

**Table 14.13-- COST OF LIVING AMONG TOP STATES FOR BUSINESS  
CATEGORY RANKINGS: 2023 TO 2025**

[The CNBC survey scored all 50 states on as many as 88 (128 in 2024) measures of competitiveness developed with input from business groups including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness. States received points based on their rankings in each of ten broad categories, weighted according to how frequently they are cited in state economic development marketing materials. A rank of 1 indicates most favorable. Sorted for highest 2024 category weights]

Category	2023			2024			2025		
	Category wt. 1/	Score	Rank	Category wt. 1/	Score	Rank	Category wt. 1/	Score	Rank
Overall	2,500	1,032	47	2,500	942	50	2,500	951	49
Infrastructure 2/	390	154	43	425	150	47	405	126	48
Workforce	400	188	40	375	187	32	335	170	29
Economy	360	145	41	350	117	49	445	200	39
Quality of life 3/	350	263	5	325	222	7	265	173	6
Cost of doing business	290	36	50	275	41	50	295	38	50
Tech. & innovation 3/	270	105	39	250	68	45	255	85	48
Business friendliness	215	74	36	250	88	42	270	95	44
Education	125	60	36	125	50	41	110	41	42
Access to capital	50	5	50	75	14	48	60	14	48
Cost of living	50	2	50	50	5	48	60	9	49

1/ Weighting reevaluated for each study. See "America's Top States for Business: Our methodology and sources" for 2023 <<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/06/15/how-we-are-choosing-americas-top-states-for-business-in-2023.html>> accessed July 14, 2023; for 2024 <<https://www.cnbc.com/2024/06/13/how-we-are-choosing-2024/06/13/how-we-are-choosing-americas-top-states-for-business-2024.html>> accessed July 11, 2024; and for 2025 <<https://www.cnbc.com/2025/06/11/how-we-are-choosing-americas-top-states-for-business-in-2025.html>> accessed July 16, 2025.

2/ Is variously 'Infrastructure' or 'Infrastructure & transportation'.

3/ The 2022 category expanded on the former 'Quality of Life' to assess additional livability factors, i.e. availability of child care, renamed 'Quality of Life' in 2024. 'Technology & Innovation' had been added metrics on how friendly the states are toward emerging industries including cryptocurrency and cannabis.

Source: CNBC "America's Top Ten States for Business: 2023 (July 11, 2023)" <<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/07/11/americas-top-states-for-business-2023-the-full-rankings.html>> and "Hawaii" <<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/07/11/top-states-for-business-hawaii.html>> accessed July 13, 2023; for 2024 (July 11, 2024) <<https://www.cnbc.com/2024/07/11/americas-top-states-for-business-full-rankings.html>> and "Hawaii" <<https://www.cnbc.com/2024/07/11/top-states-for-business-hawaii.html>> accessed July 11, 2024; for 2025 (July 10, 2025) <<https://www.cnbc.com/2025/07/10/top-states-for-business-americas-2025-the-full-rankings.html>> and "Hawaii" <<https://www.cnbc.com/2025/07/10/hawaii-top-states-for-business-ranking.html>> accessed July 16, 2025.