in the same manner as our individual income tax rankings. A composite ranking is created based upon current corporate tax rates, proposed corporate tax rates, and changes to corporate tax rates throughout each governor's time in office. The composite score is ranked accordingly.

PERSONAL INCOME TAX: A ranking of the top state personal income tax rates that are currently in effect are combined with a ranking of proposed rates (including staying at zero), rate changes over a governor's term and the magnitude of the change. A composite ranking is then sorted from lowest to highest, granting the governors with the lowest personal income tax rates as well as those who have slashed rates the most favorable scores. For cases in which a governor has opposed rate cuts, through a failed veto or has openly expressed disapproval of lowering tax rates, the governor does not receive a credit for impeding the progress of the pro-growth policies.

SPENDING PER CAPITA: Changes in state spending per capita, provided by the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO),[9] are averaged over a governor's term. Proposed spending described in each governor's budget proposal for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 are included within each governor's measurement period. Spending, both past and proposed, is a measurement of total spending. We do not simply aggregate spending from general funds. All funds, including federal funding via grants and subsidies, are included within total spending. The total spending measures are then adjusted for population size and ranked ordinally, with 1 being the least spending per capita and 50 being the most.

FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS: Average Unemployment Insurance benefit is calculated as a share of median family income. Maximum benefits are calculated and annualized in each state for a family of two unemployed adults and two dependents. Over a six-month period, two annualized maximum benefit levels are calculated on a weekly basis, one with enhanced federal benefits and one with standard state maximum benefits. Those two benefit levels are then combined with respect to the governor's acceptance of the federal enhanced benefits. The weighted average benefits are then calculated as a share of each state's median family income to adjust for differences in purchasing power between states. States with the lowest benefit level relative to median family income are ranked most favorably.

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8. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances.html
9. https://www.nasbo.org/reports-data/state-expenditure-report

6

GOVERNOR SCORECARD RANKING 1–50

GOVERNOR SCORECARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **5 STAR GOVERNORS**

OVERALL RANK	EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	FISCAL POLICY RANK	State	Governor	
1	2	3	3	SD	**Kristi Noem** — South Dakota	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
2	1	2	7	UT	**Spencer Cox** — Utah	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
3	10	5	1	FL	**Ron DeSantis** — Florida	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
4	7	4	11	CO	**Jared Polis** — Colorado	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
5	16	1	7	ID	**Brad Little** — Idaho	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
6	3	17	5	TN	**Bill Lee** — Tennessee	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
7	13	11	6	NH	**Chris Sununu** — New Hampshire	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
8	9	20	4	AZ	**Doug Ducey** — Arizona	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
9	13	14	9	GA	**Brian Kemp** — Georgia	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
10	5	27	10	TX	**Greg Abbott** — Texas	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **4 STAR GOVERNORS**

OVERALL RANK	EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	FISCAL POLICY RANK	State	Governor
11	24	8	12	NE	**Pete Ricketts** Nebraska ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
12	15	28	2	MO	**Mike Parson** Missouri ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
13	8	25	14	IA	**Kim Reynolds** Iowa ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
14	6	19	26	ND	**Doug Burgum** North Dakota ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
15	19	15	19	SC	**Henry McMaster** South Carolina ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
16	3	32	18	OK	**Kevin Stitt** Oklahoma ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
17	10	29	17	WY	**Mark Gordon** Wyoming ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
18	20	22	16	NV	**Steve Sisolak** Nevada ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
19	23	23	13	IN	**Eric Holcomb** Indiana ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
20	22	7	32	MT	**Greg Gianforte** Montana ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

GOVERNOR SCORECARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **3 STAR GOVERNORS**

Overall Rank	Executive Policy Rank	Economic Performance Rank	Fiscal Policy Rank	State	Governor	Rating
21	32	9	21	WA	**Jay Inslee** Washington	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
22	28	16	20	NC	**Roy Cooper** North Carolina	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
23	12	38	15	AR	**Asa Hutchinson** Arkansas	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
24	29	11	27	VA	**Ralph Northam** Virginia	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
25	25	10	35	KY	**Andy Beshear** Kentucky	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
26	26	21	25	MS	**Tate Reeves** Mississippi	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
27	17	31	28	KS	**Laura Kelly** Kansas	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
28	21	32	24	AL	**Kay Ivey** Alabama	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
29	38	6	37	ME	**Janet Mills** Maine	★ ★ ★ ★ ★
30	31	24	33	WI	**Tony Evers** Wisconsin	★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★★ ★ ★ ★ **2 STAR GOVERNORS**

31 OVERALL RANK	**37** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**13** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**40** FISCAL POLICY RANK	MN	**Tim Walz** Minnesota ★★★★★	
32 OVERALL RANK	**34** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**35** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**22** FISCAL POLICY RANK	OH	**Mike DeWine** Ohio ★★★★★	
33 OVERALL RANK	**18** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**47** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**30** FISCAL POLICY RANK	WV	**Jim Justice** West Virginia ★★★★★	
34 OVERALL RANK	**30** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**30** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**39** FISCAL POLICY RANK	VT	**Phil Scott** Vermont ★★★★★	
35 OVERALL RANK	**35** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**39** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**29** FISCAL POLICY RANK	MD	**Larry Hogan** Maryland ★★★★★	
36 OVERALL RANK	**33** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**50** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**23** FISCAL POLICY RANK	LA	**John Bel Edwards** Louisiana ★★★★★	
37 OVERALL RANK	**26** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**49** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**34** FISCAL POLICY RANK	AK	**Mike Dunleavy** Alaska ★★★★★	
38 OVERALL RANK	**41** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**34** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**36** FISCAL POLICY RANK	DE	**John Carney** Delaware ★★★★★	
39 OVERALL RANK	**44** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**25** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**42** FISCAL POLICY RANK	MA	**Charlie Baker** Massachusetts ★★★★★	
40 OVERALL RANK	**46** EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**17** ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**50** FISCAL POLICY RANK	OR	**Kate Brown** Oregon ★★★★★	

GOVERNOR SCORECARD

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **1 STAR GOVERNORS**

	OVERALL RANK	EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	FISCAL POLICY RANK	State	Governor	Stars
MI	41	39	44	31	MI	**Gretchen Whitmer** — Michigan	★☆☆☆☆
CT	42	42	36	44	CT	**Ned Lamont** — Connecticut	★☆☆☆☆
PA	43	40	42	43	PA	**Tom Wolf** — Pennsylvania	★☆☆☆☆
HI	44	45	37	45	HI	**David Ige** — Hawaii	★☆☆☆☆
NJ	45	43	40	45	NJ	**Phil Murphy** — New Jersey	★☆☆☆☆
NY	46	47	45	38	NY	**Andrew Cuomo** — New York	★☆☆☆☆
IL	47	36	48	47	IL	**J.B. Pritzker** — Illinois	★☆☆☆☆
CA	48	48	43	41	CA	**Gavin Newsom** — California	★☆☆☆☆
RI	49	50	41	49	RI	**Daniel McKee** — Rhode Island	★☆☆☆☆
NM	50	49	46	48	NM	**Michelle Lujan Grisham** — New Mexico	★☆☆☆☆

7

GOVERNOR SCORECARD RANKING BY STATES

AL

Legislative Majority

Republican

Kay Ivey
Alabama
Inauguration: Apr 2017
Next Election: 2022

Governor

Republican

★★★☆☆

28
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	Robert J. Bentley	2011-2017
■	Bob Riley	2003-2011
■	Don Siegelman	1999-2003
■	Fob James	1995-1999

SENATE

■ Democrat 8   ■ Republican 27   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 26   ■ Republican 76   ■ Other 3

ABOUT GOVERNOR KAY IVEY

Kay Ivey (R) is the 54th governor of Alabama, serving since 2017. She graduated from Auburn University with a degree in secondary education. After teaching high school, Ivey worked as a bank officer.

She entered politics in 1979, working for Alabama Gov. Forrest James as an executive assistant for social services and assistant director of the Alabama Development Office. She also worked as a clerk for the Alabama House of Representatives and as a director of government affairs and communications for the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

Ivey was elected state treasurer in 2002 and re-elected in 2006. She was elected lieutenant governor in 2010 and re-elected in 2014. In 2017, Ivey became governor upon Gov. Robert Bentley's (R) resignation. She was elected to a full term in 2018.

21
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

32
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

24
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

14%
13%
12%
11%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	21
UNION CONTROL	22
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	19

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	32
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	17
EDUCATION QUALITY	48
GSP GROWTH	25
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	24

FISCAL POLICY RANK	24
DEBT	29
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	47
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	30
SPENDING PER CAPITA	10
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	8

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
3%	3%	3%	13%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%

AK

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Mike Dunleavy
Alaska
Inauguration: Dec 2018
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

37
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Bill Walker	2014-2018
Sean Parnell	**2009-2014**
Sarah Palin	**2006-2009**
Frank Murkowski	**2002-2006**

SENATE
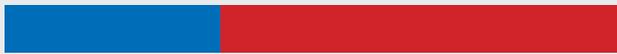
■ Democrat 7   ■ Republican 13   ■ Other 0

HOUSE
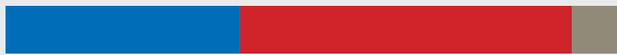
■ Democrat 15   ■ Republican 21   ■ Other 4

ABOUT GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Mike Dunleavy (R) is the 12th governor of Alaska, serving since 2018. He graduated from Misericordia University with a degree in history and received a master's degree in education from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Dunleavy began his career in education as a teacher. He then became a principal and superintendent in northern Alaska.

Before becoming governor, Dunleavy owned an educational consulting firm and worked on several educational projects statewide. He served on the Mat-Su Borough School Board, including two years as board president. Dunleavy was a member of the Alaska State Senate from 2013 to 2018.

26
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

49
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
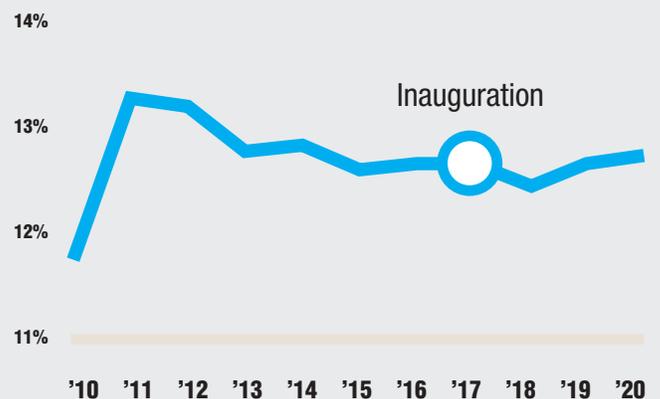
34
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
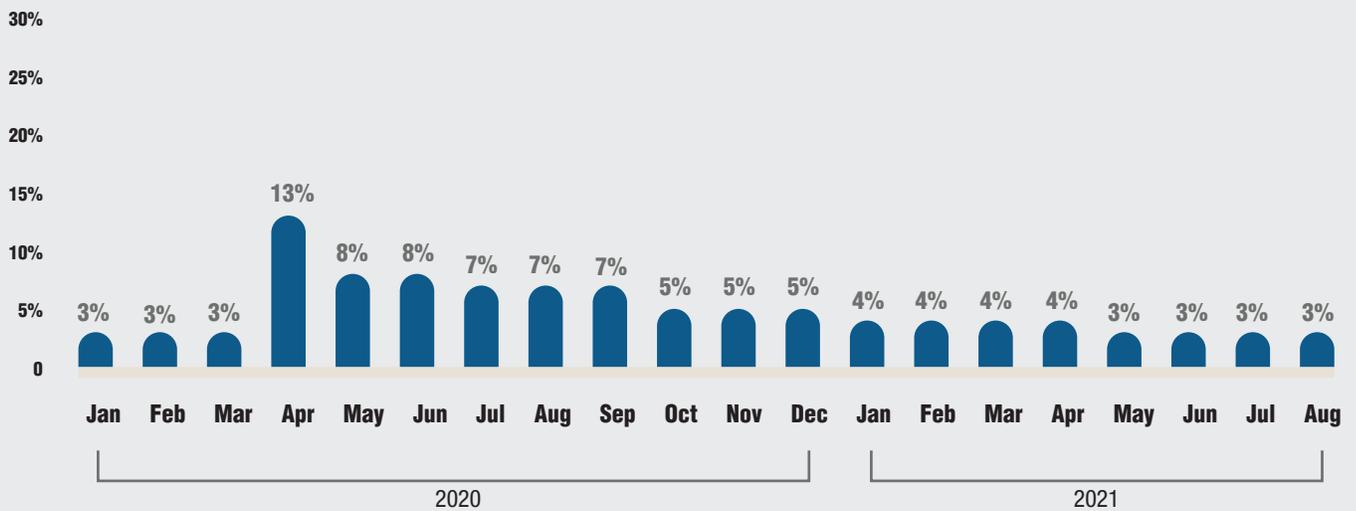

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

30%
25%
20%
15%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	26
UNION CONTROL	27
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	38

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	49
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	40
EDUCATION QUALITY	47
GSP GROWTH	48
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	49

FISCAL POLICY RANK	34
DEBT	42
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	45
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	13
SPENDING PER CAPITA	50
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	2

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan	5%
Feb	5%
Mar	5%
Apr	12%
May	12%
Jun	11%
Jul	11%
Aug	7%
Sep	7%
Oct	7%
Nov	7%
Dec	7%
Jan	7%
Feb	7%
Mar	7%
Apr	7%
May	7%
Jun	7%
Jul	7%
Aug	7%

2020   2021

AZ

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Doug Ducey

Arizona

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

8

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Jan Brewer	2009-2015
Janet Napolitano	2003-2009
Jane Dee Hull	1997-2003
Fife Symington	1991-1997

SENATE

Democrat 13   Republican 16   Other 1

HOUSE

Democrat 29   Republican 31   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR DOUG DUCEY

Doug Ducey (R) is the 23rd governor of Arizona, serving since 2015. He graduated from Arizona State University with a degree in finance.

Ducey was a sales and marketing executive at Procter & Gamble from 1986 to 1993. He was the chief executive officer of Cold Stone Creamery, an ice cream chain based in Scottsdale, Arizona, from 1996 to 2007. From 2008 to 2012, Ducey was chairman of the board at iMemories, a digital conversion company.

In 2010, Ducey was elected state treasurer. During his tenure, he was the western region vice president for the National Association of State Treasurers and was president of the Western State Treasurers Association.

9

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

20

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
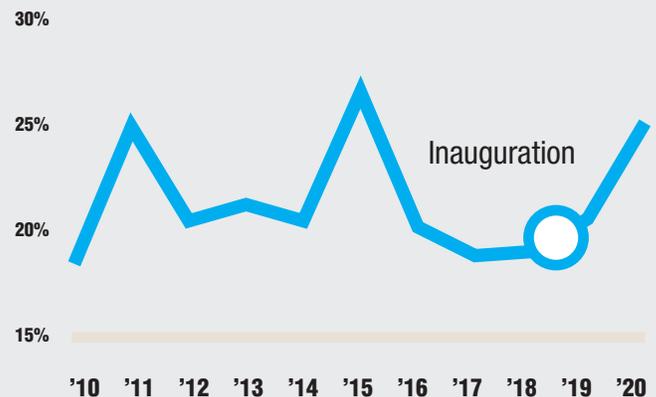
4

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
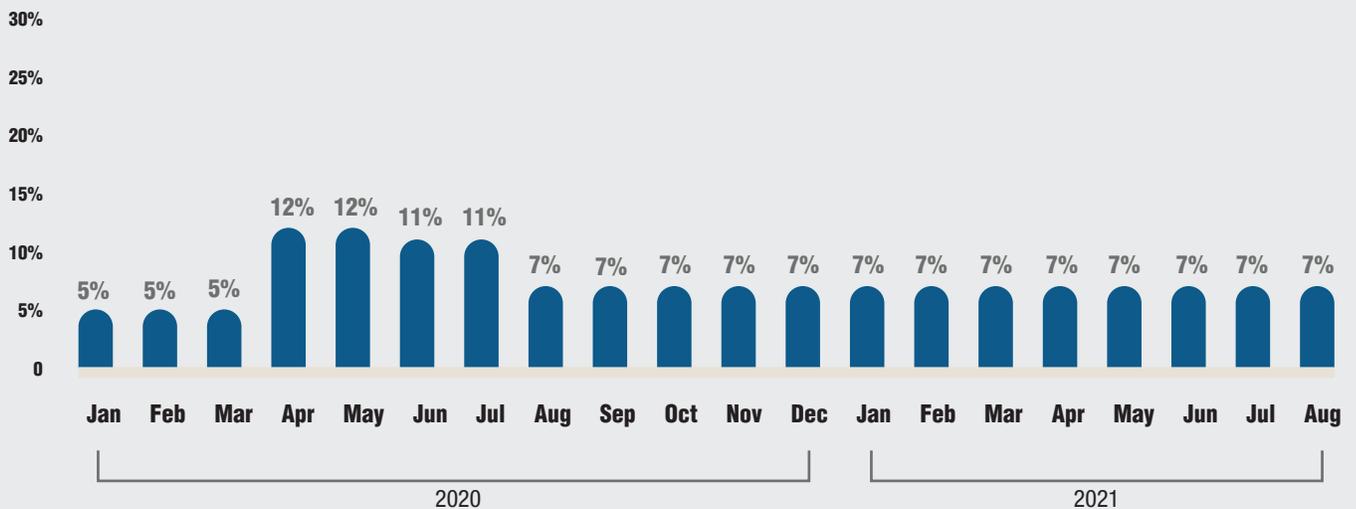

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

2021
THE LAFFER-ALEC REPORT ON
ECONOMIC FREEDOM
GRADING AMERICA'S 50 GOVERNORS

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	9
UNION CONTROL	3
EDUCATION FREEDOM	7
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	29

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	20
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	2
EDUCATION QUALITY	32
GSP GROWTH	8
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	45

FISCAL POLICY RANK	4
DEBT	31
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	6
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	1
SPENDING PER CAPITA	14
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	3

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
5%	5%	5%	14%	11%	11%	10%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%

AR

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Asa Hutchinson
Arkansas
Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

23

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Mike Beebe	2007-2015
Mike Huckabee	1996-2007
Jim Guy Tucker	1992-1996
Bill Clinton	1983-1992

SENATE

Democrat 7   Republican 27   Other 1

HOUSE

Democrat 22   Republican 78   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR ASA HUTCHINSON

Asa Hutchinson (R) is the 46th governor of Arkansas, serving since 2015. He is a graduate of Bob Jones University and the University of Arkansas law school.

Hutchinson's career in public service began in 1982 when President Ronald Reagan (R) appointed him as U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas. From 1990 to 1995, he was chairman of the Republican Party of Arkansas. In 1996, he was elected to the first of three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was one of 13 House managers during the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton (D). President George W. Bush (R) appointed him as director of the Drug Enforcement Administration and then as an undersecretary in the Department of Homeland Security.

12

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

38

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
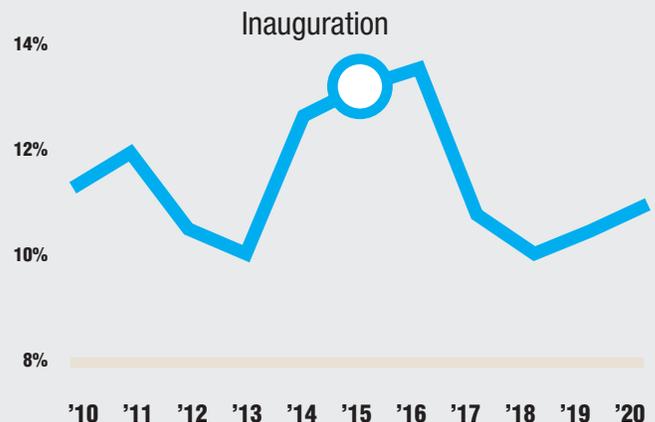
15

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
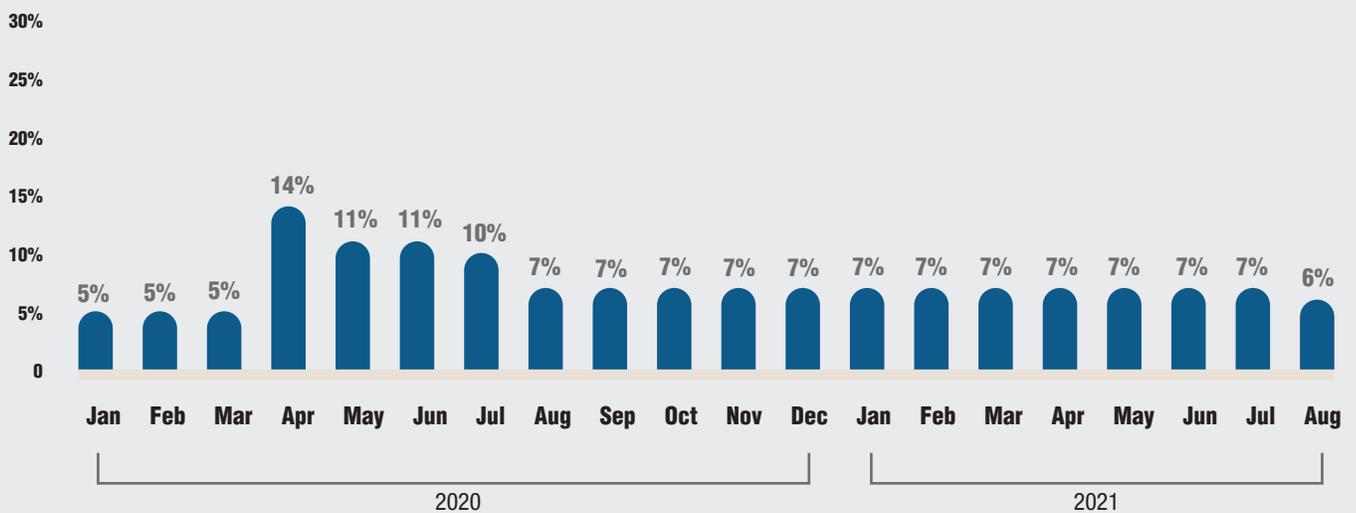
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

22%
21%
20%
19%
18%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	12
UNION CONTROL	16
EDUCATION FREEDOM	1
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	37

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	38
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	19
EDUCATION QUALITY	46
GSP GROWTH	41
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	26

FISCAL POLICY RANK	15
DEBT	8
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	5
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	6
SPENDING PER CAPITA	38
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	37

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	4%
Feb	4%
Mar	4%
Apr	10%
May	9%
Jun	8%
Jul	7%
Aug	7%
Sep	6%
Oct	6%
Nov	5%
Dec	5%
Jan (2021)	5%
Feb	5%
Mar	4%
Apr	4%
May	4%
Jun	4%
Jul	4%
Aug	4%

Governor
Democrat

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Gavin Newsom
California
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

48
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Jerry Brown	2011-2019
Arnold Schwarzenegger	2003-2011
Gray Davis	1999-2003
Pete Wilson	1991-1999

SENATE

Democrat 31   Republican 9   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 60   Republican 19   Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR GAVIN NEWSOM

Gavin Newsom (D) is the 40th governor of California, serving since 2019. Newsom is a graduate of Santa Clara University, where he attended on a partial baseball scholarship and received a degree in political science.

Prior to entering politics, Newsom founded and ran PlumpJack Associates, a wine shop that grew into a network of businesses.

In 1996, Mayor Willie Brown appointed Newsom to the San Francisco Parking and Traffic Commission and then to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1997. In 2003, he was elected mayor of San Francisco. Newsom was elected lieutenant governor in 2010 and re-elected in 2014.

48
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

43
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
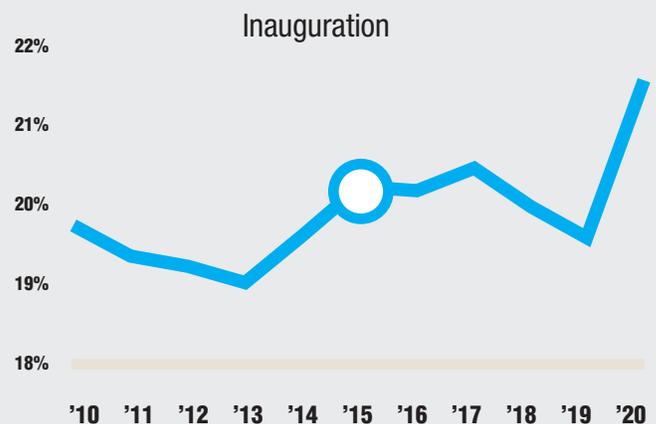
41
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
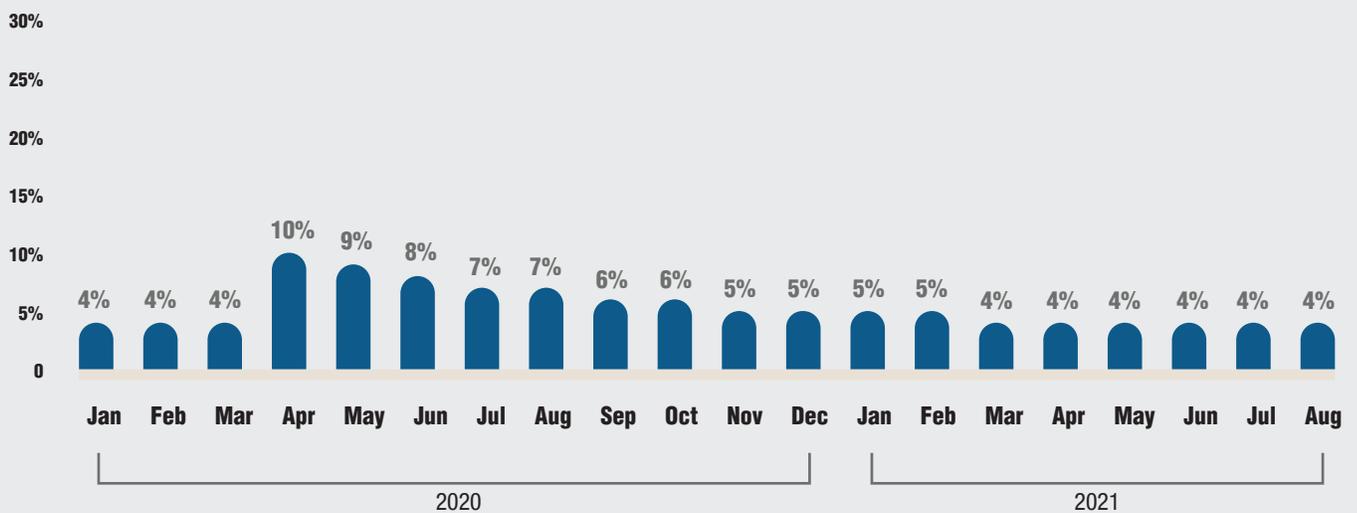
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

11%
10%
9%
8%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK — 48

UNION CONTROL		43
EDUCATION FREEDOM		46
WELFARE DEPENDENCY		38

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK — 43

INTERSTATE MIGRATION		49
EDUCATION QUALITY		31
GSP GROWTH		12
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		48

FISCAL POLICY RANK — 41

DEBT		28
CORPORATE INCOME TAX		43
PERSONAL INCOME TAX		48
SPENDING PER CAPITA		40
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS		17

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	4%
Feb	4%
Mar	5%
Apr	16%
May	16%
Jun	14%
Jul	13%
Aug	12%
Sep	11%
Oct	10%
Nov	9%
Dec	9%
Jan (2021)	9%
Feb	9%
Mar	8%
Apr	8%
May	8%
Jun	8%
Jul	8%
Aug	8%

CO

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

Jared Polis
Colorado
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

4

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	John Hickenlooper	2011-2019
■	Bill Ritter	2007-2011
■	Bill Owens	1999-2007
■	Roy Romer	1987-1999

SENATE

■ Democrat 20   ■ Republican 15   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 41   ■ Republican 24   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR JARED POLIS

Jared Polis (D) is the 43rd governor of Colorado, serving since 2019. He is a graduate of Princeton University, where he received an undergraduate degree in politics.

Before entering public service, Polis began his career in entrepreneurship. He started multiple businesses, including internet company American Information Systems and online flower company ProFlowers.

Polis' political career began when he was elected as an at-large member of the Colorado State Board of Education in 2000. He was also involved in founding public charter schools and served as superintendent of the New America School. In 2008, Polis was elected to represent Colorado's 2nd Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

7

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

4

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
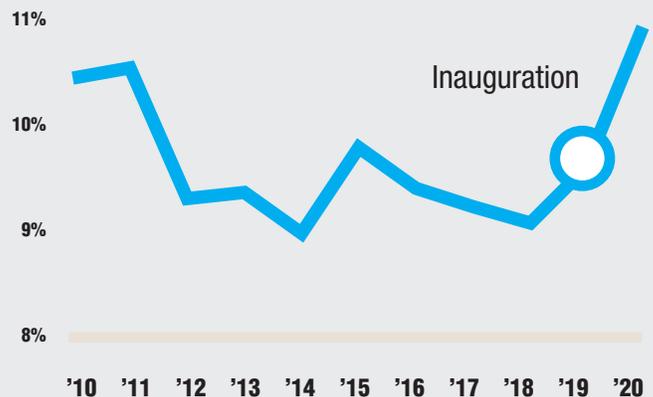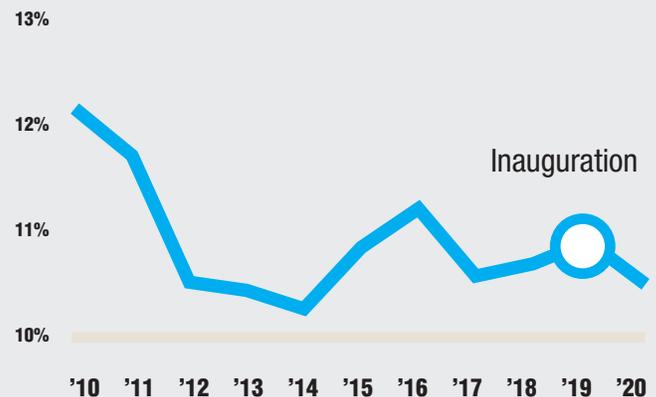
11

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

13%
12%
11%
10%

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	7
UNION CONTROL	33
EDUCATION FREEDOM	5
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	15

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	4
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	12
EDUCATION QUALITY	1
GSP GROWTH	5
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	22

FISCAL POLICY RANK	11
DEBT	19
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	1
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	3
SPENDING PER CAPITA	22
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	35

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Rate	3%	3%	5%	12%	12%	11%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Year	2020												2021							

CT

Legislative Majority

Democrat

Governor

Democrat

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ned Lamont

Connecticut

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

42

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Dan Malloy	2011-2019
Jodi Rell	2004-2011
John G. Rowland	1995-2004
Lowell Weicker	1991-1995

SENATE

Democrat 23   Republican 13   Other 0

HOUSE
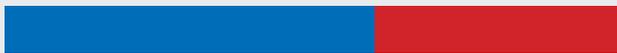
Democrat 97   Republican 54   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR NED LAMONT

Ned Lamont (D) is the 89th governor of Connecticut, serving since 2019. He received a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Harvard College and a Master of Business Administration from the Yale School of Management.

Lamont first won elected office in 1987 and served on the Greenwich Board of Selectmen. As a private citizen, he founded Lamont Digital Systems, a telecommunications company. Among the company's divisions was Campus Televideo, which provided cable television services to hundreds of university campuses. Lamont is an adjunct professor of political science and philosophy at Central Connecticut State University.

42

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

36

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

44

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
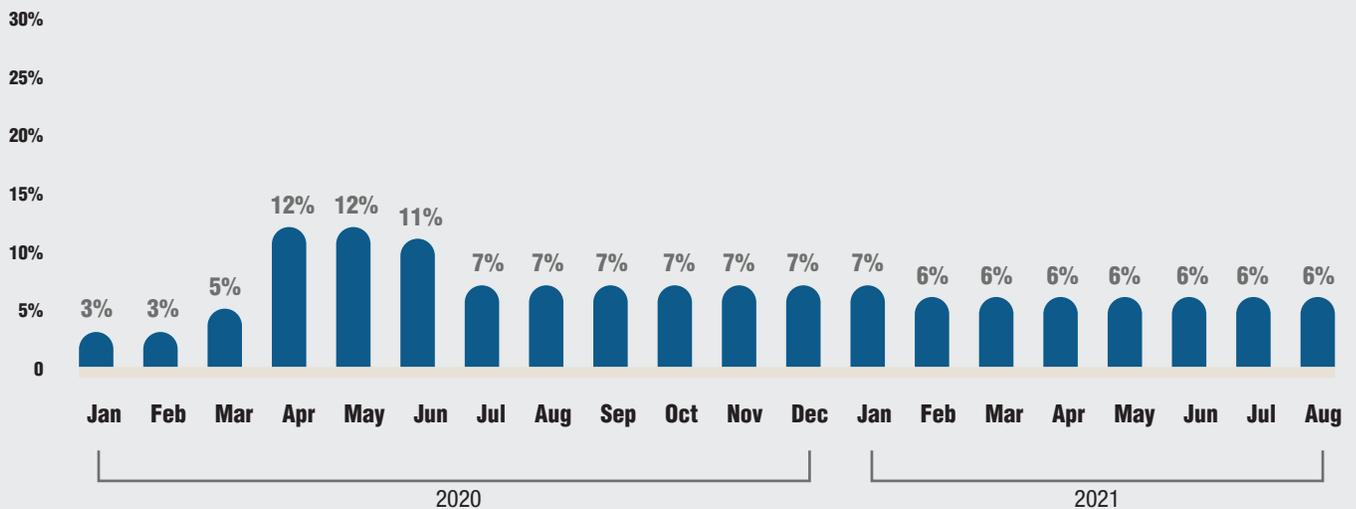
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

13%

12%

11%

10%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	42
UNION CONTROL	47
EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	35

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	36
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	44
EDUCATION QUALITY	12
GSP GROWTH	31
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	37

FISCAL POLICY RANK	44
DEBT	49
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	36
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	38
SPENDING PER CAPITA	43
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	33

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Jan 4%, Feb 4%, Mar 4%, Apr 9%, May 11%, Jun 11%, Jul 11%, Aug 8%, Sep 8%, Oct 8%, Nov 8%, Dec 8% (2020); Jan 8%, Feb 9%, Mar 8%, Apr 8%, May 8%, Jun 8%, Jul 7%, Aug 7% (2021)

DE

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

John Carney
Delaware

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2024

38
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■ Jack Markell	**2009-2017**
■ Ruth Ann Minner	**2001-2009**
■ Thomas R. Carper	**1993-2001**
■ Dale E. Wolf	**1992-1993**

SENATE

■ Democrat 14   ■ Republican 7   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 26   ■ Republican 15   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR JOHN CARNEY

John C. Carney Jr. (D) is the 74th governor of Delaware, serving since 2017. He received an undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Delaware.

Carney began his career in politics by working as a staffer for then-Senator Joe Biden (D). From 1989 to 1994, he was the chief administrative officer of New Castle County. Carney also served as secretary of finance and deputy chief of staff for Gov. Tom Carper (D).

Carney was lieutenant governor of Delaware from 2001 to 2009. After his tenure, he served as president and chief operating officer of Transformative Technologies to bring offshore wind turbine construction to Delaware. From 2011 to 2017, he served three terms as the U.S. Representative for Delaware.

41
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

34
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
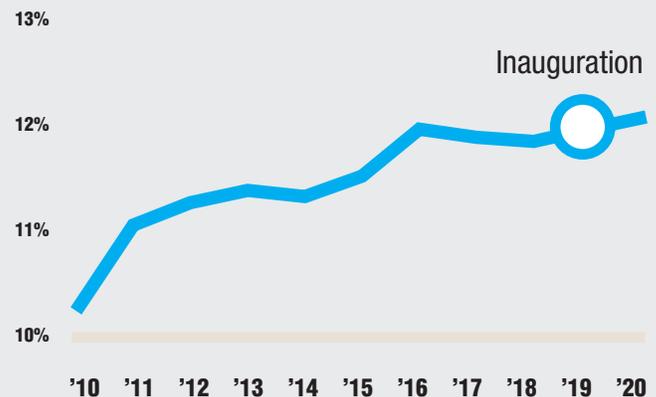
36
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
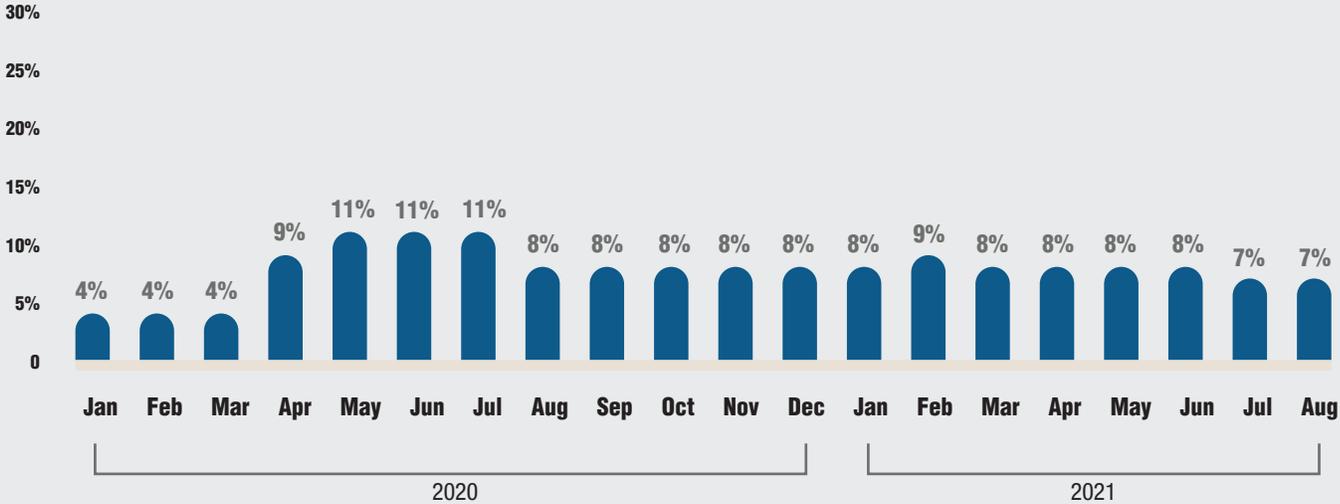

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

16%
15%
14%
13%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	41
UNION CONTROL	14
EDUCATION FREEDOM	49
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	31

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	34
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	14
EDUCATION QUALITY	44
GSP GROWTH	30
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	32

FISCAL POLICY RANK	36
DEBT	15
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	42
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	37
SPENDING PER CAPITA	49
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	19

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	5%	5%	13%	13%	13%	8%	8%	8%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%

2020   2021

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Ron DeSantis

Florida

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

3

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	Rick Scott	2011-2019
■	Charlie Crist	2007-2011
■	Jeb Bush	1999-2007
■	Buddy MacKay	1998-1999

SENATE

■ Democrat 16   ■ Republican 24   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 42   ■ Republican 78   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS

Ron DeSantis (R) is the 46th governor of Florida, serving since 2019. He is a graduate of Yale University, where he attended on a baseball scholarship, and Harvard Law School.

DeSantis served in the U.S. Navy as a judge advocate general from 2004 to 2010, stationed in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

After his active military service, DeSantis was a federal prosecutor. Before becoming governor, DeSantis represented Florida's 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2013 to 2018. DeSantis serves in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

10

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

5

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
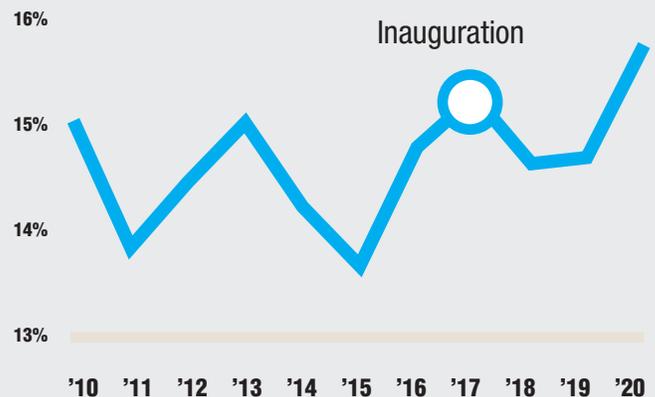
1

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
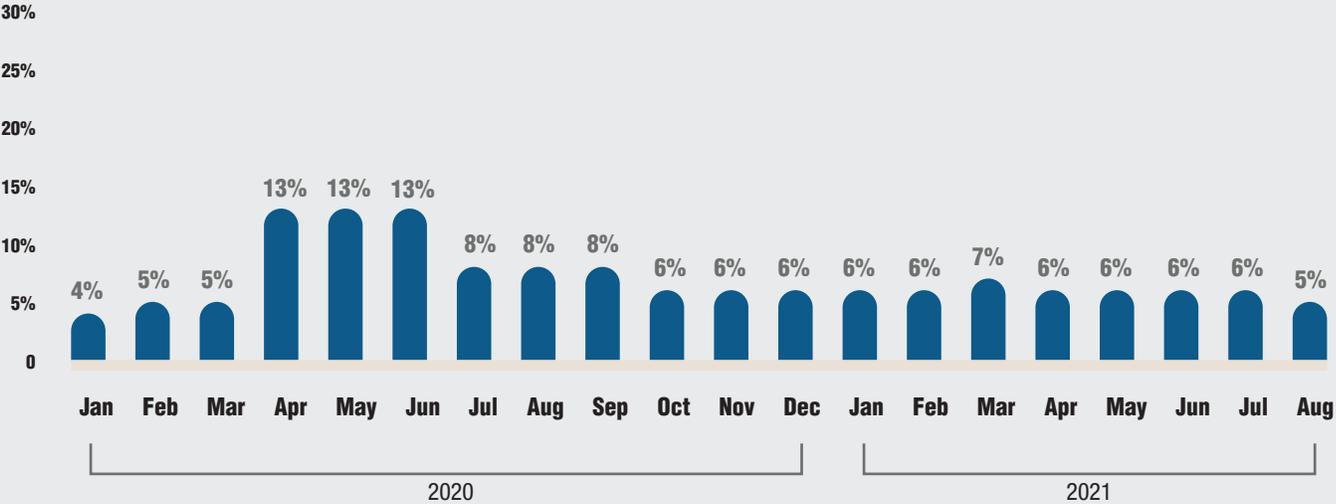
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

9%
8%
7%
6%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	10
UNION CONTROL	25
EDUCATION FREEDOM	1
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	13

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	5
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	1
EDUCATION QUALITY	8
GSP GROWTH	10
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	25

FISCAL POLICY RANK	1
DEBT	4
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	8
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	7
SPENDING PER CAPITA	2
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	5

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	3%	3%	5%	14%	14%	12%	12%	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

2020   2021

GA

Governor Party
Republican

Brian Kemp

Georgia

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

9

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	Nathan Deal	2011-2019
■	Sonny Perdue	2003-2011
■	Roy Barnes	1999-2003
■	Zell Miller	1991-1999

SENATE

■ Democrat 22   ■ Republican 34   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 76   ■ Republican 103   ■ Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR BRIAN KEMP

Brian Kemp (R) is the 83rd governor of Georgia, serving since 2019. He graduated from the University of Georgia with a degree in architecture. Before entering politics, Kemp founded Kemp Development and Construction Company, and later invested in banking, farming, timber and manufacturing companies. He also sat on the boards of Suncrest Stone and St. Mary's Hospital in Athens.

Kemp was first elected as a state senator in 2002 and served for four years. In 2010, he was appointed as secretary of state by Gov. Sonny Perdue (R) following the resignation of Karen Handel (R). He won a full term that same year and was re-elected in 2014.

13

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

14

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
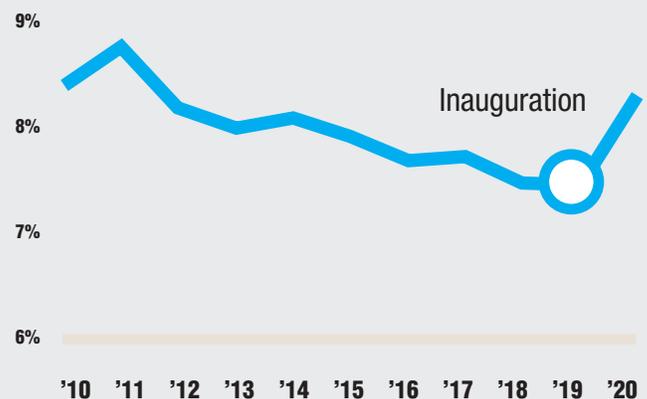
9

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
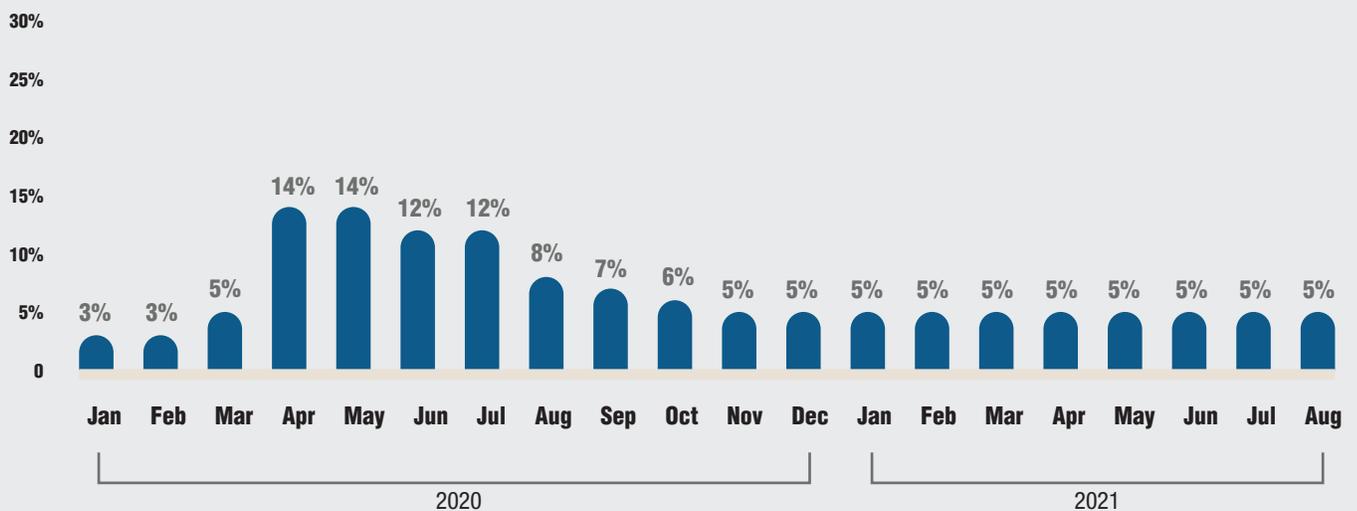

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	13
UNION CONTROL	14
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	8

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	14
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	11
EDUCATION QUALITY	34
GSP GROWTH	14
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	23

FISCAL POLICY RANK	9
DEBT	18
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	12
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	23
SPENDING PER CAPITA	5
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	11

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	3%	4%	4%	13%	9%	8%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

2020   2021

HI

Legislative Majority

Democrat

Governor

Democrat

David Ige

Hawaii

Inauguration: Dec 2014
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

44

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Neil Abercrombie	2010-2014
Linda Lingle	2002-2010
Ben Cayetano	1994-2002
John Waihe'e	1986-1994

SENATE
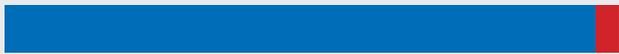
Democrat 24   Republican 1   Other 0

HOUSE
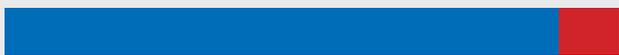
Democrat 47   Republican 4   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR DAVID IGE

David Ige (D) is the eighth governor of Hawaii, serving since 2014. He attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, where he received a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and a Master of Business Administration.

As a private citizen, Ige worked as an engineer for GTE Hawaiian Tel for 18 years. He then served as a project manager with Robert A. Ige and Associates, Inc., Vice President of engineering at NetEnterprise and senior principal engineer at Pihana Pacific.

Ige was appointed to the Hawaii House of Representatives in 1985 by Gov. George Ariyoshi (D). In 1994, he was elected to the Hawaii State Senate.

45

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

37

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

45

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
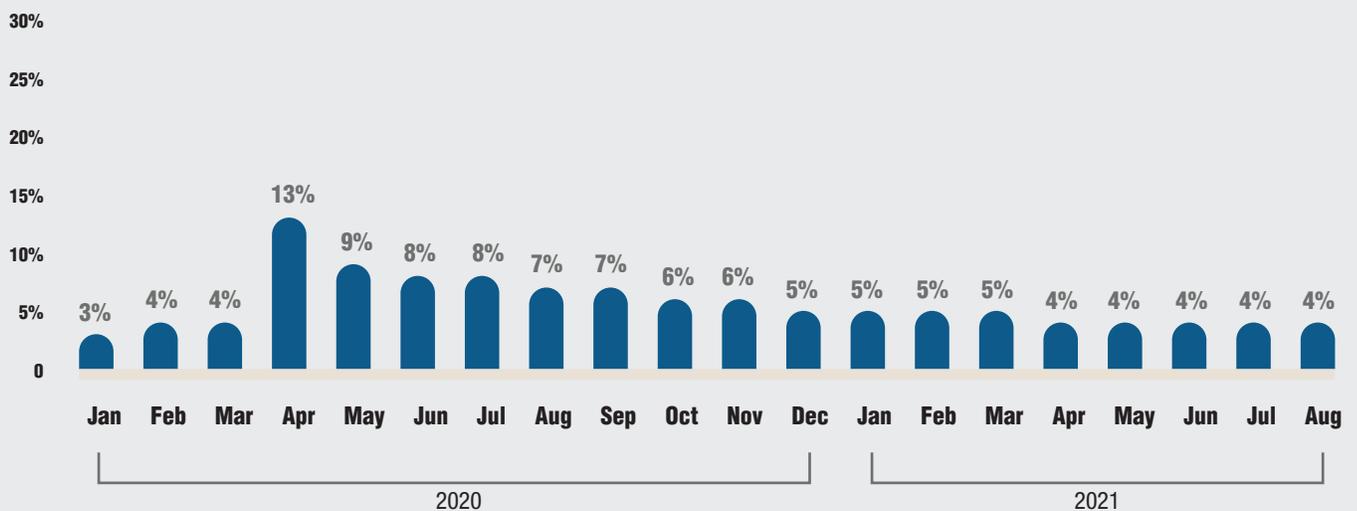A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

21%
19%
17%
15%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

ECONOMIC FREEDOM

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	45
UNION CONTROL	37
EDUCATION FREEDOM	46
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	31

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	37
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	41
EDUCATION QUALITY	30
GSP GROWTH	42
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	15

FISCAL POLICY RANK	45
DEBT	48
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	28
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	47
SPENDING PER CAPITA	47
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	27

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	2%
Feb	2%
Mar	2%
Apr	22%
May	22%
Jun	14%
Jul	14%
Aug	14%
Sep	15%
Oct	14%
Nov	10%
Dec	10%
Jan (2021)	10%
Feb	9%
Mar	9%
Apr	9%
May	8%
Jun	8%
Jul	7%
Aug	7%

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Brad Little

Idaho

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

5

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Butch Otter	2007-2019
Jim Risch	2006-2007
Dirk Kempthorne	1999-2006
Phil Batt	1995-1999

SENATE

Democrat 7   Republican 28   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 12   Republican 58   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR BRAD LITTLE

Brad Little (R) is the 33rd governor of Idaho, serving since 2019. He graduated from the University of Idaho with a bachelor's degree in agribusiness.

Little managed his family's ranching company, Little Land and Livestock, for nearly 30 years. He was a member of the Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry for 20 years and served as its chairman.

Little also served in various leadership roles in ranching, education and banking organizations.

Governor Dirk Kempthorne (R) appointed Little to fill a state Senate vacancy in 2001. He served in the Senate until Gov. Butch Otter (R) appointed him as lieutenant governor in 2009, a position he held until 2019.

16

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

1

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
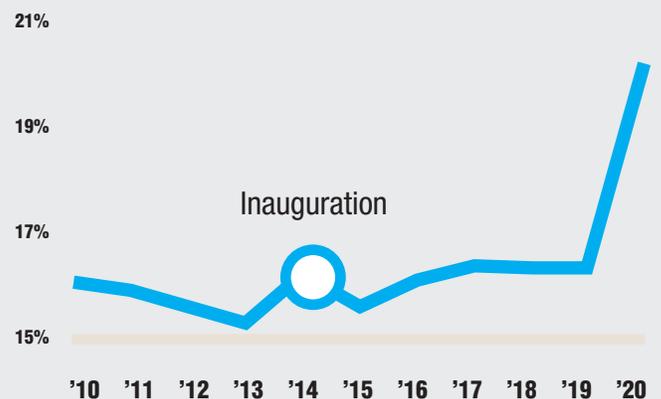
7

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK — 16

	UNION CONTROL	12
	EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
	WELFARE DEPENDENCY	14

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK — 1

	INTERSTATE MIGRATION	6
	EDUCATION QUALITY	6
	GSP GROWTH	2
	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	7

FISCAL POLICY RANK — 7

	DEBT	3
	CORPORATE INCOME TAX	6
	PERSONAL INCOME TAX	18
	SPENDING PER CAPITA	9
	FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	24

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
3%	3%	3%	12%	8%	7%	6%	5%	6%	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%

IL

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

J.B. Pritzker

Illinois

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

47
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Bruce Rauner	2015-2019
Pat Quinn	2009-2015
Rod Blagojevich	2003-2009
George Ryan	1999-2003

SENATE

Democrat 41   Republican 18   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 73   Republican 45   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR J.B. PRITZKER

J.B. Pritzker (D) is the 43rd governor of Illinois, serving since 2019. He graduated from Duke University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Pritzker went on to earn his Juris Doctor degree from Northwestern University School of Law.

Before becoming governor, Pritzker founded 1871, a nonprofit to help small business entrepreneurs. He also served as chairman of ChicagoNEXT, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's council on innovation and technology. Pritzker launched venture capital funds and local development instantiates. In 2008, Pritzker received the Entrepreneurial Champion Award from the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce.

36
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

48
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
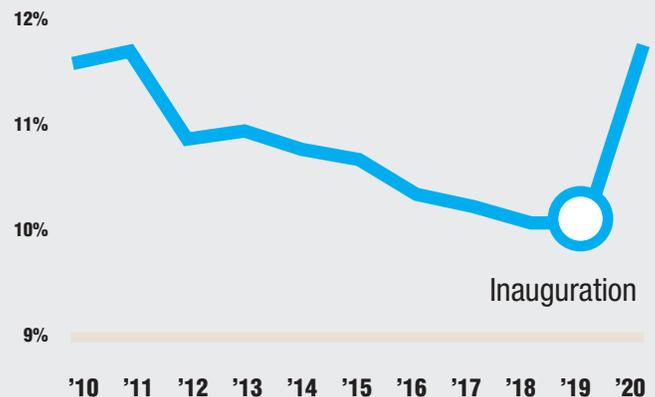
47
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
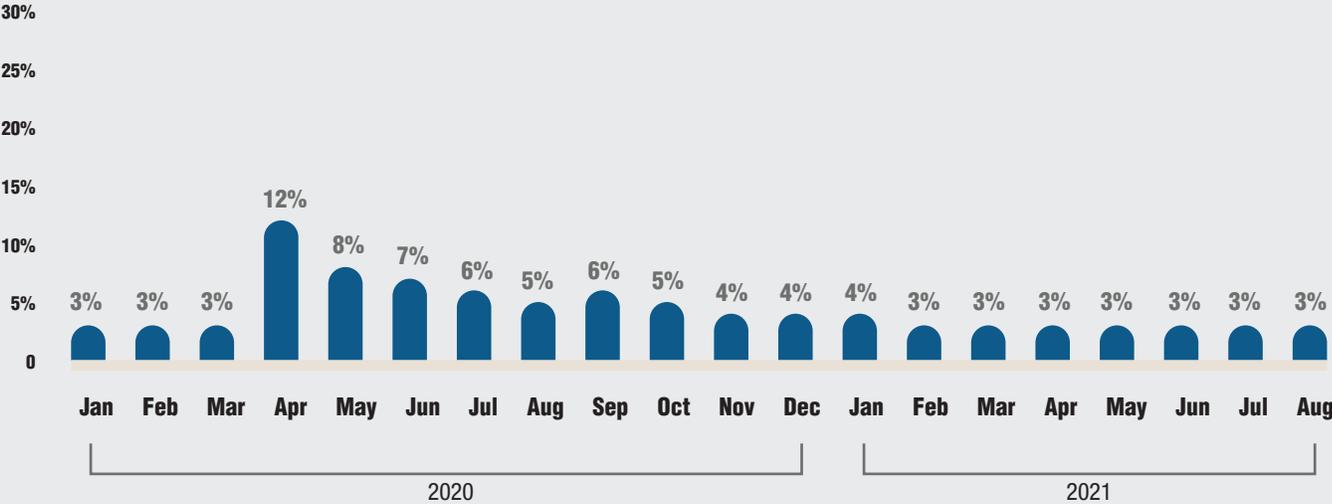
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

9%   8%   7%   6%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	36
UNION CONTROL	42
EDUCATION FREEDOM	39
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	21

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	48
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	47
EDUCATION QUALITY	32
GSP GROWTH	40
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	42

FISCAL POLICY RANK	47
DEBT	44
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	48
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	50
SPENDING PER CAPITA	23
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	43

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	4%	4%	17%	15%	14%	12%	11%	10%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%

2020   2021

IN

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Eric Holcomb
Indiana

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2024

★★★★☆

19
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Mike Pence	2013-2017
Mitch Daniels	2005-2013
Joe Kernan	2003-2005
Frank O'Bannon	1997-2003

SENATE

Democrat 11   Republican 39   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 29   Republican 71   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR ERIC HOLCOMB

Eric Holcomb (R) is the 51st governor of Indiana, serving since 2017. He is a graduate of Hanover College. Holcomb served in the United States Navy for six years as an intelligence officer, stationed in Jacksonville, Florida and in Lisbon, Portugal.

His political career began as an aide to Indiana Congressman John Hostettler (R). He later became an advisor to both Gov. Mitch Daniels (R) and Sen. Dan Coats (R). He was chairman of the Indiana Republican Party during the 2012 presidential cycle.

Then-Gov. Mike Pence (R) appointed Holcomb as lieutenant governor in 2016 following the resignation of Sue Ellspermann (R). Holcomb ran for governor in 2016 after Pence withdrew to become the running mate to Donald Trump (R).

23
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

23
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
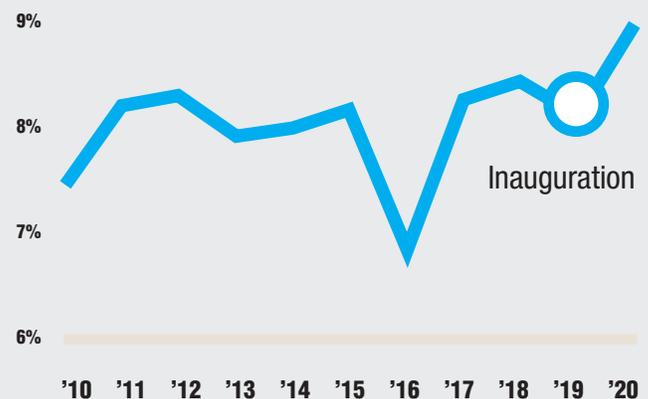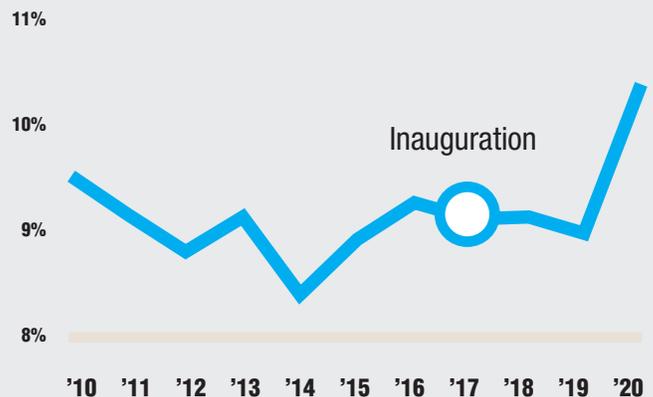
13
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	23
UNION CONTROL	8
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	27

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	23
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	20
EDUCATION QUALITY	27
GSP GROWTH	24
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	20

FISCAL POLICY RANK	13
DEBT	24
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	1
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	19
SPENDING PER CAPITA	11
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	14

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	3%	3%	3%	17%	12%	10%	9%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

2020   2021

IA

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Kim Reynolds
Iowa

Inauguration: May 2017
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

13
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	**Terry Branstad**	**2011-2017**
■	**Chet Culver**	**2007-2011**
■	**Tom Vilsack**	**1999-2007**
■	**Terry Branstad**	**1983-1999**

SENATE

■ Democrat 18   ■ Republican 32   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 41   ■ Republican 58   ■ Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS

Kim Reynolds (R) is the 43rd governor of Iowa, serving since 2019, and is the first woman to hold the office. She took classes at Northwest Missouri State University, Southeastern Community College and Southwestern Community College. Reynolds received a bachelor's degree in liberal studies from Iowa State University.

Reynolds worked as a pharmacist assistant and as a motor vehicle clerk in Clarke County. She was elected Clarke County Treasurer in 1994 for a four-year term and was re-elected three times. In 2000, Reynolds became president of the Iowa State Treasurers Association.

She ascended to state office in 2009 after being sworn into the Iowa Senate. After two years, she was sworn in as lieutenant governor under Gov. Terry Branstad (R) and served for eight years.

8
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

25
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

14
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
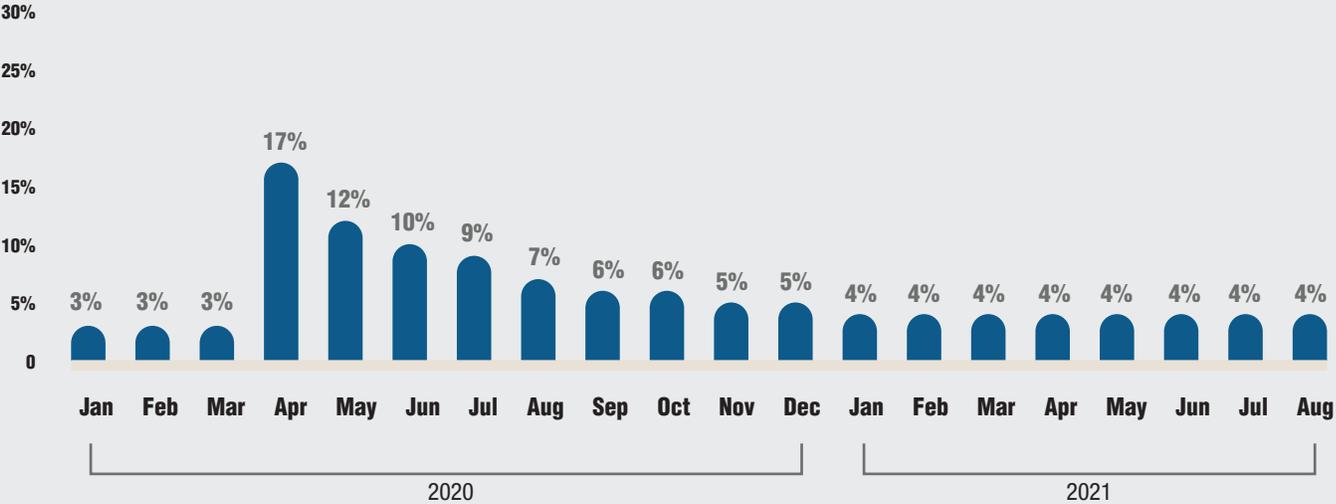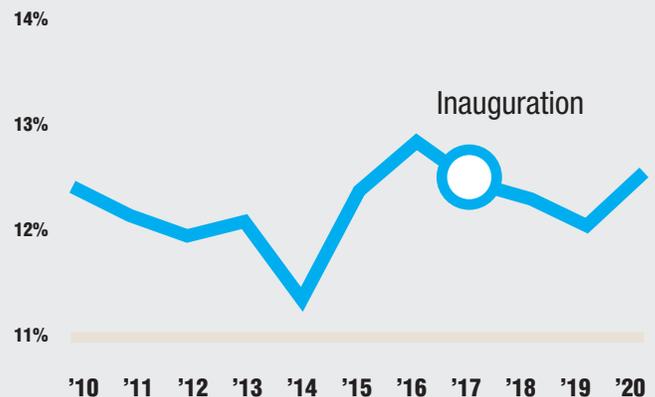
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

14%
13%
12%
11%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	8
UNION CONTROL	8
EDUCATION FREEDOM	1
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	18

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	25
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	31
EDUCATION QUALITY	23
GSP GROWTH	32
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	9

FISCAL POLICY RANK	14
DEBT	11
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	3
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	14
SPENDING PER CAPITA	30
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	29

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	3%	3%	3%	11%	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

2020   2021

KS

Legislative Majority

Republican

Governor

Democrat

Laura Kelly

Kansas

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★☆☆

27

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■ **Jeff Colyer**	**2018-2019**
■ **Sam Brownback**	**2011-2018**
■ **Mark Parkinson**	**2009-2011**
■ **Kathleen Sebelius**	**2003-2009**

SENATE

■ Democrat 11   ■ Republican 29   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 39   ■ Republican 86   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

Laura Kelly (D) is the 48th governor of Kansas, serving since 2019. She graduated from Bradley University and obtained a master's degree from Indiana University at Bloomington.

Before entering politics, Kelly worked in healthcare, serving as a recreation therapist at the Rockland Children's Psychiatric Center and as director of recreation therapy and physical education at the National Jewish Hospital for Respiratory and Immune Diseases.

Kelly served as executive director of the Kansas Recreation and Park Association between 1988 and her election to the state Senate in 2004. She served four terms in the state Senate, including as assistant minority leader and as minority whip, before winning election as governor in 2018.

17

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

31

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

28

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
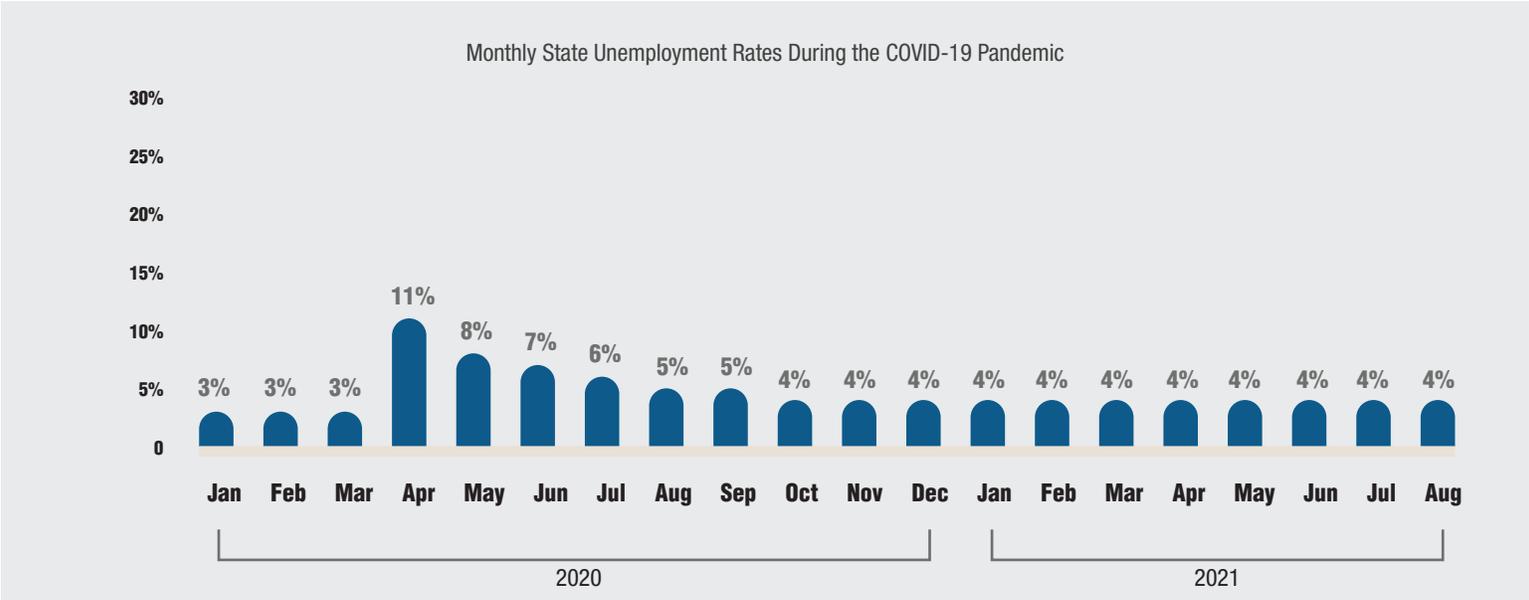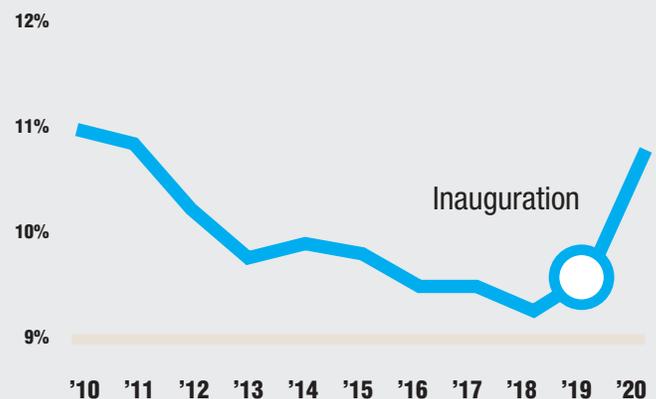A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
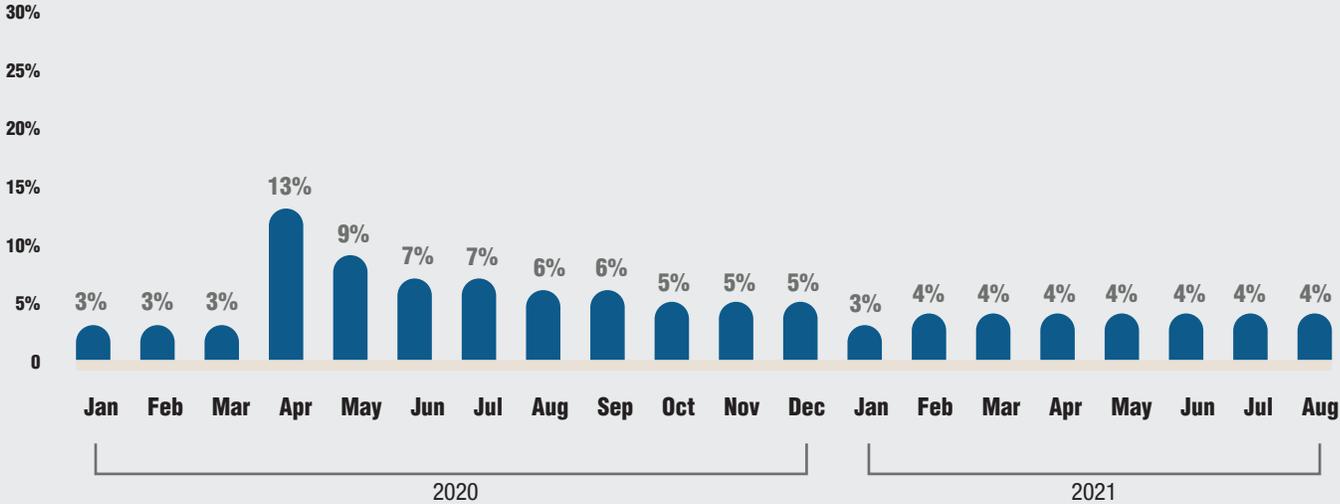

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

12%
11%
10%
9%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	17
UNION CONTROL	39
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	12

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	31
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	36
EDUCATION QUALITY	39
GSP GROWTH	17
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	11

FISCAL POLICY RANK	28
DEBT	13
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	34
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	32
SPENDING PER CAPITA	24
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	36

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
3%	3%	3%	13%	9%	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	3%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

KY

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Democrat

★★★☆☆

Andy Beshear
Kentucky

Inauguration: Dec 2019
Next Election: 2023

25
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■ Matt Bevin	2015-2019
■ Steve Beshear	2007-2015
■ Ernie Fletcher	2003-2007
■ Paul Patton	1995-2003

SENATE

■ Democrat 8   ■ Republican 29   ■ Other 1

HOUSE

■ Democrat 25   ■ Republican 73   ■ Other 2

ABOUT GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR

Andy Beshear (D) is the 63rd governor of Kentucky, serving since 2019. His father, Steve Beshear, served as Kentucky's 61st governor. Beshear received a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

After graduating from law school, Beshear worked at a law firm in Washington, D.C. He was a partner at Stites & Harbison, where he specialized in consumer and nonprofit law. Before becoming governor, Beshear served as attorney general of Kentucky from 2016-2019.

25
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

10
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

35
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

20%										
18%										
16%										
14%										
12%										
'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	25
UNION CONTROL	1
EDUCATION FREEDOM	28
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	42

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	10
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	24
EDUCATION QUALITY	22
GSP GROWTH	11
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	19

FISCAL POLICY RANK	35
DEBT	47
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	9
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	17
SPENDING PER CAPITA	39
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	48

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	4%
Feb	4%
Mar	4%
Apr	17%
May	11%
Jun	6%
Jul	6%
Aug	6%
Sep	6%
Oct	6%
Nov	6%
Dec	6%
Jan (2021)	5%
Feb	5%
Mar	5%
Apr	5%
May	5%
Jun	4%
Jul	4%
Aug	4%
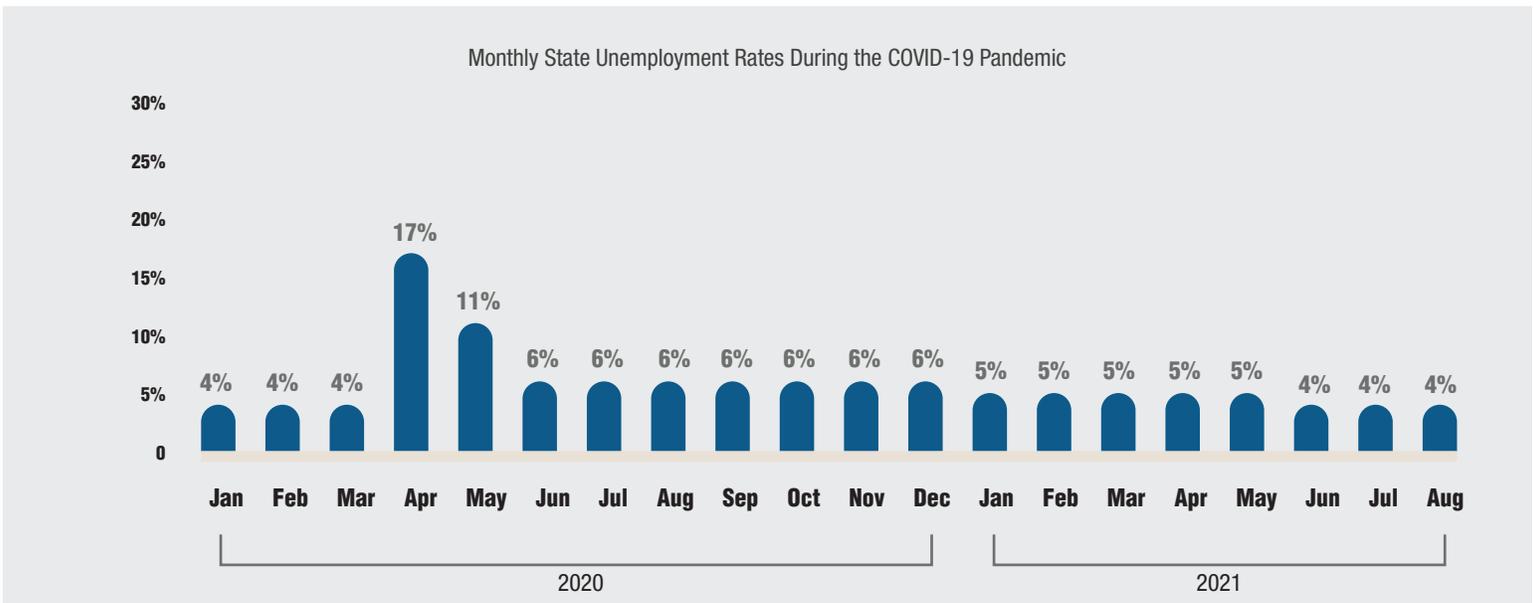
LA

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Democrat

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

John Bel Edwards
Louisiana
Inauguration: Jan 2016
Next Election: 2023

36
OVERALL RANK

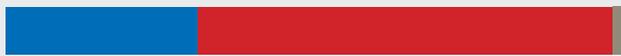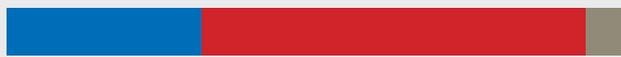### PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

🟥	Bobby Jindal	2008-2016
🟦	Kathleen Blanco	2004-2008
🟥	Mike Foster	1992-2004
🟦	Edwin Edwards	1988-1992

SENATE

Democrat 12 Republican 26 Other 1

HOUSE

Democrat 32 Republican 68 Other 5

ABOUT GOVERNOR JOHN BEL EDWARDS

John Bel Edwards (D) is the 56th governor of Louisiana, serving since 2016. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point. Edwards also received a Juris Doctor from the Louisiana State University Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He served in the U.S. Army for eight years with the 25th and 82nd Airborne Division, achieving the rank of Captain.

Before he was elected as governor, Edwards represented District 72 in the Louisiana House of Representatives for eight years between 2008 and 2015, serving as minority leader for the final four years. He worked as an attorney in private practice before seeking elected office.

33
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

50
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
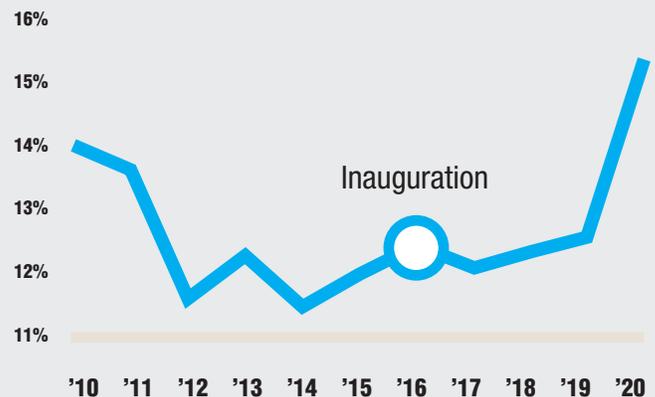
23
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

16%
15%
14%
13%
12%
11%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	33
UNION CONTROL	28
EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	25

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	50
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	45
EDUCATION QUALITY	49
GSP GROWTH	47
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	46

FISCAL POLICY RANK	23
DEBT	32
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	20
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	16
SPENDING PER CAPITA	27
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	13

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	5%	5%	5%	13%	13%	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%

2020   2021

ME

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

Janet Mills
Maine
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★☆☆

29

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Paul LePage	2011-2019
John Baldacci	2003-2011
Angus King	1995-2003
John R. McKernan	1987-1995

SENATE
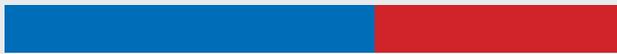
Democrat 22   Republican 13   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 80   Republican 65   Other 6

ABOUT GOVERNOR JANET MILLS

Janet T. Mills (D) is the 73rd governor of Maine, serving since 2019. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts at Boston and a J.D. from the University of Maine School of Law.

Mills made history as Maine's first female criminal prosecutor and assistant attorney general from 1976 to 1980. She first successfully ran for office in 1980 to become District Attorney in three counties. She won re-election three times.

Between 2002 and 2009, Mills represented District 78 and District 89 in the Maine House of Representatives. Mills was elected by the Maine State Legislature to be attorney general from 2009 to 2011 and 2013 to 2019.

38

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

6

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

37

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
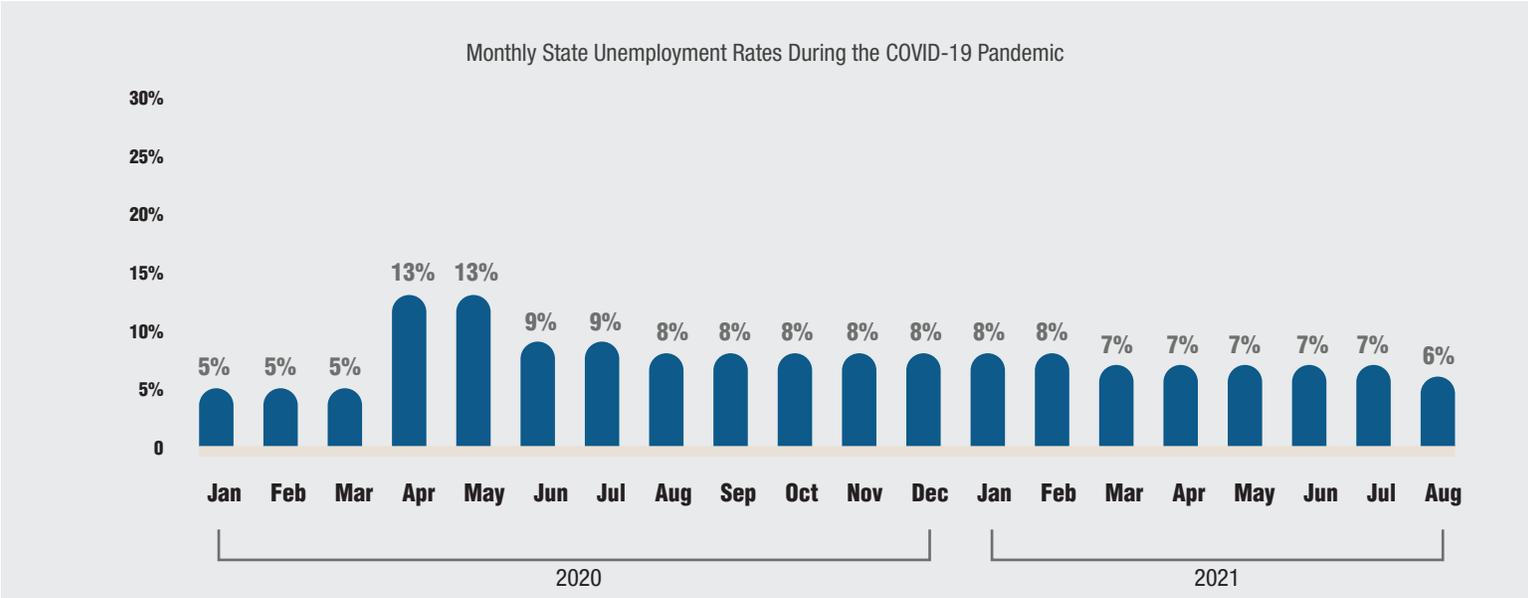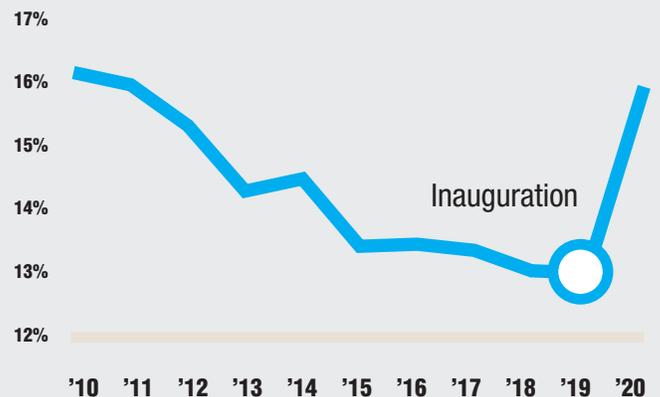

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	38
UNION CONTROL	50
EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	42

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	6
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	15
EDUCATION QUALITY	11
GSP GROWTH	16
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	10

FISCAL POLICY RANK	37
DEBT	12
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	44
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	40
SPENDING PER CAPITA	33
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	47

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan	3%
Feb	3%
Mar	3%
Apr	9%
May	8%
Jun	5%
Jul	9%
Aug	5%
Sep	5%
Oct	5%
Nov	5%
Dec	5%
Jan	5%
Feb	5%
Mar	5%
Apr	5%
May	5%
Jun	5%
Jul	5%
Aug	5%

2020   2021

MD

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Republican

Larry Hogan
Maryland

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

★★☆☆☆

35

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Martin O'Malley	2007-2015
Bob Ehrlich	2003-2007
Parris Glendening	1995-2003
William Donald Schaefer	1987-1995

SENATE

Democrat 32   Republican 15   Other 0

HOUSE
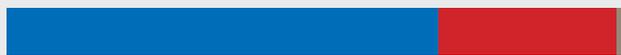
Democrat 98   Republican 42   Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR LARRY HOGAN

Larry Hogan (R) is the 62nd governor of Maryland, serving since 2015. He received a bachelor's degree in government and political science from Florida State University. He is the second Republican governor to be re-elected in the state's history.

Hogan is the founder and president of the real estate brokerage firm The Hogan Companies. He spent 18 years in the private sector before entering politics. Between 2003 and 2007, Hogan served as Secretary of Appointments to former Gov. Bob Ehrlich (R). In 2011, he founded the nonprofit Change Maryland.

During his tenure as governor, Hogan chaired the National Governors Association from 2019 to 2020.

35

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

39

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

29

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
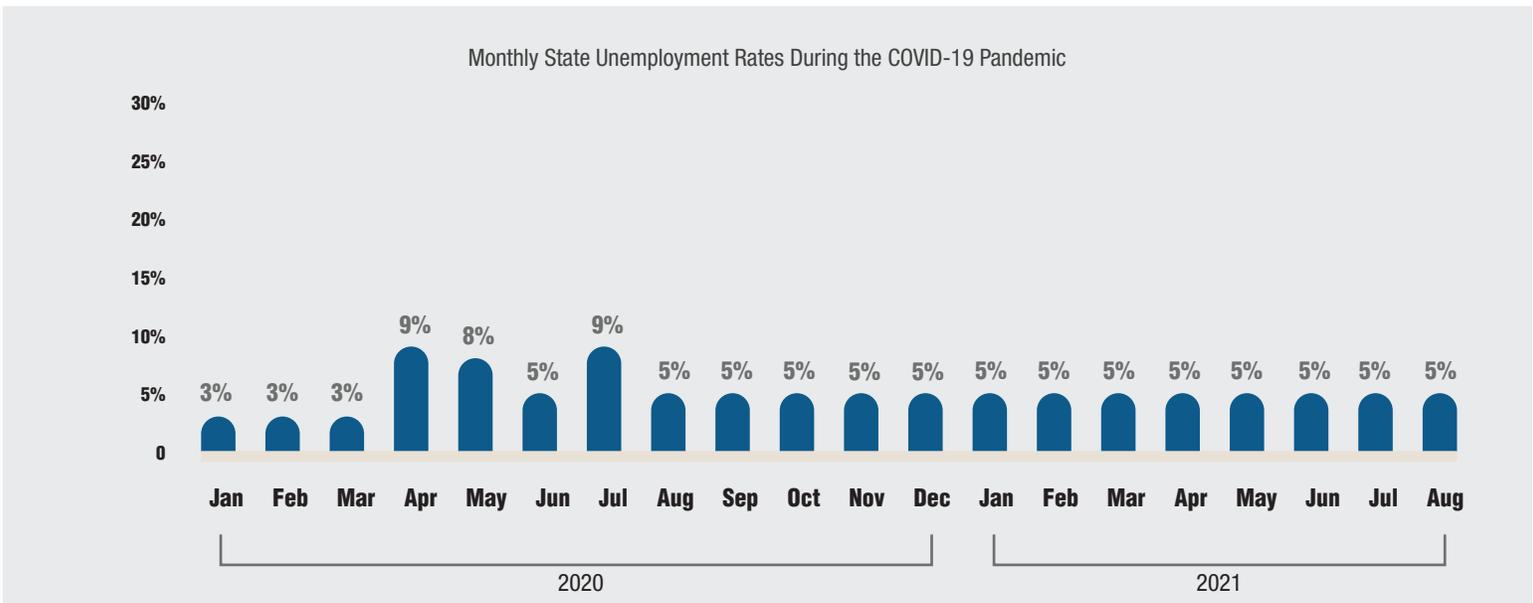

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

12%

11%

10%

9%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	35
UNION CONTROL	49
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	25

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	39
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	42
EDUCATION QUALITY	37
GSP GROWTH	23
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	30

FISCAL POLICY RANK	29
DEBT	20
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	40
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	34
SPENDING PER CAPITA	31
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	1

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	3%	4%	4%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%

2020   2021

MA

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Republican

Charlie Baker

Massachusetts

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

39

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	Deval Patrick	2007-2015
■	Mitt Romney	2003-2007
■	Jane Swift	2001-2003
■	Paul Cellucci	1997-2001

SENATE
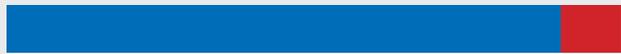
■ Democrat 37 ■ Republican 3 ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 129 ■ Republican 30 ■ Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR CHARLES BAKER

Charles D. Baker (R) is the 72nd governor of Massachusetts, serving since 2015. Baker graduated from Harvard University. He worked for the Massachusetts High Technology Council as a corporate communications director before obtaining a Master of Business Administration from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management.

Baker began his career in the late 1980s when he joined the Pioneer Institute, a libertarian think tank. He was secretary of Health and Human Services under Gov. Bill Weld (R) and Secretary of Administration and Finance under Weld and Acting Gov. Paul Cellucci (R). Baker joined Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates as C.E.O. in 1998. He then became C.E.O. of the nonprofit Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare. From 2004 to 2007, Baker served as a selectman of Swampscott, Massachusetts.

44

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

25

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
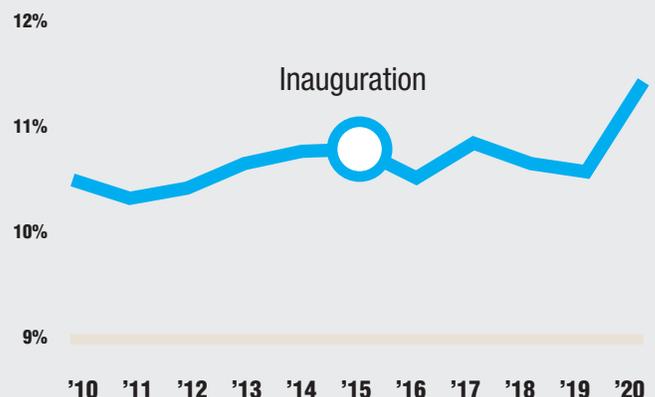
42

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
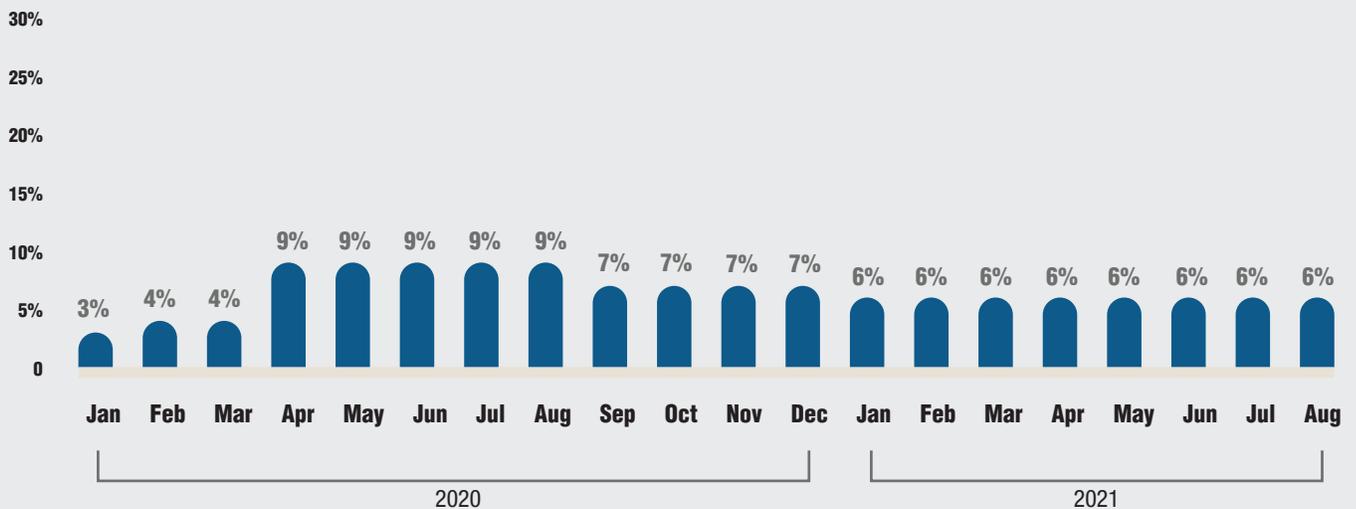
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

14%
13%
12%
11%
10%
9%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK — 44

UNION CONTROL	30
EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	40

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK — 25

INTERSTATE MIGRATION	43
EDUCATION QUALITY	3
GSP GROWTH	20
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	29

FISCAL POLICY RANK — 42

DEBT	38
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	39
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	21
SPENDING PER CAPITA	37
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	50

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	3%
Feb	3%
Mar	3%
Apr	16%
May	15%
Jun	15%
Jul	10%
Aug	9%
Sep	9%
Oct	9%
Nov	8%
Dec	8%
Jan (2021)	8%
Feb	7%
Mar	7%
Apr	6%
May	5%
Jun	5%
Jul	5%
Aug	5%

MI

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Democrat

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Gretchen Whitmer

Michigan

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

41

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Rick Snyder	**2011-2019**
Jennifer M. Granholm	**2003-2011**
John M. Engler	**1991-2003**
James Blanchard	**1983-1991**

SENATE

■ Democrat 16   ■ Republican 20   ■ Other 2

HOUSE

■ Democrat 52   ■ Republican 58   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

Gretchen Whitmer (D) is the 49th governor of Michigan, serving since 2019. She received a bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor from Michigan State University. She worked as an associate attorney for Dickinson Wright PLCC before being elected to the state legislature.

Whitmer began her public service career after winning the election to the Michigan House of Representatives in 2000. She was re-elected in 2002 and 2004. In 2006, she won a special election to the Michigan State Senate. She was elected to a full term that same year and was re-elected in 2010. Whitmer did not run for re-election in 2014 due to term limits. After leaving the legislature, she worked as the Ingham County prosecutor in 2016.

39

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

44

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
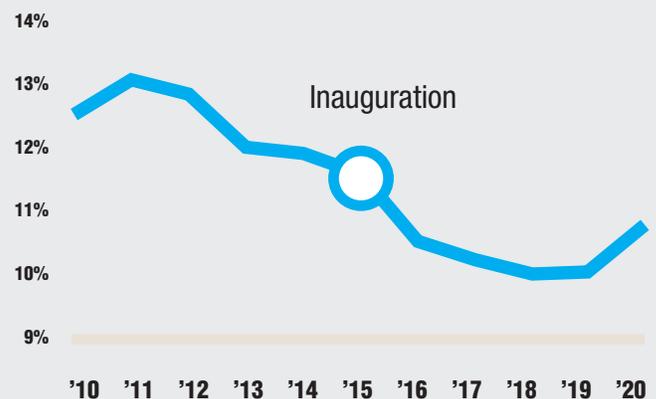
31

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
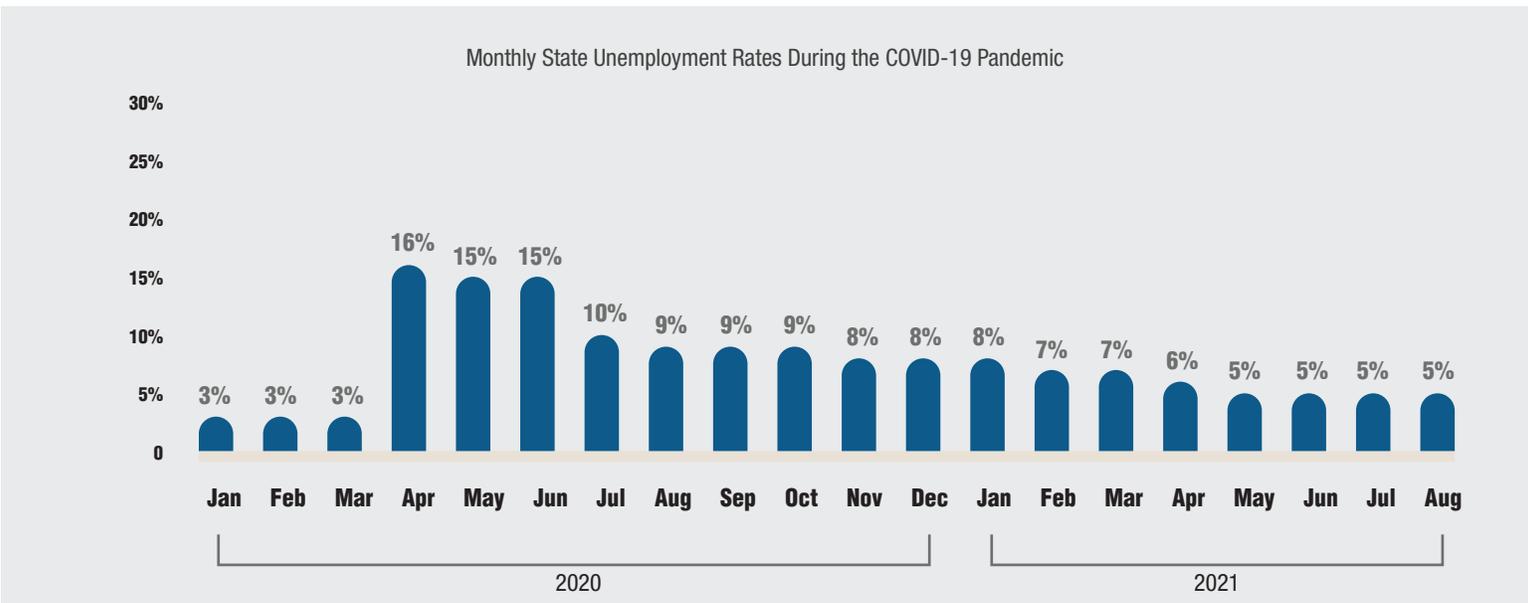A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

13%

12%

11%

10%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	39
UNION CONTROL	35
EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	44

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	44
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	38
EDUCATION QUALITY	19
GSP GROWTH	46
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	39

FISCAL POLICY RANK	31
DEBT	34
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	25
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	27
SPENDING PER CAPITA	19
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	21

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	4%	4%	24%	21%	14%	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

2020   2021

MN

Legislative Majority

Split

Governor

Democrat

Tim Walz
Minnesota

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

31

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Mark Dayton	**2011-2019**
Tim Pawlenty	**2003-2011**
Jesse Ventura	1999-2003
Arne Carlson	**1991-1999**

SENATE

Democrat 31   Republican 34   Other 2

HOUSE

Democrat 70   Republican 64   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR TIM WALZ

Tim Waltz (D) is the 41st governor of Minnesota, serving since 2019. Walz was recruited by Notre Dame to play football but later retired from football and transferred to Chadron State College.

Before his political career, Walz worked as a teacher. He taught at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and with WorldTeach in China. He also served for 24 years in the Army National Guard and is a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom. After retiring from military service, he returned to teaching and football coaching at Mankato West High School.

Walz's public service career began as a U.S. Representative for Minnesota's 1st Congressional District from 2007 to 2019.

37

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

13

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
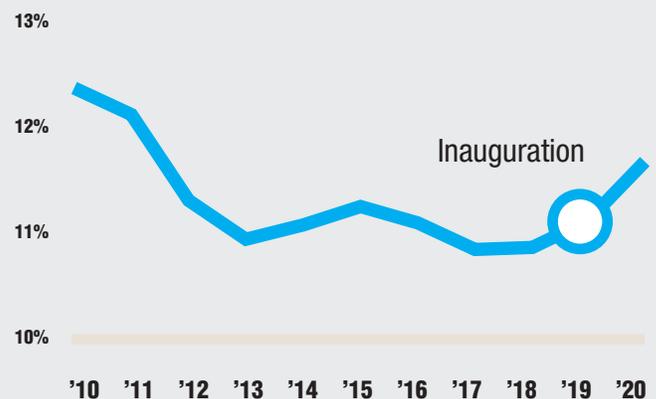
40

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
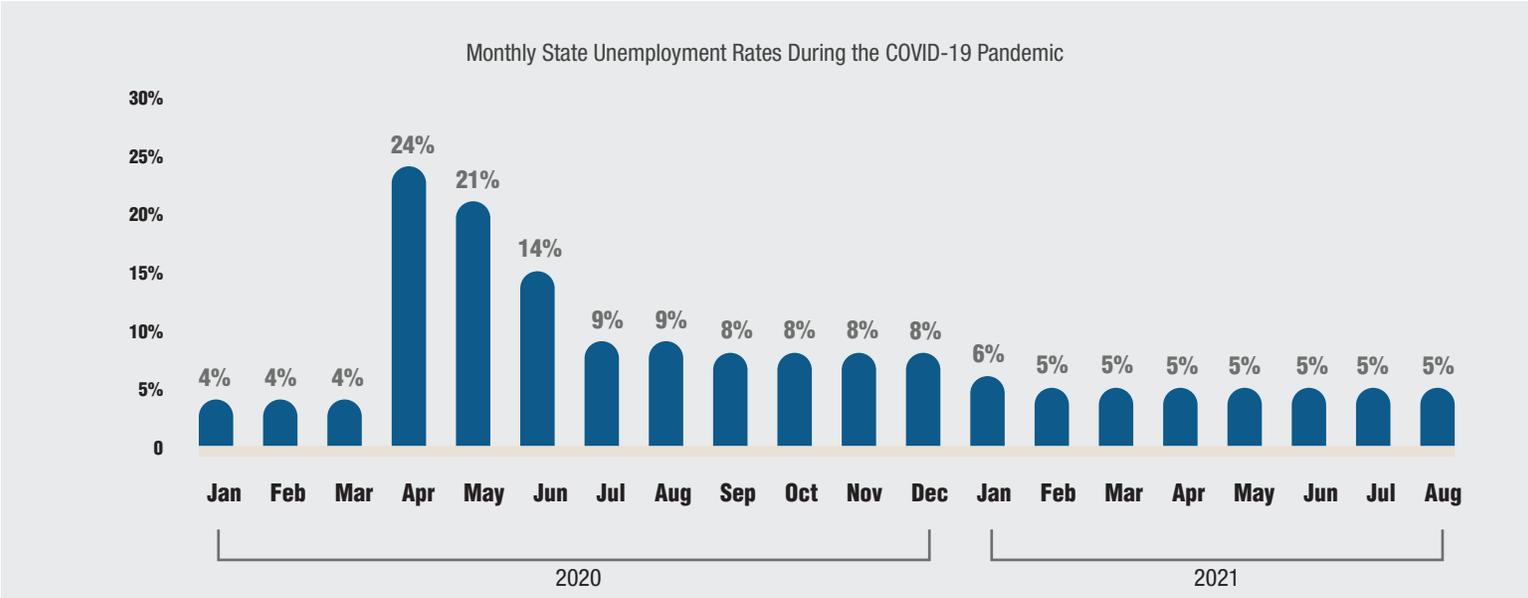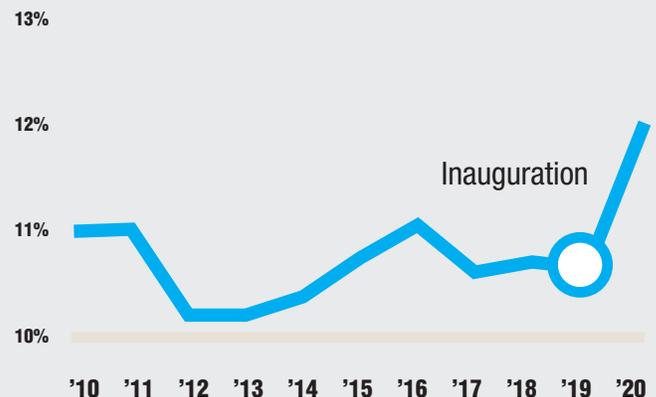

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

13%
12%
11%
10%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	37
UNION CONTROL	41
EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	33

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	13
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	28
EDUCATION QUALITY	8
GSP GROWTH	26
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	16

FISCAL POLICY RANK	40
DEBT	14
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	49
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	43
SPENDING PER CAPITA	36
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	42

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	3%	3%	4%	9%	11%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

2020   2021

MS

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Tate Reeves
Mississippi

Inauguration: Jan 2020
Next Election: 2023

★★★☆☆

26
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Phil Bryant	2012-2020
Haley Barbour	2004-2012
Ronnie Musgrove	2000-2004
Kirk Fordice	1992-2000

SENATE

Democrat 14   Republican 36   Other 2

HOUSE

Democrat 43   Republican 76   Other 3

ABOUT GOVERNOR TATE REEVES

Tate Reeves (R) is the 65th governor of Mississippi, serving since 2020. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from Millsaps College. Following his graduation, Reeves became a chartered financial analyst and worked in finance until 2003.

Reeves first held public office from 2004 to 2012 as state treasurer. He was the first Republican elected to that office and the youngest in nearly a century. Reeves was the president of the National Association of State Treasurers from 2006 to 2007. He was elected lieutenant governor in 2011 and was re-elected in 2015.

26
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

21
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

25
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
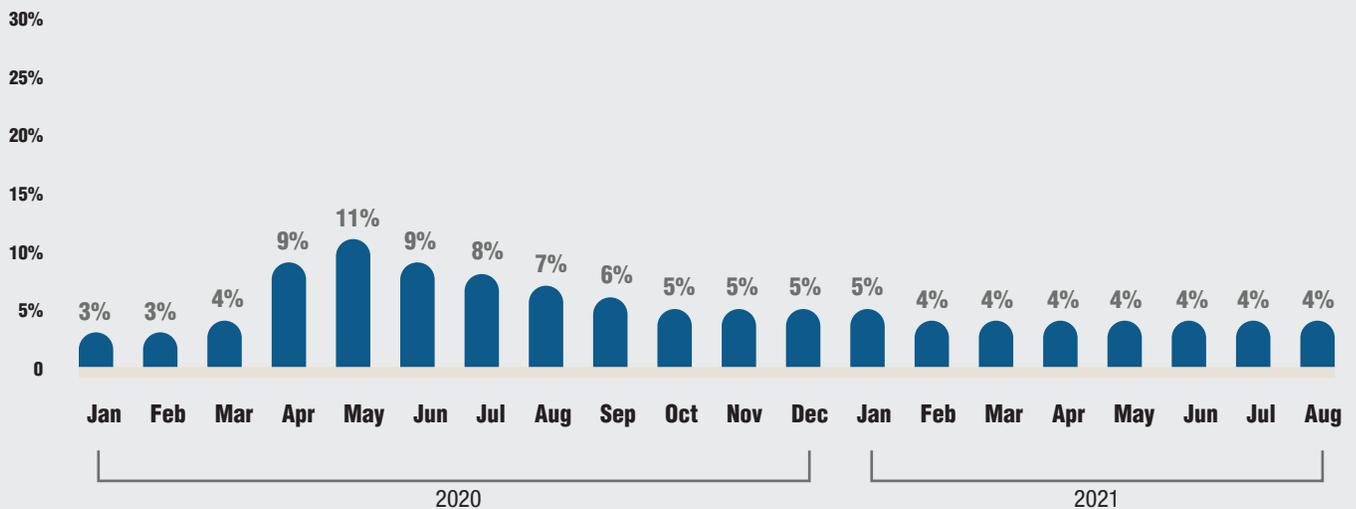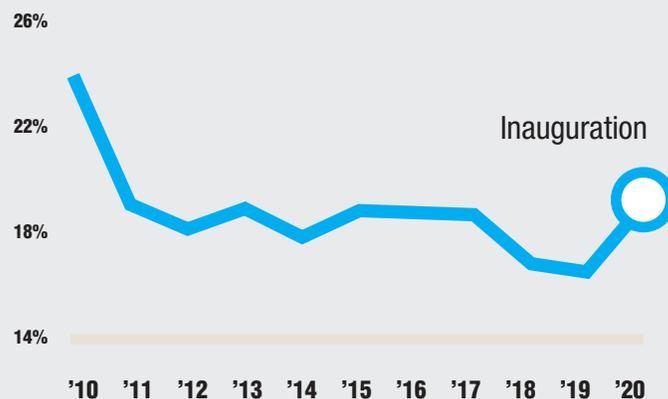

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

26%

22%

18%

14%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	26
UNION CONTROL	29
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	23

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	21
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	37
EDUCATION QUALITY	15
GSP GROWTH	1
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	35

FISCAL POLICY RANK	25
DEBT	35
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	22
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	29
SPENDING PER CAPITA	29
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	6

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
6%	6%	6%	16%	11%	10%	9%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%

2020 | 2021

MO

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Mike Parson
Missouri

Inauguration: Jun 2018
Next Election: 2024

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

12

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Eric Greitens	2017-2018
Jay Nixon	2009-2017
Matt Blunt	2005-2009
Bob Holden	2001-2005

SENATE

Democrat 10   Republican 24   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 49   Republican 113   Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR MIKE PARSON

Mike Parson (R) is the 57th governor of Missouri, serving since 2018. He served in the United States Army for six years with the Military Police Corps. He took classes at the University of Maryland and the University of Hawaii.

After his military career, Parson was elected sheriff of Polk County in 1992 and served until 2005. He became the county's first criminal investigator in 1983. He also owned three gas stations throughout the area.

Parson served in the Missouri House of Representatives for six years. In 2011, he became a state senator. In 2017, he was lieutenant governor under former Gov. Eric Greitens (R).

15

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

28

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

2

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
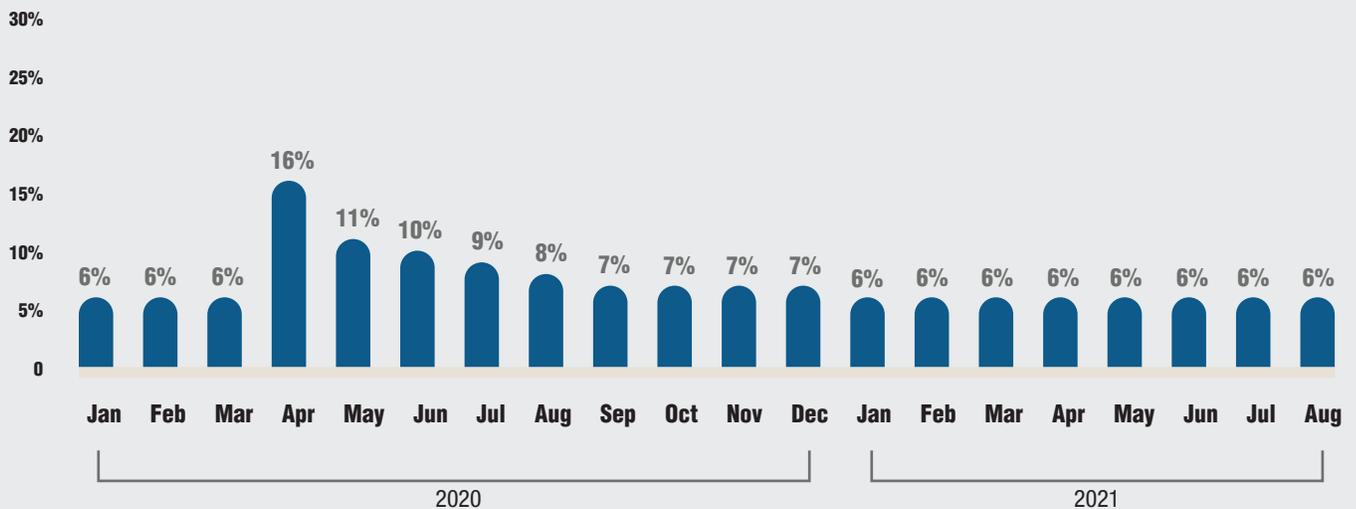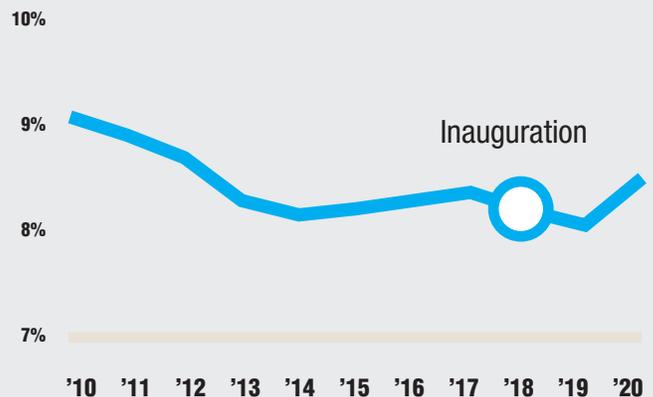

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

10%
9%
8%
7%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	15
UNION CONTROL	17
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	22

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	28
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	26
EDUCATION QUALITY	41
GSP GROWTH	13
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	17

FISCAL POLICY RANK	2
DEBT	9
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	4
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	4
SPENDING PER CAPITA	7
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	7

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	4%
Feb	4%
Mar	4%
Apr	13%
May	10%
Jun	8%
Jul	7%
Aug	6%
Sep	5%
Oct	5%
Nov	5%
Dec	4%
Jan (2021)	4%
Feb	4%
Mar	4%
Apr	4%
May	4%
Jun	4%
Jul	4%
Aug	4%

MT
Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Greg Gianforte
Montana
Inauguration: Jan 2021
Next Election: 2024

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

20
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■ Steve Bullock	2013-2021
■ Brian Schweitzer	2005-2013
■ Judy Martz	2001-2005
■ Marc Racicot	1993-2001

SENATE
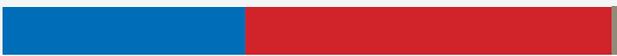
■ Democrat 18   ■ Republican 31   ■ Other 1

HOUSE

■ Democrat 33   ■ Republican 67   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR GREG GIANFORTE

Greg Gianforte (R) is the 25th governor of Montana, serving since 2021. He received a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from the Stevens Institute of Technology.

Before entering politics, Gianforte worked as an engineer and business owner. He and his wife, Susan, founded RightNow Technologies, a customer relationship management software company, in 1997. He also worked on job development in Montana through the Better Montana Jobs project and a scholarship program for low-income students and veterans to receive training and work in the state.

Gianforte first entered politics by running in the 2017 special election for Montana's at-large district in the U.S. House of Representatives, vacated by then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Gianforte held that seat until 2021.

22
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

7
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

32
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
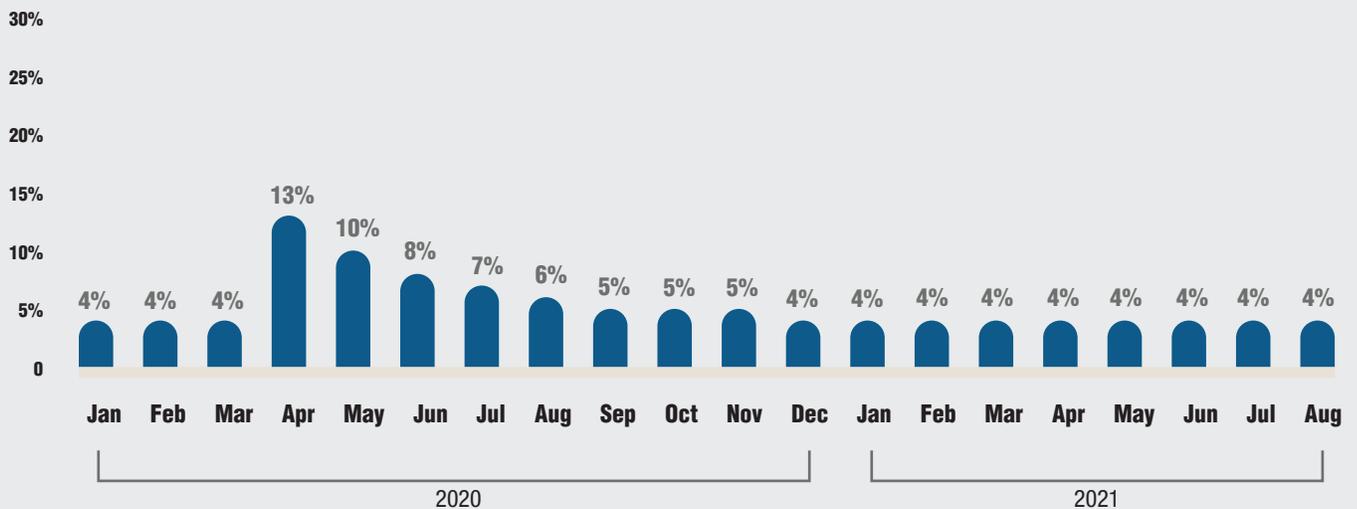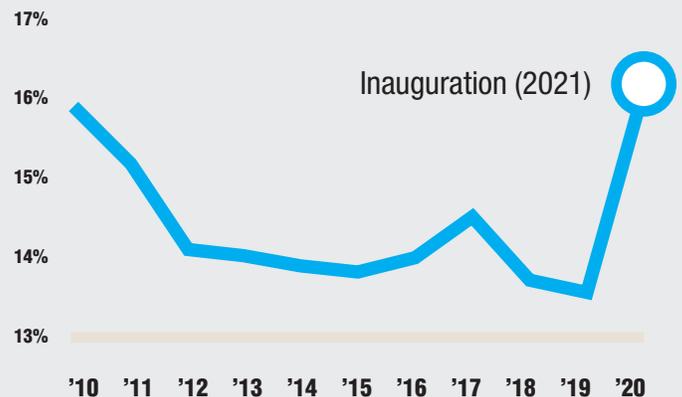

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration (2021)

17%
16%
15%
14%
13%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	22
UNION CONTROL	34
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	NR*

*Not ranked. See methodology.

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	7
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	NR*
EDUCATION QUALITY	NR*
GSP GROWTH	7
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	1

FISCAL POLICY RANK	32
DEBT	NR*
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	33
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	28
SPENDING PER CAPITA	21
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	39

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	4%	4%	12%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

2020   2021

NE

Legislative Majority

Nonpartisan

Governor

Republican

Pete Ricketts

Nebraska

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆

11

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	Dave Heineman	2005-2015
■	Mike Johanns	1999-2005
■	Ben Nelson	1991-1999
■	Kay A. Orr	1987-1991

UNICAMERAL

■ Democrat 0   ■ Republican 0   ■ Other 49

ABOUT GOVERNOR PETE RICKETTS

Pete Ricketts (R) is Nebraska's 40th governor, serving since 2015. He received a bachelor's degree in biology and an M.B.A. in marketing and finance from the University of Chicago.

After graduating, Ricketts returned to his hometown of Omaha to work for his father's company, which later became known as Ameritrade. He held the following positions throughout his career: senior vice president of strategy and business development, senior vice president of marketing, and chief operating officer.

Before he was elected governor, Ricketts worked to support Nebraska entrepreneurs and startup companies. He is the founder of Drakon, L.L.C., an organization that supports local entrepreneurs. He was a board member at TD Ameritrade.

24

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

8

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

12

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
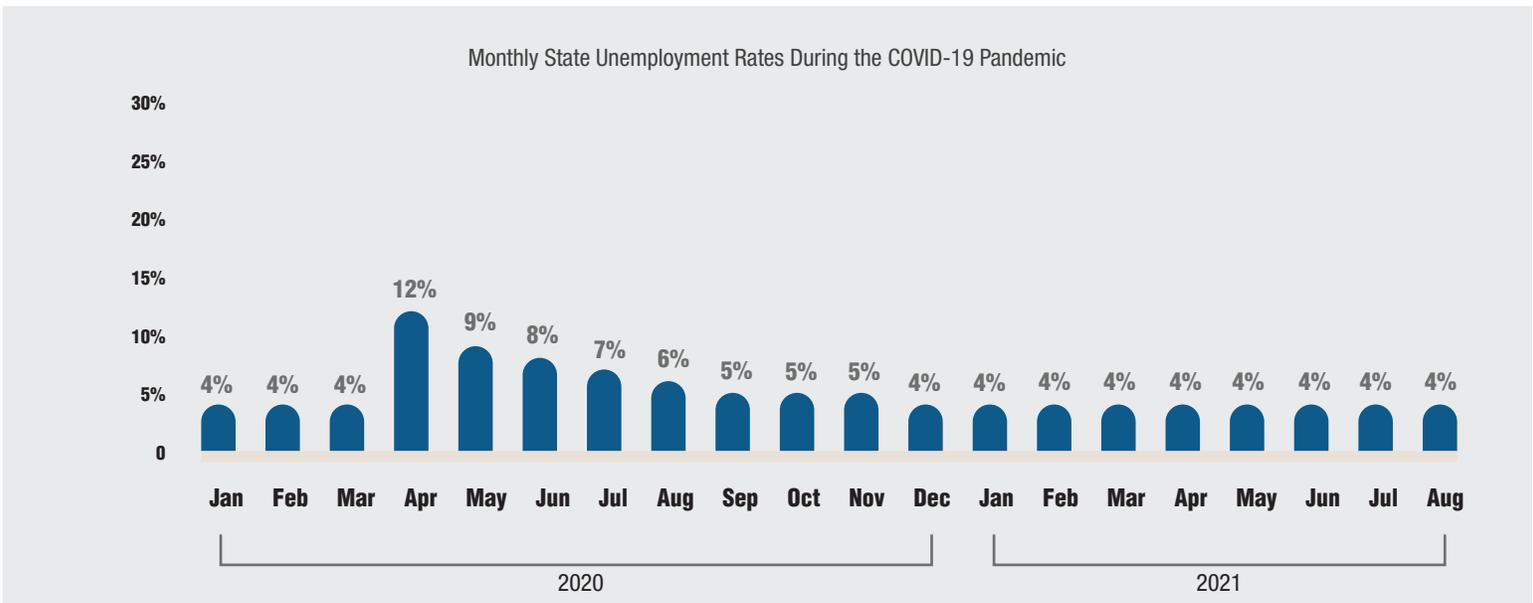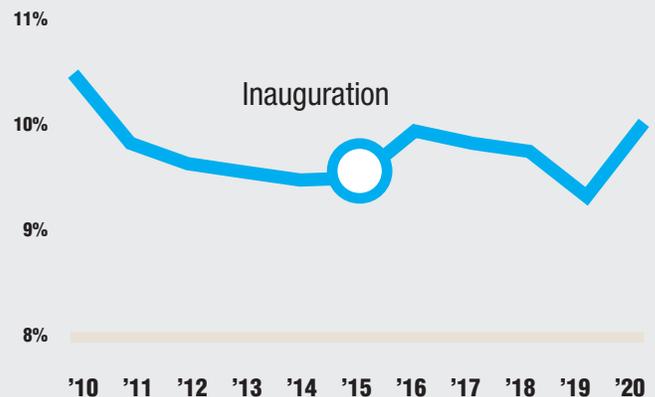
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

11%
10%
9%
8%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK		24
	UNION CONTROL	44
	EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
	WELFARE DEPENDENCY	6

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK		8
	INTERSTATE MIGRATION	30
	EDUCATION QUALITY	7
	GSP GROWTH	28
	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	4

FISCAL POLICY RANK		12
	DEBT	1
	CORPORATE INCOME TAX	11
	PERSONAL INCOME TAX	24
	SPENDING PER CAPITA	17
	FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	15

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	3%
Feb	3%
Mar	3%
Apr	7%
May	5%
Jun	7%
Jul	4%
Aug	4%
Sep	4%
Oct	4%
Nov	3%
Dec	3%
Jan (2021)	3%
Feb	3%
Mar	3%
Apr	3%
May	3%
Jun	3%
Jul	2%
Aug	2%

NV

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

Steve Sisolak

Nevada

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★★☆

18

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■ **Brian Sandoval**   **2011-2019**
■ **Jim Gibbons**   **2007-2011**
■ **Kenny Guinn**   **1999-2007**
■ **Bob Miller**   **1989-1999**

SENATE

■ Democrat 12   ■ Republican 9   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 26   ■ Republican 16   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR STEVE SISOLAK

Steve Sisolak (D) is the 30th governor of Nevada, serving since 2019. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee and a master's degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Before his political career, Sisolak was an entrepreneur. He was a partner in American Distributing Company, a company that sells promotion items to businesses.

Sisolak was first elected in 1998 to the Nevada Board of Regents, where he served for 10 years. In 2009, he began his term on the Clark County Commission and was elected by his peers as chair in 2013.

20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

22

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

16

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
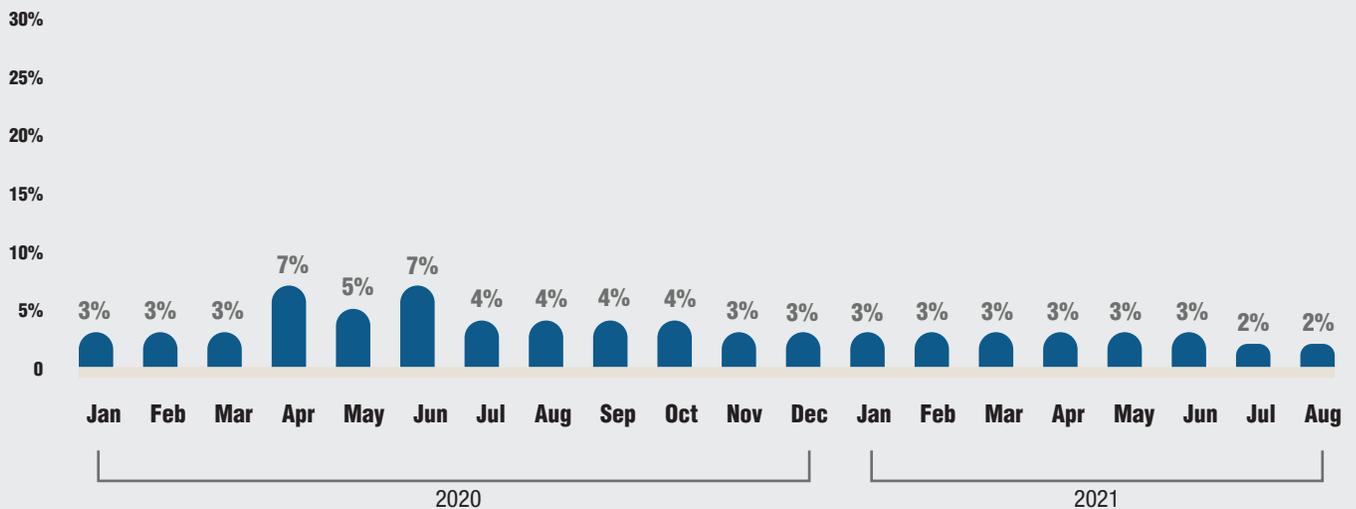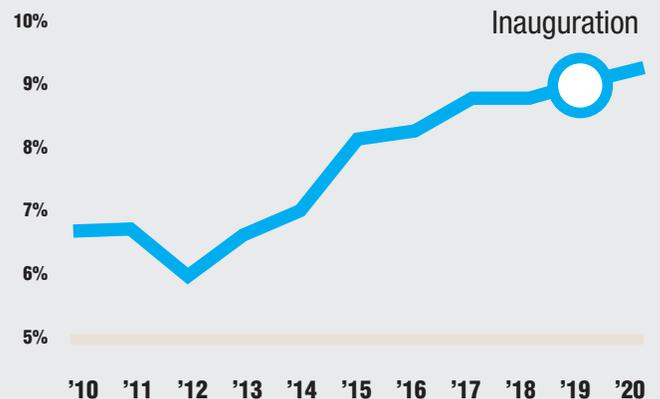

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

10%
9%
8%
7%
6%
5%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK		20
	UNION CONTROL	4
	EDUCATION FREEDOM	39
	WELFARE DEPENDENCY	5

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK		22
	INTERSTATE MIGRATION	5
	EDUCATION QUALITY	27
	GSP GROWTH	15
	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	43

FISCAL POLICY RANK		16
	DEBT	21
	CORPORATE INCOME TAX	13
	PERSONAL INCOME TAX	9
	SPENDING PER CAPITA	6
	FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	38

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	2020												2021							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	4%	6%	30%	25%	15%	17%	15%	13%	12%	9%	8%	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%

NH
Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Chris Sununu
New Hampshire

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

7

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	Maggie Hassan	2013-2017
■	John Lynch	2005-2013
■	Craig Benson	2003-2005
■	Jeanne Shaheen	1997-2003

SENATE

■ Democrat 10 ■ Republican 14 ■ Other 0

HOUSE
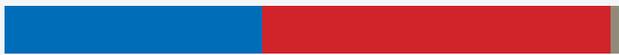
■ Democrat 186 ■ Republican 208 ■ Other 6

ABOUT GOVERNOR CHRIS SUNUNU

Chris Sununu (R) is the 82nd governor of New Hampshire, serving since 2017. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Before entering politics, Sununu worked for 10 years as an environmental engineer. From 2006 to 2010, he was owner and director of Sununu Enterprises, focusing on local, national, and international real estate development. He became C.E.O. of the Waterville Valley Ski Resort after leading a group of investors in a buyout.

From 2011 to 2017, Sununu was a member of the New Hampshire Executive Council.

13

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

11

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

6

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
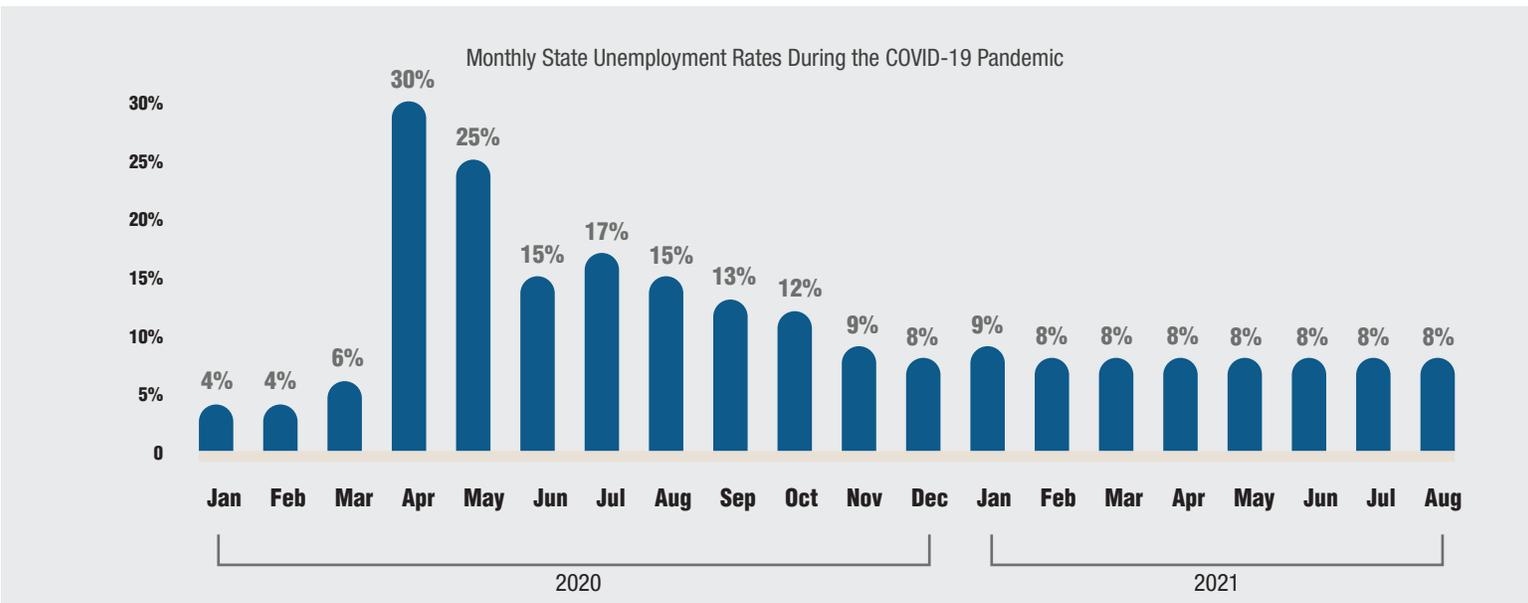

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

2 0 2 1
THE LAFFER-ALEC REPORT ON
ECONOMIC
FREEDOM
GRADING AMERICA'S 50 GOVERNORS

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	13
UNION CONTROL	19
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	19

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	11
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	18
EDUCATION QUALITY	18
GSP GROWTH	33
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	8

FISCAL POLICY RANK	6
DEBT	30
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	20
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	2
SPENDING PER CAPITA	4
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	4

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic
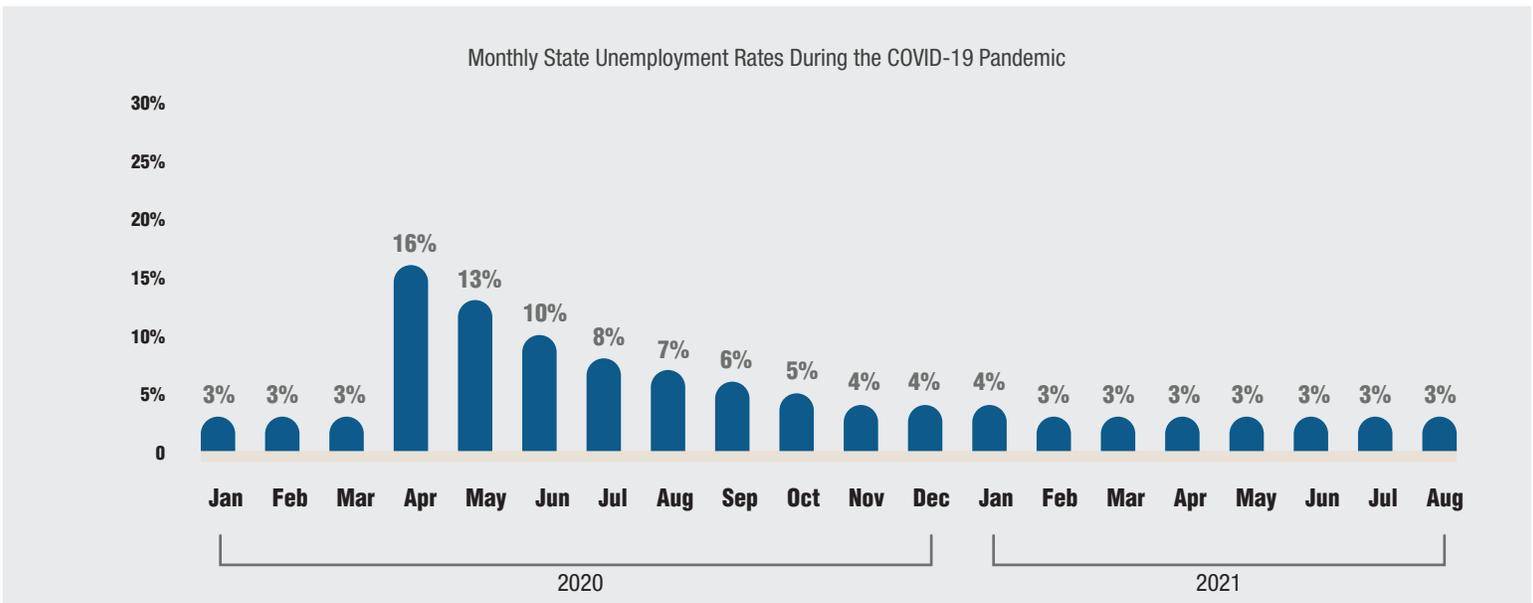
Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

★★★★★

Phil Murphy
New Jersey
Inauguration: Jan 2018
Next Election: 2021

45
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Chris Christie	**2010-2018**
Jon Corzine	**2006-2010**
Richard Codey	**2004-2006**
Jim McGreevey	**2002-2004**

SENATE

Democrat 25   Republican 14   Other 1

HOUSE

Democrat 52   Republican 28   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR PHIL MURPHY

Phil Murphy (D) is the 56th governor of New Jersey, serving since 2018. He attended Harvard University and the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

Murphy worked at Goldman Sachs for 23 years before retiring in 2006. He worked at international offices in Frankfurt, Germany, and Hong Kong, China. After retirement, Murphy served as finance chairman for the Democratic National Committee and United States Ambassador to Germany from 2009 to 2013 under President Barack Obama (D).

43
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

40
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
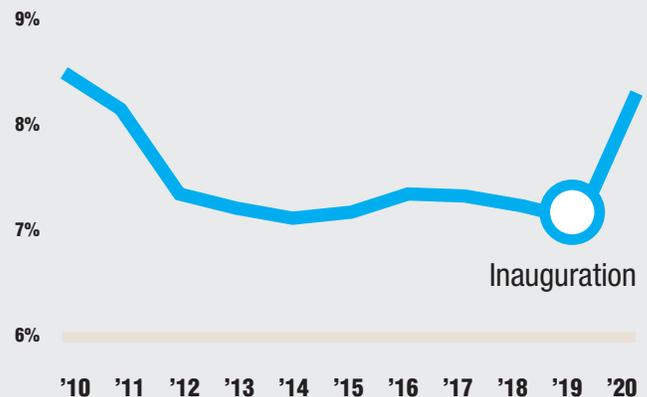
45
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

12%
11%
10%
9%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	43
UNION CONTROL	46
EDUCATION FREEDOM	39
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	29

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	40
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	46
EDUCATION QUALITY	10
GSP GROWTH	38
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	40

FISCAL POLICY RANK	45
DEBT	46
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	50
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	49
SPENDING PER CAPITA	20
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	34

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	4%	4%	17%	17%	16%	13%	11%	8%	8%	10%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%

2020 | 2021

NM

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

★★★★★

Michelle Lujan Grisham
New Mexico
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

50
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Susana Martinez	**2011-2019**
Bill Richardson	**2003-2011**
Gary Johnson	**1995-2003**
Bruce King	**1991-1995**

SENATE

Democrat 27   Republican 15   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 45   Republican 24   Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) is the 32nd governor of New Mexico, serving since 2019. She received a Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor from the University of New Mexico.

Grisham served as director of the New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department under Govs. Bruce King (D), Gary Johnson (R), and Bill Richardson (D). In 2004, Richardson promoted her to Secretary of Health, a role she held until 2007. Grisham sat on the Bernalillo County Commission from 2010 to 2012.

Grisham served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2013 to 2019.

49
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

46
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
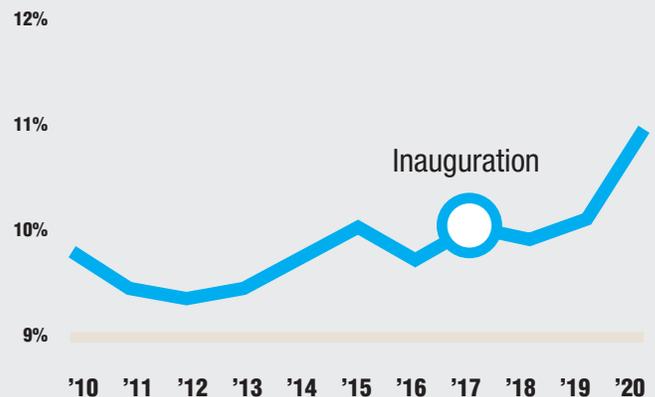
48
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
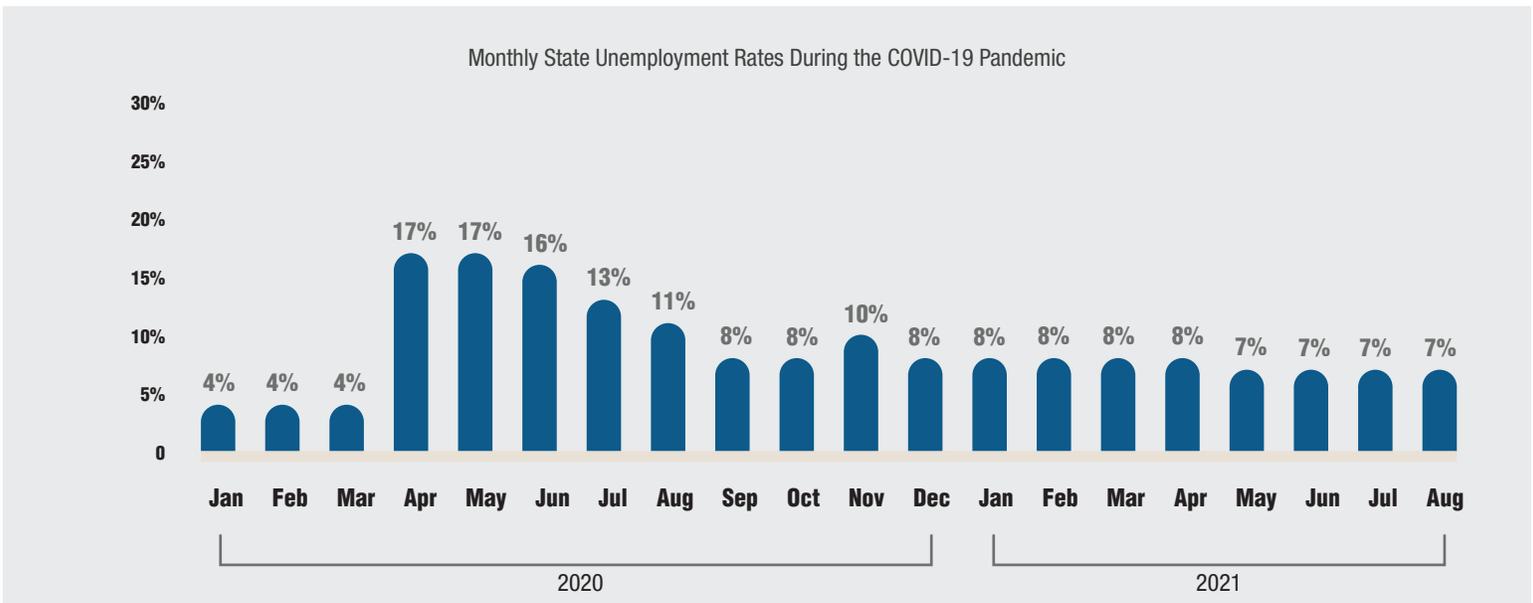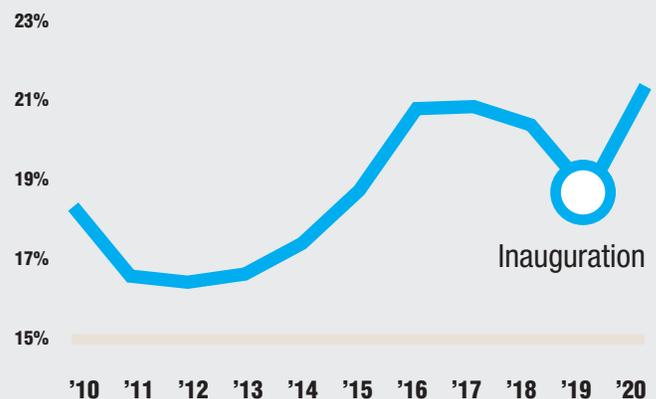A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

23%
21%
19%
17%
15%

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	49
UNION CONTROL	39
EDUCATION FREEDOM	49
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	49

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	46
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	23
EDUCATION QUALITY	41
GSP GROWTH	37
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	50

FISCAL POLICY RANK	48
DEBT	40
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	24
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	42
SPENDING PER CAPITA	42
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	49

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Rate	5%	5%	5%	10%	10%	10%	13%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%

2020   2021

NY

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

Andrew Cuomo
New York
Inauguration: Jan 2011
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

46
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

David Paterson	2008-2011
Eliot Spitzer	2007-2008
George Pataki	1995-2007
Mario Cuomo	1983-1995

SENATE

Democrat 43　　Republican 20　　Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 106　　Republican 43　　Other 1

ABOUT GOVERNOR

Governor Andrew Cuomo resigned from office on August 23, 2021.

47
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

45
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
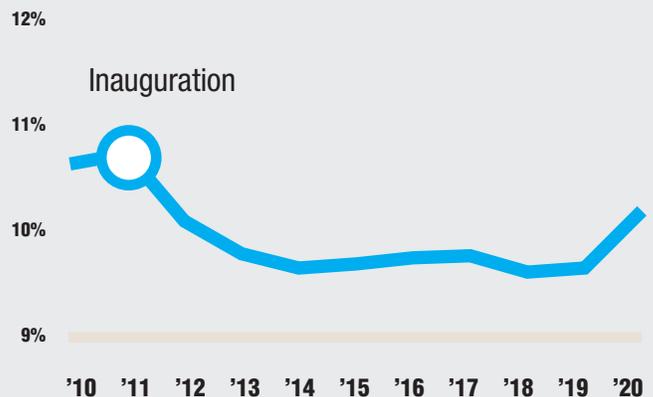
38
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

12%

11%

10%

9%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	47
UNION CONTROL	26
EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	47

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	45
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	48
EDUCATION QUALITY	37
GSP GROWTH	22
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	41

FISCAL POLICY RANK	38
DEBT	33
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	32
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	44
SPENDING PER CAPITA	34
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	25

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	4%	4%	16%	16%	15%	15%	12%	10%	9%	9%	9%	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	8%	8%	7%

2020   2021

NC

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Democrat

★★★☆☆

Roy Cooper
North Carolina

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2024

22
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Pat McCrory	**2013-2017**
Bev Perdue	**2009-2013**
Mike Easley	**2001-2009**
Jim Hunt	**1993-2001**

SENATE

Democrat 22   Republican 28   Other 0

HOUSE
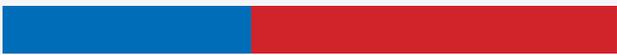
Democrat 51   Republican 69   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR ROY COOPER

Roy Cooper (D) is the 75th governor of North Carolina, serving since 2017. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received his Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Cooper began working at his family's law practice, Fields & Cooper, as an attorney specializing in civil suits, personal injury cases, and insurance defense. He was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1986. He was later appointed to serve in the state senate and, in 1997, was elected majority leader.

Cooper then ran for attorney general in 2000 and served in that role until 2017.

28
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

16
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
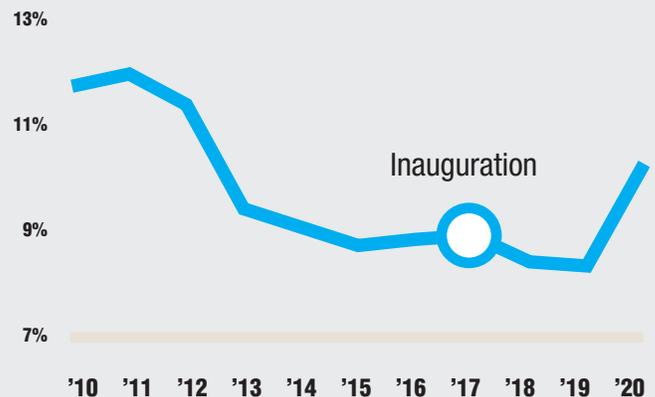
20
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

13%
11%
9%
7%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	28
UNION CONTROL	23
EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	16

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	16
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	7
EDUCATION QUALITY	25
GSP GROWTH	21
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	31

FISCAL POLICY RANK	20
DEBT	10
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	31
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	46
SPENDING PER CAPITA	3
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	23

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
4%	4%	4%	14%	14%	9%	9%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%

ND

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Doug Burgum
North Dakota

Inauguration: Dec 2016
Next Election: 2024

★★★★☆

14

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Jack Dalrymple	2010-2016
John Hoeven	2000-2010
Ed Schafer	1992-2000
George A. Sinner	1985-1992

SENATE

Democrat 7   Republican 40   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 14   Republican 80   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR DOUG BURGUM

Doug Burgum (R) is the 33rd governor of North Dakota, serving since 2016. He received an undergraduate degree from North Dakota State University and a Master of Business Administration from Stanford University.

Burgum worked as a consultant at McKinsey & Company from 1980 to 1983. He founded Great Plains Software in 1983, which was acquired by Microsoft in 2001. He then worked at Microsoft as a senior vice president from 2001 to 2007.

Burgum also served on several boards before being elected governor, including the Arthur Companies, Avalara, Atlassian, the Raikes School of Computer Science and Management at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, and Intelligent InSites.

6

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

19

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
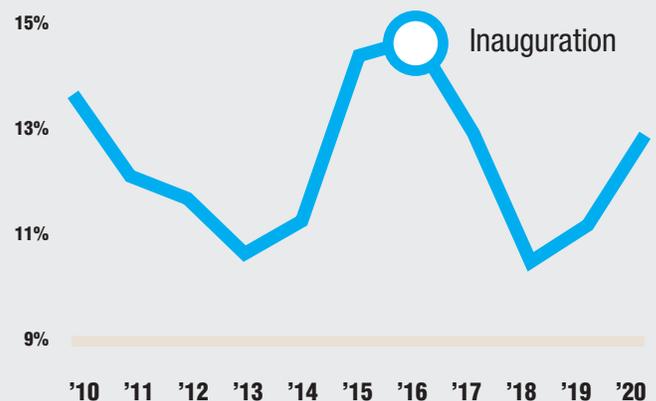
26

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
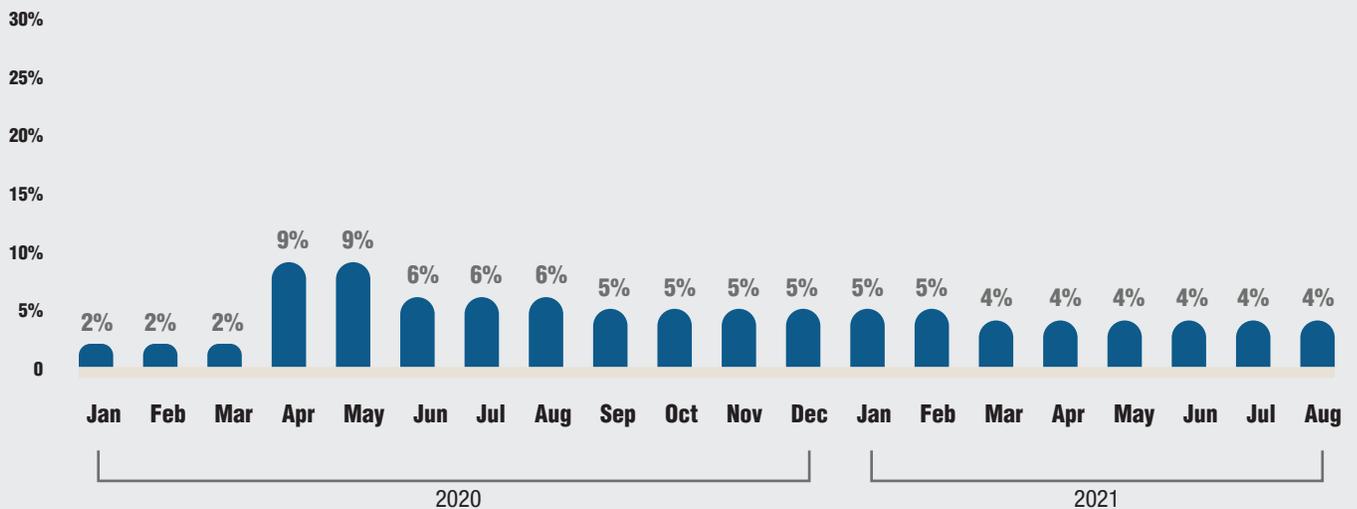

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

15%

13%

11%

9%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

2021
THE LAFFER-ALEC REPORT ON
ECONOMIC
FREEDOM
GRADING AMERICA'S 50 GOVERNORS

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	6
UNION CONTROL	5
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	9

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	19
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	33
EDUCATION QUALITY	24
GSP GROWTH	27
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	2

FISCAL POLICY RANK	26
DEBT	36
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	19
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	25
SPENDING PER CAPITA	41
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	22

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
2%	2%	2%	9%	9%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

OH

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Mike DeWine
Ohio
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★☆☆☆

32
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

John Kasich	2011-2019
Ted Strickland	2007-2011
Bob Taft	1999-2007
Nancy Hollister	1998-1999

SENATE

Democrat 8   Republican 25   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 35   Republican 64   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE

Mike DeWine (R) is the 70th governor of Ohio, serving since 2019. DeWine received a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and a J.D. from Ohio Northern University College of Law.

DeWine began his public service career in 1976 when he was elected prosecutor of Greene County. In 1980, he was elected to the Ohio State Senate and served one two-year term. Following that, he represented Ohio's 7th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for eight years.

DeWine first held statewide office in 1991 when he became lieutenant governor for one term. He then served in the U.S. Senate from 1995 to 2007. DeWine served as Ohio Attorney General from 2011 to 2019.

34
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

35
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).

22
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
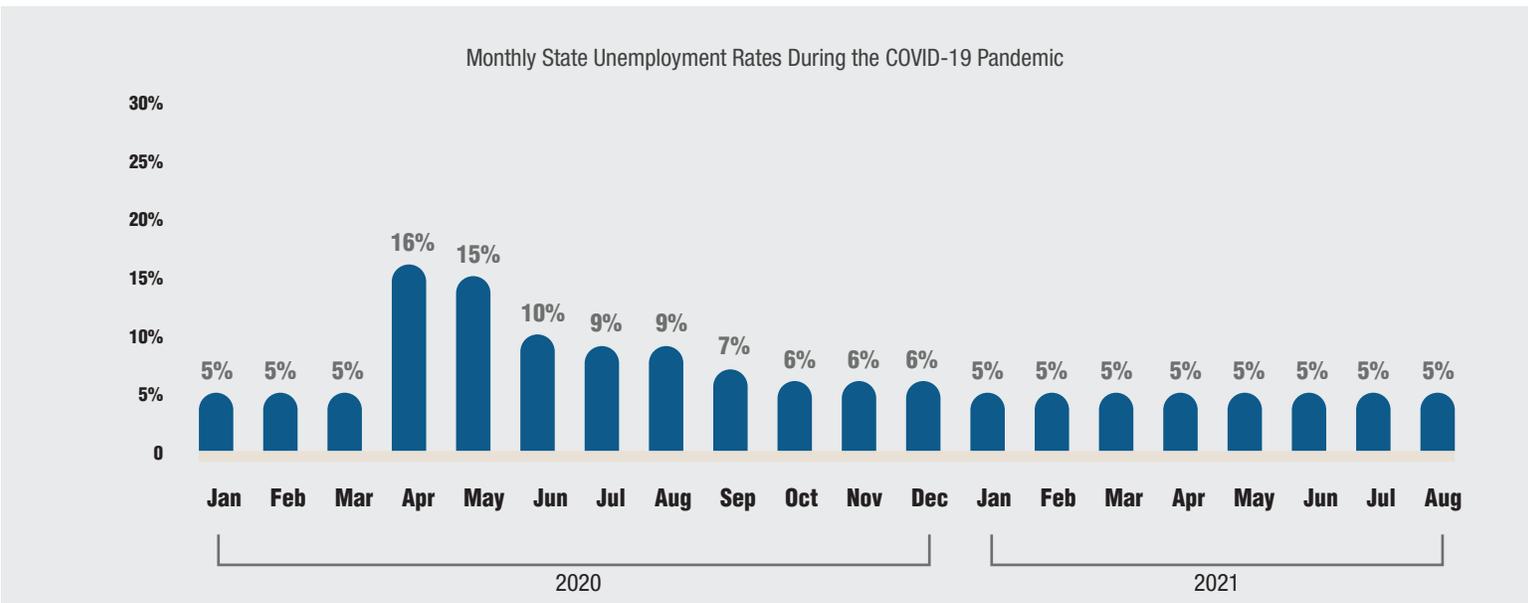
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

12%
11%
10%
9%

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK — 34

	UNION CONTROL	32
	EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
	WELFARE DEPENDENCY	41

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK — 35

	INTERSTATE MIGRATION	34
	EDUCATION QUALITY	17
	GSP GROWTH	39
	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	34

FISCAL POLICY RANK — 22

	DEBT	22
	CORPORATE INCOME TAX	13
	PERSONAL INCOME TAX	5
	SPENDING PER CAPITA	25
	FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	41

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Rate	5%	5%	5%	16%	15%	10%	9%	9%	7%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

2020 | 2021

OK

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Kevin Stitt
Oklahoma
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★★☆

16

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Mary Fallin	2011-2019
Brad Henry	2003-2011
Frank Keating	1995-2003
David Walters	1991-1995

SENATE

Democrat 9   Republican 39   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 19   Republican 82   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR KEVIN STITT

Kevin Stitt (R) is the 28th governor of Oklahoma, serving since 2019. He is a citizen of the Cherokee Nation and the second Native American to be elected as governor in the United States. He received an undergraduate degree in accounting from Oklahoma State University. During his college career, he was a door-to-door salesperson for Southwestern Advantage.

Stitt began his business career in financial services. In 2000, he founded Gateway and was president and C.E.O. until 2014. In August 2018, he stepped down and remained chairman until shortly before his inauguration.

3

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

32

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
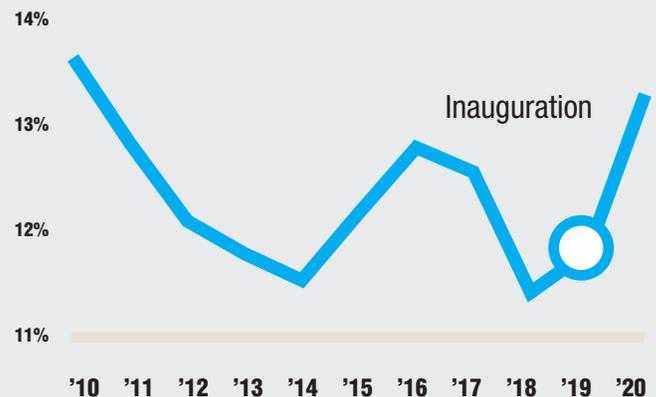
18

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
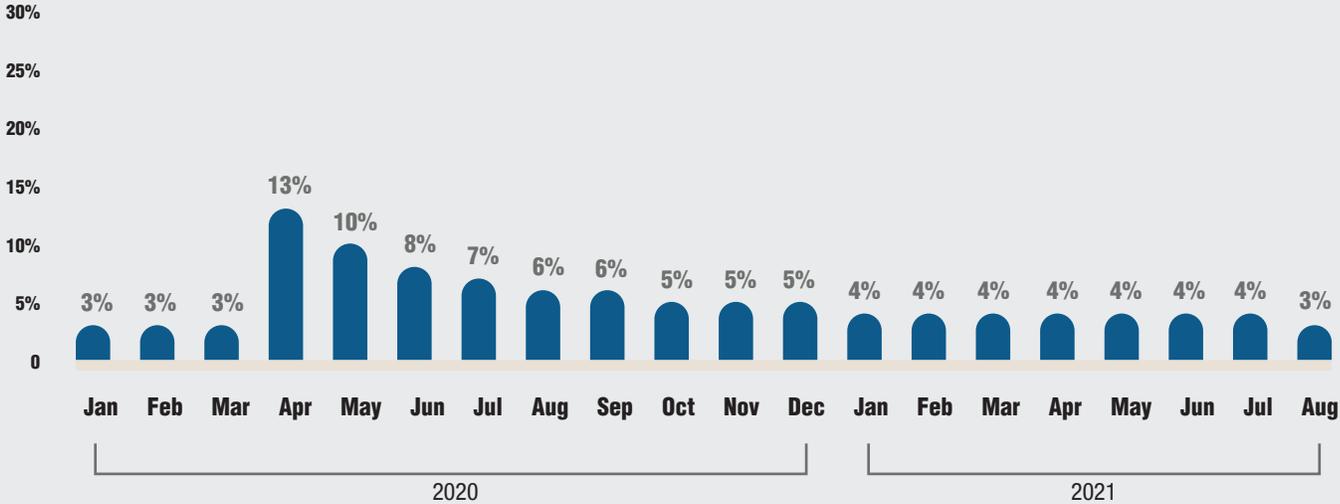

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

14%

13%

12%

11%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

2021
THE LAFFER-ALEC REPORT ON
ECONOMIC FREEDOM
GRADING AMERICA'S 50 GOVERNORS

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	3
UNION CONTROL	11
EDUCATION FREEDOM	7
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	10

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	32
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	16
EDUCATION QUALITY	36
GSP GROWTH	49
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	13

FISCAL POLICY RANK	18
DEBT	27
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	25
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	20
SPENDING PER CAPITA	18
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	30

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	2020												2021							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Rate	3%	3%	3%	13%	10%	8%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%

OR

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

Kate Brown
Oregon
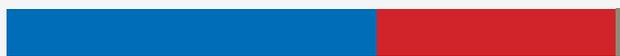Inauguration: Feb 2015
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

40
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

John Kitzhaber	2011-2015
Ted Kulongoski	2003-2011
John Kitzhaber	1995-2003
Barbara Roberts	1991-1995

SENATE

Democrat 18   Republican 11   Other 1

HOUSE

Democrat 37   Republican 23   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR KATE BROWN

Kate Brown (D) is the 38th governor of Oregon, serving since 2015. She received a bachelor's degree in art from the University of Colorado and a law degree and certificate in environmental law from Northwestern School of Law at Lewis and Clark College.

After graduating, Brown practiced juvenile and family law while teaching at Portland State University. She was appointed to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1991. In 1996, she was elected to the Oregon Senate and became majority leader in 2003.

She became Oregon secretary of state in 2009, a position she held until becoming governor. She was the first openly LGBT person elected governor of a state and the second female governor of Oregon.

46
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

17
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
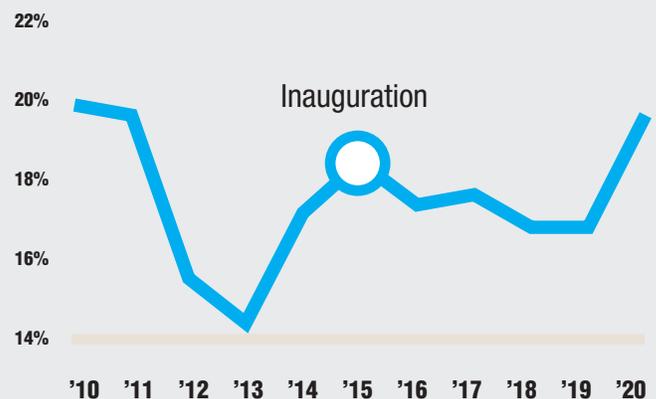
50
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
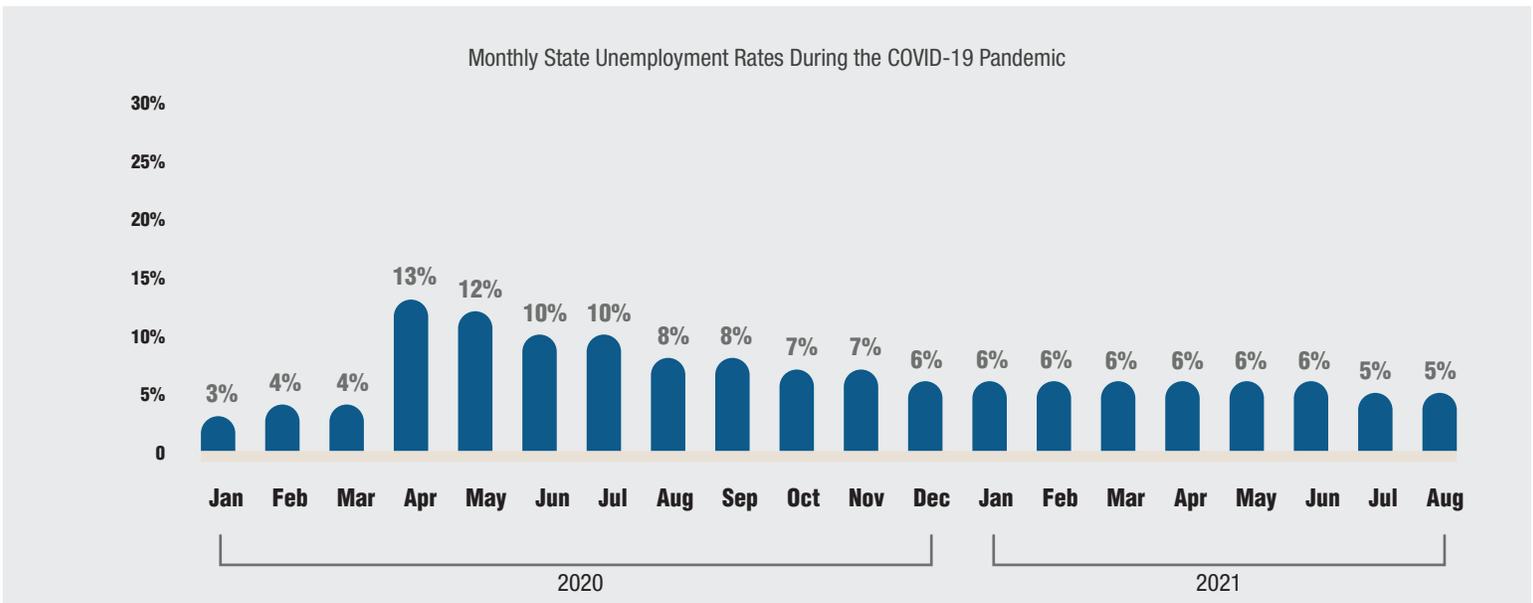A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

22%
20%
18%
16%
14%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	46
UNION CONTROL	44
EDUCATION FREEDOM	48
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	34

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	17
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	8
EDUCATION QUALITY	35
GSP GROWTH	9
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	33

FISCAL POLICY RANK	50
DEBT	43
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	37
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	45
SPENDING PER CAPITA	48
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	45

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	3%
Feb	4%
Mar	4%
Apr	13%
May	12%
Jun	10%
Jul	10%
Aug	8%
Sep	8%
Oct	7%
Nov	7%
Dec	6%
Jan (2021)	6%
Feb	6%
Mar	6%
Apr	6%
May	6%
Jun	6%
Jul	5%
Aug	5%

PA

Legislative Majority

Republican

Governor

Democrat

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Tom Wolf

Pennsylvania

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

43

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■ Tom Corbett	**2011-2015**
■ Ed Rendell	**2003-2011**
■ Mark Schweiker	**2001-2003**
■ Tom Ridge	**1995-2001**

SENATE

■ Democrat 21   ■ Republican 28   ■ Other 1

HOUSE

■ Democrat 90   ■ Republican 113   ■ Other 0
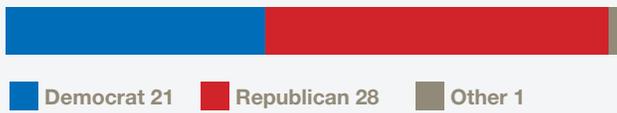
ABOUT GOVERNOR TOM WOLF

Tom Wolf (D) is the 47th governor of Pennsylvania, serving since 2015. He received an undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College, a master's degree from the University of London, and a Ph.D. in political science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While at Dartmouth, he joined the Peace Corps and served in India for two years.

Wolf had an ownership stake in his family's building product distribution business, the Wolf Organization. In 2007, Gov. Ed Rendell (D) appointed him to serve as Pennsylvania secretary of revenue, a position he held for just over a year. Following that, he remained executive of the Wolf Organization until his resignation in 2013 to run for governor.

40

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

42

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
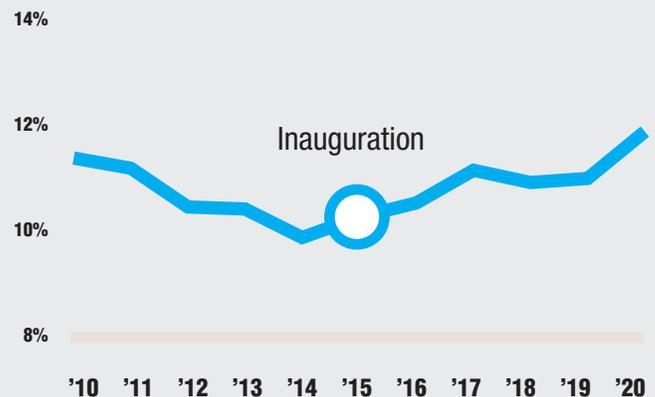
43

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
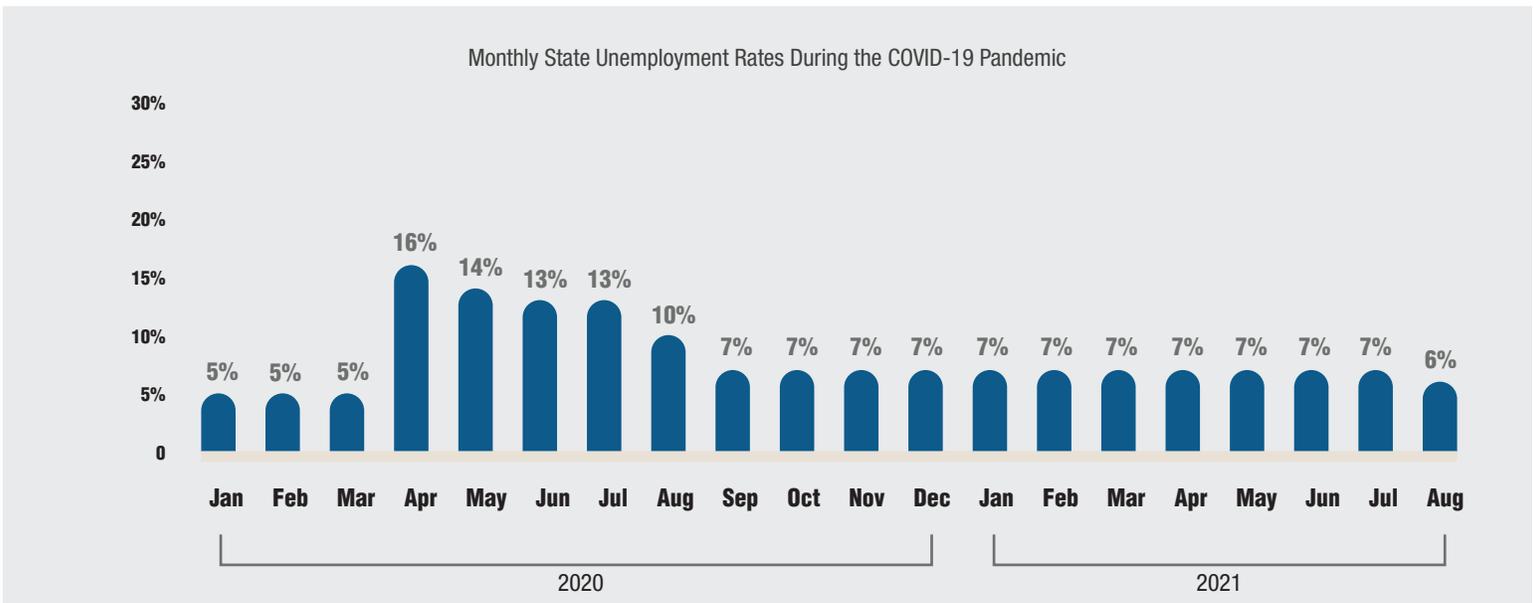

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

14%

12%

10%

8%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	40
UNION CONTROL	35
EDUCATION FREEDOM	39
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	36

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	42
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	39
EDUCATION QUALITY	12
GSP GROWTH	43
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	44

FISCAL POLICY RANK	43
DEBT	45
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	46
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	36
SPENDING PER CAPITA	26
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	40

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	5%
Feb	5%
Mar	5%
Apr	16%
May	14%
Jun	13%
Jul	13%
Aug	10%
Sep	7%
Oct	7%
Nov	7%
Dec	7%
Jan (2021)	7%
Feb	7%
Mar	7%
Apr	7%
May	7%
Jun	7%
Jul	7%
Aug	6%

RI

Legislative Majority

Democrat

Daniel McKee
Rhode Island
Inauguration: Mar 2021
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

Governor

Democrat

49

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Gina Raimondo	2015-2021
Lincoln Chafee	2011-2015
Don Carcieri	2003-2011
Lincoln Almond	1995-2003

SENATE

Democrat 32 Republican 5 Other 1

HOUSE
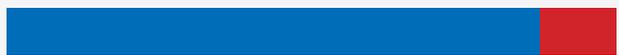
Democrat 66 Republican 9 Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR DANIEL MCKEE

Dan McKee (D) is the 76th governor of Rhode Island, serving since 2021. He received a bachelor's degree in political science and education from Assumption College and an M.P.A. from the Harvard Kennedy School.

McKee was active with his family's small businesses. He was an officer of McKee Brothers, a heating, air conditioning, and home heating oil delivery business. McKee also owned a health company for over 30 years.

McKee entered public service when he first became mayor of Cumberland, Rhode Island, in 2001. He served for four years, then returned in 2007 for another eight years. He became lieutenant governor under Gov. Gina Raimondo (D) in 2015 and assumed office as governor when Raimondo became U.S. Secretary of Commerce in 2021.

50

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

41

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
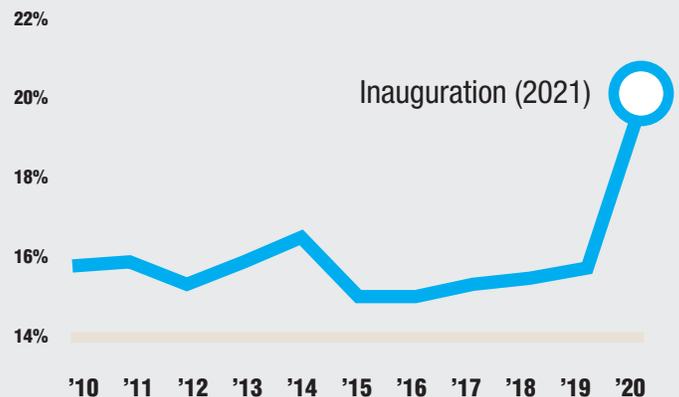
49

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
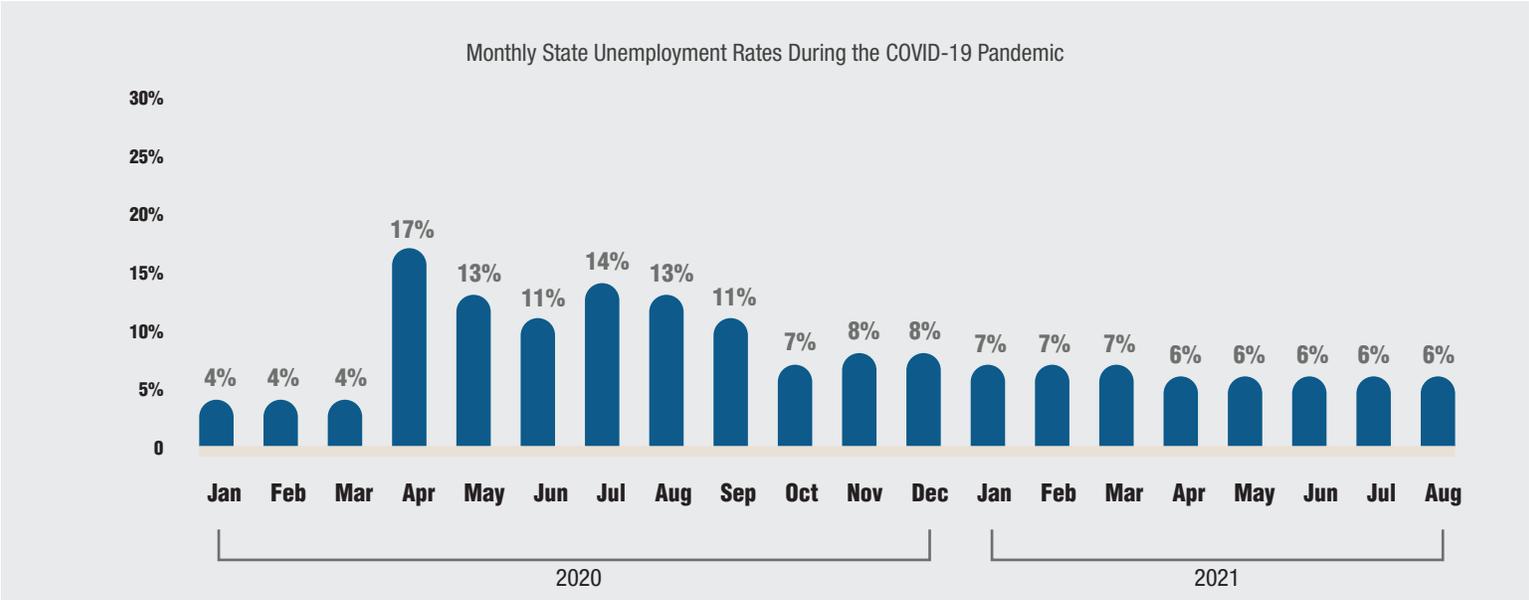
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration (2021)

22%
20%
18%
16%
14%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	50
UNION CONTROL	47
EDUCATION FREEDOM	39
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	46

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	41
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	29
EDUCATION QUALITY	26
GSP GROWTH	44
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	38

FISCAL POLICY RANK	49
DEBT	41
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	34
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	35
SPENDING PER CAPITA	46
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	44

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	2020												2021							
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	4%	4%	17%	13%	11%	14%	13%	11%	7%	8%	8%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%

SC

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Henry McMaster
South Carolina

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2022

★★★★☆

15
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■ Nikki Haley	2011-2017
■ Mark Sanford	2003-2011
■ Jim Hodges	1999-2003
■ David Beasley	1995-1999

SENATE

■ Democrat 16   ■ Republican 30   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 43   ■ Republican 81   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR HENRY MCMASTER

Henry McMaster (R) is the 117th governor of South Carolina, serving since 2017. He received a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of South Carolina and a Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He also served in the United States Army Reserves.

McMaster worked as a legislative assistant to Sen. Strom Thurmond (R) and as an attorney in private practice. He was appointed as a U.S. attorney in 1981 by President Ronald Reagan (R). He was first elected attorney general of South Carolina in 2002 and served two terms. He then worked on the South Carolina Ports Authority before being elected lieutenant governor of South Carolina in 2014.

19
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

15
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
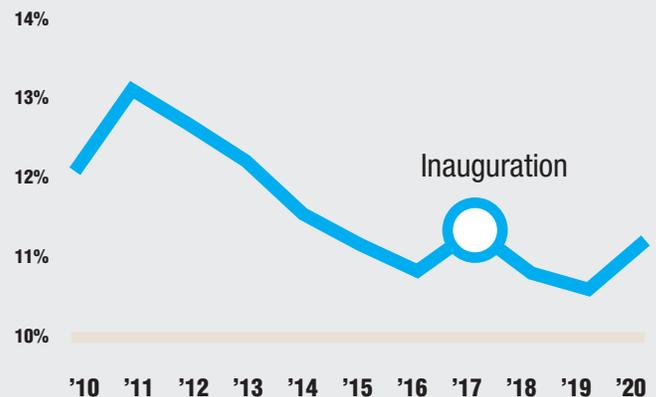
19
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
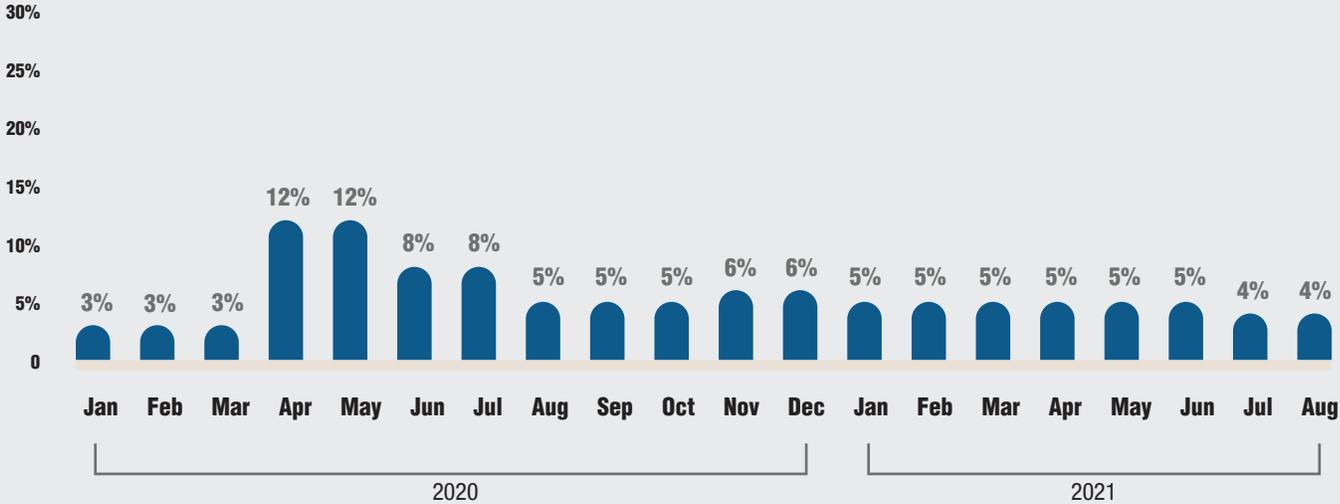

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

14%
13%
12%
11%
10%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK — 19

UNION CONTROL	30	
EDUCATION FREEDOM	7	
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	17	

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK — 15

INTERSTATE MIGRATION	4	
EDUCATION QUALITY	41	
GSP GROWTH	19	
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	18	

FISCAL POLICY RANK — 19

DEBT	37	
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	22	
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	39	
SPENDING PER CAPITA	8	
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	12	

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan	3%
Feb	3%
Mar	3%
Apr	12%
May	12%
Jun	8%
Jul	8%
Aug	5%
Sep	5%
Oct	5%
Nov	6%
Dec	6%
Jan	5%
Feb	5%
Mar	5%
Apr	5%
May	5%
Jun	5%
Jul	4%
Aug	4%

2020 | 2021

SD

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Kristi Noem
South Dakota

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

1
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Dennis Daugaard	2011-2019
Mike Rounds	2003-2011
Bill Janklow	1995-2003
Walter Miller	1993-1995

SENATE

Democrat 3   Republican 32   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 8   Republican 62   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR KRISTI NOEM

Kristi Noem (R) is the 33rd governor of South Dakota, serving since 2019. She attended Northern State University and left school to run the family farm after her father died. Noem later took classes at Mount Mary College and South Dakota State University, where she received a Bachelor of Arts.

In 2006, Noem was elected to the South Dakota House of Representatives, where she served for four years. During her last year, she was assistant majority leader. In 2010, she was elected to represent South Dakota's at-large congressional district and held that position until she became governor.

2
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

3
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
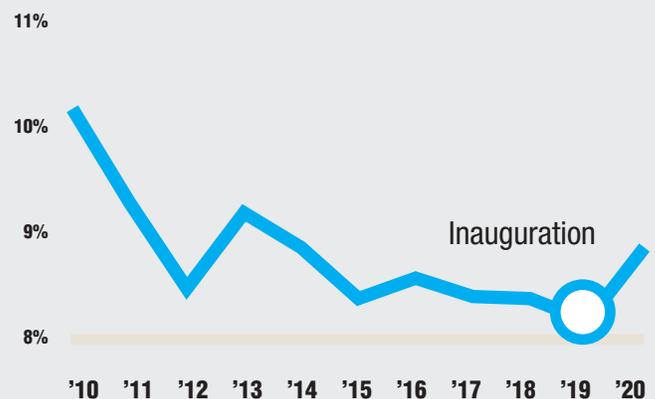
3
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
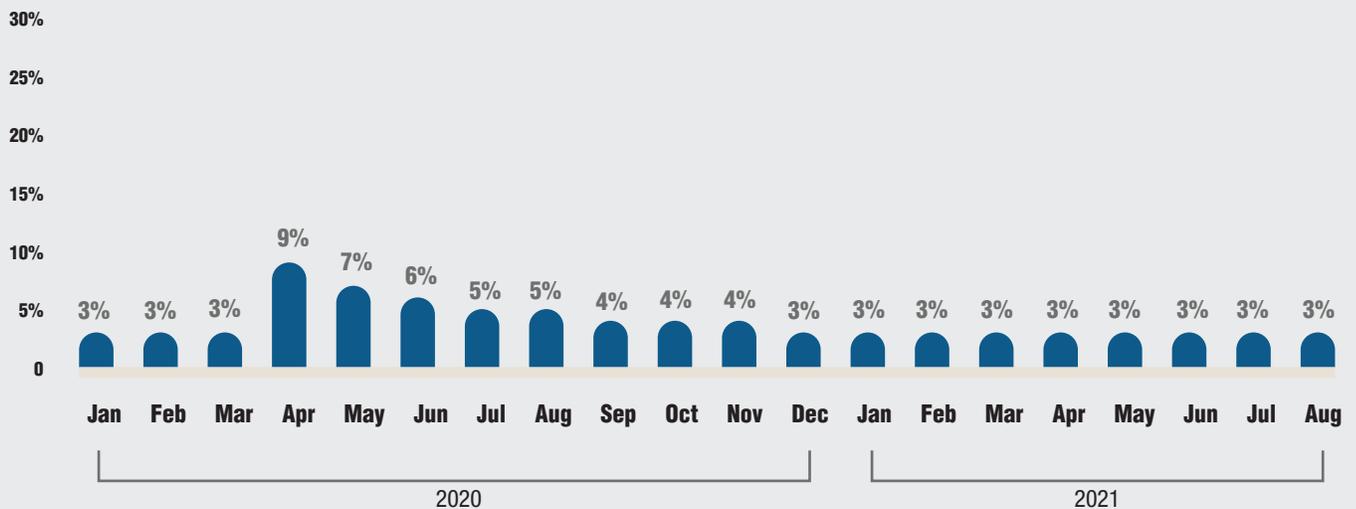A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

11% 10% 9% 8%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	2
UNION CONTROL	6
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	1

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	3
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	21
EDUCATION QUALITY	5
GSP GROWTH	4
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	5

FISCAL POLICY RANK	3
DEBT	6
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	13
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	8
SPENDING PER CAPITA	15
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	16

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	3%
Feb	3%
Mar	3%
Apr	9%
May	7%
Jun	6%
Jul	5%
Aug	5%
Sep	4%
Oct	4%
Nov	4%
Dec	3%
Jan (2021)	3%
Feb	3%
Mar	3%
Apr	3%
May	3%
Jun	3%
Jul	3%
Aug	3%

TN

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Bill Lee
Tennessee

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

6
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Bill Haslam	**2011-2019**
Phil Bredesen	**2003-2011**
Don Sundquist	**1995-2003**
Ned McWherter	**1987-1995**

SENATE

Democrat 6   Republican 27   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 26   Republican 73   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR BILL LEE

Bill Lee (R) is the 50th governor of Tennessee, serving since 2019. He received an undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn University.

After graduation, he began working at the Lee Company, a mechanical contracting and home services company founded by his grandfather. In 1992, Lee became president of the Lee Company, a position he held until 2016. Before his election as governor, Lee acted as a representative for the 7th Congressional District to the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and as a member of the Board of Trustees at Belmont University.

Lee also served as president of Tennesseans for Economic Growth, chairman of the YMCA of Middle Tennessee, and a board member of Men of Valor Prison Ministry, a re-entry organization for ex-offenders.

3
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

17
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
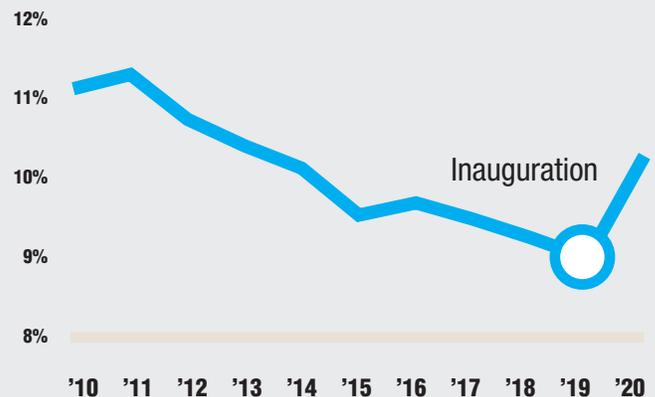
5
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

12%
11%
10%
9%
8%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK — 3

UNION CONTROL	7
EDUCATION FREEDOM	7
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	11

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK — 17

INTERSTATE MIGRATION	9
EDUCATION QUALITY	21
GSP GROWTH	29
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	27

FISCAL POLICY RANK — 5

DEBT	2
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	29
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	11
SPENDING PER CAPITA	12
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	9

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
4%	4%	4%	16%	10%	9%	9%	8%	8%	8%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

TX

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Greg Abbott

Texas

Inauguration: Jan 2015
Next Election: 2022

★★★★★

10

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Rick Perry	2000-2015
George W. Bush	1995-2000
Ann Richards	1991-1995
Bill Clements	1987-1991

SENATE

Democrat 13   Republican 18   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 66   Republican 83   Other 2

ABOUT GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

Greg Abbott (R) is the 48th governor of Texas, serving since 2015. He received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin and a Juris Doctor from Vanderbilt University.

Following law school, Abbott went into private practice from 1984 to 1992. His judicial career began when he served as a state trial judge in Houston for three years. Then-Gov. George Bush (R) appointed Abbott to the Texas Supreme Court, where he was twice elected in 1996 and 1998. He resigned in 2001 to return to private practice.

In 2002, he was elected as attorney general of Texas, where he served until becoming governor. From 2019 to 2020, he chaired the Republican Governors Association.

5

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

27

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
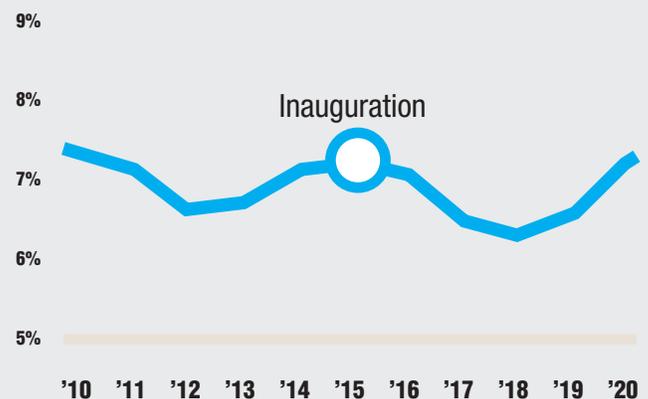
10

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
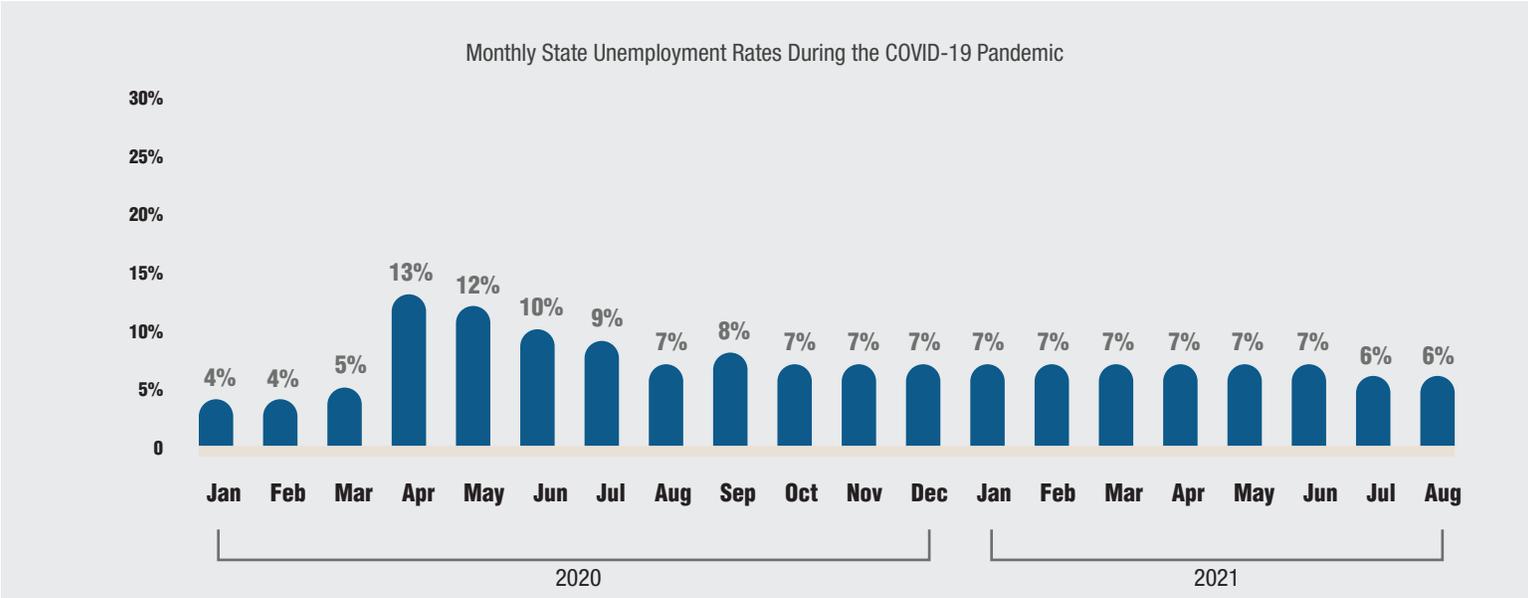A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

9%

8%

7%

6%

5%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	5
UNION CONTROL	8
EDUCATION FREEDOM	1
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	6

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	27
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	3
EDUCATION QUALITY	40
GSP GROWTH	35
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	21

FISCAL POLICY RANK	10
DEBT	23
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	13
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	12
SPENDING PER CAPITA	1
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	28

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	4%	5%	13%	12%	10%	9%	7%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%

2020   2021

UT

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Spencer Cox
Utah

Inauguration: Jan 2021
Next Election: 2024

★★★★★

2

OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■ Gary Herbert	2009-2021
■ Jon Huntsman Jr.	2005-2009
■ Olene Walker	2003-2005
■ Mike Leavitt	1993-2003

SENATE

■ Democrat 6   ■ Republican 23   ■ Other 0

HOUSE
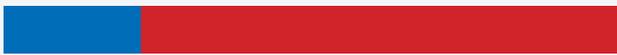
■ Democrat 17   ■ Republican 58   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR SPENCER COX

Spencer Cox (R) is the 18th governor of Utah, serving since 2021. After graduating with an associate degree, he received a bachelor's degree from Utah State University. Cox later received his Juris Doctor from Washington and Lee University School of Law.

Cox clerked for Judge Ted Stewart of the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah. He also worked in private practice in Salt Lake City. Cox then served as the vice president and general counsel of CentraCom Interactive from 2003 to 2013.

Cox entered politics as councilor of Fairview, Utah, in 2004. He became mayor the following year. In 2008, he was elected Sanpete County Commissioner. Cox served in the Utah House of Representatives in 2013 before being appointed as lieutenant governor.

1

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

2

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
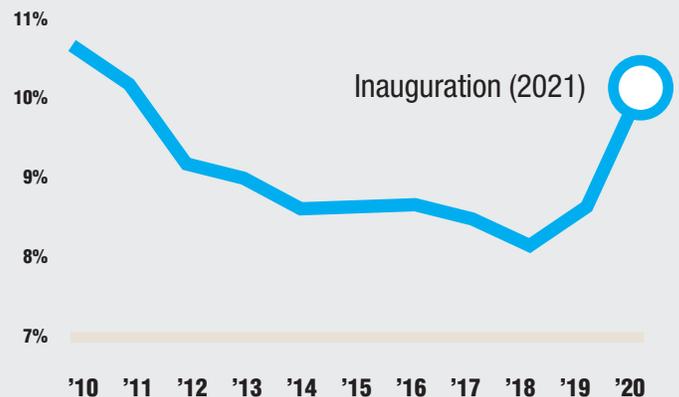
7

FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
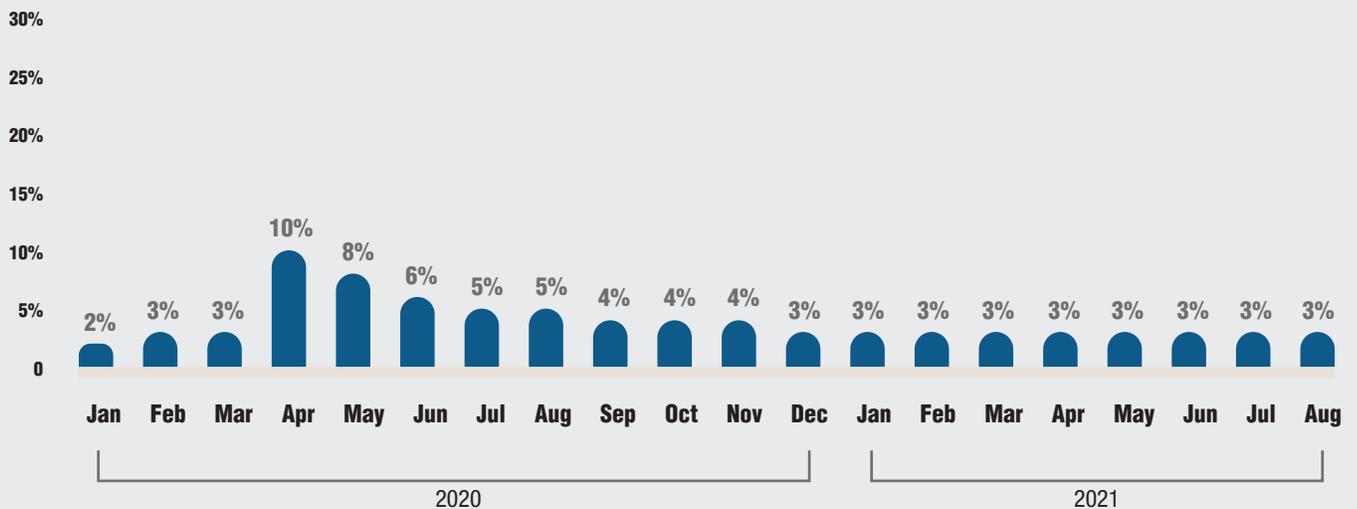

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration (2021)

11%
10%
9%
8%
7%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

ECONOMIC FREEDOM

GRADING AMERICA'S 50 GOVERNORS

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**1**
UNION CONTROL	19
EDUCATION FREEDOM	7
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	2

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**2**
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	13
EDUCATION QUALITY	4
GSP GROWTH	3
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	6

FISCAL POLICY RANK	**7**
DEBT	4
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	10
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	22
SPENDING PER CAPITA	13
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	26

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Month	Rate
Jan (2020)	2%
Feb	3%
Mar	3%
Apr	10%
May	8%
Jun	6%
Jul	5%
Aug	5%
Sep	4%
Oct	4%
Nov	4%
Dec	3%
Jan (2021)	3%
Feb	3%
Mar	3%
Apr	3%
May	3%
Jun	3%
Jul	3%
Aug	3%

VT

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Republican

Phil Scott
Vermont

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2022

★★☆☆☆

34
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Peter Shumlin	2011-2017
Jim Douglas	2003-2011
Howard Dean	1991-2003
Richard A. Snelling	1991-1991

SENATE

Democrat 21   Republican 7   Other 2

HOUSE

Democrat 92   Republican 46   Other 12

ABOUT GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT

Phil Scott (R) is the 82nd governor of Vermont, serving since 2017. He received a Bachelor of Science in engineering from the University of Vermont.

Before being elected governor, Scott was co-owner of DuBois Construction. In 2005, he founded a program called Wheels for Warmth, in which proceeds from donated tires are used to fund heating fuel assistance programs.

In 2000, Scott was elected to the Vermont Senate and was re-elected four times. Following this, he served as lieutenant governor from 2011 to 2017.

30
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

30
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
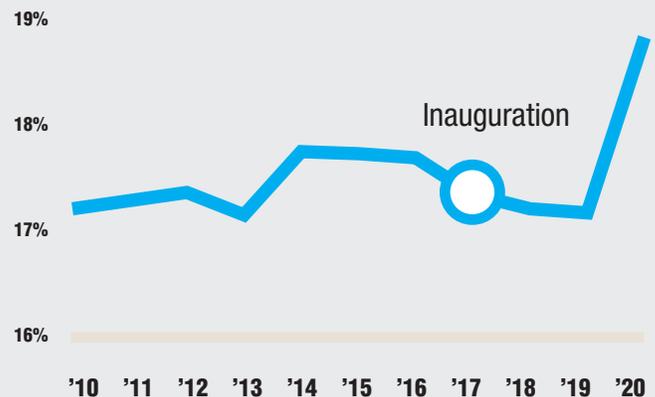
39
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
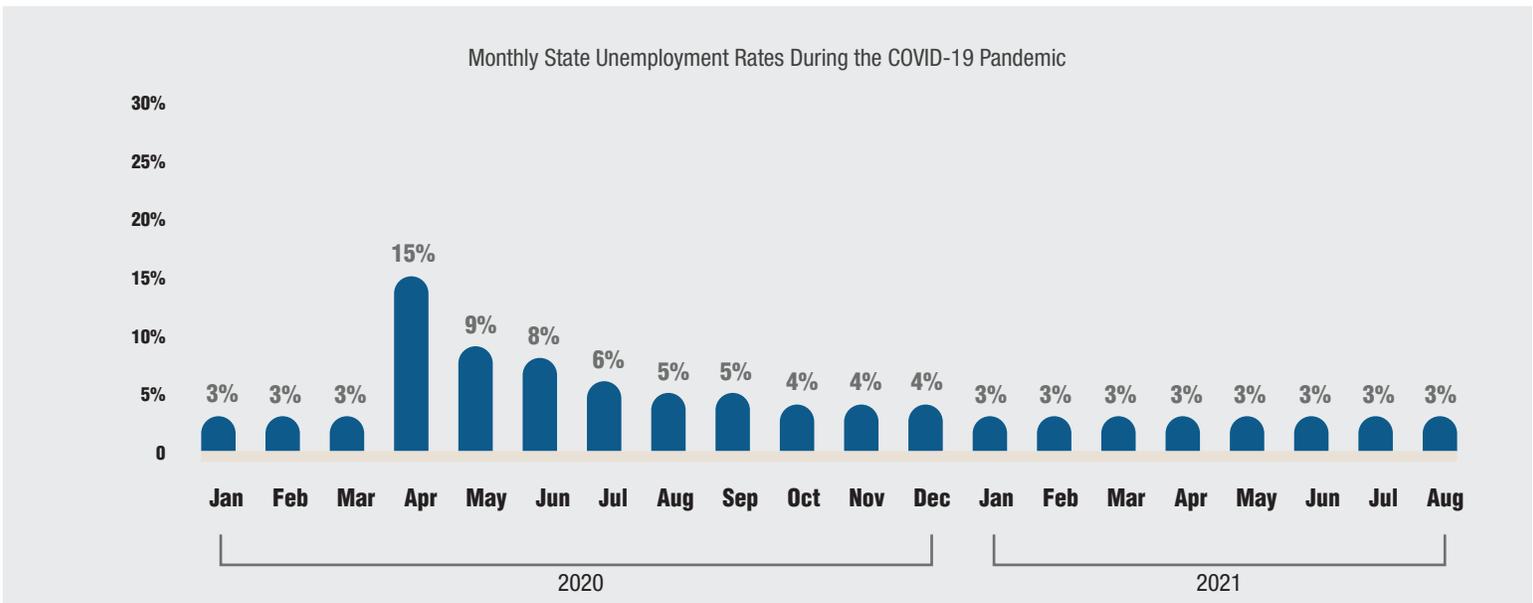A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

19%
18%
17%
16%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	**30**
UNION CONTROL	24
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	48

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	**30**
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	25
EDUCATION QUALITY	29
GSP GROWTH	45
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	3

FISCAL POLICY RANK	**39**
DEBT	39
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	41
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	31
SPENDING PER CAPITA	45
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	32

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	3%	3%	3%	15%	9%	8%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%

2020   2021

VA

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

★★★☆☆

Ralph Northam
Virginia
Inauguration: Jan 2018
Next Election: 2021

24
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Terry McAuliffe	2014-2018
Bob McDonnell	2010-2014
Tim Kaine	2006-2010
Mark Warner	2002-2006

SENATE

Democrat 21   Republican 19   Other 0

HOUSE

Democrat 55   Republican 45   Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR RALPH NORTHAM

Ralph Northam (D) is the 73rd governor of Virginia, serving since 2018. He received an undergraduate degree from the Virginia Military Institute and a medical degree from Eastern Virginia Medical School. Northam began his career with the United States Army as a medical officer.

Northam returned to Virginia after his military service. He practiced pediatric neurology in Norfolk before founding Children's Specialty Group, a pediatric private practice. During this time, Northam also taught neurology as an assistant professor at Eastern Virginia Medical School.

Northam entered politics when he became a member of the Virginia State Senate from 2008 to 2014. He served as lieutenant governor from 2014 to 2018 under Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D).

29
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

11
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
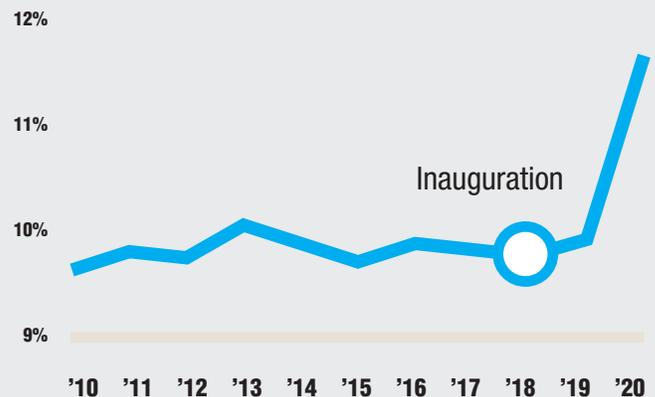
27
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
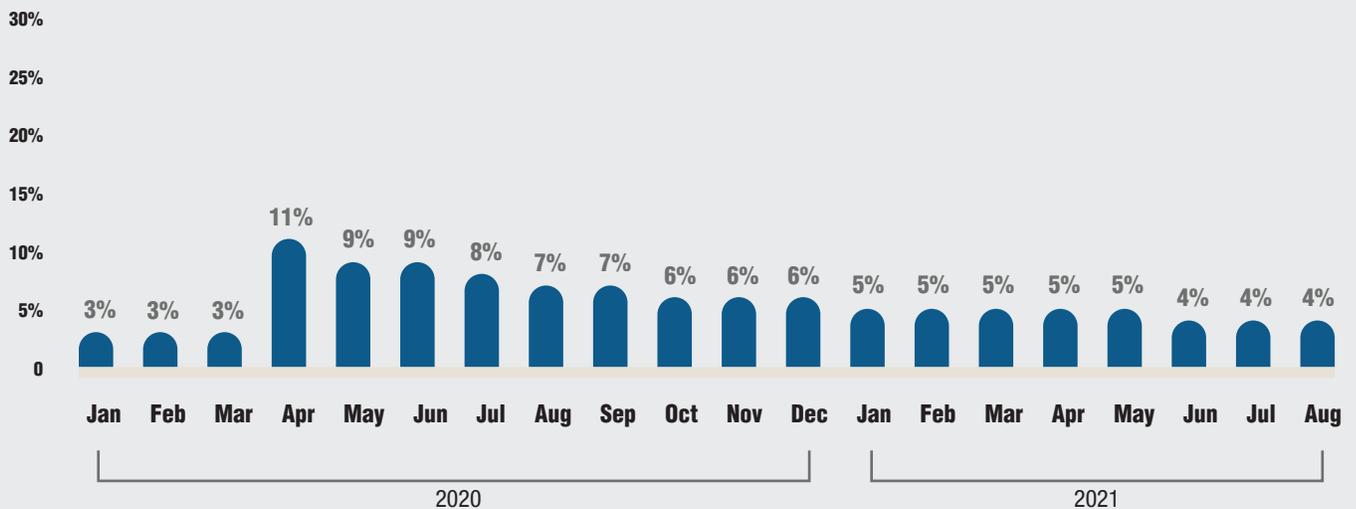

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

12%

11%

10%

9%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK		**29**
UNION CONTROL	12	
EDUCATION FREEDOM	39	
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	3	

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK		**11**
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	32	
EDUCATION QUALITY	14	
GSP GROWTH	18	
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	12	

FISCAL POLICY RANK		**27**
DEBT	25	
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	25	
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	33	
SPENDING PER CAPITA	28	
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	10	

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
3%	3%	3%	11%	9%	9%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%

WA

Legislative Majority
Democrat

Governor
Democrat

⭐⭐⭐☆☆

Jay Inslee
Washington

Inauguration: Jan 2013
Next Election: 2024

21
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

🟦	**Christine Gregoire**	**2005-2013**
🟦	**Gary Locke**	**1997-2005**
🟦	**Mike Lowry**	**1993-1997**
🟦	**Booth Gardner**	**1985-1993**

SENATE

🟦 Democrat 29   🟥 Republican 20   ⬜ Other 0

HOUSE

🟦 Democrat 57   🟥 Republican 41   ⬜ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

Jay Inslee (D) is the 23rd governor of Washington, serving since 2013. He received a bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Washington and a law degree from Willamette University.

Following law school, Inslee worked in Selah, Washington, as an attorney with Peters, Schmalz, Leadon & Fowler. He also worked as a municipal prosecutor from 1976 to 1984.

Inslee entered politics in 1982 following his election to the Washington House of Representatives. He was elected to represent Washington's 4th Congressional District in 1992 and lost his bid for re-election. In 1998, President Bill Clinton (D) appointed Inslee as a regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, a position he held until 1998. Inslee then represented Washington's 1st Congressional District until 2012.

32
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

9
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
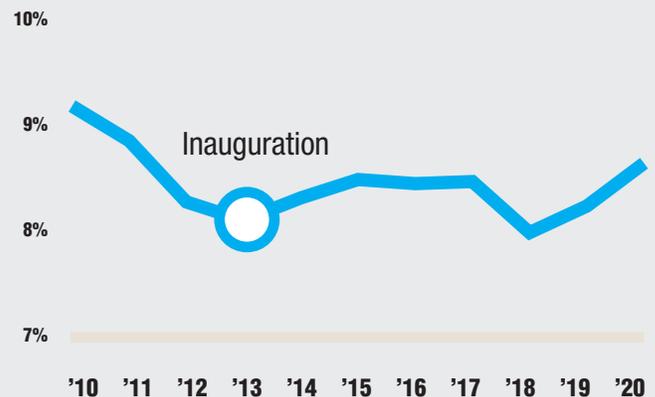
21
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
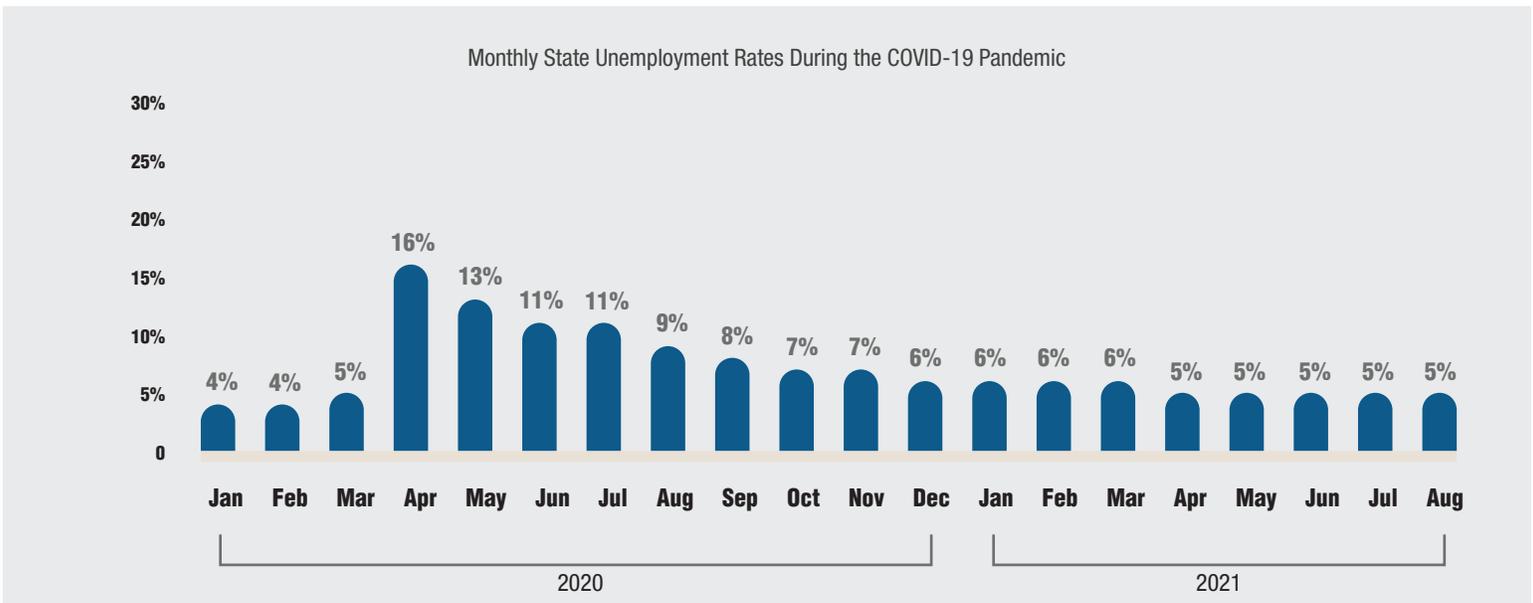

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

10%

9%

8%

7%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK		32
UNION CONTROL	19	
EDUCATION FREEDOM	39	
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	23	

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK		9
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	10	
EDUCATION QUALITY	19	
GSP GROWTH	6	
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	36	

FISCAL POLICY RANK		21
DEBT	17	
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	13	
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	15	
SPENDING PER CAPITA	16	
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	46	

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	4%	5%	16%	13%	11%	11%	9%	8%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

2020   2021

WV

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Jim Justice
West Virginia

Inauguration: Jan 2017
Next Election: 2024

★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

33
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	Earl Ray Tomblin	2010-2017
■	Joe Manchin	2005-2010
■	Bob Wise	2001-2005
■	Cecil H. Underwood	1997-2001

SENATE

■ Democrat 10   ■ Republican 23   ■ Other 1

HOUSE

■ Democrat 22   ■ Republican 78   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR JIM JUSTICE

Jim Justice (R) is the 36th governor of West Virginia, serving since 2017. He received an undergraduate degree and an M.B.A. from Marshall University.

Justice started Justice Family Farms in 1977 and expanded the business to cover 50,000 acres in West Virginia and neighboring states. Justice assumed control of Bluestone Industries, Inc. and Bluestone Coal Corp. following his father's death in 1993. He sold his interests in the Bluestone companies in 2009 and purchased a controlling interest again in early 2015. Justice serves as owner or chief executive officer of over 50 companies, including the Greenbrier Resort. He also owns 70 active mines in 5 states.

Justice was elected governor in 2016 as a Democrat and switched parties in 2017.

18
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

47
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
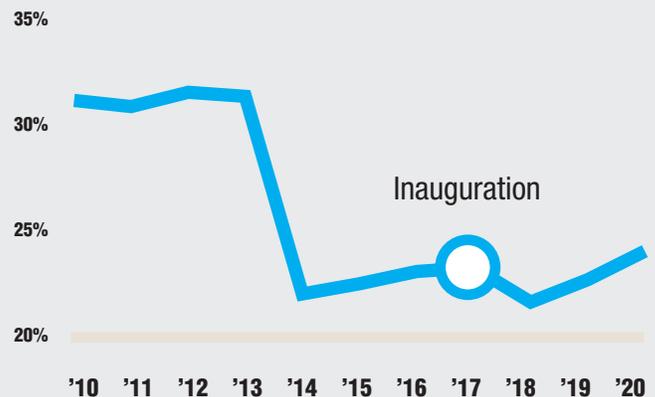
30
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
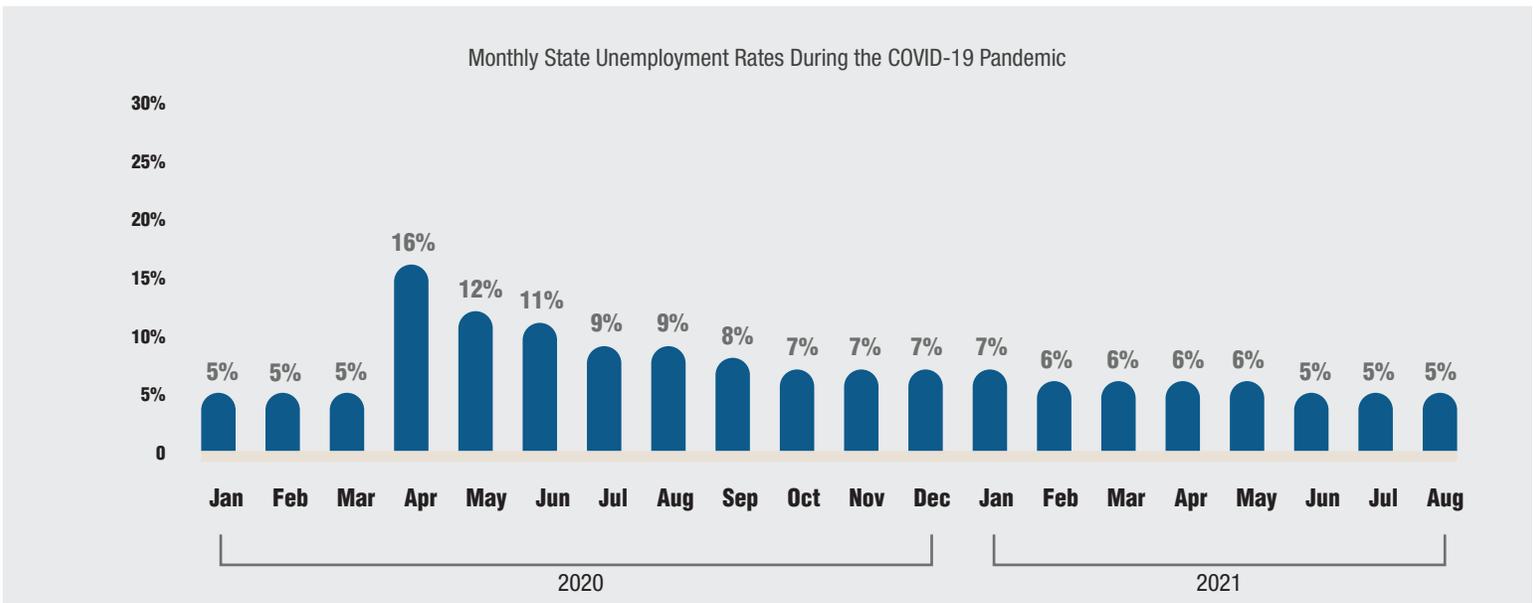

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

35%
30%
25%
20%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK — 18

UNION CONTROL		1
EDUCATION FREEDOM		6
WELFARE DEPENDENCY		45

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK — 47

INTERSTATE MIGRATION		35
EDUCATION QUALITY		44
GSP GROWTH		34
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		47

FISCAL POLICY RANK — 30

DEBT		16
CORPORATE INCOME TAX		29
PERSONAL INCOME TAX		26
SPENDING PER CAPITA		44
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS		31

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
5%	5%	5%	16%	12%	11%	9%	9%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%

WI

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Democrat

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Tony Evers
Wisconsin

Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

30
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

■	Scott Walker	2011-2019
■	Jim Doyle	2003-2011
■	Scott McCallum	2001-2003
■	Tommy Thompson	1987-2001

SENATE

■ Democrat 12   ■ Republican 21   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 38   ■ Republican 61   ■ Other 0

ABOUT GOVERNOR TONY EVERS

Tony Evers (D) is the 46th governor of Wisconsin, serving since 2019. He attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison for each of his three degrees. He received a bachelor's, master's, and a doctorate in educational administration.

Before entering elected office, Evers was a classroom teacher, principal, school district administrator, Cooperative Educational Service Agency administrator, and deputy state superintendent. Before becoming governor, he had served as Superintendent of Public Instruction since 2009.

31
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

24
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
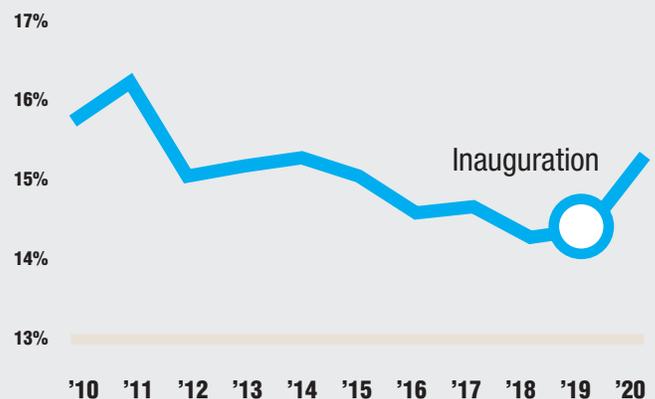
33
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank
(1=best, 50=worst):
A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
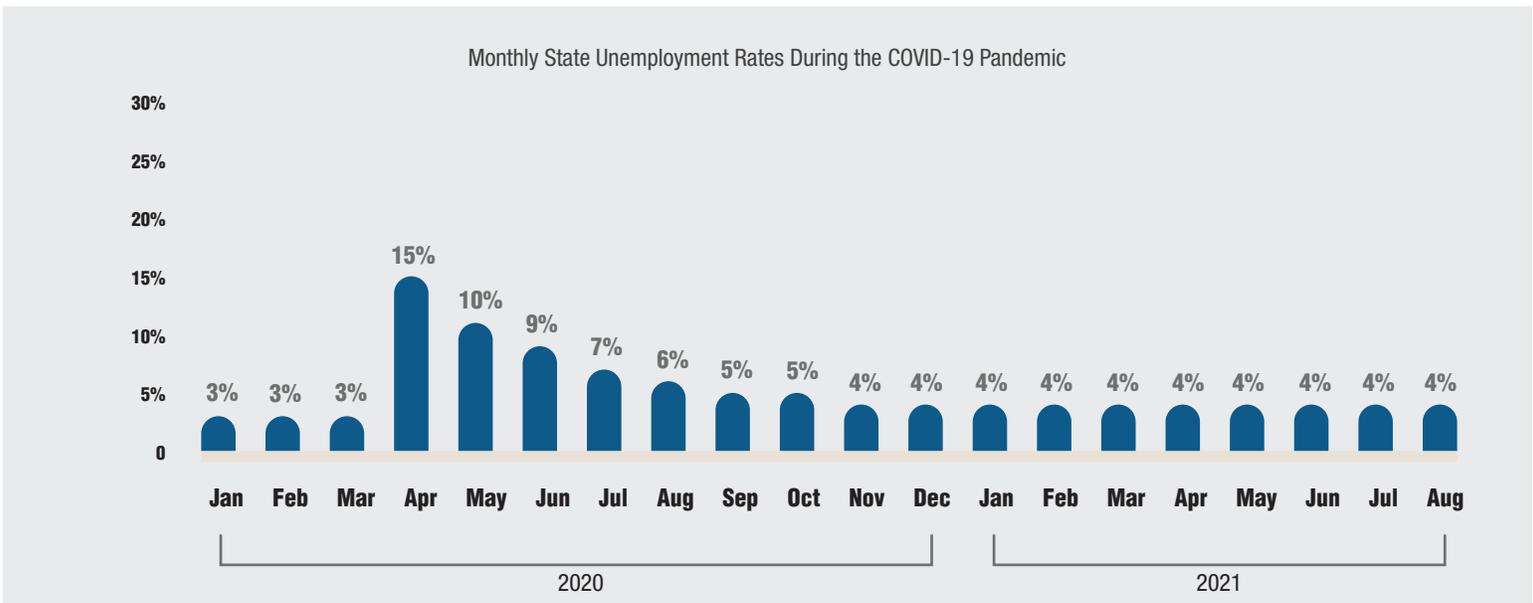

TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

17%
16%
15%
14%
13%

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	31
UNION CONTROL	17
EDUCATION FREEDOM	29
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	27

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	24
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	27
EDUCATION QUALITY	16
GSP GROWTH	36
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	14

FISCAL POLICY RANK	33
DEBT	7
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	38
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	41
SPENDING PER CAPITA	35
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	18

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

2020												2021							
Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
3%	3%	3%	15%	10%	9%	7%	6%	5%	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%	4%

WY

Legislative Majority
Republican

Governor
Republican

Mark Gordon
Wyoming
Inauguration: Jan 2019
Next Election: 2022

★★★★☆

17
OVERALL RANK

PREVIOUS GOVERNORS AND PARTY AFFILIATION

Matt Mead	**2011-2019**
Dave Freudenthal	**2003-2011**
Jim Geringer	**1995-2003**
Mike Sullivan	**1987-1995**

SENATE

■ Democrat 2   ■ Republican 28   ■ Other 0

HOUSE

■ Democrat 7   ■ Republican 51   ■ Other 2

ABOUT GOVERNOR MARK GORDON

Mark Gordon (R) is the 33rd governor of Wyoming, serving since 2019. He graduated from Middlebury College with a Bachelor of Arts in history.

Gordon ran several businesses in outdoor recreation and tourism. He also worked in the oil and gas industry. He unsuccessfully ran for Wyoming's at-large Congressional district in 2008. In 2012, former Gov. Matt Mead (R) appointed Gordon as state treasurer. He was elected to a full term in 2014.

10
EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK

Executive Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of labor, education and welfare policy stances and decisions regarding three key areas (equal-weighted average).

29
ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK

Economic Performance Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of the state's economic outcomes based on four key areas (equal-weighted average).
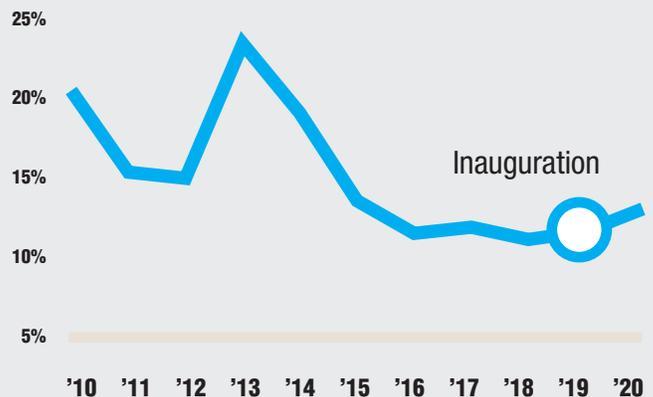
17
FISCAL POLICY RANK

Fiscal Policy Rank (1=best, 50=worst): A measure of policy stances and decisions regarding five key areas (equal-weighted average).
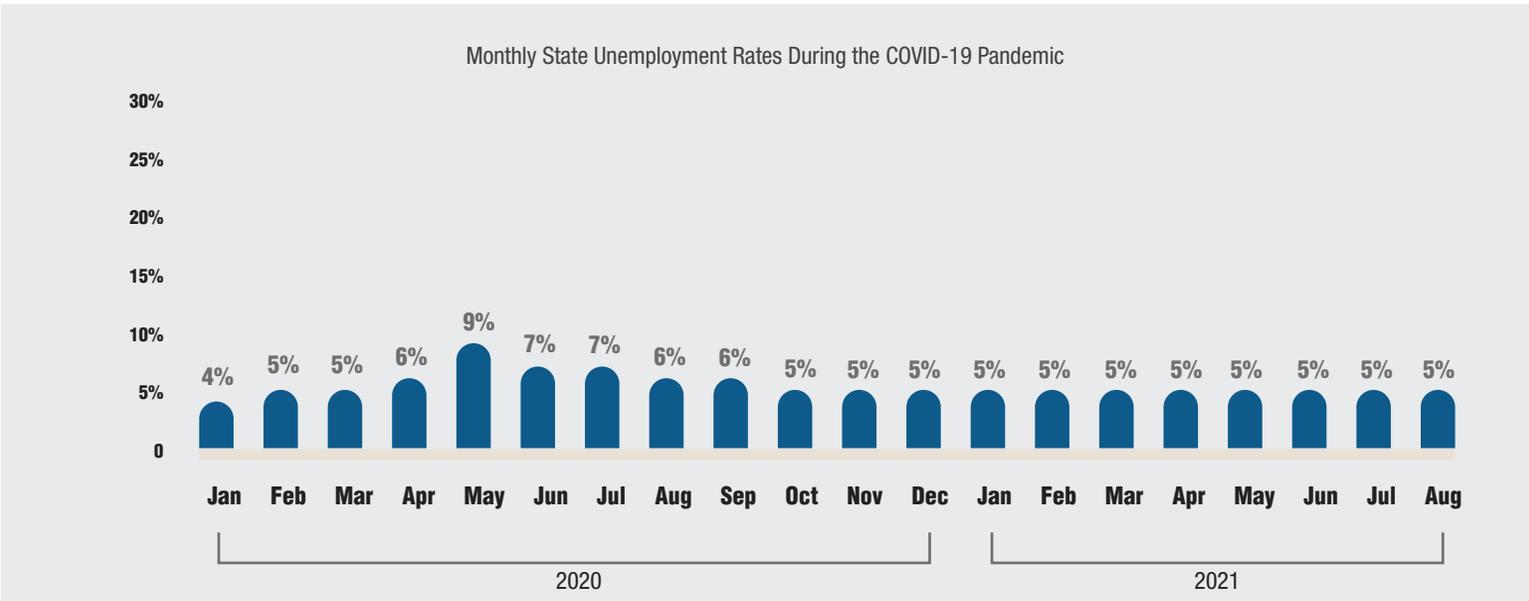
TOTAL STATE SPENDING

Annual Spending as % of Gross State Product (GSP)

Inauguration

'10 '11 '12 '13 '14 '15 '16 '17 '18 '19 '20

EXECUTIVE POLICY RANK	10
UNION CONTROL	38
EDUCATION FREEDOM	12
WELFARE DEPENDENCY	3

ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE RANK	29
INTERSTATE MIGRATION	22
EDUCATION QUALITY	1
GSP GROWTH	50
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	28

FISCAL POLICY RANK	17
DEBT	26
CORPORATE INCOME TAX	13
PERSONAL INCOME TAX	10
SPENDING PER CAPITA	32
FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	20

MONTHLY STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Monthly State Unemployment Rates During the COVID-19 Pandemic

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
	4%	5%	5%	6%	9%	7%	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%

2020   2021

APPENDIX

Overall Rank	Executive Policy Rank	Economic Performance Rank	Fiscal Policy Rank	State	Abbr	Governor	Party	Inauguration Date	Stars by Quintile
1	2	3	3	South Dakota	SD	Kristi Noem	R	Jan-19	*****
2	1	2	7	Utah	UT	Spencer Cox	R	Jan-21	*****
3	10	5	1	Florida	FL	Ron DeSantis	R	Jan-19	*****
4	7	4	11	Colorado	CO	Jared Polis	D	Jan-19	*****
5	16	1	7	Idaho	ID	Brad Little	R	Jan-19	*****
6	3	17	5	Tennessee	TN	Bill Lee	R	Jan-19	*****
7	13	11	6	New Hampshire	NH	Chris Sununu	R	Jan-17	*****
8	9	20	4	Arizona	AZ	Doug Ducey	R	Jan-15	*****
9	13	14	9	Georgia	GA	Brian Kemp	R	Jan-19	*****
10	5	27	10	Texas	TX	Greg Abbott	R	Jan-15	*****
11	24	8	12	Nebraska	NE	Pete Ricketts	R	Jan-15	****
12	15	28	2	Missouri	MO	Mike Parson	R	Jun-18	****
13	8	25	14	Iowa	IA	Kim Reynolds	R	May-17	****
14	6	19	26	North Dakota	ND	Doug Burgum	R	Dec-16	****
15	19	15	19	South Carolina	SC	Henry McMaster	R	Jan-17	****
16	3	32	18	Oklahoma	OK	Kevin Stitt	R	Jan-19	****
17	10	29	17	Wyoming	WY	Mark Gordon	R	Jan-19	****
18	20	22	16	Nevada	NV	Steve Sisolak	D	Jan-19	****
19	23	23	13	Indiana	IN	Eric Holcomb	R	Jan-17	****
20	22	7	32	Montana	MT	Greg Gianforte	R	Jan-21	****
21	32	9	21	Washington	WA	Jay Inslee	D	Jan-13	***
22	28	16	20	North Carolina	NC	Roy Cooper	D	Jan-17	***
23	12	38	15	Arkansas	AR	Asa Hutchinson	R	Jan-15	***
24	29	11	27	Virginia	VA	Ralph Northam	D	Jan-18	***
25	25	10	35	Kentucky	KY	Andy Beshear	D	Dec-19	***
26	26	21	25	Mississippi	MS	Tate Reeves	R	Jan-20	***
27	17	31	28	Kansas	KS	Laura Kelly	D	Jan-19	***
28	21	32	24	Alabama	AL	Kay Ivey	R	Apr-17	***
29	38	6	37	Maine	ME	Janet Mills	D	Jan-19	***
30	31	24	33	Wisconsin	WI	Tony Evers	D	Jan-19	***
31	37	13	40	Minnesota	MN	Tim Walz	D	Jan-19	**
32	34	35	22	Ohio	OH	Mike DeWine	R	Jan-19	**
33	18	47	30	West Virginia	WV	Jim Justice	R	Jan-17	**
34	30	30	39	Vermont	VT	Phil Scott	R	Jan-17	**
35	35	39	29	Maryland	MD	Larry Hogan	R	Jan-15	**
36	33	50	23	Louisiana	LA	John Bel Edwards	D	Jan-16	**
37	26	49	34	Alaska	AK	Mike Dunleavy	R	Dec-18	**
38	41	34	36	Delaware	DE	John Carney	D	Jan-17	**
39	44	25	42	Massachusetts	MA	Charlie Baker	R	Jan-15	**
40	46	17	50	Oregon	OR	Kate Brown	D	Feb-15	**
41	39	44	31	Michigan	MI	Gretchen Whitmer	D	Jan-19	*
42	42	36	44	Connecticut	CT	Ned Lamont	D	Jan-19	*
43	40	42	43	Pennsylvania	PA	Tom Wolf	D	Jan-15	*
44	45	37	45	Hawaii	HI	David Ige	D	Dec-14	*
45	43	40	45	New Jersey	NJ	Phil Murphy	D	Jan-18	*
46	47	45	38	New York	NY	Andrew Cuomo	D	Jan-11	*
47	36	48	47	Illinois	IL	J.B. Pritzker	D	Jan-19	*
48	48	43	41	California	CA	Gavin Newsom	D	Jan-19	*
49	50	41	49	Rhode Island	RI	Daniel McKee	D	Mar-21	*
50	49	46	48	New Mexico	NM	Michelle Lujan Grisham	D	Jan-19	*

Executive Policy Variables			Economic Performance Variables				Fiscal Policy Variables				
Union Control	Education Freedom	Welfare Dependency	Interstate Migration	Education Quality	GSP Growth	Unemployment Rate	Debt & Pensions	Corporate Income Tax	Personal Income Tax	Spending per Capita	Federal Unemployment Benefits
6	12	1	21	5	4	5	6	13	8	15	16
19	7	2	13	4	3	6	4	10	22	13	26
25	1	13	1	8	10	25	4	8	7	2	5
33	5	15	12	1	5	22	19	1	3	22	35
12	29	14	6	6	2	7	3	6	18	9	24
7	7	11	9	21	29	27	2	29	11	12	9
19	12	19	18	18	33	8	30	20	2	4	4
3	7	29	2	32	8	45	31	6	1	14	3
14	12	8	11	34	14	23	18	12	23	5	11
8	1	6	3	40	35	21	23	13	12	1	28
44	12	6	30	7	28	4	1	11	24	17	15
17	12	22	26	41	13	17	9	4	4	7	7
8	1	18	31	23	32	9	11	3	14	30	29
5	12	9	33	24	27	2	36	19	25	41	22
30	7	17	4	41	19	18	37	22	39	8	12
11	7	10	16	36	49	13	27	25	20	18	30
38	12	3	22	1	50	28	26	13	10	32	20
4	39	5	5	27	15	43	21	13	9	6	38
8	12	27	20	27	24	20	24	1	19	11	14
34	12	NR	NR	NR	7	1	NR	33	28	21	39
19	39	23	10	19	6	36	17	13	15	16	46
23	29	16	7	25	21	31	10	31	46	3	23
16	1	37	19	46	41	26	8	5	6	38	37
12	39	3	32	14	18	12	25	25	33	28	10
1	28	42	24	22	11	19	47	9	17	39	48
29	12	23	37	15	1	35	35	22	29	29	6
39	12	12	36	39	17	11	13	34	32	24	36
22	12	19	17	48	25	24	29	47	30	10	8
50	29	42	15	11	16	10	12	44	40	33	47
17	29	27	27	16	36	14	7	38	41	35	18
41	29	33	28	8	26	16	14	49	43	36	42
32	12	41	34	17	39	34	22	13	5	25	41
1	6	45	35	44	34	47	16	29	26	44	31
24	12	48	25	29	45	3	39	41	31	45	32
49	12	25	42	37	23	30	20	40	34	31	1
28	29	25	45	49	47	46	32	20	16	27	13
27	12	38	40	47	48	49	42	45	13	50	2
14	49	31	14	44	30	32	15	42	37	49	19
30	29	40	43	3	20	29	38	39	21	37	50
44	48	34	8	35	9	33	43	37	45	48	45
35	29	44	38	19	46	39	34	25	27	19	21
47	29	35	44	12	31	37	49	36	38	43	33
35	39	36	39	12	43	44	45	46	36	26	40
37	46	31	41	30	42	15	48	28	47	47	27
46	39	29	46	10	38	40	46	50	49	20	34
26	29	47	48	37	22	41	33	32	44	34	25
42	39	21	47	32	40	42	44	48	50	23	43
43	46	38	49	31	12	48	28	43	48	40	17
47	39	46	29	26	44	38	41	34	35	46	44
39	49	49	23	41	37	50	40	24	42	42	49