

New Mexico: #48 in Overall Rankings

US NEWS

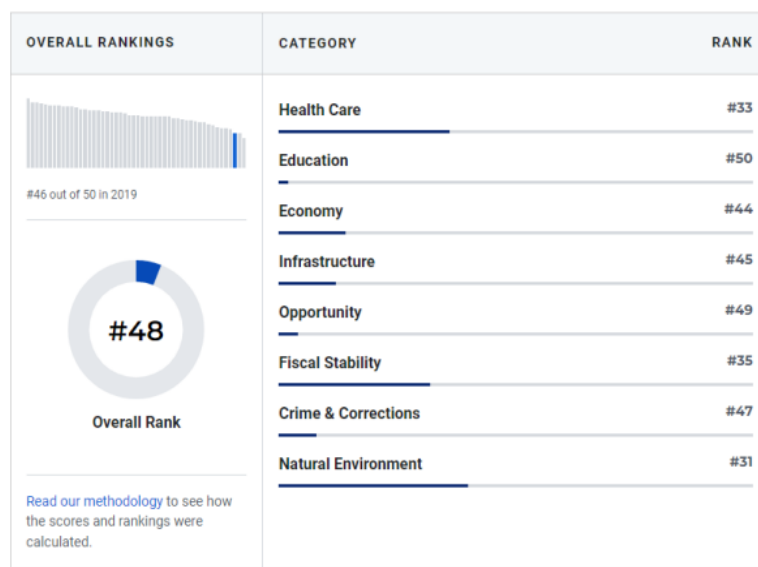
Before Europeans arrived in New Mexico, the state was populated by Native Americans, who now make up about 11% of its population. In 1598, Juan de Oñate led a Spanish mission to colonize the state. In the following two centuries, the Pueblo people revolted but Spanish settlers re-colonized the land, and in 1789 a peace treaty was established, leading to 35 years of peace between the Native Americans and the colonizers.

In the spring of 1821, Mexico won independence from Spain and established the Mexican Empire and Federal Republic of Mexico. The United States invaded New Mexico in 1846. The empire's independence lasted until 1848, when the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican-American War. New Mexico achieved statehood on Jan. 6, 1912, as the 47th state.

The federal government is the state's biggest employer. More than one-third of the land in New Mexico is protected by the federal government, employing people in agencies such as the National Park Service to protect national parks and historic sites. The U.S. government also maintains military and research institutions in the state. Three Air Force bases, White Sands Missile Range and the federal research facilities at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories are located in New Mexico.

The state's economic pillars are its natural resources, tourism, retail trade and federal government spending. Much of the state's income is derived from oil and gas. The Permian Basin in New Mexico has more than 25,000 oil wells, including two of the 100 largest oil fields in the nation. With many breathtaking national parks, forests and historical sites in memory of Native American and Hispanic cultures, New Mexico attracts more than 30 million tourists every year.

New Mexico Rankings



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- #2 Minnesota
- #3 Utah
- #4 New Hampshire
- #5 Idaho

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