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Office of Legal Policy
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Via https://www.Regulations.gov

Re: Request for Information on State Laws Having Significant Adverse Effects on the National Economy or Significant Adverse Effects on Interstate Commerce (Docket No. OLP182)

Dear U.S. DOJ Office of Legal Policy,

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA)[1] appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Department of Justice (DOJ) in response to the Request for Information (RFI) on State Laws Having Significant Adverse Effects on the National Economy or Significant Adverse Effects on Interstate Commerce.

CTA represents the more than $537 billion U.S. consumer technology industry, which supports over 18 million U.S. jobs across manufacturing, retail, software, content, and services. Our 1,200 member companies include startups and small and mid-sized businesses (over 80% of our total membership) as well as global leaders. CTA owns and produces CES – the most powerful tech event in the world – where thousands of American and international firms announce products, forge supply chain partnerships, and drive export growth. When state rules Balkanize national markets, the impact shows up on the CES show floor – fewer launches, delayed deployments, and higher prices for American consumers.

CTA supports the Administration's efforts in identifying State laws and regulations that "can significantly burden commerce in other States and between States". CTA's member companies conduct business in every state across the U.S. The impact of burdensome state policy that isn't reflective of the national market in which companies operate presents significant challenges for our industry as well as the broader goal of keeping the U.S. as a leader in technological innovation.

[1] As North America's largest technology trade association, CTA® is the tech sector. Our members are the world's leading innovators—from startups to global brands—helping support more than 18 million American jobs. CTA owns and produces CES®—the most powerful tech event in the world.

CTA has long engaged in legislative and regulatory advocacy at the state level on behalf of its members. In fact, CTA has developed the U.S. Innovation Scorecard[2] that evaluates all 50 states across 11 distinct categories including: blockchain, broadband, data privacy, entrepreneurial and small business activity, grid preparedness, manufacturing, mobility, skilled workforce, taxes, telehealth, and tort reform. The top graded states – CTA's Innovation Champions – demonstrate how smart policy can foster innovation and advance our technological progress, improving the quality of life for Americans and people around the world.

However, CTA acknowledges that not all state policy gets it right. There exist laws and regulations at the state level that create significant burden for CTA member companies doing business across the U.S. and that inhibit the technological progress our industry seeks. We appreciate this opportunity to provide comments on those laws and regulations our industry has identified as having significant adverse effects on their business.

CTA's comments are organized by topic area addressing the following issues:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Autonomous Vehicle Technology
- Privacy
- Truth in Labeling
- PFAS in Products
- Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging including Packaging Restrictions

For each of the below, CTA has identified several specific laws or regulations of concern as well as identified action CTA would like to see taken at the Federal level.

Artificial Intelligence

The rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI) holds tremendous promise for American competitiveness, productivity, and consumer benefit. Yet, much like the patchwork of state privacy laws that have complicated compliance for businesses of all sizes, a new wave of state laws aimed at regulating AI threatens to undermine that promise. A patchwork of AI laws requires companies to build products on a state-by-state basis, which is an impediment to scale. To ensure the United States dominates the global AI industry President Trump has said, "We … have to have a single federal standard, not 50 different states regulating this industry of the future. We need one common-sense federal standard that supersedes all states, supersedes everybody."[3]

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[2] For more information on CTA's U.S. Innovation Scorecard, please visit https://www.cta.tech/innovation-scorecard/us-innovation-scorecard/. A full copy of the 2025 U.S. Innovation Scorecard is included as an attachment.

[3] Mohar Chatterjee, *Trump derides copyright and state rules in AI Action Plan launch*, POLITICO (July 23, 2025), https://www.politico.com/news/2025/07/23/trump-derides-copyright-and-state-regs-in-ai-action-plan-launch-00472443.

Current State Landscape:
Across the country, states have already enacted a tangled web of AI regulations. These laws impose obligations such as bias audits, impact assessments, and overly prescriptive (and sometimes conflicting) consumer disclosure obligations concerning bots, training data, and risk management measures. Because AI applications and solutions are sector-spanning, the overlap with existing state privacy laws—which already regulate automated decision-making technologies—is particularly burdensome.

States are layering new rules over existing frameworks, creating a patchwork of conflicting or duplicative requirements that are increasingly recognized as an undue burden on industry. In practice, AI developers and deployers must navigate not just privacy obligations, but also sector-specific restrictions on employment, healthcare, intellectual property, and emerging areas such as non-consensual intimate imagery and deepfakes. The cumulative effect is a compliance maze that diverts resources away from innovation and into regulatory overhead.

The most concerning enacted state and local AI laws include:

Bot Disclosure Requirements:

- Colorado's AI Act[4] requires developers and deployers who make AI systems available to consumers to ensure that the system discloses that the consumer is interacting with an AI system, unless it would be "obvious" to a reasonable person.

- On the other hand, Utah's AI Policy Act[5], requires businesses that use AI bots in a commercial context to either program their bots to respond to users that they are not human when asked, or to provide a blanket disclosure that the bot (i) is generative AI, (ii) is not human, or (iii) is an AI assistant. Utah's law does not contain an exception for circumstances when it would be obvious to a reasonable person that they are interacting with AI.

AI & Discrimination Duties:

- Texas's Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act[6] prohibits entities from using AI to unlawfully discriminate against protected classes but explicitly excludes disparate impact as a theory of demonstrating intent to discriminate.

- Colorado's AI Act[7] similarly prohibits discrimination but includes "differential treatment or impact" within its definition of Algorithmic Discrimination, thereby

[4] Colorado AI Act, Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 6-1-1701.
[5] Utah AI Policy Act, Utah Code Ann. § 13-72-101.
[6] Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act (to be codified at Tex. Bus. & Com. Code Ann. § 551).
[7] *See supra* n. 3.

forcing the industry to operate under different legal standards.

- CTA notes that all states have anti-discrimination laws that would effectuate the goals of the AI-specific anti-discrimination bills and therefore consider the AI bills unnecessary and duplicative.

AI in Employment Duties:

- New York City[8] requires employers that use AI tools for HR decisions to conduct annual "bias" audits and disclose results on their webpages.

- Illinois[9] requires employers that rely solely on AI analysis of video interviews to determine whether the applicant will be selected for in-person interviews to collect and report the race and ethnicity of applicants who are and are not afforded an in-person interview, as well as the race and ethnicity of applicants who are hired.

- In addition, state regulators are taking expansive views of existing law in an attempt to regulate AI systems. For example, one California agency recently revised employment regulations to make AI systems developers potentially liable when their systems are used in employment decisions that are deemed to be unlawful.[10]

Training Data Transparency Mandates:

- Colorado's AI Act[11] requires developers of high-risk AI systems to disclose "high-level summaries" (undefined) of the type of data used to train the system.

- California's AI Training Transparency Act[12] requires developers of generative AI systems to publish detailed information regarding the data used to train their models, which go beyond mere descriptions of the types of data used to train the models. For example, California's law also requires developers to describe how the data furthers the intended purpose of the AI system and whether there was any cleaning, processing, or other modification to the datasets by the developer.

- Among other things, the California law requires developers to disclose: the number of data points included in the dataset; the sources of the data; whether it was purchased or licensed; whether it includes personal information or information protected by copyright, trademark, or patent; time periods of collection and use of the data; and a description of how the data furthers the intended purpose of the AI system.

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[8] NYC Employment AI Act, New York City Local Law 144.
[9] Illinois Employment AI Act (Illinois HB 3773), 775 ILCS 5.
[10] California Code of Regulations, Title 2, Division 4.1, Chapter 5, Subchapter 2. Published May 17, 2024.
[11] *See supra* n. 3.
[12] California AI Transparency Act, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 22757.

- CTA asserts that data disclosures for training purposes are unnecessary since no impactful decisions are rendered towards an individual.

AI Mental Health Systems Duties:

- Nevada's Regulation of AI in Mental and Behavioral Healthcare[13] regulates ***providers*** of AI systems and prohibits them, among other things, from representing that the AI system is capable of providing mental or behavioral healthcare or developing models that are specifically programmed to provide a service or experience that would constitute the practice of professional mental or behavioral healthcare if provided by a natural person.

- In contrast, New York's Artificial Intelligence Companion Models law[14] does not restrict the creation of mental health AI applications but requires ***developers*** of AI companions to create protocols to make reasonable efforts for detecting and addressing suicidal ideation or expressions of self-harm expressed by users to the AI companion.

The cumulative effect of these state and local measures is a disjointed, costly, and inefficient compliance regime that hampers innovation and investment. Adding further concern is that this fragmented regulatory landscape is rapidly expanding, with over 1,000 AI-related bills introduced across all 50 states in 2025.

In 2025 alone, CTA submitted letters opposing or seeking amendments to harmful proposals in several states, including California, Connecticut and Colorado. At the same time, CTA urged Congress to enact a 10-year moratorium on enforcement of state and AI laws, arguing that America's startups and small businesses stand to lose the most from this patchwork approach—buried by unsustainable compliance costs before they can even get to market.

Federal Action:
In the alternative to the current patchwork, CTA has long argued that the United States requires a coherent, national AI policy framework. As detailed in CTA's National AI Policy and Regulatory Framework[15], Congress should adopt legislation that:

1. Supports private-sector investment and growth.
2. Avoids excessive and duplicative oversight.
3. Establishes federal primacy in the regulation of AI.
4. Leverages existing standards and norms to ensure safety, trustworthiness, and effectiveness.

[13] Nevada Regulation of AI in Mental and Behavioral Healthcare, Nevada AB 406 (not yet codified).
[14] New York Artificial Intelligence Companion Models, N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 1700.
[15] CTA's National AI Policy and Regulatory Framework can be accessed at CTA's 2025 Innovation Agenda can be accessed at https://www.cta.tech/media/vorlmklh/2025-cta-innovation-agenda.pdf.

Earlier this month, U.S. Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Ted Cruz (R-TX) outlined a legislative framework for U.S. AI leadership, that aims to unleash innovation, protect free speech, and stop the patchwork of conflicting state regulations. To ensure the U.S. leads on AI, this is exactly the kind of vision we need.

We urge the Department of Justice to recognize the harm created by this disjointed regime and reinforce the urgent need for federal legislation establishing a uniform framework for AI governance. Federal preemption and primacy are essential to ensure that innovation can flourish, consumer trust is strengthened, and the United States maintains its global competitiveness in AI.

Autonomous Vehicle Technology

CTA recognizes the transformative potential of autonomous vehicle (AV) technology to improve safety, expand mobility, and strengthen America's economy. AVs are a core pillar of CTA's 2025 Innovation Agenda[16] and central to U.S. global competitiveness. The global autonomous vehicle market is forecast to reach $2.3 trillion by 2030, presenting an extraordinary opportunity for the U.S. economic growth[17].

However, the current patchwork of state AV laws and regulations creates legal uncertainty, inconsistent compliance obligations, and unnecessary barriers to deployment. Divergent rules on safety standards, permitting, and operational restrictions slow innovation, fragment markets, and undercut U.S. leadership. The lack of federal leadership in the sector has created conflicting regulations and barriers to nationwide adoption of AVs.

CTA supports a national AV framework with the following key attributes:

1. Federal preemption of conflicting state laws.
2. Exclusive authority for National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) over AV safety standards.
3. Performance-based, technology-neutral regulation.
4. Harmonization with international standards to promote competitiveness.
5. Clarification that manually operated controls and equipment intended only to support a human driver are not required for ADS-dedicated vehicles.

Current State Landscape:
A growing number of states have enacted AV-related legislation, producing a confusing, burdensome, and expensive compliance environment. State laws differ in scope, definitions, safety requirements, and enforcement. For example, several states including Vermont, Oregon, and Massachusetts prohibit driverless commercial ride sharing, a

[16] CTA's 2025 Innovation Agenda can be accessed at https://www.cta.tech/media/vorlmklh/2025-cta-innovation-agenda.pdf.
[17] Statista. (2024, March 19). Autonomous vehicle market size worldwide forecast from 2021 to 2030. Statista. https://www.statista.com/statistics/1224515/av-market-size-worldwide-forecast/#:~:text=Autonomous%20vehicle%20market%20size%20worldwide,over%202.3%20trillion%20U.S.%20dollars

significant barrier to interstate travel[18]; New York requires one hand on the steering wheel at all times[19]; California imposes a tiered permitting process and restrictions on heavy-duty AV trucks, along with additional reporting obligations[20]; and Illinois requires a human in the driver's seat of an AV[21].

Examples of enacted state laws include:

- Arizona, Texas, and Florida: established clear and permissive frameworks that encourage AV testing and deployment.[22]
- Other states: maintain outdated or duplicative rules, such as requiring manual controls in Level 4 and Level 5 AVs or applying legacy trucking rules to fully automated vehicles.[23]

In addition to enacted laws, restrictive proposals present ongoing risk. For example:

- Colorado HB 25-1122, passed by the legislature in 2025, would have required a CDL-licensed driver in all autonomous commercial vehicles. Governor Jared Polis vetoed the bill, but its advancement highlights the persistent threat of fragmented, restrictive state regulation.[24]

This patchwork disproportionately burdens small and mid-sized companies, which lack the resources to manage state-by-state compliance. Attempts to restrict the free movement of goods on interstate highways with autonomous vehicles are active in several states and raise important questions about the conflict with the Federal government's authority over interstate commerce and the interstate highway system. These firms drive much of the AV innovation ecosystem, and regulatory uncertainty diverts their focus from innovation to compliance—ceding ground to global competitors, especially China.

Federal Action:

CTA urges Congress to enact a national AV framework that includes:

1. Federal preemption to enable consistency and ease of interstate commerce.
2. NHTSA as the sole regulator of AV hardware, software, and operation.
3. Risk-based, performance-driven safety standards grounded in FMVSS.
4. Safe harbor protections for companies following recognized frameworks, such as SAE J3016 for AV classification.

Regulatory timelines must reflect automotive development cycles, which typically span five to seven years. Sudden changes risk disrupting supply chains, breaching contracts, and stalling deployment.

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[18] 23 V.S.A. § 4203(h)(1)(A); City of Portland, TRN-14.34(4); MassDOT "General Requirements - Safe Testing of Automated Driving Systems"

[19] Y Veh. & Traf. L. § 1226; see also RCNY § 4-12(e)

[20] Cal. Veh. Code § 38750

[21] Exec. Order Establishing the Autonomous Illinois Initiative, Exec. Order 2018-13 (Oct 25, 2018).

[22] Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 28-9702; Tex. Transp. Code §§ 545.453–545.460; Fla. Stat. §§ 316.85, 319.145.

[23] *See supra* n. 19; Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 482A.010–482A.060 (S.B. 313, 2013).

[24] Governor Jared Polis, *Veto Letter Regarding H.B. 25-1122* (May 29, 2025).

Enforcement should rest with NHTSA, supported by technical expertise from Department of Transportation (DOT), Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), and Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Rulemaking and enforcement must remain separate to preserve consistency and predictability.

CTA cautions against rigid or prescriptive approaches, such as requiring manual controls in fully autonomous vehicles. Such measures freeze innovation and reduce safety gains. The U.S. should avoid repeating the burdens of the EU's regulatory model and instead advance flexible, innovation-driven standards that support both safety and competitiveness.

CTA continues to engage with DOT, NHTSA, BIS, and Congress to ensure AV policy supports innovation, safety, and U.S. global competitiveness. CTA looks forward to continued Federal leadership in this space and avoidance of cumbersome State laws and regulations that are misaligned with CTA's positions.

Privacy

CTA recognizes the growing importance of consumer privacy protection. Privacy protection is a central pillar of CTA's 2025 Innovation Agenda[25]. As digital technologies and online services become even more embedded in American life, consumers rightly expect both privacy safeguards and continued access to the innovative, data-driven products and services that enhance daily life. However, the current patchwork of state privacy laws creates consumer confusion, uneven rights, and disproportionate regulatory burden on small and mid-sized businesses.

Current State Landscape:
As of September 15, 2025, 20 different states have enacted comprehensive state privacy laws, creating a confusing, burdensome, and expensive landscape for companies to navigate.

1. California Consumer Privacy Act[26]
2. Colorado Privacy Act[27]
3. Connecticut Data Privacy Act[28]
4. Delaware Personal Data Privacy Act[29]
5. Indiana Consumer Data Protection Act[30]
6. Iowa Consumer Data Protection Act[31]
7. Kentucky Consumer Data Protection Act[32]
8. Maryland Online Data Privacy Act[33]

[25] *See supra* n. 15
[26] Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1798.100–1798.199
[27] Colo. Rev. Stat. § 6-1-1301
[28] Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 42-515 to 42-525 (2025)
[29] Del. Code Ann. Tit. 6, § 12D-101 (2024)
[30] Indiana Code § 24-15-1 et seq.
[31] Iowa Code §§ 715D.1-715D.9
[32] Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 367.3611 et seq.
[33] Md. Code Ann., Com. Law § 14-3501 et seq.

9. Minnesota Consumer Data Privacy Act[34]
10. Montana Consumer Data Privacy Act[35]
11. Nebraska Data Privacy Act[36]
12. New Hampshire Data Privacy Act[37]
13. New Jersey Data Privacy Law[38]
14. Oregon Consumer Privacy Act[39]
15. Rhode Island Data Transparency and Privacy Protection Act[40]
16. Tennessee Information Protection Act[41]
17. Texas Data Privacy and Security Act[42]
18. Utah Consumer Privacy Act[43]
19. Virginia Consumer Protection Act[44]
20. Florida Digital Bill of Rights[45]

These laws are not static and require businesses to track numerous amendment and regulatory implementation processes. In addition, while there are many states following a similar model, there are differences across laws in definitions, scope, exceptions, substantive requirements, and enforcement regimes especially in outlier states such as California and Maryland. Companies that operate nationally must, therefore, choose compliance strategies that reflect each of these differences, build to the highest possible version of regulation, take on legal risk, geofence or choose not to release products in certain areas. To illustrate this legal and regulatory burden on businesses, CTA highlights recently enacted laws and regulations in California and Maryland:

- The cybersecurity audit requirements issued by the California Privacy Protection Agency (CPPA) Board under the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) in July 2025, impose specific audit, certification, and auditor requirements. In practice this poses burdensome auditing requirements on companies. It would be more efficient for businesses and therefore better for consumers if the CPPA allowed for widely accepted cyber audits to meet this requirement, instead of requiring a resource-intensive California-specific audit.

- The Maryland Online Data Privacy Act of 2024 (MODPA) was hastily rushed through by Maryland's legislature in 2024 and goes into effect October 1, 2025. MODPA represents a significant departure from other state laws with its unique data minimization requirements and broad scope. Such requirements would force companies with significant presence across the United States to develop and

[34] Minn. Stat. § 325M.01 et seq.
[35] Mont. Code Ann. § 30-14-1701 et seq.
[36] Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 87-1101 to 87-1130.
[37] N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 507-H.
[38] N.J. Stat. § 56:8-166.4 et seq.
[39] Or. Rev. Stat. §§ 646A.570-646A.589
[40] R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 6-48.1-1 to 6-48.1-12.
[41] Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-18-3301 (2024)
[42] Tex. Bus. & Com. Code §§ 541.101-541.107 (2024)
[43] Utah Code Ann. §§ 13-61-101 to 13-61-404
[44] Va. Code §§ 59.1-196 to 59.1-207 (2023)
[45] Fla. Stat. § 501.701 (2024)

launch services and products specific to Maryland consumers or face significant fines. This isn't a matter of extra disclosures or pasting notices on a website but building from scratch brand new products for a state that represents under 2% of the U.S. population.

More, this patchwork of state privacy laws harm small to medium-sized businesses by diverting focus from innovation and resources to costly litigation. CTA recognizes that startups and small to medium-sized businesses are the engine of the American economy. Unlike larger companies, these firms lack the resources to navigate a fragmented regulatory landscape. Burdening them with complex, state-by-state compliance will divert their focus from groundbreaking advancements, suppressing innovation and ceding a competitive edge to our global adversaries.

CTA is also concerned about rigid frameworks influenced by the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)[46], which have demonstrably stifled innovation and disadvantaged small businesses in Europe. Many state comprehensive privacy bills and some provisions in enacted state privacy laws are influenced by the GDPR, so it will not be long before we see the same results here.

Federal Action:
To resolve the issues caused by this patchwork of state privacy laws, CTA supports a national privacy law with the following key attributes:

1. Federal Preemption
   A central challenge for companies is the varying definitions throughout state privacy legislation. A federal law should adopt precise definitions for roles, types of data, and regulatory responsibilities, avoiding overbroad requirements for low-risk data. Ensuring concise, accessible consumer disclosures—without overwhelming legal jargon—is central to fostering trust and meaningful consent.

2. No Private Right of Action
   Litigation abuse harms small businesses by diverting resources away from innovation to resolving lawsuits. Enforcement of privacy laws should rest with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which is the agency in charge of consumer protection. However, rulemaking and enforcement should remain separate, with the FTC focused on consistent, expert enforcement.

3. Risk-Based Security Practices and Legal Safe Harbors
   Strong security requirements proportional to risk, such as encryption for sensitive data and use of recognized best practices, should adapt to evolving threats. CTA also supports a well-structured safe harbor provision, granting affirmative legal defenses for responsible companies following established frameworks.

[46] Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR)

4. Harmonization with Sector-Specific Standards and Laws
   The U.S. should advance an innovation-friendly model, align with successful industry standards, and ensure ongoing compatibility with existing federal laws.

CTA's proposal for a federal baseline privacy law can be found in the following Congressional advocacy:

- April 7, 2025: CTA submitted comments in response to a Request for Information (RFI) to the House Energy and Commerce Committee Privacy Working Group.
- July 9, 2025: CTA VP of Digital Health Rene Quashie testified before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions on their hearing on "Securing the Future of Health Care: Enhancing Cybersecurity and Protecting Americans' Privacy."
- July 30, 2025: CTA sent a letter to Senate Judiciary Committee for the record of the hearing on "Protecting the Virtual You: Safeguarding Americans' Online Data."

Truth in Labeling

In recent years, CTA has seen a trend towards state specific labeling requirements. Given CTA's members sell products into an international or North American market, state specific labeling requirements create an undue burden for any company needing to create specific packaging or products for individual state markets. The most challenging example is California's Truth in Labeling Law[47], also referred to as SB343.

Current State Landscape:
SB343 restricts the use of recycling symbols and claims on products and packaging, including the chasing arrows triangle. While intended to reduce consumer confusion, the law creates significant compliance challenges and costs for businesses across industries, with especially acute impacts on electronics and batteries. Because California is one of the largest markets in the nation, the burdens imposed by SB 343 extend far beyond state borders, disrupting interstate commerce, complicating supply chains, threatening international trade and increasing costs for consumers nationwide. National harmonization that allows for flexibility to comply with international laws is critical – CTA emphasizes the need for the FTC to have sole authority to regulate environmental marketing claims through the Green Guides[48].

Fragmented National Marketplace:

A central challenge of SB 343 is that it establishes California-specific recyclability standards that diverge from the FTC's Green Guides and from recycling rules in other states. Businesses that distribute nationally cannot feasibly operate under multiple and conflicting sets of requirements. Supply chains are not structured to support a single

[47] Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 42355–42358.5. The Law is commonly referenced as SB343 (Allen, Chapter 507, Statutes of 2021) accessible via https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB343.
[48] *Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims*, 16 C.F.R. § 260 (2025).

jurisdiction like California. In effect, California will dictate packaging and labeling practices for the entire U.S. market, despite the interstate conflicts. This is especially challenging for the electronics industry because products and packaging are designed for an international marketplace. Electronics packaging has international recycling compliance symbols for the EU, Asia, and North America, yet this new California law creates uncertainty on whether these new symbols are prohibited.

Conflicts with Other State Laws:

SB 343 also directly conflicts with other state requirements, creating interstate commerce problems. Twenty-nine[49] states require the use of the chasing arrows symbol around Resin Identification Codes (RICs) on certain plastic packaging. This places manufacturers in an untenable position: a package label that is legally required in one state may be prohibited in California. For businesses that distribute products across multiple states, this conflict creates an impossible compliance dilemma that highlights the urgent need for national consistency.

Product Labeling Challenges for Electronics, Batteries and their Packaging:

Electronics and batteries are further harmed by SB 343 because the scope includes product labeling. These products and their packaging already carry multiple nationally recognized voluntary product recycling symbols, like the Call2Recycle Battery label[50] as well as other mandated international symbols, like the crossed out wheely bin mandated by the EU Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE).[51] See Table 1 for additional symbols at risk. California has not yet made any effort to clarify how its new law and recyclability determinations would apply to a range of electronic products or components that require chasing arrows symbols in other jurisdictions. This may create significant international trade barriers, leaving companies without a solution for maintaining efficient supply chains while labeling a single product for compliance in multiple jurisdictions.

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[49] Alaska (Alaska Stat. § 46.06.095), Arizona (Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 49-835), Arkansas (Ark. Code § 8-9-302), Colorado (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 25-17-103), Delaware (Del. Code tit. 7, § 60-6092), Florida (Fla. Stat. § 403.708), Georgia (Ga. Code Ann. § 12-8-34), Hawaii (Haw. Rev. Stat. § 342H-42), Illinois (415 Ill. Comp. Stat. § 15/10), Indiana (Ind. Code § 13-20-19-2), Iowa (Iowa Code § 455D.12), Kentucky (Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 224.50-585), Maryland (Md. Code, Environment, § 9-1710), Massachusetts (Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 94 § 323A), Michigan (Mich. Comp. Laws § 324.16102), Mississippi (Miss. Code Ann. § 17-17-207), Missouri (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 260.281), Nebraska (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 69-2503), Nevada (Nev. Rev. Stat. § 444.435-437), New Jersey (N.J. Rev. Stat. § 13:1E-99.41), North Carolina (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-309.10) Ohio (Ohio Rev. Code § 3734.60), Oklahoma (Okla. Stat. tit. 27A § 2-11-503), Rhode Island (R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-18.15-2), South Carolina (S.C. Code Ann. § 44-96-150), South Dakota (S.D. Codified Laws § 34A-6-68), Tennessee (Tenn. Code Ann. § 68-101-109), Texas (Tex. Health & Safety Code § 369.002), Virginia (Va. Code § 10.1-1415.1).

[50] For more information on the Call2Recycle program and requirements, please visit www.call2recycle.org.

[51] Directive 2012/19/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) (recast), OJ L 197, 24.7.2012, pp. 38–71. For an overview of the EU WEEE label requirements, please visit https://europa.eu/youreurope/business/product-requirements/labels-markings/weee-label/index_en.htm.

Table 1. International Environmental Symbols

EU WEEE, India WEEE (product and package) 	China (product) 	Corrugated Cardboard Mark (voluntary, on package) 
Green Dot (package) 	South Korea (package) 	U.S. RBRC (product, package) 
Japan Steel, Aluminum, PET, Paper, Plastic (package) 	Japan Batteries (product) 	France Triman (package) 
Taiwan Batteries (product) 	Japan PC (product) 	Brazil Batteries (product) 

Heavy Compliance and Redesign Costs:

Complying with SB 343 requires companies to audit every packaging component—including plastics, films, adhesives, foams, molded fibers, and inks—against California's restrictive standards. This results in extensive redesign efforts that can cost millions of dollars. Managing separate California-compliant packaging or product streams further complicates national supply chains, increasing warehousing and transportation costs and ultimately driving up consumer prices across the country. Small and mid-sized businesses, with fewer resources to absorb these expenses, are disproportionately harmed.

Additionally, the definition of "recyclable" that is outlined in the statute puts certain packaging materials at risk of being banned. Protective packaging such as molded fiber or plastic foams—essential to ensure safe delivery of fragile devices—may not qualify as recyclable under California's thresholds, even if recoverable in other states. The result is a dual compliance challenge: companies must meet federal safety obligations while avoiding California enforcement risk.

Expanded Litigation Exposure:

In addition to enforcement by the California Attorney General (AG), the law exposes companies to private rights of action and litigation over recyclability claims. Even good-faith efforts to comply with federal guidance or align with industry standards may be second-guessed under California's framework, leading to costly lawsuits, settlements, or reputational harm. The threat of litigation discourages companies from providing recycling information at all, further limiting transparency for consumers, driving down recycling rates, and increasing compliance uncertainty.

Federal Action:
California's SB 343 is a clear example of a state law with significant adverse effects on the national economy, interstate commerce, and international trade. By imposing conflicting requirements, inflating compliance costs, restricting labeling practices, and expanding litigation risk, the law creates ripple effects that extend far beyond California's borders. These burdens affect businesses of all sizes, raise consumer costs, undermine innovation, and erode the efficiency of supply chains. For these reasons, SB 343 should be recognized as a state law that creates substantial barriers to interstate commerce.

CTA strongly supports the development of consistent, federally guided standards developed and overseen by the FTC that provide accurate recycling information to consumers while avoiding the costly and conflicting patchwork of state-level regulations. The FTC has this authority through Section 5 of the FTC Act[52].

PFAS in Products

In recent years, several states have begun to regulate the use of PFAS in consumer products. CTA recognizes the harm that PFAS can cause to human health and the environment, and CTA supports the phaseout of intentionally added PFAS where alternatives are feasible and available. However, the lack of federal leadership on this issue has resulted in states implementing a haphazard patchwork of laws with inconsistent product bans and unaligned reporting structures. It has created an environment where manufacturers are uncertain exactly how to comply across various states.

PFAS is a necessary component for the manufacturing and functioning of electronic devices.[53][54] While the electronics industry is exploring alternatives to these substances, a reasonable and predictable regulatory landscape is needed for manufacturers to comply as these laws come into force over the next decade. Of note, out of the nearly 15,000 substances that meet the definition of PFAS under various state laws, current testing technologies exist for only about 500. This exposes manufacturers to uncontrollable and unknowable liability and severely limits regulatory effectiveness.

Current State Landscape:
In the past 5 years, more than a dozen states have enacted laws restricting PFAS in consumer products. These take the form of either product bans or reporting requirements:

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[52] Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. § 45)
[53] Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's "Recommendations for products containing lead, cadmium, and PFAS" outlining the currently unavoidable uses of PFAS in electronics. https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/lrc-pfc-5sy25.pdf
[54] The European Chemicals Agency publishes PFAS restriction proposal that includes assessment on uses of PFAS in electronics and semiconductors https://echa.europa.eu/-/echa-publishes-updated-pfas-restriction-proposal

- Specific Product Bans: States have taken steps to ban intentionally added PFAS in specific product categories like firefighting foam, cookware, cosmetics, apparel, and textiles. Each state has different ways to define these product categories, different timelines for their bans, and different exemption procedures.

- Comprehensive Product Bans: Maine, Minnesota, and New Mexico[55] have banned intentionally added PFAS in nearly all consumer products, unless manufacturers receive specific exemptions from state regulatory bodies. The exemption procedures in each state are different and are still undergoing development. Manufacturers of products that contain essential uses of PFAS (such as semiconductors) will have to apply for exemptions in each state, and it is very possible these exemptions will not be aligned. Products allowed in one state may be banned in another.

- Reporting Requirements: Maine, Minnesota, and New Mexico's laws require all manufacturers of products containing intentionally added PFAS to submit detailed reports to the state on their use of PFAS in products. Several states are considering similar reporting systems.[56] These reporting systems are still under development, but it is very likely they will each have different requirements. These duplicative independent reporting systems will create unnecessary administrative burdens. The electronics industry is particularly concerned that state-level regulations are silent on de minimis reporting thresholds. A numerical de minimis threshold would harmonize requirements with international restrictions, enhance enforceability, preserve agencies' capacity, and increase the likelihood of accurate and useful disclosures. State regulations are also inconsistent on a "reasonably ascertainable" standard of information for reporting. Such a standard would align state regulations with the standard EPA uses for its Chemical Data Reporting rule requirements and the standard EPA proposed for its PFAS reporting rule.[57]

Federal Action:
CTA supports the development of federally guided standards for PFAS restrictions and reporting requirements.

1. Definitions
   EPA should establish a set of standard definitions for states to use regarding PFAS regulations. Definitions should cover product categories, the meaning of "intentionally added" and "reasonably ascertainable," and the scope of PFAS chemicals with easily identifiable Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) Registry

[55] Maine (38 M.R.S. § 1614); Minnesota (Minn. Stat. §116.943); New Mexico (HB 212, signed into law April 2025)
[56] The National Conference of State Legislatures has a database that includes PFAS legislation at the state level: https://www.ncsl.org/environment-and-natural-resources/environment-and-natural-resources-legislation-database
[57] TSCA Section 8(a)(7) Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for PFAS https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2023-10-11/pdf/2023-22094.pdf

Numbers. Consistent requirements on which products are covered, and which products have exemptions, would save significant cost for stakeholders engaged with the current state patchwork. Reporting and restriction requirements should allow representative products to represent product families, rather than requiring analysis of all products in a family.

2. Currently Unavoidable Uses
   EPA should designate uses of PFAS in electronics that are currently unavoidable. This would help create uniformity across state exemptions for currently unavoidable uses of PFAS and protect the necessary uses of PFAS in modern electronics.

3. Reporting
   There should be a single, harmonized reporting system where manufacturers can submit data on products containing PFAS. This system could be accessible by state agencies that wish to manage their own reporting requirements and would also offer robust confidential business information protection. A single reporting system would allow for clear, consistent requirements. It would create harmonized reporting ranges and de minimis thresholds, so companies all report coherent data.

The federal government can significantly lower the costs for all stakeholders involved if it takes a leadership position on PFAS regulation. Manufacturers are facing higher costs from competing regulatory systems, and the states implementing these programs do not have adequate resources to manage the thousands of reports they will receive from manufacturers.

Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is the policy mechanism that holds manufacturers responsible, primarily financially, for the management of their products once those products reach their end of life. State level EPR laws increase costs for businesses by shifting the financial burden of recycling, collection, and disposal to manufacturers.

CTA's member companies have long been recognized for their commitment and leadership in innovation and sustainability, often taking measures to exceed regulatory requirements on environmental design and product stewardship. With these comments, CTA is seeking to highlight the challenges with a state by state, patchwork approach to EPR. CTA is not seeking deregulation but rather advocating for harmonization across states in their EPR policies with identified areas for Federal leadership.

Current State Landscape:

For two decades, CTA's member companies have supported EPR for electronic devices in the U.S. across 24 states plus the District of Columbia[58]. In recent years, EPR laws

[58] Connecticut (Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 22a-629 to 22a-640); District of Columbia (D.C. Code §§ 8–1041.01 to 8–1041.12); Hawaii (Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 339D-1 to 339D-7); Illinois (415 ILCS 151/); Indiana (Ind. Code

have passed in seven states that cover packaging, double hitting CTA's members which are now responsible for financing the responsible management of both the product and packaging at end of life. These states include California (SB 54)[59], Colorado (HB 22-1355)[60], Oregon (SB 582)[61], Maine (LD 1541)[62], Maryland (SB 222)[63], Minnesota (HF 3911)[64], and Washington (SB 5284)[65].

EPR laws vary significantly by state meaning businesses face a complex compliance landscape—often needing separate labeling, tracking, and fee structures for each jurisdiction. This patchwork of rules creates operational inefficiencies, increases administrative overhead, and drives up costs that may ultimately be passed along to consumers. For packaging EPR, companies are also forced in many instances to redesign packaging to meet state specific recyclability or recycled-content standards.

With the example of packaging laws, each of the seven states has different compliance timelines, recycling targets, recycled-content mandates and compliance structures. Manufacturers must navigate compliance with each law, adapt to varying fee schedules, manage overlapping compliance deadlines, reconcile inconsistent covered product lists and differing recycled content requirements to make decisions at a national scale. For manufactures operating nationwide, this divergence generates significant administrative and financial burdens ultimately undermining efficient product distribution.

The implementation of packaging EPR effectively offloads the regulatory responsibilities from the state to the private sector through the establishment of a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO). Manufacturers are required to join the PRO and pay for the operation of the program. The PRO can operate as a monopoly to define program requirements, set and collect manufacturer fees, and establish timelines. PROs set costs and mandate packaging redesigns with limited consideration of – and no responsibility to account for – the cost burdens that they impose. The PROs lack operational transparency, without manufacturers having the ability to audit program expenditures. While there is a board of directors composed of manufacturers, currently

§§ 13-20.5-1-1 et seq.); Maine (Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 38, § 1610); Maryland (Md. Code Ann., Envir. §§ 9-1727 to 9-1730); Michigan (Mich. Comp. Laws § 324.17301 et seq.); Minnesota (Minn. Stat. §§ 115A.1310 to 115A.1330); Missouri (Mo. Rev. Stat. §§ 260.1050 to 260.1101); New Jersey (N.J. Stat. Ann. § 13:1E-99.94 et seq.); New York (N.Y. Envtl. Conserv. Law, Article 27, Title 26 (§§ 27-2601 to 27-2615)); North Carolina (N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 130A-309.130 to 130A-309.142); Oklahoma (27A O.S. § 2-11-601 *et seq.);* Oregon (ORS 459A.305 to 459A.355); Pennsylvania (35 P.S. §§ 6031.101 et seq.); Rhode Island (R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-24.10-1 et seq.); South Carolina (S.C. Code Ann. §§ 48-60-05 to 48-60-90); Texas (Tex. Health & Safety Code § 361.952 et seq.; 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 328.131 et seq.; Tex. Health & Safety Code § 361.971 et seq.; 30 Tex. Admin. Code § 328.193); Utah (Utah Code Ann. § 19-6-1201 et seq.); Vermont (10 V.S.A. § 7551 et seq.); Virginia (Va. Code Ann. § 10.1-1425.27 et seq.); Washington (RCW 70A.500); West Virginia (W. Va. Code §§ 22-15A-22 to 22-15A-28); Wisconsin (Wis. Stat. § 287.17).

[59] Cal. S.B. 54, ch. 75, Stats. 2022 (codified at Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 42040–42067)

[60] Colo. Rev. Stat. §§ 25-17-701–716

[61] Or. Rev. Stat. §§ 459A.860–459A.975 (2021)

[62] Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 38, § 2146 et seq. (2021 & am'd LD 1423)

[63] Md. Envt. Code Ann. §§ 9-1702, 9-2501 to 9-2512 (2025)

[64] Minn. Stat. §§ 115A.144 to 115A.1463 (2024)

[65] RCW 70A.205.045, 70A.205.500, 81.77.030, 81.77.160, 81.77.185, and 70A.245.100 (2025)

there is limited diversity among product manufacturers including representation of the electronics industry or broader durable goods industry.

Industry-wide packaging EPR compliance costs are difficult to estimate but could easily run into the hundreds of millions of dollars. These costs will be borne by consumers throughout the United States, irrespective of any state-specific benefits.

Federal Action:
Specific to EPR for packaging, CTA recommends the Federal government create a uniform national framework for EPR and recycling requirements, which would seek to harmonize the current patchwork of state laws among the following:

1. Program Consistency
   A consistent set of rules for labeling, reporting and implementation timeframes would reduce compliance complexity and administrative costs for businesses operating across multiple states.

2. Definitions
   Consistent definitions for key terms like consumer, producer, recyclable, and recycled-content.

3. Performance Goals
   Standardized performance goals including recycled content and source reduction requirements, material lists, and fee structures.

This approach would provide regulatory certainty, streamline operations, help businesses plan long-term strategies more efficiently, and provide predictability for businesses engaged in interstate commerce.

The electronics industry is uniquely burdened under the state EPR laws for packaging. Electronics manufacturers operate nationwide supply chains with frequent model changes, specialized design-to-market timeframes, and highly protective, multi-material packaging. The current EPR and labeling patchwork imposes substantial, non-uniform costs that directly burden interstate commerce. DOJ should recognize these laws' cumulative adverse economic effects and recommend federal harmonization that preserves environmental goals while restoring a level, nationally consistent compliance pathway. What is most needed is harmonized definitions and compliance structures so that businesses are not bogged down by managing different systems that ultimately seek to accomplish the same goals.

Conclusion

CTA appreciates DOJ's focus on state laws that fragment markets, burden interstate commerce, and slow America's technological progress. We urge the Department to (i) recognize the substantial, cumulative burdens of the current patchwork in AI, AVs, privacy, labeling, PFAS, and EPR; and (ii) recommend federal preemption and harmonization that protect innovation, lower costs for consumers, and reinforce U.S. global leadership. Ensuring a clear, consistent, and predictable legal framework is not just regulatory housekeeping—it is the foundation for America's next wave of technological breakthroughs. CTA stands ready to assist.

Sincerely,

Gary Shapiro
CEO and Vice Chair
Consumer Technology Association

Michael Petricone
Senior Vice President, Government Affairs
Consumer Technology Association

Attachments:
1. CTA 2025 U.S. Innovation Scorecard

CTA™
Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

April
2025

2025 CTA U.S. Innovation Scorecard

Table of Contents

1. Welcome

Welcome

2025 marks ten years of the Consumer Technology Association (CTA)® United States Innovation Scorecard, highlighting work in states across our nation to advance technological progress and improve quality of life for Americans and people around the world.

American business leaders, startups and entrepreneurs launched and grew technologies that helped businesses move seamlessly online, relieved supply chain bottlenecks, and delivered vital medical care across state lines. New innovations changed the relationship between humans and technology, with advances in robotics, AI, smart home, virtual and augmented reality, and more enhancing what we as people can do.

Moreover, a focus on sustainability and the desire to keep our world cleaner and greener generated new products that preserve energy and protect our environment.

In this dynamic time, states are key to innovation. CTA's 2025 U.S. Innovation Scorecard grades every state on 11 quantitative and qualitative criteria that measure how well it fosters innovation. Each state ranks in one of four tiers: Innovation Champions excel in almost all areas, followed by Innovation Leaders, which earn high scores in most. Innovation Adopters promote innovation in some areas but not others. Finally, Modest Innovators may support innovation in one or more areas, but they show the greatest room for improvement. Learn more about the Scorecard and its methodology.

In the 2025 U.S. Innovation Scorecard — our seventh edition — CTA evaluated all 50 states on 11 quantitative and qualitative categories including: blockchain, broadband, data privacy, entrepreneurial & small business activity, grid preparedness, manufacturing, mobility, skilled workforce, taxes, telehealth, and tort reform. Our 2025 Innovation Champions show that smart policy paired with big ideas can deliver huge rewards for us all.

I'm thrilled to share the 2025 U.S. Innovation Scorecard, our assessment of the American innovation landscape and our vision for what's to come.

Kinsey Fabrizio

President
Consumer Technology Association

Michael Petricone

SVP, Government Affairs
Consumer Technology Association

2. Executive Summary

Executive Summary

The 2025 Scorecard evaluates all 50 U.S. states across 11 distinct categories. This year, we introduced four new categories, reflecting the expanding foundations required for innovation. These new categories complement the seven categories carried over from the 2023 Scorecard, underscoring our intent to assess how states have continued to develop in key areas.

This year, the four new categories offer a diverse range of insights into technological innovation. In **Grid Preparedness**, we measure a state's energy demand in comparison to its energy supply, as well as year-on-year changes to average electricity rates.

The addition of **Blockchain** is an exciting new category for the 2025 Scorecard, which assesses state legislation on policies towards blockchain technologies, including cryptocurrency, non-fungible tokens, and their treatment of decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs).

In **Data Privacy**, numerous indicators assess businesses' ability to innovate and compete without compromising transparency, sensitive data protections or legal clarity. While in **Manufacturing**, we analyze a state's total number of manufacturers, its manufacturing percentage of GDP, and how it is attracting new manufacturing talent.

As in previous years, we consider the presence of telehealth reimbursement, tort reform, and the level of various corporate and individual income taxes as measures of innovation.

We also look at infrastructure factors, analyzing a state's access and quality of their broadband networks. A key category once again relates to Entrepreneurial and Small Business Activity. This is a critical category, which evaluates a number of data points measuring how easy it is to start a business, as well as the amount of venture capital investment per capita in a given state.

For all of these categories, we use the latest available data to ascertain levels of innovation spanning across 23 different indicators.

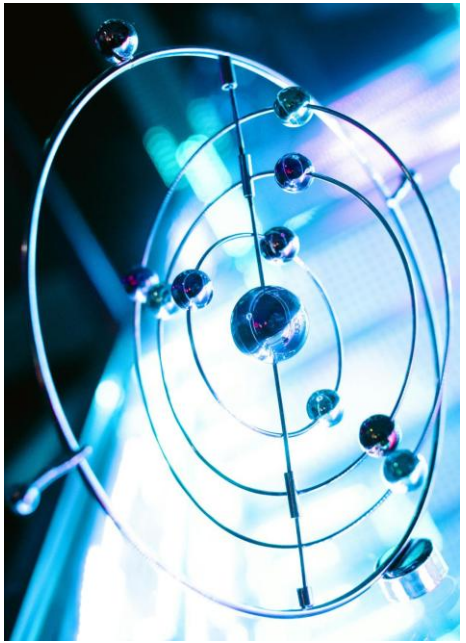
This year, 12 states achieved Innovation Champion status. These include a number of repeat champions, **Kansas, Nevada, North Dakota, Texas**, **Utah** and **Washington**, as well as several rising, innovative states, **Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, New Hampshire, South Dakota**, and **Tennessee**.

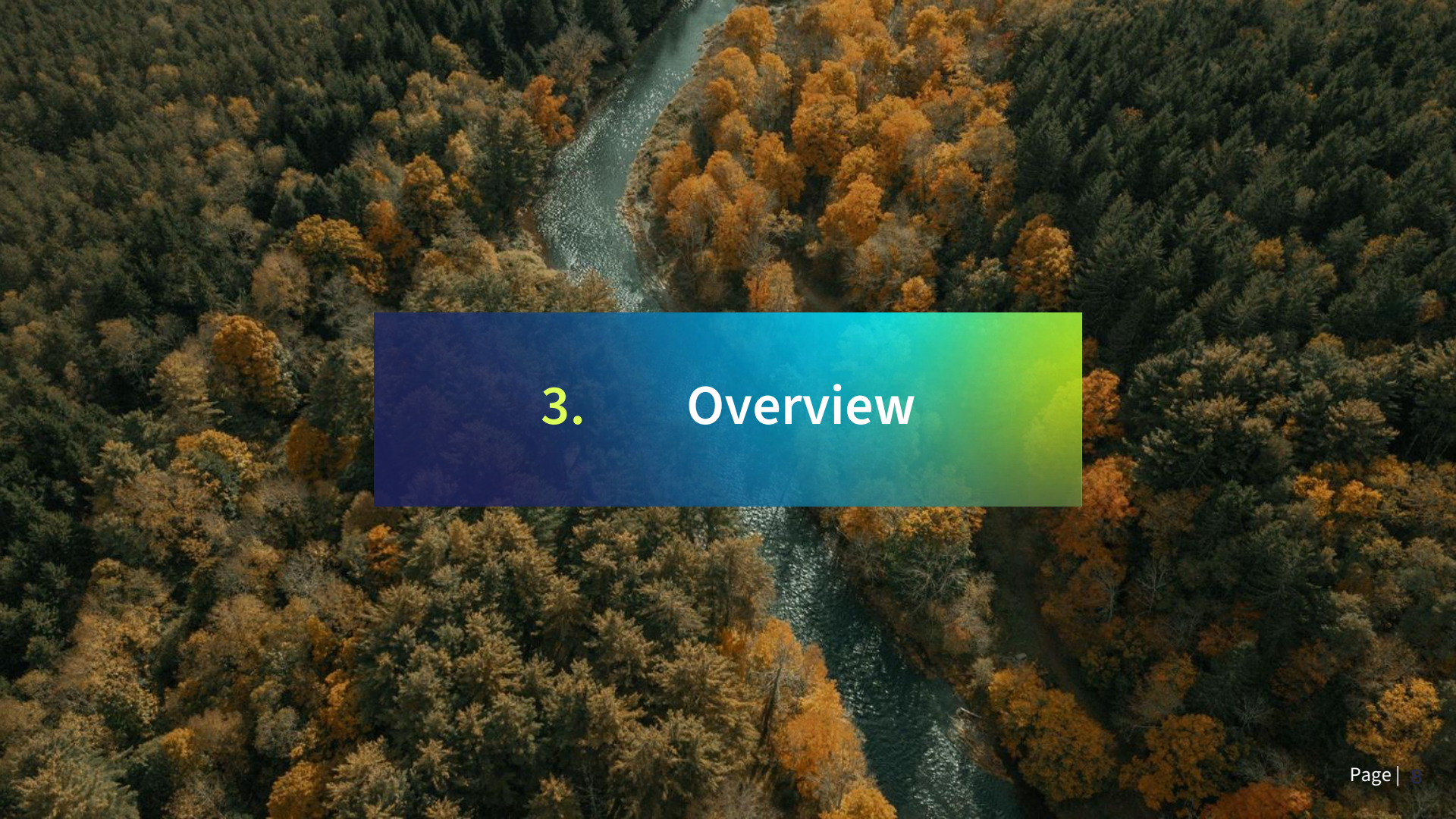
Executive Summary

There are many rising stars in the 2025 Innovation Scorecard. Kentucky made arguably the greatest leap of all states this year, rising from Modest Innovator to Innovation Champion. Its scores for 2023 categories remained relatively stable, an exception being to its Tort Reform score, where it rose from B- to A+. But the state scored highly in new categories, including Grid Preparedness (A-) and Data Privacy (A-).

Other new Champions such as South Dakota and Tennessee made similarly impressive jumps from Innovation Adopter, while Iowa made the final leap after earning Innovation Leader status in 2023. Georgia made the leap from Innovation Leader, and its new top-level status is reflected in the consistency of its scores across the board: it did not receive a grade lower than B- for any of the 11 measured categories. New Hampshire, which was an Innovation Champion in 2020 and 2018 before falling off the list in 2023, was the only state to score an A+ for Blockchain. Its state laws include definitions of virtual currency and it has not placed regulations on cryptomining.

Dropping off the 2023 Innovation Champion list are Arizona, Indiana Colorado, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, and Virginia. Arizona, in particular, narrowly missed out on the list largely due to moderate scores in Grid Preparedness, Mobility and Blockchain. Most of those dropping from the Champion list have fallen to Innovation Leader, with the exception of Colorado and Massachusetts, which dropped two grades to Innovation Adopter. Both states struggled in the Manufacturing and Mobility categories, while Massachusetts received a D+ score for Blockchain.





3. Overview

Overview

Innovation Champions

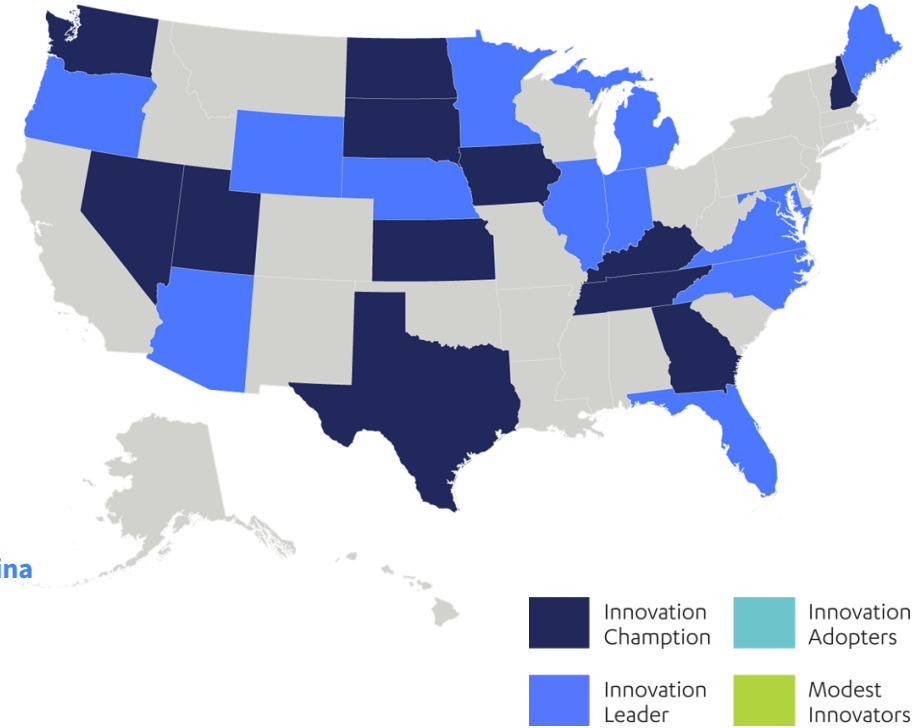
The 2025 Innovation Champions are the highest-scoring states in the country, with strong foundations for technological innovation. They exhibit particular willingness and readiness to embrace technological change. States with the top ranking in our Scorecard achieve high scores in numerous cross-cutting thematic areas, which include infrastructure, new systems adoption, legislation, and human capital.

Georgia
Iowa
Kansas
Kentucky
Nevada
New Hampshire
North Dakota
South Dakota
Texas
Tennessee
Utah
Washington

Innovation Leaders

The 13 Innovation Leaders received high scores across several of the Scorecard's 11 categories, but fell short in a few areas. Nevertheless, these states generally had good data privacy laws, skilled workforces, and solid levels of infrastructure.

Arizona
Florida
Illinois
Indiana
Maine
Maryland
Michigan
Minnesota
Nebraska
North Carolina
Oregon
Virginia
Wyoming



Overview

Innovation Adopters

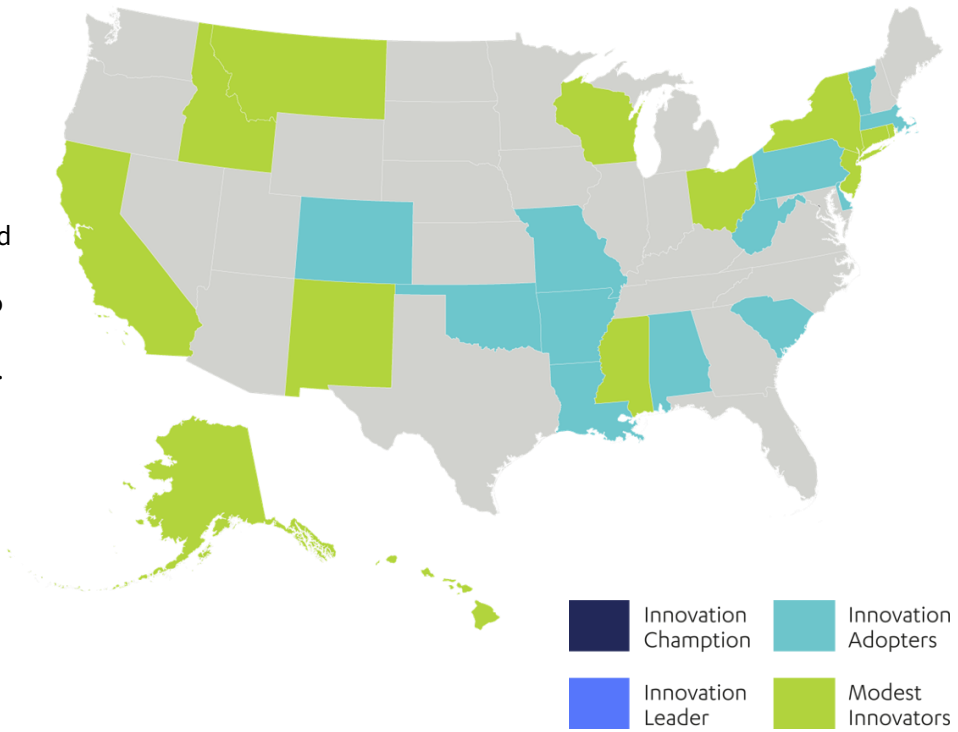
The 12 Innovation Adopters received high scores in some categories, but ultimately fell short in several others. Mobility and Blockchain tended to be moderate for most states, while there were mixed results for new jobs and investment, as well as the scale of personal and private taxes across each individual state.

Alabama
Arkansas
Colorado
Delaware
Louisiana
Massachusetts
Missouri
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Vermont
West Virginia

Modest Innovators

The number of Modest Innovators rose from seven in 2023 to 13 in 2025. Amidst a competitive landscape, some of these states had lower results for Taxes and Manufacturing. They also tended to score lower in Blockchain and had mixed results in Grid Preparedness. Despite this, most had relatively good Telehealth and Tort Reform scores.

Alaska
California
Connecticut
Hawaii
Idaho
Mississippi
Montana
New Jersey
New Mexico
New York
Ohio
Rhode Island
Wisconsin



4. Rankings

Top States by Category

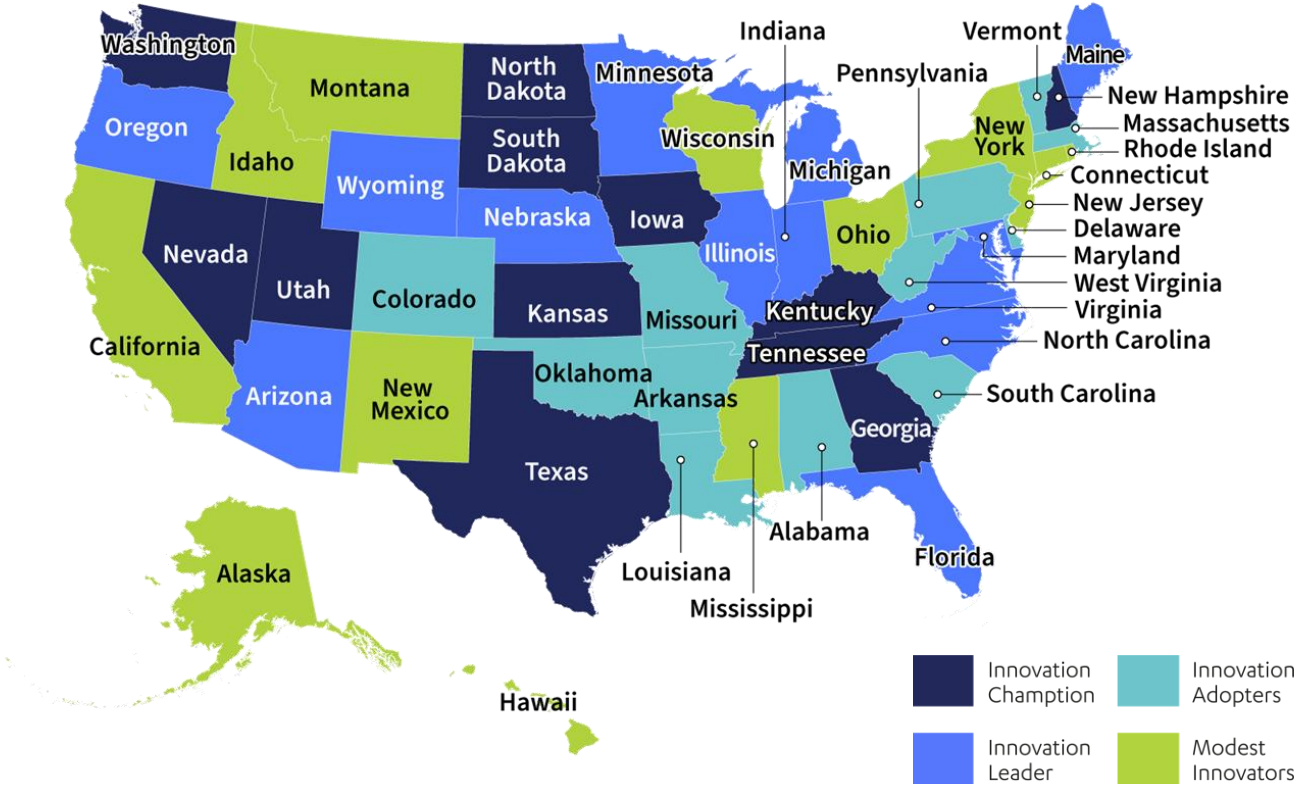
Grid Preparedness	Telehealth	Tort Reform	Mobility	Blockchain	Data Privacy
Alabama Louisiana West Virginia Kansas Kentucky New Jersey North Dakota South Carolina Wyoming Arkansas Maryland Michigan Oregon	Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin	Indiana Kansas Kentucky Oklahoma Vermont Arkansas Hawaii Maine Minnesota Oregon Tennessee Utah	Kentucky Nebraska Alabama Maryland West Virginia (*13 states joint 6th, scoring a B grade*)	New Hampshire South Dakota Utah Vermont Washington Alabama California Georgia Maine Minnesota North Dakota Rhode Island	Tennessee Indiana Kentucky Virginia (*19 states joint 5th, scoring a B+ grade*)

Top States by Category

Manufacturing	Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity	Skilled Workforce	Broadband	Taxes
Georgia	Delaware	Virginia	Rhode Island	South Dakota
Wyoming	California	Colorado	New Jersey	Wyoming
Delaware	Massachusetts	Maryland	Nevada	Alaska
Iowa	Washington	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Florida
Kansas	Colorado	Nebraska	California	Montana
Louisiana	Idaho	Utah	Delaware	New Hampshire
North Dakota	Utah	Iowa	Maryland	Tennessee
Alaska	Wyoming	Nevada	Massachusetts	Texas
Kentucky		Vermont	New York	
Missouri	(*17 states joint 9th, scoring a B grade*)	Washington	Utah	(*19 states joint 9th, scoring a B grade*)
Montana				
Texas				

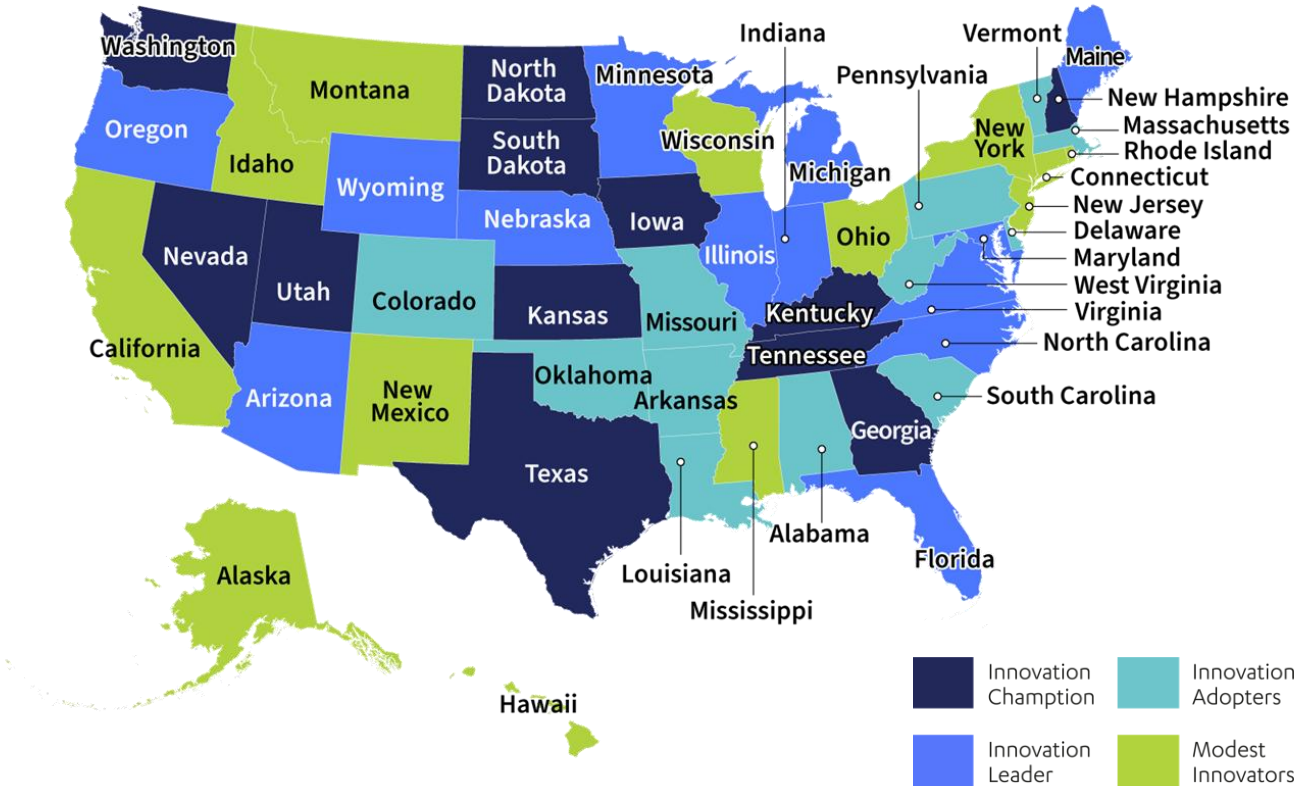
Data

Alabama	2.67	Innovation Adopter
Alaska	2.42	Modest Innovator
Arizona	2.82	Innovation Leader
Arkansas	2.61	Innovation Adopter
California	2.27	Modest Innovator
Colorado	2.61	Innovation Adopter
Connecticut	2.24	Modest Innovator
Delaware	2.54	Innovation Adopter
Florida	2.70	Innovation Leader
Georgia	3.09	Innovation Champion
Hawaii	2.15	Modest Innovator
Idaho	2.27	Modest Innovator
Illinois	2.76	Innovation Leader
Indiana	2.70	Innovation Leader
Iowa	2.88	Innovation Champion
Kansas	3.03	Innovation Champion
Kentucky	3.18	Innovation Champion
Louisiana	2.48	Innovation Adopter
Maine	2.85	Innovation Leader
Maryland	2.70	Innovation Leader
Massachusetts	2.61	Innovation Adopter
Michigan	2.70	Innovation Leader
Minnesota	2.85	Innovation Leader
Mississippi	2.03	Modest Innovator
Missouri	2.52	Innovation Adopter



Data

Montana	2.27	Modest Innovator
Nebraska	2.76	Innovation Leader
Nevada	2.91	Innovation Champion
New Hampshire	3.00	Innovation Champion
New Jersey	2.15	Modest Innovator
New Mexico	2.15	Modest Innovator
New York	2.33	Modest Innovator
North Carolina	2.76	Innovation Leader
North Dakota	3.18	Innovation Champion
Ohio	2.30	Modest Innovator
Oklahoma	2.67	Innovation Adopter
Oregon	2.70	Innovation Leader
Pennsylvania	2.54	Innovation Adopter
Rhode Island	2.42	Modest Innovator
South Carolina	2.55	Innovation Adopter
South Dakota	2.94	Innovation Champion
Tennessee	3.00	Innovation Champion
Texas	2.94	Innovation Champion
Utah	3.21	Innovation Champion
Vermont	2.61	Innovation Adopter
Virginia	2.70	Innovation Leader
Washington	2.94	Innovation Champion
West Virginia	2.58	Innovation Adopter
Wisconsin	2.42	Modest Innovator
Wyoming	2.76	Innovation Leader



Data

	Grid Preparedness	Telehealth	Tort Reform	Mobility	Blockchain	Data Privacy	Manufacturing	Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity	Skilled Workforce	Broadband	Taxes
Alabama	A	B	D	B+	B+	B+	B-	C+	C	C+	C
Alaska	B	A	B-	F	C+	B	B	D+	C	D+	A
Arizona	C+	A	B+	C-	C+	B+	C	B	B	B	B
Arkansas	B+	B	A	D	B-	B+	C+	C+	B	C-	C
California	D-	A	B-	D	B+	F	C	A	B	A-	D-
Colorado	C+	A	B	C+	C+	D-	D+	B+	A-	B	B-
Connecticut	D-	C	B-	D	C+	B+	C+	B	B	B+	D
Delaware	C+	A	F	F	C+	C+	B+	A+	B-	A-	B
Florida	C+	C	C+	B	C+	B	C	B	C+	B+	A
Georgia	B-	B	B+	B	B+	B	A+	B	B	B-	B-
Hawaii	C+	B	A-	F	C+	B	B-	F	C-	B+	C-
Idaho	B	B	C+	F	D+	B	C+	B+	C-	C	B
Illinois	B	A	C+	C-	C+	B+	C+	B-	B	B+	C+
Indiana	B-	B	A+	F	C+	A-	B-	B-	B-	B-	B
Iowa	C+	A	B-	B	C+	B+	B+	C-	B+	B-	B
Kansas	A-	B	A+	B	D+	B	B+	C+	B	B+	B
Kentucky	A-	A	A+	A+	C+	A-	B	C	C+	C+	B
Louisiana	A	B	B	B	C	B+	B+	D-	D	C	C

Data

	Grid Preparedness	Telehealth	Tort Reform	Mobility	Blockchain	Data Privacy	Manufacturing	Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity	Skilled Workforce	Broadband	Taxes
Maine	B-	A	A-	C+	B+	B	C+	B-	B-	C-	B
Maryland	B+	A	C	B+	D+	C+	C+	C+	A-	A-	D+
Massachusetts	C+	A	D	C-	D+	B	C+	A	A-	A-	C-
Michigan	B+	A	B	C-	D+	B+	B-	C	B-	B-	B
Minnesota	C	A	A-	C-	B+	B+	B-	B	B	B	C-
Mississippi	D+	C	B-	B	D+	B	C+	D+	D+	D+	B-
Missouri	C+	A	B-	C-	D+	B	B	B	D	B-	B
Montana	B-	B	C	C-	D+	B+	B	B	F	D+	A-
Nebraska	D	B	C+	A+	C+	B	B-	C+	A-	B	B-
Nevada	C-	B	B	B	C+	B	B-	B	B+	A	B
New Hampshire	B-	A	B-	C+	A+	B+	C-	B	B	B-	B+
New Jersey	A-	C	B-	F	D+	C-	C	B	B	A+	F
New Mexico	C	B	B-	D-	C+	B+	C+	C+	D+	D	B-
New York	D	A	C	C-	C+	B+	C-	B	B	A-	F
North Carolina	C	A	C	B	C+	B+	C	B	B	B-	B
North Dakota	A-	A	B-	B	B+	B	B+	C	B	A	B
Ohio	C+	A	B-	F	C+	B	C+	C	D+	B	C+
Oklahoma	B-	B	A+	C-	C+	B	B-	C	C	B-	B

Data

	Grid Preparedness	Telehealth	Tort Reform	Mobility	Blockchain	Data Privacy	Manufacturing	Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity	Skilled Workforce	Broadband	Taxes
Oregon	B+	A	A-	D	D+	B	C	B	B-	B-	B
Pennsylvania	C	A	B+	C-	C+	B	C+	C+	C-	B	C+
Rhode Island	C	C	B-	C-	B+	C-	D+	C+	B	A+	C+
South Carolina	A-	B	C	C-	D+	B	B-	B-	C+	B	B-
South Dakota	C-	A	B-	B	A-	B+	C-	B	C	B	A+
Tennessee	B	C	A-	B	C+	A+	B-	B	C+	B+	B+
Texas	C-	A	B	B	C+	B	B	B	B-	B+	B+
Utah	C+	A	A-	B	A-	B-	C+	B+	A-	A-	B
Vermont	B	A	A+	D	A-	B+	C	D+	B+	D	C-
Virginia	D+	A	B-	F	C+	A-	C	B	A+	B+	B
Washington	B-	A	B+	C+	A-	B+	C+	A-	B+	C	C-
West Virginia	A	A	B	B+	D+	B	C+	D-	C-	C	B
Wisconsin	B-	A	B-	F	D+	B+	C+	C	B+	C	B
Wyoming	A-	D	B	C-	B+	B+	A+	B+	C+	F	A+

5. Methodology

Methodology

Blockchain

This category assesses state legislation on its policies toward blockchain technologies including cryptocurrency, non-fungible tokens and their treatment of decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs). It assesses four key metrics: A) Whether cryptocurrency, virtual currency, or blockchain has been incorporated into statutory definitions of monetary value, money, or money transmitter or defined separately; B) whether a state has adopted new UCC or UETA amendments to include cryptocurrency or blockchain; C) whether a state has cryptomining restrictions; and D) whether decentralized autonomous organizations can be incorporated organized or recognized as legal entities.

Data Privacy

States are given grading points for this category where the legislation: employs a risk-based focus; maintains legal clarity, without inhibiting businesses' ability to innovate and compete; follows time-tested, consensus-based principles; and embraces transparency, consumer choice and heightened protections for sensitive data. Comprehensive Data Privacy rights and laws make up 85% of the grade and are investigated through consumer rights, transparency, and enforcement. The remaining grade is determined based on whether or not the state has enacted a law protecting sensitive/biometric data.

Taxes

Using data from the Tax Foundation’s 2024 State Business Tax Climate Index, this grade is derived from numerical scoring data, including corporate and individual income taxes, sales tax, unemployment insurance tax and property tax rates. States are graded on a curve and assigned a letter grade from A+ to F.

Methodology

Telehealth

The presence of Telehealth reimbursement is a key driver of this category, and taken as an indicator of innovation. More reimbursement availability leads to a more positive score, as this indicates access to care and relevance of telehealth technologies and systems.

Tort Reform

This category takes into account a variety of tort liability policies and tort burdens per household per state. Liabilities are either: joint and several (negative score impact), modified (neutral), and several (positive). The data comes from the IFS Scorecard.

Grid Preparedness

States that have moved towards lower electricity rates will be viewed as 'grid prepared' and thus supportive of innovation. States with increasing electricity rates will be given lower, less-innovation-friendly scores.

Mobility

Mobility is assessed based on the presence or lack of regulatory limitations on the use and development of newer mobility tech, specifically autonomous vehicles and drones. A more stringent and prohibitive usage policy will lower the grade; testing and research support will positively inform the grading calculation.

Methodology

Skilled Workforce

This category evaluates a state's population on the basis of how many job opportunities there are in the technology industry, the number of apprenticeships, the share of population with an advanced degree and how fair it is to work in that state. Metric A evaluates the number of jobs within the state that are considered within the technology industry per capita (Bureau of Labor Statistics). Metric B measures the number of apprenticeship graduates per capita (US Department of Labor). Metric C measures the share of a state's population with a "Graduate or professional degree"(US Census Bureau's Educational Attainment). Metric D evaluates whether states allow workers to decide whether to join a union or force union participation (National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation). Metric E evaluates a state's LGBTQ-related laws and policies on how protective or harmful they are (Movement Action Project - LGBTQ policy map). Each of these metrics is then normalized to create a score. The final letter grade from A+ to F is determined by the normalized combined score of the metrics.

Broadband

This category evaluates a state's access and quality of its broadband infrastructure. Metrics A-D measure a state's median download and upload speeds for fixed and mobile broadband (Speed Test: Median Internet Speeds). Metric E measures the percentage of households with a broadband subscription (U.S. Census Bureau: ACS). Each of these metrics is then normalized to create a score. The final letter grade from A+ to F is determined by the normalized combined score of the metrics.

Methodology

Manufacturing

This category evaluates a state's manufacturing capabilities, focusing on production, manufacturers, and the manufacturing workforce. Metric A assesses manufacturing production and is split into two parts: A1 uses the manufacturing percentage of GDP, which measures a state's emphasis on manufacturing while accounting for the overall size of its economy, while A2 assesses computer and electronic parts production as it encompasses a diverse range of components. Metric B evaluates the total number of manufacturers, providing insight into a state's overall manufacturing capacity and its business environment for manufacturers. Metric C examined the manufacturing workforce to determine a state's ability to attract and sustain manufacturing employees, offering a broader perspective on workforce growth and industry appeal. Finally, Metric D looks at the percentage of the workforce that is in manufacturing. All data comes from the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), and is supplemented by data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA).

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

This category measures how easy it is to start a new business in a state. There are four metrics used for this category. Metric A tracks the number of new jobs per capita created from Q4 2018 through Q3 2023 by firms with fewer than 50 employees (U.S. Census Bureau: QWI). Metric B measures the number of business applications with planned wages from September 2019 to August 2024 (Census: Business Formation Statistics). Metric C measures the amount of per capita venture capital investment and combined government and private sector research and development. Venture capital investment data comes from PitchBook. Metric D measures domestic R&D paid for by the company and others and performed by the company in 2021 (2023 Business Enterprise Research and Development (BERD) Survey). Each of these metrics is then normalized to create a score. The final letter grade from A+ to F is determined by the normalized average score of the metrics.

ALABAMA

CTA™
Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

★★ Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Alabama do right?

Alabama scores highly on Grid Preparedness and fairly high on Mobility. It has no restrictions on drone usage and allows commercial usage of autonomous vehicles.

What can Alabama do better?

The state could introduce further reforms to its tort system and implement a more business-friendly tax structure. Currently, it imposes a relatively high state tax burden, with an average combined state and local sales tax rate of 9.29%.

Grid Preparedness:	A
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	D
Mobility:	B+
Blockchain:	B+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C+
Skilled Workforce:	C
Broadband:	C+
Taxes:	C

ALABAMA

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

Cryptocurrencies, virtual currency and blockchains are incorporated into statutory definitions of monetary value. There are no restrictions on cryptocurrency mining.

Data Privacy

Alabama has legal frameworks in place to protect sensitive and biometric data, including the 2018 Data Breach Notification Act.

Grid Preparedness

The state produces more energy than it consumes, and ranks 14th nationwide for total energy production.

Mobility

Alabama has no enacted policy limiting drone usage, and allows commercial usage of autonomous vehicles.

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ALASKA

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Alaska do right?

Alaska has comprehensive Telehealth policies, and performs strongly on Taxes. It has the third-best overall tax system nationally, with the joint-lowest individual income tax rate in the U.S.

What can Alaska do better?

The state scores poorly on Mobility, with no enacted policy to support autonomous vehicle development. It also ranks low on Broadband, with relatively slow connection speeds.

Grid Preparedness:	B
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	F
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	D+
Skilled Workforce:	C
Broadband:	D+
Taxes:	A

ALASKA

Areas of Innovation

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Data Privacy

Alaska has legal frameworks in place to protect sensitive and biometric data, including the Alaska Personal Information Protection Act (APIPA), which governs data breach notifications.

Grid Preparedness

The state produces the 13th-highest amount of energy in the U.S.

Taxes

Alaska has a tax-friendly consumer environment, with the joint-lowest individual income tax rate in the U.S., and the fifth-lowest sales tax rate.

Telehealth

Alaska has strong telehealth policies, ensuring broad reimbursement options for remote healthcare services, including live video, audio-only, and asynchronous resources.

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ARIZONA

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Arizona do right?

Arizona scores highly for Telehealth, having adopted comprehensive policies to facilitate remote healthcare. It also scores well for Data Privacy and Tort Reform.

What can Arizona do better?

The state scores relatively poorly on Mobility, with drone usage limited. Arizona also has a relatively low manufacturing output compared to other states.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B+
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	B
Taxes:	B

ARIZONA

Areas of Innovation

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Data Privacy

Arizona has legal frameworks in place to protect sensitive and biometric data.

Taxes

The state performs reasonably well on Taxes, ranking 15th overall and second nationally for unemployment insurance taxes. It also ranks eighth for Individual Taxes.

Telehealth

Arizona has strong telehealth policies, ensuring comprehensive reimbursement options for remote healthcare services.

Tort Reform

Arizona has implemented reasonable tort reform measures, including several policies that provide a balance between consumer protections and limiting excessive litigation.

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ARKANSAS

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Arkansas do right?

Arkansas scores well for Tort Reform, and its measures grant broad anti-SLAPP protections. The state also scores comparatively well on Data Privacy and Grid Preparedness.

What can Arkansas do better?

The state scores poorly on Mobility, only allowing testing to support autonomous vehicle development. Arkansas also ranks low on Broadband, with relatively slow connection speeds.

Grid Preparedness:	B+
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	A
Mobility:	D
Blockchain:	B-
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C+
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	C-
Taxes:	C

ARKANSAS

Areas of Innovation

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Data Privacy

Arkansas has legal frameworks in place to protect sensitive and biometric data, such as the Arkansas Personal Information Protection Act.

Grid Preparedness

Arkansas has the third-cheapest electricity prices in the U.S., falling 6.8% between September 2023 and 2024.

Telehealth

Arkansas has strong telehealth policies, ensuring reimbursement options for remote healthcare services, such as remote patient monitoring and audio-only services.

Tort Reform

Arkansas has implemented robust tort reform measures, including comprehensive anti-SLAPP legislation.

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CALIFORNIA

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did California do right?

California scores well for Telehealth, Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity, and Broadband. The state received the highest total amount of VC and R&D investments nationwide.

What can California do better?

The state scores poorly on Data Privacy, with multiple entities enforcing short curing periods for data privacy enforcement. There are also few exemptions to enforcement. Taxes in California are relatively high, with the state ranking 48th nationally.

Grid Preparedness:	D-
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	D
Blockchain:	B+
Data Privacy:	F
Manufacturing:	C
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	A
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	A-
Taxes:	D-

CALIFORNIA

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

California has incorporated cryptocurrencies, virtual currency and blockchains into statutory definitions of monetary value. It also has no restrictions on cryptocurrency mining.

Broadband

The state enjoys the tenth-fastest fixed broadband speed and the 13th-fastest mobile data speed nationwide.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

California received the highest levels of VC and R&D investment nationwide, as well as the highest number of new business applications between 2018 and 2023.

Telehealth

California has extensive telehealth policies, ensuring comprehensive reimbursement options for remote healthcare services.

About the Scorecard

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COLORADO

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Colorado do right?

Colorado scores well for Telehealth, Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity, and Skilled Workforce. The state has above the national average of technology jobs, and 18% of its workforce has an advanced degree.

What can Colorado do better?

The state scores poorly on Data Privacy, with short curing periods for data privacy enforcement. There are also few exemptions to enforcement. Colorado could improve its manufacturing sector, currently scoring below the national average on manufacturing production.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B
Mobility:	C+
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	D-
Manufacturing:	D+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B+
Skilled Workforce:	A-
Broadband:	B
Taxes:	B-

COLORADO

Areas of Innovation

CTA's Innovation Scorecard is formulated using a range of complementary factors that indicates how strongly a state supports innovation. These factors may relate to the regulation of newer mobility tech, data privacy rights, ease of doing business or infrastructure that support technological innovation.

Broadband

The state received a higher than average combined score, and produced above average mobile download speeds.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

Colorado received the sixth-highest amount of VC investment per capita between 2018-2023, and the 12th-highest net number of jobs created.

Skilled Workforce

Colorado has the third-highest rate of tech jobs per 1000 people nationally as well as the joint-sixth highest percentage of the population with advanced degrees at 18.1%.

Telehealth

Colorado has extensive telehealth policies, ensuring comprehensive reimbursement options for remote healthcare services.

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CONNECTICUT

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Connecticut do right?

Connecticut scores fairly high in Broadband with very high median download speeds and high median upload speeds. It also scores high in Data Privacy scores owing to fairly comprehensive policies.

What can Connecticut do better?

The state could improve its electricity rates, having seen a year-on-year increase of 5% to its electricity costs. The state also scores relatively low in Mobility and Taxes, where it scores the fourth lowest compared to other states.

Grid Preparedness:	D-
Telehealth:	C
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	D
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	B+
Taxes:	D

CONNECTICUT

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Connecticut enjoys faster than average connection speeds, including ranking second for fixed download speeds and 16th for upload speeds.

Data Privacy

The state has enacted data rights legislation which solidifies privacy obligations for businesses.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:

Connecticut ranks sixth for VC and seventh for overall R&D investment per capita.

Skilled Workforce

Connecticut has the third-highest percentage of the population with advanced degrees in the U.S., at 19%.

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DELAWARE

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Delaware do right?

Delaware scores highly for Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity, Telehealth, and Broadband infrastructure. It has high VC investment rates and fast internet speeds.

What can Delaware do better?

The state scores poorly for Tort Reform and Mobility. It has no statutes to allow autonomous vehicle activity, and relatively weak anti-SLAPP protections.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	F
Mobility:	F
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	C+
Manufacturing:	B+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	A+
Skilled Workforce:	B-
Broadband:	A-
Taxes:	B

DELAWARE

Areas of Innovation

CTA's Innovation Scorecard is formulated using a range of complementary factors that indicates how strongly a state supports innovation. These factors may relate to the regulation of newer mobility tech, data privacy rights, ease of doing business or infrastructure that support technological innovation.

Broadband

The state enjoys the fourth-highest median download speeds for fixed connections nationwide.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

The state has the joint-highest VC investment per capita in the country, as well as the fifth-highest rate of R&D investment per capita.

Manufacturing

Delaware boasted a 29% increase in the size of its manufacturing workforce since 2021, the third highest increase nationally.

Telehealth

Delaware has comprehensive reimbursement options for remote healthcare services.

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FLORIDA

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Florida do right?

Florida scores highly for Taxes, with no state income tax and a lower than average sales tax rate. It also scores well for its Blockchain and Broadband sectors.

What can Florida do better?

The state scores poorly for Manufacturing and Telehealth. It provides reimbursement for only a limited range of telehealth services.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	C
Tort Reform:	C+
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	C
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	C+
Broadband:	B+
Taxes:	A

FLORIDA

Areas of Innovation

CTA's Innovation Scorecard is formulated using a range of complementary factors that indicates how strongly a state supports innovation. These factors may relate to the regulation of newer mobility tech, data privacy rights, ease of doing business or infrastructure that support technological innovation.

Broadband

The state enjoys the third-highest median download speeds for fixed connections nationwide.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

Florida produced the second highest rate of net job creation between Q4 2018 and Q3 2023. It also received the third highest number of new business applications.

Mobility

Florida has no restrictions on autonomous vehicles, and has enacted anti-trespassing laws for drone usage.

Taxes

Florida has no state income tax, a lower than average state sales tax, and the fourth-best tax climate nationwide for businesses.

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GEORGIA

Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Georgia do right?

Georgia scores highly for Manufacturing, with 9.9% of its GDP stemming from the sector. It also scores well for Blockchain and Tort Reform, with strong anti-SLAPP measures.

What can Georgia do better?

The state scores relatively poorly for Broadband and Taxes, with slower than average mobile and fixed connection speeds and a relatively high property tax burden.

Grid Preparedness:	B-
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	B+
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	B+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	A+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	B-
Taxes:	B-

GEORGIA

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

Cryptocurrencies, virtual currency and blockchains are incorporated into statutory definitions of monetary value. There are no restrictions on cryptocurrency mining.

Manufacturing

Over 400,000 people are employed in Georgia's manufacturing sector, which is home to over 8000 manufacturing companies.

Telehealth

Georgia has broad telehealth policies, ensuring reimbursement options for a range of remote healthcare services.

Tort Reform

The state scores highly for protections of covered speech, with robust anti-SLAPP mechanisms.

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HAWAII

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Hawaii do right?

Hawaii scores well for Tort Reform, including comprehensive anti-SLAPP protections. It also received a good Broadband grade, assisted by above-average fixed connection speeds.

What can Hawaii do better?

The state scores poorly for Mobility and Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity. Hawaii has no statute permitting autonomous vehicles on roads and it recorded negative job growth rates over the past five years.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	A-
Mobility:	F
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	F
Skilled Workforce:	C-
Broadband:	B+
Taxes:	C-

HAWAII

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Hawaii ranks 13th in the U.S. for fixed broadband speeds. It also has above average mobile upload speeds.

Manufacturing

Hawaii has experienced a growth rate of 6.25% in manufacturing contributions to its GDP since 2021.

Telehealth

Hawaii provides access to reimbursement for most forms of remote healthcare services.

Tort Reform

In 2022, Hawaii introduced a reformed anti-SLAPP statute that provides comprehensive protections.

About the Scorecard

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IDAHO

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Idaho do right?

Idaho scores well for Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity, with the highest net job creation rate in the U.S. per 1000 people over the past five years.

What can Idaho do better?

The state scores poorly for Mobility and Broadband. It has no statute that allows autonomous vehicles and has the fifth-slowest fixed broadband download speeds nationwide. It also does not incorporate cryptocurrency as having monetary value in its statutory definitions.

Grid Preparedness:	B
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	C+
Mobility:	F
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B+
Skilled Workforce:	C-
Broadband:	C
Taxes:	B

IDAHO

Areas of Innovation

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Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

Idaho has the highest rate of net jobs created in the U.S. per 1000 people, and the ninth-highest new business formation rate.

Grid Preparedness

Idaho enjoys some of the cheapest electricity rates in the country.

Taxes

The state ranks 11th overall for its tax structure. It additionally ranks third for property taxes and ninth for sales taxes.

Telehealth

Idaho grants access to reimbursement opportunities for most forms of remote healthcare services.

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ILLINOIS

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Illinois do right?

Illinois scores well for Telehealth, as well as Broadband and Data Privacy. These scores are boosted by comprehensive remote healthcare options, robust data privacy protections and the fastest median mobile internet download speeds in the U.S.

What can Illinois do better?

The state scores relatively poorly for Mobility, with restrictions on drone use. Illinois could also improve its Tort Reform score by lowering its tort burden per household which is currently above the national average.

Grid Preparedness:	B
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	C+
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B-
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	B+
Taxes:	C+

ILLINOIS

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Illinois has the fastest median mobile internet download speeds in the U.S.

Data Privacy

Illinois has legal frameworks in place to protect sensitive and biometric data, such as the Personal Information Protection Act.

Grid Preparedness

The state contributes above the national average production share of electricity, and its consumption rates are below the national average.

Telehealth

Illinois has extensive telehealth policies, ensuring comprehensive reimbursement options for remote healthcare services.

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INDIANA

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Indiana do right?

Indiana scores well for Tort Reform, having comprehensive anti-SLAPP legislation and protections, as well as a low tort burden per household. It also scores well for Data Privacy.

What can Indiana do better?

The state scores poorly for Mobility, with no legislation covering autonomous vehicles use and some limitations on drone activity.

Grid Preparedness:	B-
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	A+
Mobility:	F
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	A-
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B-
Skilled Workforce:	B-
Broadband:	B-
Taxes:	B

INDIANA

Areas of Innovation

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Data Privacy

Indiana has comprehensive consumer rights and sensitive data legislation, allowing consumers control over their data.

Taxes

Indiana's tax system ranks 10th overall, and has low, single-rate state income taxes. It also has one of the most efficient property tax systems in the nation.

Telehealth

Indiana has strong telehealth policies, ensuring reimbursement options for remote healthcare services, such as remote patient monitoring and audio-only services.

Tort Reform

Indiana has several liability laws, and very comprehensive anti-SLAPP legislation.

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IOWA

CTA™
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Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Iowa do right?

Iowa ranks highly for Telehealth, with comprehensive remote healthcare options available. It also scores well on Data Privacy, Manufacturing and Skilled Workforce.

What can Iowa do better?

The state scores relatively poorly for Blockchain and Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity. It has not incorporated cryptocurrency, virtual currency, or blockchain into statutory definitions of monetary value, money, or money transmitters.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	B+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C-
Skilled Workforce:	B+
Broadband:	B-
Taxes:	B

IOWA

Areas of Innovation

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Data Privacy

Iowa has comprehensive consumer rights and sensitive data legislation, allowing consumers control over their data. This includes the 2025 Iowa Consumer Data Protection Act.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing accounts for 17.2% of Iowa's GDP, with machinery as the state's largest export, valued at $10 billion in 2023.

Skilled Workforce

Iowa has strong right-to-work legislation, and the eighth-highest apprentice graduates per 1000 people.

Telehealth

Iowa has extensive telehealth policies, ensuring comprehensive reimbursement options for remote healthcare services.

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KANSAS

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Kansas do right?

Kansas ranks very highly on Tort Reform and Grid Preparedness, and fairly well on Broadband and Manufacturing, with a higher manufacturing contribution to its GDP than 86% of other states.

What can Kansas do better?

The state scores relatively poorly for Blockchain and Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity. It has not incorporated cryptocurrency, virtual currency, or blockchain into statutory definitions of monetary value, money, or money transmitters.

Grid Preparedness:	A-
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	A+
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C+
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	B+
Taxes:	B

KANSAS

Areas of Innovation

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Grid Preparedness

The state has relatively affordable electricity unit costs nationwide.

Manufacturing

14.5% of Kansas' GDP in 2023 stemmed from manufacturing production, more than the vast majority of other states nationwide.

Tort Reform

Kansas has broad anti-SLAPP legislation, several liability laws and a relatively low tort burden per household.

Broadband

92% of Kansas households are connected to broadband networks, and it has faster fixed and mobile internet speeds than 60% of U.S. states.

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KENTUCKY

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Kentucky do right?

Kentucky performs very well on Tort Reform and Mobility, with no restrictions on autonomous vehicles and no enacted policy limiting drone use. The state additionally scores well on Data Privacy, granting consumers with high levels of control over their data.

What can Kentucky do better?

The state could improve its Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity metric, currently attracting below the national average of VC investments and fewer new business applications than most other states. Kentucky could also improve its Skilled Workforce as it has less than half the national average of technology jobs.

Grid Preparedness:	A-
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	A+
Mobility:	C+
Blockchain:	A-
Data Privacy:	A-
Manufacturing:	B
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C
Skilled Workforce:	C+
Broadband:	C+
Taxes:	B

KENTUCKY

Areas of Innovation

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Data Privacy

Kentucky provides its consumers with high levels of control over their data and scores highly for data privacy transparency.

Grid Preparedness

The state also produces 0.9% of the nation's electricity production, ranking 15th. It is also in the bottom 30% of electricity consumers.

Mobility

Kentucky has no restrictions on autonomous vehicles and no laws enacted to limit drone usage.

Tort Reform

The state offers robust speech coverage, grants the right to an immediate appeal, scores highly for award costs and attorney fees, and its tort burden per household is below the national average.

About the Scorecard

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LOUISIANA

CTA™
Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Louisiana do right?

Louisiana scores highly on Grid Preparedness as the second lowest electricity consumer nationally. It additionally performs well on Manufacturing metrics, seeing a 10% increase in its manufacturing contributions to its GDP since 2021.

What can Louisiana do better?

The state could improve its Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity sector as it has the lowest R&D investments per capita and the fifth lowest VC investments per capita. Louisiana could also improve its Skilled Workforce as it currently has the second lowest amount of technology jobs per 1000 people nationally.

Grid Preparedness:	A
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	B
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	C
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	B+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	D-
Skilled Workforce:	D
Broadband:	C
Taxes:	C

LOUISIANA

Areas of Innovation

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Grid Preparedness

Louisiana has the second lowest electricity consumption rate across the U.S., and is the 6th highest electricity producer which places it in the top 12%.

Manufacturing

The state also performs well in Manufacturing, having the third highest manufacturing percent contribution to its GDP. It has seen a 10% increase in this GDP contribution since 2021.

Mobility

Louisiana has no restrictions on the use of autonomous vehicles, and some exceptions to drone usage.

Telehealth

The state allows for reimbursement on most forms of remote healthcare.

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MAINE

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Maine do right?

Maine scores well on Telehealth and Tort Reform with the second lowest tort burden per household. It also has a reasonably strong Blockchain industry having implemented definitions of cryptocurrency and virtual currency into legislation.

What can Maine do better?

The state scores poorly on Broadband, having the second slowest average mobile upload speed and the fourth lowest median upload speed. Maine could also improve its Manufacturing, currently ranking seventh lowest for manufacturers per state.

Grid Preparedness:	B-
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	A-
Mobility:	C+
Blockchain:	B+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B-
Skilled Workforce:	B-
Broadband:	C
Taxes:	B

MAINE

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

Cryptocurrencies, virtual currency and blockchains are incorporated into statutory definitions of monetary value. Additionally, Maine has no restrictions on cryptocurrency mining.

Taxes

Maine scores relatively well on Taxes, ranking 29th nationally, eighth on sales taxes and 19th for its unemployment insurance tax scheme.

Telehealth

Maine grants access to reimbursement for a wide range of telehealth services.

Tort Reform

Maine has the second lowest tort burden per household nationally, as well as anti-SLAPP legislation, covered speech, and allows immediate appeals.

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MARYLAND

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Maryland do right?

Maryland has a strong Broadband infrastructure, with higher upload speeds than 88% of other states and download speeds higher than 80% of other states. It also scores well on its Skilled Workforce with more jobs in its technology sector than 74% of other states.

What can Maryland do better?

The state could improve on its Taxes, ranking 46th overall and 45th for its Income Tax structure. It could also improve on Tort Reform metrics by implementing more comprehensive covered speech and anti-SLAPP legislation.

Grid Preparedness:	B+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	C
Mobility:	B+
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	C+
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C+
Skilled Workforce:	A-
Broadband:	A-
Taxes:	D+

MARYLAND

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Maryland ranks ninth for its median download speed and sixth for its median upload speed, higher than 88% of states.

Grid Preparedness

Maryland is one of the lowest electricity consumers nationally, ranking in the bottom six consumers.

Skilled Workforce

The state has implemented laws to protect its workers and has more jobs in its technology sector than 74% of other states.

Telehealth

Maryland grants access to reimbursement for a wide range of telehealth services.

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MASSACHUSETTS

CTA™
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Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Massachusetts do right?

Massachusetts performs well in its Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity, attracting the third highest VC and R&D investments nationwide. It also scores highly on Broadband and Skilled Workforce, ranking first for the amount of advanced degrees in its workforce.

What can Massachusetts do better?

Massachusetts could improve on its Taxes, currently ranking 41st overall, 46th for property taxes, and 47th for unemployment insurance tax. The state also scores poorly on Mobility as it does not currently have a statute on autonomous vehicles.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	D
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	A
Skilled Workforce:	A-
Broadband:	A-
Taxes:	C-

MASSACHUSETTS

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Massachusetts has the fifth highest mobile upload speed and the eighth highest overall combined score.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

The state attracts better than average investments, ranking third for both VC and R&D investments.

Skilled Workforce

Massachusetts has the sixth highest amount of technology jobs and the highest amount of advanced degrees in its workforce.

Telehealth

Massachusetts grants access to reimbursement for a wide range of telehealth services.

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MICHIGAN

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Michigan do right?

Michigan scores highly for Telehealth and Data Privacy. The state also performs reasonably well on Grid Preparedness, consuming less electricity on average than most states.

What can Michigan do better?

The state scores poorly on Blockchain where it has yet to incorporate definitions of cryptocurrency and virtual currency into its legislation. It also does not permit decentralized autonomous organizations (DOAs) to be incorporated, organized, or recognized as legal entities.

Grid Preparedness:	B+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C
Skilled Workforce:	B-
Broadband:	B-
Taxes:	B

MICHIGAN

Areas of Innovation

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Grid Preparedness

Michigan ranks in the bottom half of electricity consumers nationally, and consumes less electricity per capita than most states.

Taxes

The state scores relatively well for its tax system, ranking 14th nationally and ninth for corporate taxes.

Telehealth

The state grants access to reimbursement for a wide range of telehealth services.

Tort Reform

The tort burden per household in Michigan is below the national average.

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MINNESOTA

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Minnesota do right?

Minnesota performs well on Telehealth and Tort Reform, ranking ninth overall. It also ranks well on Blockchain and Data Privacy, granting exemptions and enacting legislation to protect sensitive data.

What can Minnesota do better?

The state scores poorly on Taxes, ranking 44th overall, 43rd in corporate taxes, and 42nd in unemployment insurance tax. Minnesota could also improve its Mobility by implementing a statue on the use of autonomous vehicles.

Grid Preparedness:	C
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	A-
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	B+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	B
Taxes:	C-

MINNESOTA

Areas of Innovation

CTA's Innovation Scorecard is formulated using a range of complementary factors that indicate how strongly a state supports innovation. These factors may relate to the regulation of newer mobility tech, data privacy rights, ease of doing business or infrastructure that supports technological innovation.

Blockchain

Minnesota incorporates legal definitions of cryptocurrency and virtual currency into its legislation. It also has no restrictions on cryptomining.

Data Privacy

Minnesota has enacted legislation to protect sensitive data and grants exemptions to its data privacy laws.

Telehealth

The state grants access to reimbursement for a wide range of telehealth services.

Tort Reform

Minnesota scores highly on covered speech, anti-SLAPP legislation, and award of costs and attorney fees. It also has the ninth highest overall Tort Reform score, ranking above 41 other states.

About the Scorecard

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MISSISSIPPI

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Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Mississippi do right?

Mississippi scores fairly well in Mobility, with drone usage only subject to anti-trespassing laws. Autonomous vehicles are permitted if capable of complying with all traffic and safety laws in the state.

What can Mississippi do better?

The state could improve its Blockchain grade by incorporating cryptocurrency, virtual currency, and blockchain into statutory definitions. Mississippi could also improve its Broadband infrastructure as it currently scores second lowest in median upload speeds compared to other states.

Grid Preparedness:	D+
Telehealth:	C
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	D+
Skilled Workforce:	D+
Broadband:	D+
Taxes:	B-

MISSISSIPPI

Areas of Innovation

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Manufacturing

The state's manufacturing workforce is above the national average and has seen a growth of 23% since 2021, constituting the fifth highest increase.

Mobility

Mississippi permits autonomous vehicles subject to compliance with local traffic laws. Drone usage is generally permitted, pursuant to anti-trespassing laws.

Taxes

Mississippi ranks 27th overall for its tax structures, and ranks sixth for corporate taxes.

Tort Reform

The tort burden per household in Mississippi is lower than 80% of other states.

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MISSOURI

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Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Missouri do right?

Missouri scores highly on Telehealth, allowing for reimbursement on a range of telehealth services. It also scores competitively on taxes, ranking 13th overall and is in the top ten states for corporate tax and UI tax components.

What can Missouri do better?

The state scores poorly on Skilled Workforce as it does not allow workers to decide whether to join unions and does not have laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment. Missouri could also improve its Blockchain by incorporating cryptocurrency, virtual currency, and blockchain into statutory definitions.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	D
Broadband:	B-
Taxes:	B

MISSOURI

Areas of Innovation

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Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

Missouri has created over 110,000 new net jobs from Q4 2018 through Q3 2023 and ranks 20th overall in job creation.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing in the state accounts for 11.7% of its GDP, higher than 66% of other states.

Taxes

Missouri's tax system ranks 13th overall, and is in the top ten states for corporate tax and UI tax components. It also maintains a relatively low state sales tax rate of 4.225%.

Telehealth

Missouri scores higher than 42% of other states in this sector and allows for reimbursement for a range of telehealth services.

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MONTANA

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Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Montana do right?

Montana ranks fifth overall in Taxes, including third for its sales tax rates. The state also scores fairly highly on Data Privacy and has enacted state law aimed to protect sensitive and biometric data.

What can Montana do better?

Montana could improve its Skilled Workforce grade with its number of technology related jobs per capita among the bottom 10% of states. The state also scores relatively low on Broadband, where it has the lowest median upload score of all states and is in the bottom 20% of median download speeds.

Grid Preparedness:	B-
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	C
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	B
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	F
Broadband:	D+
Taxes:	A-

MONTANA

Areas of Innovation

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Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

From Q4 2018 through Q3 2023, Montana created 42.4 new jobs per 1000 people, placing it in the top 5% of states for job creation.

Manufacturing

The manufacturing workforce in Montana increased by almost 20% between 2021 and 2023, the eighth highest increase across all states.

Taxes

The state boasts a robust tax system, scoring fifth overall. Montana also ranking third in sales taxes.

Telehealth

Montana allows for reimbursement for a wide range of telehealth services.

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NEBRASKA

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Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Nebraska do right?

Nebraska scores very highly for Mobility, it has no restrictions on drone usage, and allows for the use of autonomous vehicles. The state also scores fairly highly on Skilled Workforce as it allows workers to decide whether to join unions.

What can Nebraska do better?

Nebraska could improve its Grid Preparedness as its energy production levels are below the national average, ranking 33rd overall. It also ranks eighth for energy consumption.

Grid Preparedness:	D
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	C+
Mobility:	A+
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C+
Skilled Workforce:	A-
Broadband:	B
Taxes:	B-

NEBRASKA

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Nebraska enjoys faster than average upload and mobile connection speeds.

Data Privacy

Nebraska scores well on data privacy metrics and has legal frameworks in place to protect consumer rights, such as the 2024 Nebraska Data Privacy Act.

Mobility

Nebraska has no restrictions on the use of drones and autonomous vehicles are permitted in alignment with state traffic and safety regulations.

Skilled Workforce

The state allows workers the freedom to choose whether to join a union.

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NEVADA

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Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Nevada do right?

The state scores highly on Broadband, ranking third overall for its combined upload, download, and mobile speeds. Nevada also scores fairly well on Skilled Workforce as it allows workers to decide whether to join unions and has policies in place to protect workers.

What can Nevada do better?

Nevada could improve its Grid Preparedness as it contributes only 0.1% of the country's electricity production. The state could also improve its Blockchain score by incorporating cryptocurrency, virtual currency, or blockchain into statutory definitions of monetary value, money, money transmitter or defined separately.

Grid Preparedness:	C-
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	B
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B+
Broadband:	A
Taxes:	B

NEVADA

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Nevada ranks third overall for its Broadband infrastructure. It scores above the national average on upload and download speeds.

Mobility

Nevada permits the use of autonomous vehicles and has regulations on drone usage, which requires users to pass the Recreational UAS Safety Test (TRUST).

Skilled Workforce

The state allows workers to decide whether to join unions and has policies in place to protect LGBTQ+ workers.

Tort Reform

The tort burden per household in Nevada is below the national average.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did New Hampshire do right?

New Hampshire scores very highly on Blockchain as the state has incorporated laws that define cryptocurrency and virtual currency. The state scores well on Data Privacy following its 2024 enactment of comprehensive data protection laws.

What can New Hampshire do better?

The state could improve its Manufacturing grade as manufacturing in New Hampshire accounts for less than the national average of the state's GDP. It could also improve its Mobility score by allowing for expanded uses of autonomous vehicles.

Grid Preparedness:	B-
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	C+
Blockchain:	A+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	B-
Taxes:	B+

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

New Hampshire state laws include definitions of virtual currency, and it has not placed regulations on cryptomining.

Data Privacy

The state has enacted comprehensive data privacy laws.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

New Hampshire scored above the national average for net job creation between Q4 2018 and Q3 2023.

Taxes

New Hampshire ranks sixth overall for its robust tax structure. It additionally ranks first nationally on sales taxes.

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NEW JERSEY

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What did New Jersey do right?

New Jersey scores very highly on its Broadband infrastructure ranking second overall for its combined upload, download, and mobile speeds. The state also performs well in Grid Preparedness, Skilled Workforce, and Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity.

What can New Jersey do better?

New Jersey scores poorly on Taxes, ranking 49th overall for its tax system and last for its unemployment insurance tax system. It also performs poorly on Mobility indicators due to it not having any statutes on autonomous vehicles and having limitations on drone usage.

Grid Preparedness:	A-
Telehealth:	C
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	F
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	C-
Manufacturing:	C
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	A+
Taxes:	F

NEW JERSEY

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

New Jersey boasts higher than average download and upload speeds. Users also enjoy higher than average mobile connection speeds.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

New Jersey secured more than the national average of VC investment per capita, and it ranks sixth for R&D investments.

Grid Preparedness

The state ranks 37th for its consumption of electricity, but contributes only 0.1% to nationwide production.

Skilled Workforce

New Jersey scores above the national average for jobs in the technology sector, placing it in the top 30%. The state is also in the top ten for the percentage of its population with advanced degrees.

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NEW MEXICO

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Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did New Mexico do right?

New Mexico scores highly on Data Privacy due to fairly comprehensive policies. The state also ranks well on Tort Reform, partly as a result of its anti-SLAPP legislation.

What can New Mexico do better?

New Mexico scores poorly on Mobility where it scores lower than 42 other states. New Mexico also scores below the national average on download and upload speeds, ranking second to last on the latter.

Grid Preparedness:	C
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	D-
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C+
Skilled Workforce:	D+
Broadband:	D
Taxes:	B-

NEW MEXICO

Areas of Innovation

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Data Privacy

New Mexico requires businesses to report data breaches to customers within a 45-day timeframe and requires organizations to implement measures to protect PII.

Taxes

New Mexico scores well on certain tax metrics, such as property taxes, where it ranks second nationally.

Telehealth

The state allows for a large range of telehealth reimbursements for patients.

Tort Reform

New Mexico grants the right to an immediate appeal and has a lower than average tort burden per household.

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NEW YORK

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did New York do right?

New York scores highly for Telehealth given its comprehensive policies to facilitate remote healthcare and provide reimbursement for a range of practices. It also performs well in Broadband, ranking in the top 25% of states for download speeds.

What can New York do better?

New York's Taxes score is poor, ranking last nationally for its tax system overall and high state income tax. New York could improve its Grid Preparedness as it contributes only 0.5% to the nation's electricity production while being the highest energy consumer.

Grid Preparedness:	D
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	C
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	A-
Taxes:	F

NEW YORK

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

New York scores well on its Broadband infrastructure, ranking in the top 25% of download speeds across the country.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

New York boasts the second highest rates of VC investments and the fifth highest rates of R&D investments.

Skilled Workforce

The state has the joint fifth highest amount of workers with advanced degrees, and has the third highest amount of jobs in the technology sector.

Telehealth

New York grants access to reimbursement to a broad range of remote healthcare services.

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NORTH CAROLINA

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Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did North Carolina do right?

North Carolina scores well on Telehealth metrics, granting access to reimbursement on a range of remote health services. It also scores fairly high on Data Privacy as a result of the 2024 North Carolina Consumer Privacy Act (NCCPA).

What can North Carolina do better?

North Carolina could improve its Grid Preparedness as it currently contributes only 0.6% to national electricity production, below the national average. It could also improve on Tort Reform metrics, scoring in the bottom eight states.

Grid Preparedness:	C
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	C
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	B-
Taxes:	B

NORTH CAROLINA

Areas of Innovation

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Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

The state scored above the national average for net job creation between Q4 2018 and Q3 2023, placing it in the top five.

Mobility

North Carolina permits the usage of autonomous vehicles in alignment with state laws, and prohibits the use of drones near prisons, jails, and correctional facilities.

Skilled Workforce

North Carolina created more than double the national average for job creation, ranking in the top five states overall. It also placed in the top ten states for R&D investments.

Taxes

The state ranks 12th overall for its tax system, and third for corporate taxes.

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NORTH DAKOTA

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Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did North Dakota do right?

North Dakota scores highly on its Broadband infrastructure, boasting the highest median upload speed in the nation. It performs well in Grid Preparedness as well, consuming less electricity than 47 other states while also being the eighth largest producer.

What can North Dakota do better?

North Dakota scores poorly on Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity with the second lowest overall score for new business applications, fourth lowest for VC investments, and fifth lowest for net job creation.

Grid Preparedness:	A-
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	B+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	A
Taxes:	B

NORTH DAKOTA

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

Cryptocurrencies, virtual currency and blockchains are incorporated into statutory definitions of monetary value. The state has no restrictions on cryptocurrency mining.

Broadband

North Dakota boasts the highest median upload speed nationally, more than double the national average. It also has above average download speeds.

Grid Preparedness

North Dakota is the third lowest electricity consumer in the U.S., and is the eighth highest producer.

Telehealth

The state has comprehensive reimbursement options for remote healthcare services.

About the Scorecard

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OHIO

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Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Ohio do right?

Ohio performs highly on its Telehealth systems, facilitating reimbursement for a wide range of services. The state also scores relatively well on for its Broadband infrastructure, with faster than average upload and download speeds.

What can Ohio do better?

Ohio scores poorly on Mobility as it does not currently have any statute on autonomous vehicles and it has strict limitations on drone usage. It could improve its Skilled Workforce score by allowing workers to decide whether to join unions and by enacted more robust laws to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identify in employment.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	F
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C
Skilled Workforce:	D+
Broadband:	B
Taxes:	C+

OHIO

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Ohio has well performing Broadband infrastructure, with higher than average upload and download speeds. It also has faster than average mobile connection speeds.

Data Privacy

Ohio has legislation in place that requires that residents be notified if their personal information has been accessed or acquired by unauthorized personnel.

Telehealth

The state permits patient reimbursement for a broad range of telehealth services.

Tort Reform

The tort burden per household in Ohio is below the national average.

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OKLAHOMA

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Oklahoma do right?

Oklahoma scores very highly on Tort Reform metrics, with the third highest overall ranking. The state also performs well on Telehealth and Taxes, ranking fifth for its corporate tax system.

What can Oklahoma do better?

Oklahoma could improve its Mobility by reducing limitations on autonomous vehicle usage. It also scores relatively poorly for its Skilled Workforce where it has below half the national average of tech jobs and below the national average of workers with advanced degrees.

Grid Preparedness:	B-
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	A+
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C
Skilled Workforce:	C
Broadband:	B-
Taxes:	B

OKLAHOMA

Areas of Innovation

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Grid Preparedness

The state produces 4.3% of the nation's electricity supply, ranking seventh overall in production.

Taxes

Oklahoma scores 21st overall for its tax system. It scores particularly well for its corporate tax structure and unemployment insurance tax scheme, ranking fifth and sixth, respectively.

Telehealth

The state allows for reimbursement of a majority of Telehealth services.

Tort Reform

Oklahoma has the third highest overall score for Tort Reform. It boasts comprehensive speech coverage and grants the right to immediate appeals.

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OREGON

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Oregon do right?

Oregon ranks in the top ten states for Tort Reform, with robust speech coverage, the right to an immediate appeal, and anti-SLAPP legislation. It also scores highly for Telehealth, and Grid Preparedness with low electricity consumption rates.

What can Oregon do better?

Oregon could improve its Blockchain by implementing definitions into legislation of cryptocurrency and virtual currency. The state also scores poorly on Mobility as autonomous vehicles are only permitted for testing and there are broad restrictions on drone usage.

Grid Preparedness:	B+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	A-
Mobility:	D
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C
Skilled Workforce:	B-
Broadband:	B-
Taxes:	B

OREGON

Areas of Innovation

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Grid Preparedness

Oregon scores comparatively well on Grid Preparedness metrics as a low electricity consumer, ranking 41st nationally in consumption.

Taxes

Oregon scores comparatively well on Taxes, it ranks 30th overall, and fourth for sales taxes nationally.

Telehealth

The state allows for reimbursement on all Telehealth services.

Tort Reform

Oregon has implemented robust speech coverage laws, grants the right to immediate appeals and has anti-SLAPP legislation.

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PENNSYLVANIA

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Pennsylvania do right?

Pennsylvania scores highly for Telehealth, having adopted comprehensive policies to facilitate remote healthcare. The state additionally performs well on Tort Reform indicators and scores relatively well on Broadband.

What can Pennsylvania do better?

Pennsylvania could improve its Skilled Workforce by giving workers the right to decide whether to join unions and by implementing broader laws to protect LGBTQ+ workers. Pennsylvania could also improve on Mobility by widening its scope on permitted uses of autonomous vehicles.

Grid Preparedness:	C
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B+
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C+
Skilled Workforce:	C-
Broadband:	B
Taxes:	C+

PENNSYLVANIA

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Pennsylvania scores in the top 48% of states for average download speeds. It additionally scores above the national average of overall combined scores.

Taxes

Pennsylvania ranks 34th overall for its tax system, and ninth for property taxes.

Telehealth

The state allows for reimbursement on all Telehealth services, scoring in the top 55% of states.

Tort Reform

Pennsylvania scores very highly on covered speech and grants the right to an immediate appeal. The state also scores highly on award costs and attorney fees.

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RHODE ISLAND

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Rhode Island do right?

Rhode Island scores very highly on Broadband metrics, ranking first for its overall combined score. It also scores well on Blockchain having incorporated cryptocurrency definitions into state law. The state additionally has no restrictions on cryptomining.

What can Rhode Island do better?

Rhode Island could improve its Manufacturing sector, it scores below the national average of manufacturing contributions to its GDP and had the seventh lowest increase in manufacturers sine 2021. Rhode Island also has strict Data Privacy laws with few exemptions.

Grid Preparedness:	C
Telehealth:	C
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	B+
Data Privacy:	C-
Manufacturing:	D+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C+
Skilled Workforce:	B
Broadband:	A+
Taxes:	C+

RHODE ISLAND

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

Cryptocurrencies, virtual currency and blockchains are incorporated into statutory definitions of monetary value. Rhode Island has no restrictions on cryptocurrency mining.

Broadband

Rhode Island boasts the highest overall combined score of Broadband metrics. It also ranks first for download speed, second for upload speed, and third for mobile upload speed.

Tort Reform

Rhode Island scores well on award of costs and attorney fee metrics. It also has covered speech and anti-SLAPP legislation in place.

Skilled Workforce

The workforce in Rhode Island has more advanced degrees than the national average. The state has also enacted laws to protect LGBTQ+ workers.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

CTA™
Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did South Carolina do right?

South Carolina performs well on Grid Preparedness, consuming less electricity per capita than the national average while also producing more electricity than 58% of other states. It scores well on Broadband infrastructure with higher download speeds than 68% of other states.

What can South Carolina do better?

South Carolina scores poorly on Blockchain as it has not yet implemented cryptocurrency definitions into legislations and it does not allow decentralized autonomous organizations (DOAs) to be incorporated, organized, or recognized as legal entities. The state could improve its Mobility score by incorporating a statue on autonomous vehicles into its laws.

Grid Preparedness:	A-
Telehealth:	B
Tort Reform:	C
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B-
Skilled Workforce:	C+
Broadband:	B
Taxes:	B-

SOUTH CAROLINA

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

South Carolina has higher than average median download speeds, ranking higher than 68% of other states. It also has higher than average overall combined upload and download speeds.

Grid Preparedness

South Carolina ranks 21st for electricity production and consumes less electricity per capita than the national average. Additionally, it contributes more to production than 29 other states.

Manufacturing

South Carolina ranks 12th for its manufacturing contributions to its GDP, placing it above 76% of states. It also has more manufacturers in its workforce than the national average.

Taxes

The state ranks 33rd overall for its tax structures, and 11th for corporate taxes.

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SOUTH DAKOTA

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did South Dakota do right?

South Dakota scores very well on Taxes, Telehealth, and Blockchain. It maintains a highly competitive tax structure, levying no corporate or individual income tax.

What can South Dakota do better?

South Dakota scores relatively poorly on Grid Preparedness, Manufacturing and Skilled Workforce. It only recorded a modest 2.58% growth in the number of manufacturers in the state in 2023, lagging behind the national average of 9.57%.

Grid Preparedness:	C-
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	A-
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	C
Broadband:	B
Taxes:	A+

SOUTH DAKOTA

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

South Dakota has incorporated legal definitions of cryptocurrency and virtual currency into its legislation.

Broadband

South Dakota offers satisfactory internet speed, with its mobile and fixed broadband download speed ranking 24th and 35th nationally.

Taxes

South Dakota maintains a very competitive tax structure, levying no corporate or individual income tax.

Telehealth

South Dakota's Medicaid allows broad reimbursement options for remote healthcare services.

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TENNESSEE

Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Tennessee do right?

Tennessee scores highly for Data Privacy, balancing consumer privacy protections with reasonable fines for businesses found to be in breach. It also scores well for Tort Reform, Broadband and Taxes.

What can Tennessee do better?

Tennessee scores relatively poorly on Telehealth, lacking reimbursement options for remote patient monitoring and store-and-forward services. It also could improve its Blockchain and Skilled Workforce scores, potentially by improving statutory instruments on cryptocurrency and improving its LGBTQ+ laws.

Grid Preparedness:	B
Telehealth:	C
Tort Reform:	A-
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	A+
Manufacturing:	B-
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	C+
Broadband:	B+
Taxes:	B+

TENNESSEE

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Tennessee has excellent fixed broadband speeds, with the eighth highest download and upload speeds nationwide, and 93% of households have a broadband connection.

Data Privacy

Tennessee grants robust consumer protections, balanced with business requirements. This includes a relatively small scope for compliance with state data privacy laws.

Taxes

Tennessee has no state individual income tax, and the tenth best property tax structure nationwide.

Tort Reform

Tennessee scores very highly on covered speech and grants the right to an immediate appeal. The state also scores highly on award costs and attorney fees.

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TEXAS

Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Texas do right?

Texas scores highly for Telehealth, offering reimbursement for a wide range of remote health services. It also scores satisfactorily for Broadband and Taxes.

What can Texas do better?

Texas scores relatively poorly on Grid Preparedness and Blockchain. While it does not impose restrictions on cryptomining, Texas has yet to adopt amendments to the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC) intended to address digital assets.

Grid Preparedness:	C-
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	B
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	B-
Broadband:	B+
Taxes:	B+

TEXAS

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Texas has generally good broadband connectivity, with its median fixed broadband download speed of 224.77 (Mbps) among the top ten in the country.

Taxes

Texas has adopted a generally business-friendly tax system, with no corporate income tax, although it does levy a state gross receipts tax.

Telehealth

Texas' Medicaid allows broad reimbursement options for remote healthcare services, including live video, audio-only, and asynchronous resources.

Tort Reform

Texas scores well on Tort Reform with laws on covered speech, Anti-SLAPP legislation, the right to immediate appeal, and expansive statutory interpretation instructions to courts.

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UTAH

Innovation Champion

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Utah do right?

Utah performs very well on Telehealth, Tort Reform, Blockchain, Skilled Workforce, and Broadband. It is one of the four states that allows for incorporation of decentralized autonomous organizations as legal entities.

What can Utah do better?

Utah scores relatively poorly in Manufacturing. Growth in its manufacturing workforce between 2018-2023 stood at 7.3%, lagging behind the national average of 10.7%.

Grid Preparedness:	C+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	A-
Mobility:	B
Blockchain:	A-
Data Privacy:	B-
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B+
Skilled Workforce:	A-
Broadband:	A-
Taxes:	B

UTAH

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

Utah is one of the few states that allow for the incorporation of decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) as legal entities.

Broadband

Utah ranks in the top ten for both fixed and mobile broadband download speed.

Skilled Workforce

Utah has a right-to-work law to protect workers from being forced to join a union.

Telehealth

Utah's Medicaid allows broad reimbursement options for remote healthcare services, including live video, audio-only, and asynchronous resources.

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VERMONT

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Vermont do right?

Vermont is among the top scorers for Telehealth, with its Medicaid providing coverage to a range of telehealth services for reimbursement. The state also maintains a crypto-friendly legal framework, and is one of four states that allows for the incorporation of decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) as legal entities.

What Vermont can do better?

Vermont could improve its Taxes, currently ranking 43rd nationally. It could also improve its Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity as its recorded number of business applications over the past five years is the lowest in the country.

Grid Preparedness:	B
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	A+
Mobility:	D
Blockchain:	A-
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B-
Skilled Workforce:	B+
Broadband:	D
Taxes:	C-

VERMONT

Areas of Innovation

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Blockchain

Vermont provides a statutory definition of virtual currency and allows for the incorporation of decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) as legal entities.

Telehealth

Vermont Medicaid provides reimbursement over live video, store-and-forward, remote patient monitoring, audio-only delivery and consent requirements.

Tort Reform

Vermont's tort system imposes one of the lowest burdens per household across the country, with U.S. $2659 compared to the national average of U.S. $3727.

Skilled Workforce

18.5% of Vermont's population holds advanced degrees compared to the national average of 13.7%.

About the Scorecard

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VIRGINIA

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Virginia do right?

Virginia performs very well on Skilled Workforce, Telehealth, and Data Privacy. It has 74.96 tech jobs per 1000 population, exceeding the national average of 50.5 per 1000 population.

What can Virginia do better?

Virginia scores very poorly for Mobility as it has no statute for autonomous vehicles and imposes restrictions limiting the usage of drones.

Grid Preparedness:	D+
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	F
Blockchain:	C+
Data Privacy:	A-
Manufacturing:	C
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B
Skilled Workforce:	A+
Broadband:	B+
Taxes:	B

VIRGINIA

Areas of Innovation

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Broadband

Virginia ranks 19th out of 50 for its median download speeds over fixed broadband.

Data Privacy

Virginia has enacted the Consumer Data Protection Act and has a security breach notification requirement in place.

Skilled Workforce

Virginia has 74.96 tech jobs per 1000 population, considerably higher than the national average of 50.5 per 1000 population.

Telehealth

Virginia Medicaid provides reimbursement over live video, store-and-forward, remote patient monitoring, audio-only delivery and consent requirements.

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WASHINGTON

Innovation Champion

CTA™
Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Washington do right?

Washington performs very well on Telehealth, Blockchain and Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity. It scores satisfactorily for Tort Reform, Data Privacy and Skilled Workforce as well.

What can Washington do better?

Washington scores relatively poorly on Taxes where it maintains a 6.5% state sales tax rate and an average combined state and local sales tax rate of 9.38%.

Grid Preparedness:	B-
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B+
Mobility:	C+
Blockchain:	A-
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	A-
Skilled Workforce:	B+
Broadband:	C
Taxes:	C-

WASHINGTON

Areas of Innovation

CTA's Innovation Scorecard is formulated using a range of complementary factors that indicate how strongly a state supports innovation. These factors may relate to the regulation of newer mobility tech, data privacy rights, ease of doing business or infrastructure that supports technological innovation.

Blockchain

Cryptocurrencies, virtual currency and blockchains are incorporated into Washington's statutory definitions of monetary value.

Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity

Washington's total R&D investment per capita reaches $6282, the highest of all states.

Telehealth

Washington's Medicaid allows broad reimbursement options for remote healthcare services, including live video, audio-only, and asynchronous resources.

Tort Reform

Washington's tort system burden per household is $3502 per household in Washington, which is 17% lower than the national average.

About the Scorecard

CTA's 2025 U.S. Innovation Scorecard grades every state on 11 quantitative and qualitative criteria that measure how well it fosters innovation. Each state ranks in one of four tiers: Innovation Champions excel in almost all areas, followed by Innovation Leaders, which earn high scores in most. Innovation Adopters promote innovation in some areas but not others. Finally, Modest Innovators may support innovation in one or more areas, but they show the greatest room for improvement. Learn more about the Scorecard and its methodology on the web at **cta.tech/scorecard.**

About CTA

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WEST VIRGINIA

Innovation Adopter

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did West Virginia do right?

West Virginia performs very well on Grid Preparedness, producing 5.9% of the nation's electricity supply. It also scores highly on Telehealth, allowing for a wide range of reimbursements for remote health services.

What can Wisconsin do better?

West Virginia scores poorly for Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity, with the seventh lowest net job creation rate and the lowest amount of VC investments. The state also performs poorly on Blockchain as it has not incorporated cryptocurrency definitions into its legislation.

Grid Preparedness:	A
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B
Mobility:	B+
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	D-
Skilled Workforce:	C-
Broadband:	C
Taxes:	B

WEST VIRGINIA

Areas of Innovation

CTA's Innovation Scorecard is formulated using a range of complementary factors that indicate how strongly a state supports innovation. These factors may relate to the regulation of newer mobility tech, data privacy rights, ease of doing business or infrastructure that supports technological innovation.

Grid Preparedness

West Virginia is the fifth largest energy producer nationally, contributing 5.9% of the U.S. production share.

Mobility

Fully autonomous vehicles are permitted to operate on public roads, subject to approvals.

Telehealth

West Virginia's Medicaid allows broad reimbursement options for remote healthcare services, including live video, audio-only, and asynchronous resources.

Tort Reform

The tort burden per household in West Virginia is below the national average.

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WISCONSIN

Consumer Technology Association, producer of CES®

Modest Innovator

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Wisconsin do right?

Wisconsin performs very well on Telehealth and scores satisfactorily for Data Privacy where it has enacted legislation to provide protections for sensitive data. The state also performs reasonably well on Skilled Workforce metrics.

What can Wisconsin do better?

Wisconsin scores poorly for Mobility, as it has no statute for autonomous vehicles on roads and has multiple legal restrictions on the usage of drones.

Grid Preparedness:	B-
Telehealth:	A
Tort Reform:	B-
Mobility:	F
Blockchain:	D+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	C+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	C
Skilled Workforce:	B+
Broadband:	C
Taxes:	B

Wisconsin

Areas of Innovation

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Data Privacy

Wisconsin has enacted legislation to provide protections for sensitive data.

Skilled Workforce

Wisconsin has a right-to-work law that prevents compulsory unionism.

Taxes

Wisconsin ranks 19th overall in Taxes. It ranks sixth nationally for sales taxes and eighth for property taxes.

Telehealth

Wisconsin's Medicaid allows broad reimbursement options for remote healthcare services, including live video, audio-only, and asynchronous resources.

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WYOMING

Innovation Leader

U.S. Innovation Scorecard 2025

What did Wyoming do right?

Wyoming performs very well on Grid Preparedness, Manufacturing and Taxes. It is the fourth largest energy producer by quantity and it levies no corporate or individual income tax.

What can Wyoming do better?

Wyoming scores poorly for Telehealth, with its Medicaid reimbursing only a limited range of telemedical services. It could also improve its Broadband, scoring below the national average on median upload and download speeds, and has the lowest overall combined score.

Grid Preparedness:	A-
Telehealth:	D
Tort Reform:	B
Mobility:	C-
Blockchain:	B+
Data Privacy:	B+
Manufacturing:	A+
Entrepreneurial & Small Business Activity:	B+
Skilled Workforce:	C+
Broadband:	F
Taxes:	A+

Wyoming

Areas of Innovation

CTA's Innovation Scorecard is formulated using a range of complementary factors that indicate how strongly a state supports innovation. These factors may relate to the regulation of newer mobility tech, data privacy rights, ease of doing business or infrastructure that supports technological innovation.

Blockchain

Wyoming is one of the four states that allows for the incorporation of decentralised autonomous organisations (DAOs).

Grid Preparedness

Wyoming is the fourth largest energy producer by quantity.

Manufacturing

The state recorded a considerable (13%) increase in the share of manufacturing contribution to the state's GDP from 2021 to 2023.

Taxes

Wyoming maintains a very competitive tax system, levying no corporate or individual income tax.

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