

# OREGON'S INFRASTRUCTURE COMPETITIVENESS: LEADING THE WAY IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

## Summary

From 2011 to 2023, Oregon consistently ranked between 3rd and 7th in infrastructure competitiveness. The state saw improvements in road conditions, bridge safety, and investment in transportation infrastructure. Broadband access experienced some challenges, but overall, Oregon maintained strong infrastructure performance. Despite fluctuations in individual metrics, Oregon's consistent focus on infrastructure development has ensured its competitiveness over the years, supporting both economic growth and resident well-being.

## Oregon's Infrastructure Performance

Oregon's **Infrastructure Competitiveness Index** has demonstrated resilience from 2011 to 2023. Despite minor fluctuations, Oregon's relative **ranking among states** decreased by only one spot, moving from 3rd to 4th, consistently placing the state within the top 10% of all states and D.C. (Figure 1). A **ranking** closer to 1st indicates greater competitiveness relative to other states.

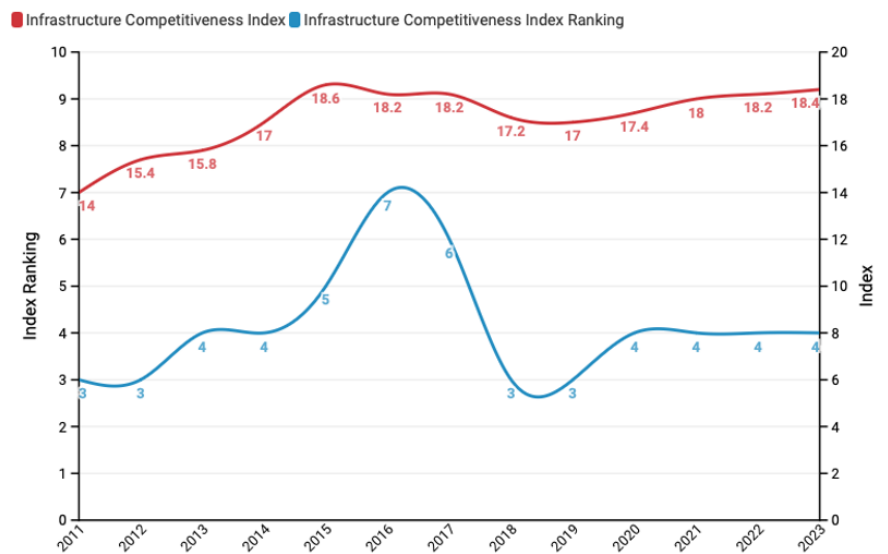
The **Infrastructure Competitiveness Index** itself is an average of five key metrics that assess Oregon's infrastructure over time. A **higher index value** reflects improved infrastructure performance, as Oregon's index has generally increased over the review period. This improvement signifies better outcomes in areas like road conditions, bridge safety, and internet access, making the state more competitive in comparison to others.

Infrastructure competitiveness is crucial to a state's economy as it impacts producers' access to inputs and the distribution of products and services. Additionally, it directly affects residents through work commute times and reliable access to the internet, especially as remote work becomes more prevalent.

Several key metrics have been used to evaluate Oregon's infrastructure competitiveness:

- The percentage of acceptable road conditions
- The percentage of structurally deficient bridges
- Average commute time to work
- The percentage of households with broadband internet access
- State spending per functional mile of roads

CSI Infrastructure Competitiveness Index and Ranking- Oregon



Left axis represents Oregon's overall ranking among other states and D.C.

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## Recent Trends and Developments

**Acceptable Road Conditions:** Oregon's index for road conditions increased from 8 in 2011 to 18 in 2023, indicating that the state has made considerable improvements in road conditions. This improvement reflects successful efforts in road maintenance, ensuring that more of the state's roads meet acceptable quality standards.

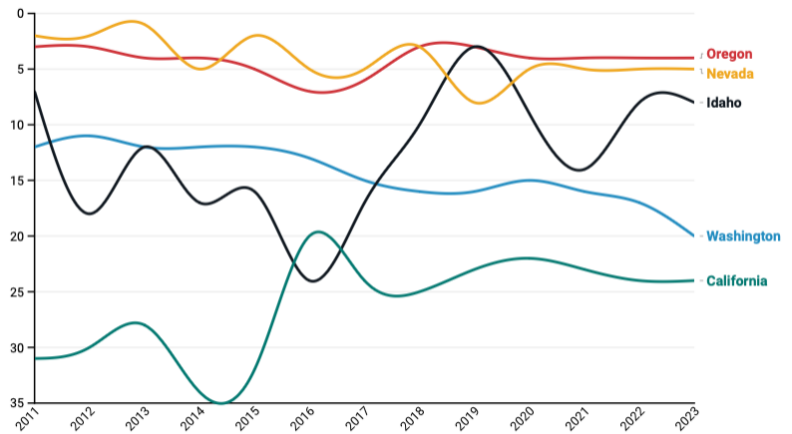
**Structurally Deficient Bridges:** Over time, Oregon has successfully reduced the percentage of structurally deficient bridges, further boosting its competitiveness in this area. This has made the transportation network safer and more reliable.

**Average Commute Time to Work:** After a notable improvement around 2017, Oregon's average commute time rankings have remained relatively stable, reflecting the state's ongoing efforts to manage traffic and improve public transportation infrastructure.

**Percentage of Households with Broadband Internet Access:** The index for broadband access decreased from 11 in 2011 to 9 in 2023, reflecting a decline in Oregon's competitiveness in this area. This suggests that, compared to previous years, Oregon has struggled to expand broadband access at a pace matching the infrastructure improvements seen in other states.

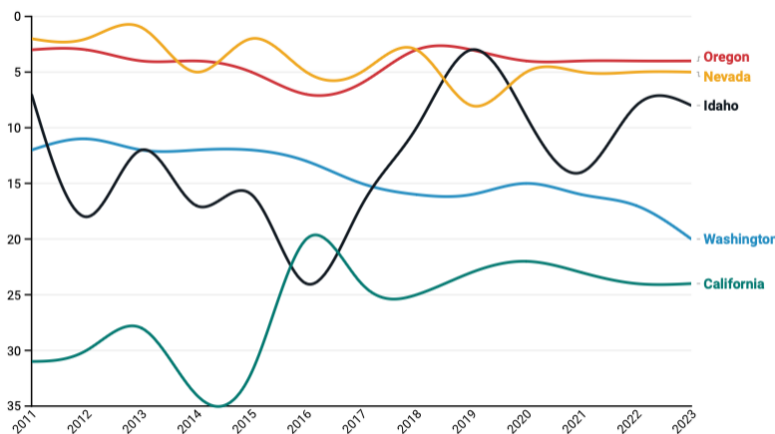
**State Spending per Functional Mile of Roads:** The index for state spending per functional mile of roads increased steadily, from 27 in 2011 to 34 in 2023. This growth indicates that Oregon has increased its investment in road infrastructure, ensuring that roads are properly maintained and able to meet transportation needs.

**CSI Infrastructure Competitiveness Index Ranking**  
Oregon and Neighboring States



Free Enterprise Competitive index - 1 - Best, 51 - Worst  
Scale is inverted to reflect that lower rankings indicate better performance, with rank 1 being the best and rank 51 being the worst.

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## Oregon's Infrastructure in Context: A Regional Outlook

From 2011 to 2023, Oregon has maintained strong infrastructure competitiveness, consistently ranking between 3rd and 7th place. Compared to its neighboring states, Oregon consistently outperformed California and Washington, with California fluctuating between 20th and 34th, and Washington steadily declining from 12th to 20th. Nevada has maintained a strong position, consistently ranking in the top 5, ending at 5th place in 2023. Idaho experienced fluctuations but showed notable improvement, finishing 8th in 2023. Overall, Oregon remains a top performer in the region, staying competitive with Nevada throughout the period.