

* — The Index of Economic Momentum averages the most recent one-year changes in employment, personal income and population, and relates each state's performance to the national average.

** — Source: Tax Foundation

*** — Source: Tax Foundation. The Index for Regional Competitiveness is based upon corporate, individual, and sales and gross receipts taxes; the state fiscal balance (measuring current tax burden and stability of the current tax system in the state); and tax conformity to federal tax code.

**** — Source: Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services and 2000 Census

***** — Source for "State Spending Only" and "Medicaid per elderly recipient:" *Congressional Quarterly's State Fact Finder 2002*.

*****. Source: National Association of State Park Directors

The Thomas Jefferson Institute is a non-partisan research and education public policy foundation. It is a "solutions tank" seeking ways to accomplish our goals based on a philosophy of limited government, free enterprise and individual responsibility.

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Other Thomas Jefferson Institute Publications:

A Citizen-Friendly Budget for Virginia: Providing Transparency and Accountability to State Government: This study suggests a document format successfully used in other states to allow citizens and elected officials to better understand how the state spends our money.

Campaign 2003 Briefings: A series of 2003 briefing papers. Topics: Virginia reading programs, Transportation, Competitive Outsourcing, and Sprawl and Sensible Growth.

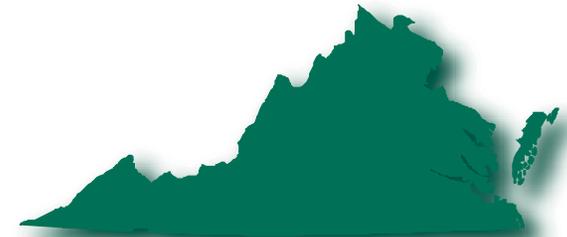
Competitive State Government in a Time of Uncertainty: This ground-breaking report suggests a number of budget reductions and reforms, offering ideas for reducing state spending while providing better service.

Coming Soon! An on-line Tax and Spending Economic Model for Virginia.

*These and other papers may be downloaded
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Where Virginia Ranks



Comparing Virginia to the
Nation and the Region

**The Thomas Jefferson
Institute for Public Policy**

Where Virginia Ranks

To understand where we need to go, we first need to understand where we are. This pamphlet shows where Virginia ranks on key indicators, comparing the Commonwealth to other states, both nationally and within our region of eight states (PA, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, TN, WV). Unless otherwise noted, the comparisons are taken from *Governing Magazine's Sourcebook 2003*, published by the nonpartisan *Congressional Quarterly*. Citations may be examined at www.governing.com/source.htm.

Because different states have different tax systems, *Governing Magazine* combines both the state and local tax and spending numbers to maintain consistency and ensure an “apples to apples” comparison across the states.

Personal Income Per Capita:

VA is 11th in the nation; 2nd in the region.

Gross State Product Per Capita:

VA ranks 15th in the nation; 1st in region.

Employment Growth:

VA ranks 36th in the nation; 7th in region.

Economic Momentum:

VA ranks 18th in the nation; 3rd in region.*

Total Taxes (state and local only) Per Capita:

VA ranks 22nd in the nation; 3rd in region.

Total Tax Burden (state and local taxes as % of income):

VA ranks 40th in the nation; 7th in region.**

Total Tax Burden (state, local and federal taxes as % of income):

VA ranks 21st in the nation; 3rd in region.**

Sales Tax Revenue Per Capita (state and local):

VA ranks 41st in the nation; 8th in region.

Personal Income Tax Per Capita (state and local):

VA ranks 11th in the nation; 2nd in region.

Corporate Income Tax Per Capita (state and local):

VA ranks 31st in the nation; 7th in region.

Property Tax Per Capita (state and local):

VA ranks 24th in the nation; 2nd in region.

Regional Competitiveness:

VA ranks 21st in nation; 2nd in region.***

State and Local spending Per Capita:

VA ranks 37th in the nation; 7th in region.
(The state share of spending is 63.8%, placing it fourth in the region)

Higher Education Spending (State and Local) per Capita:

VA ranks 27th in the nation; third in region.
State Spending Only: VA ranks 29th in nation.*****

K-12 Education spending per capita (state and local):

VA ranks 17th in the nation; 3rd in region.

Spending per K-12 Pupil (state and local):

VA ranks 38th in the nation; 6th in region.
State spending only: VA ranks 49th in nation.*****

Teacher Salaries:

VA ranks 23rd in the nation; 5th in region.

Highway Spending (State and Local) per Capita:

VA ranks 28th in the nation; 2nd in region.
State Spending only: VA ranks 23rd in nation.*****

Health and Hospital Spending per Capita:

VA ranks 27th in nation; 5th in region.

Environmental Spending per Capita:

VA ranks 30th in nation; 4th in region.

State Parks Spending Per Capita:

State spending Only: Virginia ranks 50th in the nation.*****

Medicaid Spending per Capita:

Virginia ranks 38th in nation; 8th in region.****

Medicaid Spending per Elderly Recipient:

VA ranks 42nd in nation*****