

# The States With the Worst Highways in America

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Anyone who's taken a great American road trip knows that while this country does many things well, taking care of its roads and bridges doesn't seem to be a top priority.

Even though Congress finally passed a \$305 billion, five-year highway and transit bill at the end of last year, overall government spending on infrastructure is at a 30-year low, and nowhere near the level needed to make much-needed repairs.

The backlog in spending on necessary interstate highways repairs and improvements includes \$59 billion for paving, \$30 billion for bridges and \$100 billion for system expansion and enhancement, according to a recent report by [TRIP](#), a national transportation research group.

The report contains a wealth of data on the status of the roads and bridges in each state. We used that data to rank the states based on the condition of the pavement of their interstates, the soundness of their bridges, their fatality rates and their highway congestion.

We found that while conditions are generally poor throughout the country, they're far worse in some states than others. Washington, D.C., had the very worst roads, according to our analysis, but that could be because it's entirely urban and congested, which makes it an unfair comparison to states with both urban and rural interstates.

Ranking just the states, Colorado has the worst roads, followed by Hawaii and Louisiana, which tied for second worst. At the other end of the spectrum, North Dakota had the fewest issues with its roads.

[Click here to see the 10 states with the worst road conditions in America.](#)

## 10. Texas

Thanks to robust economic growth, Texas is one of the top 10 U.S. states for growth in total vehicle miles driven, which have increased 24 percent since 2000. TRIP projects that vehicle travel in the state will continue to grow, increasing another 25 percent in the next 15 years. The Lone Star State ranks among the worst in the country for traffic fatalities.

*\*Ranking based on 2016 data from [TRIP](#), a national transportation research group.*

## 9. Massachusetts

Highways in Massachusetts are the sixth most congested in the country, with 62 percent of urban interstates experiencing congestion during rush hour. Six percent of bridges in Massachusetts are considered structurally deficient. A 2014 report by TRIP found that congestion delays, traffic crashes and other issues cost Boston drivers an average of \$1,913 a year.

## 8. Nevada

Nevada has the third highest rate of interstate pavements in poor or mediocre condition, with 28 percent of highways meeting that description. Part of the reason for the deterioration is increased use. Vehicle travel on Nevada's roads increased 43 percent from 2000 to 2014, the second highest rate of growth in the country.

## 7. Delaware

More than 60 percent of Delaware's roads are congested during rush hour, ranking fourth worst in America. The state also ranks poorly when it comes to the condition of its highways, with 24 percent of its interstates in poor or mediocre condition. Driving on roads in need of repair costs Delaware drivers an average \$355 each in extra repair and operating costs.

## 6. New Jersey

Nearly three-quarters of New Jersey's urban interstates are congested during rush hour, the third-highest rate in the nation. The state also has the ninth-highest rate of travel density in the U.S., with more than 14,000 vehicles per lane mile each day. Traffic on New Jersey interstates increased 21 percent since 2000, the 10<sup>th</sup> highest-rate of growth in the country.

## 5. Connecticut

Interstates in Connecticut are have the third highest rate of vehicle travel per lane mile, and have the eight-worst traffic in the country, with 60 percent of urban interstates congested during rush hour. With seven percent of its bridges classified as structurally deficient, the state ranks fifth worst on that measure. Fourteen percent of its interstate pavements are in poor or mediocre condition.

## 4. California

Traffic moves slowly on the 405 freeway in Los Angeles, California July 14, 2011. "Carmageddon" is the name Los Angeles residents are giving the likely epic traffic tie-up that will result when a 10-mile (16-km) stretch of the 405 Freeway is closed for construction, including the demolition of the bridge, from Friday night to Monday morning between two of the nation's busiest interchanges. REUTERS/Eric Thayer (UNITED STATES - Tags: TRANSPORT) - RTR2OW6D

## 3. Louisiana

Traffic on Louisiana's interstates increased 43 percent from 2000 to 2014, the fastest rate in the nation. The heavier use has led to increased deterioration, according to TRIP. More than a quarter of roads in the Pelican State are in poor or mediocre condition, the fourth highest rate in the nation.

## 2. Hawaii

Hawaii's urban interstates are among the busiest in the country, and they're also among those with the most traffic. Sixty percent of urban highways in the Aloha state are congested during rush hour. Hawaii's interstates rank worst in the country for pavement condition, with 57 percent in poor or mediocre conditions.

## 1. Colorado

A big part of the reason that the roads in Colorado are deteriorating is increased use. The state is among the top 10 seeing the greatest increase in vehicle miles driven from 2000 to 2014. More than 20 percent of Colorado's interstate highways have pavement in poor or mediocre condition, making the state the sixth-worst in the country by that measure.