



# America's Best, Worst and Deadliest Roads

## Reader's Digest Full Methodology

*Reader's Digest* measured highway condition, bridge condition, congestion, and safety. Using the most recent federal data, we sorted the states for each factor from best to worst and assigned a rank, with 1 the best and 50 the worst. An overall score for each state was determined by computing an average weighted rank across the four factors. Then an overall ranking for the states was determined by sorting the overall score from lowest to highest and assigning a rank, with 1 being the best and 50 the lowest.

### Highway condition:

Data from 2007 on arterial pavement conditions were used to define highway condition as follows:

Highway condition = twice the "Percent Poor" + once the "Percent Mediocre"

The scores were sorted from best to worst, and states were assigned a rank (1 for the best and 50 for the worst).

### Bridge condition:

Data from 2008 were used to define bridge condition as follows:

Bridge condition = twice the "Structurally Deficient" percentage + once the "Functional Obsolete" percentage

The scores were sorted from best to worst, and states were assigned a rank (1 for the best and 50 for the worst).

### Congestion:

Data from 2007 were used for:

- **Percent of Urban Freeways Congestion**

These data were sorted from best to worst and states were assigned a rank (1 for the best and 50 for the worst).

- **Daily Travel per Urban Arterial Lane Mile**

These data were sorted from best to worst and states were assigned a rank (1 for the best and 50 for the worst).

### Safety:

Data from 2008 (Fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled) were used. The scores were sorted from best to worst and states were assigned a rank (1 for the best and 50 for the worst).

**An Overall Score** for each state was calculated according to this formula:

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Variable</b>
25.0%	Rank of highway condition
25.0%	Rank of bridge condition
12.5%	Rank of percent of urban freeway congestion
12.5%	Rank of Daily Travel per Urban Arterial Lane Mile
25.0%	Rank of safety

The Overall State Ranking is defined by sorting the Overall Score from lowest to highest and assigning a rank (1 for the best, 50 for the worst).

#### COMPLETE SPEEDING AND DUI CHARTS

(100 M VMT = 100 million vehicle miles traveled)

#### SPEEDING

<b>2008</b>	<b>Speeding-related</b>	
<b>State</b>	<b>fatalities per 100 M VMT</b>	<b>Speeding Rank</b>
Alabama	0.75	50
Mississippi	0.75	49
South Carolina	0.71	48
Wyoming	0.70	47
Alaska	0.68	46
Montana	0.67	45
Pennsylvania	0.67	44
Missouri	0.65	43
Arizona	0.61	42
Texas	0.60	41
Louisiana	0.55	40
Hawaii	0.49	39
Idaho	0.49	38
North Carolina	0.47	37
West Virginia	0.47	36
Oklahoma	0.46	35
Nevada	0.45	34
Colorado	0.44	33
South Dakota	0.41	32
Delaware	0.40	31
Washington	0.39	30
Oregon	0.38	29
Utah	0.38	28
Maine	0.36	27
Illinois	0.36	26
Indiana	0.35	25

Tennessee	0.35	24
California	0.35	23
Maryland	0.35	22
North Dakota	0.35	21
Wisconsin	0.34	20
Vermont	0.34	19
Kentucky	0.32	18
Kansas	0.32	17
New Hampshire	0.31	16
New York	0.31	15
Virginia	0.30	14
Georgia	0.28	13
Florida	0.28	12
New Mexico	0.27	11
Connecticut	0.26	10
Ohio	0.25	9
Rhode Island	0.24	8
Minnesota	0.23	7
Michigan	0.23	6
Arkansas	0.19	5
Massachusetts	0.18	4
Nebraska	0.17	3
Iowa	0.13	2
New Jersey	0.09	1
United States	0.39	

## ALCOHOL

2008	Alcohol-imp. Fatalities	
State	per 100 M. VMT	Alcohol_imp rank
Montana	0.84	50
South Carolina	0.81	49
Louisiana	0.75	48
Wyoming	0.71	47
West Virginia	0.62	46
Mississippi	0.61	45
North Dakota	0.60	44
Texas	0.54	43
Alabama	0.53	42
Arkansas	0.52	41
Nevada	0.51	40
Idaho	0.51	39
Oklahoma	0.50	38

Delaware	0.50	37
Kansas	0.49	36
Tennessee	0.47	35
Pennsylvania	0.46	34
Missouri	0.45	33
Florida	0.44	32
Alaska	0.43	31
Arizona	0.43	30
Kentucky	0.42	29
North Carolina	0.42	28
Hawaii	0.41	27
Oregon	0.41	26
New Mexico	0.40	25
Georgia	0.38	24
South Dakota	0.38	23
Wisconsin	0.36	22
Colorado	0.36	21
Virginia	0.36	20
New Hampshire	0.35	19
Illinois	0.34	18
Ohio	0.33	17
Washington	0.33	16
California	0.31	15
Rhode Island	0.31	14
Maine	0.30	13
Indiana	0.29	12
Iowa	0.29	11
Nebraska	0.29	10
Michigan	0.28	9
Maryland	0.28	8
Connecticut	0.27	7
New York	0.25	6
Minnesota	0.23	5
Massachusetts	0.23	4
New Jersey	0.21	3
Utah	0.18	2
Vermont	0.16	1
United States	0.40	