

Sen. John Moorlach
Ranks the States
for Financial Soundness

By State Sen. John Moorlach
37th District

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I have ranked all 50 states by their per capita unrestricted net position (UNP) to determine their fiscal health. This number is the key because it is about purely governmental activities. It doesn't include, for example, concessions from what are called "business-type activities," such as operating vending machines at a library.

The UNP is disclosed in every state's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), which can be found through their Controller's Office, or equivalent agency. While most states have updated their CAFR for 2017, we are still waiting for the release from two states: Alabama and New Mexico. The Year of CAFR column denotes if the data used is from a recent, or older, report. We will continue to update these studies periodically, as more reports come in.

Rank	State	Population	UNP (Thousands)	UNP Per Capita	Year of CAFR
1	Alaska	739,795	\$14,558,125	\$19,679	2017
2	North Dakota	755,393	\$5,989,501	\$7,929	2017
3	Wyoming	579,315	\$4,518,976	\$7,801	2017
4	Idaho	1,716,943	\$1,146,468	\$668	2017
5	Tennessee	6,715,984	\$2,736,079	\$407	2017
6	Oklahoma	3,930,864	\$1,484,206	\$378	2017
7	South Dakota	869,666	\$267,296	\$307	2017
8	Nebraska	1,920,076	\$550,525	\$287	2017
9	Utah	3,101,833	\$819,880	\$264	2017
10	North Carolina	10,273,419	\$1,822,821	\$177	2017
11	New Mexico	2,088,070	(\$326,978)	(\$157)	2016
12	Iowa	3,145,711	(\$999,603)	(\$318)	2017
13	Washington	7,405,743	(\$3,376,575)	(\$456)	2017
14	Georgia	10,429,379	(\$5,210,957)	(\$500)	2017
15	Nevada	2,998,039	(\$1,580,030)	(\$527)	2017
16	Florida	20,984,400	(\$12,401,193)	(\$591)	2017
17	Oregon	4,142,776	(\$2,482,259)	(\$599)	2017
18	Virginia	8,470,020	(\$5,344,284)	(\$631)	2017
19	South Carolina	5,024,369	(\$3,497,642)	(\$696)	2017
20	Arkansas	3,004,279	(\$2,160,882)	(\$719)	2017
21	Arizona	7,016,270	(\$5,341,848)	(\$761)	2017
22	Indiana	6,666,818	(\$5,319,406)	(\$798)	2017
23	Texas	28,304,596	(\$25,170,339)	(\$889)	2017
24	Minnesota	5,576,606	(\$5,029,153)	(\$902)	2017
25	Ohio	11,658,609	(\$10,571,925)	(\$907)	2017

26	Montana	1,050,493	(\$971,795)	(\$925)	2017
27	Missouri	6,113,532	(\$5,787,207)	(\$947)	2017
28	Michigan	9,962,311	(\$9,848,197)	(\$989)	2017
29	Kansas	2,913,123	(\$3,205,914)	(\$1,101)	2017
30	New Hampshire	1,342,795	(\$1,683,141)	(\$1,253)	2017
31	Maine	1,335,907	(\$1,885,023)	(\$1,411)	2017
32	Wisconsin	5,795,483	(\$8,361,432)	(\$1,443)	2017
33	Colorado	5,607,154	(\$8,359,538)	(\$1,491)	2017
34	Alabama	4,874,747	(\$7,578,278)	(\$1,555)	2016
35	Pennsylvania	12,805,537	(\$21,275,848)	(\$1,661)	2017
36	Mississippi	2,984,100	(\$6,058,425)	(\$2,030)	2017
37	New York	19,849,399	(\$45,599,000)	(\$2,297)	2017
38	West Virginia	1,815,857	(\$4,455,964)	(\$2,454)	2017
39	Louisiana	4,684,333	(\$11,949,852)	(\$2,551)	2017
40	Vermont	623,657	(\$2,263,168)	(\$3,629)	2017
41	Delaware	961,939	(\$3,622,572)	(\$3,766)	2017
42	California	39,536,653	(\$169,499,683)	(\$4,287)	2017
43	Rhose Island	1,059,639	(\$4,581,514)	(\$4,324)	2017
44	Maryland	6,052,177	(\$27,010,946)	(\$4,463)	2017
45	Hawaii	1,427,538	(\$7,996,567)	(\$5,602)	2017
46	Kentucky	4,454,189	(\$40,157,358)	(\$9,016)	2017
47	Massachusetts	6,859,819	(\$63,992,915)	(\$9,329)	2017
48	Illinois	12,802,023	(\$161,239,415)	(\$12,595)	2017
49	Connecticut	3,588,184	(\$52,826,131)	(\$14,722)	2017
50	New Jersey	9,005,644	(\$148,863,714)	(\$16,530)	2017