



California Ranks as Worst State for Drivers, Ohio is the Best

Ownership costs, on-road safety, quality of commute and weather considered in ranking

NEW YORK – November 15, 2021 – California ranks as the very worst state in the country for drivers, according to a new report by Bankrate.com. Meanwhile, Ohio earns the #1 position as best state for motorists. All 50 states were examined and ranked based on: cost (45%), safety (25%), driving quality (25%) and weather (5%). Click here for more information:

<https://www.bankrate.com/insurance/car/best-and-worst-states-for-driving/>

Top 5 Best States for Drivers	
1	Ohio
2	Iowa
3	Utah
4	Indiana
5	Idaho

Bottom 5 Worst States for Drivers	
50	California
49	Louisiana
48	Maryland
47	Rhode Island
46	Colorado

California is the worst state for drivers due in large part to it being the most expensive state overall. California drivers face the highest gas prices (\$4.39), highest cost of auto repairs (\$414.24), and the 7th highest auto insurance premiums (\$2,065). The Golden State also ranked 7th worst for driving quality due to a high percentage of roads in poor condition (4th worst, 35.16%), the 5th longest average commute time (30.7 minutes), and the 6th most time spent in congestion per commuter (62.5 hours/per year). California fared better for safety (15th best) and weather (4th best).

Louisiana (3rd worst for cost), Maryland (3rd worst for driving quality), Rhode Island (5th worst for driving quality), and Colorado (6th worst for cost) round out the list of worst ranking states for drivers.

Ohio takes the top spot as best state for drivers due primarily to its low costs (2nd best state overall), including the 2nd lowest auto insurance premiums (\$1,034) and cost of auto repairs (\$348.79). The Buckeye State also ranked well for safety (12th best) thanks to checking in favorably for DUI arrests (6th best) and arrests for motor vehicle theft (7th best). Ohio finished middle-of-the-road for driving quality (18th best) and ranked 13th worst for weather.

Iowa (top 10 for cost and driving quality), Utah (top 10 for safety, driving quality, and weather), Indiana (top 10 for cost and safety), and Idaho (2nd best for driving quality) finish out the top five spots on the list of best ranking states for drivers.

“Transportation can be one of the biggest lines in a household’s budget, so thinking carefully about where you live to limit your insurance, vehicle maintenance or gasoline costs can make an important difference for your wallet,” says Sarah Foster, analyst for Bankrate.com. “Road conditions and safety factors can even weigh on your bottom line over time, and every state has its pros and cons that drivers should consider when deciding where to live and work.”

Foster adds, “The pandemic brings a new sense of urgency for drivers: Returning to office life after more than a year away might mean it’s important to revisit your transportation budget, especially if you live in one of these costlier states. If you’re someone who can continue working from home, you might be able to cut expenses tremendously, not to mention save yourself from the time and frustration that come along with congested roads and long commute times.”

Methodology:

The 2021 Bankrate Best State for Drivers Study was compiled using several measures related to cost, safety, weather and driving quality. We used the most recently available data for all 50 states from government sources, research organizations and industry groups.

- *Cost (45 percent): Average cost of car repairs was provided by CarMD.com through the 2020 CarMD Vehicle Health Index; gas prices provided by GasPrices.AAA.com; auto insurance premiums data was obtained through Quadrant Information Services.*
- *Safety (25 percent): DUI and theft arrests provided by The Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) and were adjusted for population; traffic fatalities by Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS); seatbelt use by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA); and animal collisions by State Farm’s annual Animal Collision Likelihood by State.*
- *Driving quality (25%): Road and bridge conditions obtained from Bureau of Transportation Statistics and average congestion hours and commute time from Reason Foundation’s Annual Highway Report: Urbanized Area Congestion.*
- *Weather (5%): Annual snow and rainfall totals and non-clear days per year by BestPlaces Comfort Index and weather-related fatalities provided by Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS).*

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For more information:

Chelsea Hudson
Public Relations Specialist
chudson@bankrate.com
917-368-8608