

State of Louisiana Historical Poor Performance

How to Improve Louisiana with a Performance Excellence Framework

Louisiana, for decades, has ranked 50th. Ranking last in the U.S. costs residents and discourages business growth, new business development, and stability in Louisiana. Leaders in politics, business, education, religion, and the community are responsible for creating a better future. The Louisiana Quality Foundation provides a proven model to improve state and local government, businesses, schools, healthcare, and community organizations. Learn how at www.LouisianaQuality.org. See video: <https://youtu.be/O3dSjY4j7Ak>

U.S. Louisiana Ranking from U.S. News & World Report								
Louisiana ranks No. 50 overall among U.S. states based on 71 metrics								
U.S. State Comparison by Category	2017	2018	2019	2021	2023	2024	2025	2026
Overall Ranking NATIONAL RANK	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	60
Health Care NATIONAL RANK	45	47	45	46	45	46	44	45
Education NATIONAL RANK	46	49	48	48	46	47	46	46
Economy NATIONAL RANK	46	44	49	47	50	49	50	49
Opportunity NATIONAL RANK	49	50	50	48	48	44	46	45
Infrastructure NATIONAL RANK	39	44	48	47	49	49	48	46
Crime & Corrections NATIONAL RANK	50	48	50	50	50	50	50	50
Fiscal Stability NATIONAL RANK	39	48	43	42	38	41	46	43
Quality of Life NATIONAL RANK	---	42	--	---	---	---	---	---
Natural Environment: NATIONAL RANK	---	49	50	49	49	49	49	49
DOWNLOAD FULL RANKINGS:	2017	2018	2019	2021	2023	2024	2025	2026
Best States Methodology (71 metrics across eight categories) https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/methodology								

Learn how to improve Louisiana business, government, education, and healthcare.



U.S. High-Performing Organizations watch
“Getting Results” Video
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCLmQ6ROw7s>
City of Irving, Texas (2012) https://youtu.be/TW7R_Rjy6Oc

Baldrige Helps Health Care Organizations
Provide Superior Patient Experience
<https://www.nist.gov/news-events/news/2015/07/baldrige-helps-health-care-organizations-provide-superior-patient>

U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) “Baldrige Excellence Framework” is a proven model for leadership to design and operate high-performing, sustainable, resilient businesses, education, health care, and governmental organizations. Learn more at <https://www.nist.gov/baldrige>

History: There are many reasons why Louisiana declined. This video titled “Why Louisiana Stays Poor” provides one major explanation. <https://youtu.be/RWTic9btP38>

The Advocate: August 18, 2019 - Louisiana's economic prosperity ranking dropped in the past decade from No. 46 in the U.S. to No. 50 on the list - just above last-place Mississippi.

https://www.theadvocate.com/baton_rouge/news/business/article_fbb3d78e-b92c-11e9-8ad4-5b06c278c9cd.html

Learn how www.LouisianaQuality.org can transform Louisiana organizations to Performance Excellence

Poor health and poor education mean higher costs for Louisiana residents and businesses.

CITY BUSINESS Report ranks Louisiana's economic performance last nationally, April 17, 2023
<https://neworleanscitybusiness.com/blog/2023/04/17/report-ranks-louisianas-economic-performance-last-nationally/>

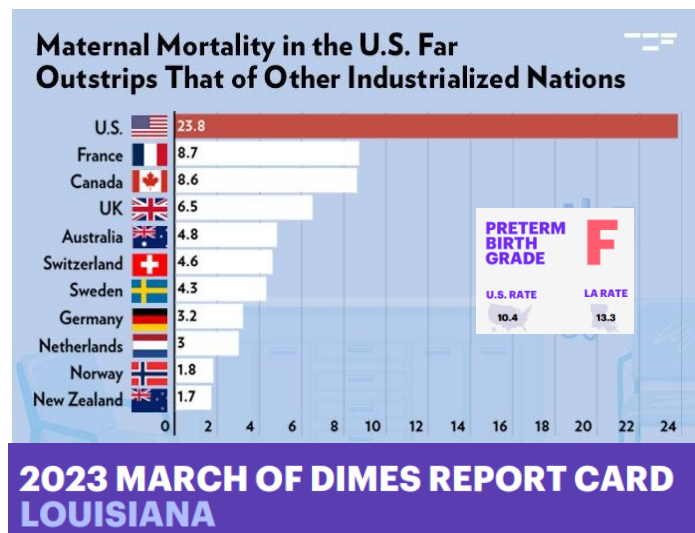
- Louisiana salaries range between \$36,811 (25th percentile) and \$66,000 (75th percentile) annually.
- Louisiana ranks 48th out of 50 states for registered nurse (RN) salaries, according to ZipRecruiter.
- Louisiana teachers earn about \$12,000 less than the national average, according to the Southern Regional Education Board.



CNBC

2025 Quality of Life Top States Louisiana Grade: F

The United States has the highest maternal mortality rate of any developed country.



The United States is also the only developed to
 country see maternal mortality rates rising.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLcRbdTW2ls>

Louisiana ranks last in the America's Health Rankings 2025 Health of Women and Children Report, which takes a comprehensive view of 125 measures of health and well-being from 34 data sources to compare health nationwide and within individual states.

Poverty is a result of a lack of government, business, education, and healthcare leadership. Source <https://worldpopulationreview.com/state-rankings/maternal-mortality-rate-by-state> & <https://tcf.org/content/commentary/worsening-u-s-maternal-health-crisis-three-graphs/?session=1>

2026 Business Insider: Louisiana was ranked the most-stressed state, based on 40 metrics, including median income, mental health, and divorce rates. <https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/articles/20-most-stressed-states-us-201503433.html>

Louisiana's poverty rate in 2026 is estimated at 18.9%, the highest among all U.S. states

As of June 2025, about 32.8% of Louisiana's residents are enrolled in Medicaid, according to Kaiser Family Foundation data cited by the Louisiana Public Affairs Research Council

Yes, there is a proven framework to improve Louisiana, which has been use in Florida and Texas for over 20 years.

The leading global framework to design and build a high-performing businesses, education, health care, and government is the U.S.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) "Baldrige Excellence Framework"
<https://www.nist.gov/baldrige>

The Baldrige Excellence Framework providers leaders with a proven framework to create learning organizations with the intelligence to drive creativity, innovation, high performance, reliability, resilience, and sustainability.

Learn more at Louisiana Quality Foundation, which is a Center for Performance Excellence at www.LouisianaQuality.org or contact Ron Schulingkamp Sc.D. info@LouisianaQuality.org

Learn how www.LouisianaQuality.org can transform Louisiana organizations to Performance Excellence