

Oregon Has Lost its Competitive Mojo



39th best state for business

▼ (11-place drop in one year)

Source: 2025 CNBC America's Top States for Business



47th for business friendliness

Source: 2025 CNBC America's Top States for Business



43rd for cost of doing business

Source: 2025 CNBC America's Top States for Business



45th for cost of living

Source: 2025 CNBC America's Top States for Business



35th most competitive tax environment

▼ (28-place drop since 2019)

Source: 2026 Tax Foundation State Tax Competitiveness Index



Second worst for corporate taxes

Source: 2026 Tax Foundation State Tax Competitiveness Index



33% increase in business tax burden, 2019-2023

Source: 2024 EY Oregon State and Local Business Taxes



7th most heavily regulated state

Source: 2025 StratACUMEN Oregon Regulatory Impact Analysis



1st: State occupational licensing burden

Source: 2025 Archbridge Institute State Occupational Licensing Index

What They're Saying



"For the second year in a row, Oregon's rank dropped due to competitive reforms in other states as Oregon stood still."

Source: 2026 Tax Foundation State Tax Competitiveness Index



"We're not seeing months and months of sustained job losses happening in the U.S. yet. But it is a growing concern to see a few months of job losses in a row happen in Oregon."

— Oregon Employment Department economist Gail Krumenauer

Source: "Oregon Gained State Government Workers in the Past Year While Manufacturing Ranks Fell," Oregon Journalism Project, Sept. 10, 2025.



"In terms of Oregon versus the U.S., something unique coming out of the pandemic recession is that typically what happens in an economic downturn is that Oregon loses jobs on roughly the same timeframe as the rest of the country, but our losses have actually been steeper."

— Oregon Employment Department economist Gail Krumenauer

Source: "In Conversation: Oregon State Employment Economist Gail Krumenauer," Oregon Business, Oct. 7, 2025.



Other states are experiencing "an insane rate of success for recruitment efforts" aimed at Oregon businesses.

— Business Oregon economist Damon Runberg

Source: "Oregon's business reputation has taken a hit. Are businesses really leaving?" Oregon Capital Chronicle, Sept. 12, 2025.



"We're noncompetitive at best, and disinterested at worst, and, as a result, companies and entrepreneurs are leaving Oregon in droves."

— Portland Business Journal publisher Candace Beeke

Source: "Publisher's notebook: Oregon competitiveness sorely lacking," Portland Business Journal, Aug. 5, 2025



"Oregon's deterioration has been long-term and sustained. It is the second most worsened state since 2000, after Hawaii. Tax and regulatory burdens have risen, and although the state remains relatively personally free, other states have increased more on that dimension and passed it in the ranking."

Source: 2023 Cato Institute "Freedom in the 50 States" report (Oregon ranked 46th overall).

We Can and Must Restore Oregon's Competitiveness – Learn More at OregonBusinessIndustry.com.