



NEW MEXICO NEWS

## Report finds New Mexico interstate bridges rank high in deterioration rate

by: [Anna Padilla](#) | June 22, 2021

**NEW MEXICO** (KRQE) – A new report shows New Mexico’s interstate bridges are among the most deteriorated in the country. The [TRIP report](#) found that 3% of New Mexico interstate bridges are rated as very structurally deficient, based on the general wear and tear.

That is the 18th highest in the country. However, the report also found the way New Mexico interstates are designed makes them one and a half times safer than other roads. In 2019, the fatality rate per 100 million driven miles of travel on New Mexico’s interstate was

1.19, as opposed to 1.65 on the non-interstate routes. According to a news release, they estimated that because of specific safety features like a minimum of four lanes, and paved shoulders and median barriers, about 33 lives were saved in 2019.



RANK	Congested Urban Interstates		2000-19 Interstate VMT Increase		Daily Interstate Travel per Lane Mile		Interstate Pavement in Poor Condition		Interstate Bridges Poor/Structurally Deficient	
	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	Travel	Rank	%	Rank	%
1	California	87%	Nevada	69%	California	20,957	Hawaii	23%	West Virginia	13%
2	Maryland	83%	Louisiana	61%	Maryland	20,214	Delaware	9%	Rhode Island	12%
3	New Jersey	81%	North Carolina	57%	Hawaii	17,864	New Jersey	9%	Illinois	8%
4	Delaware	71%	Utah	57%	Colorado	17,702	Louisiana	7%	Massachusetts	7%
5	Florida	70%	Colorado	53%	Florida	17,145	New York	6%	New York	6%
6	Massachusetts	68%	Texas	49%	Texas	17,123	Colorado	6%	Michigan	6%
7	Rhode Island	65%	Mississippi	45%	Rhode Island	16,644	Michigan	6%	Colorado	5%
8	Connecticut	63%	Idaho	44%	Massachusetts	16,326	California	6%	Maine	5%
9	Hawaii	60%	Wisconsin	42%	Washington	16,251	Maryland	5%	Washington	5%
10	Washington	58%	Florida	41%	New Jersey	16,053	Indiana	5%	Missouri	5%
11	Texas	58%	North Dakota	41%	Delaware	15,956	Pennsylvania	5%	Idaho	4%
12	Georgia	57%	South Carolina	39%	Connecticut	15,514	Washington	5%	Pennsylvania	4%
13	Colorado	57%	New Jersey	36%	Georgia	15,325	South Carolina	4%	Wyoming	3%
14	Minnesota	56%	Arkansas	35%	Virginia	15,207	Arkansas	4%	Montana	3%
15	New Hampshire	54%	Montana	34%	Nevada	15,130	Illinois	4%	Louisiana	3%
16	Virginia	52%	Alabama	33%	Arizona	15,016	Oklahoma	4%	California	3%
17	Kentucky	51%	Tennessee	33%	Tennessee	14,718	Minnesota	4%	Connecticut	3%
18	South Carolina	50%	South Dakota	30%	Louisiana	14,452	Alabama	4%	<b>New Mexico</b>	<b>3%</b>
19	Utah	49%	Iowa	27%	Kentucky	14,404	Ohio	3%	New Jersey	3%
20	Ohio	48%	Kentucky	26%	Minnesota	14,236	West Virginia	3%	North Carolina	3%
	<b>U.S Average</b>	47%	<b>U.S Average</b>	26%	<b>U.S Average</b>	14,742	<b>U.S Average</b>	3%	<b>U.S Average</b>	3%

Chart courtesy of TRIP

The organization also found that interstate traffic in New Mexico has increased 18% from 2000 to 2019. In New Mexico, 19% of interstate highways in city areas are considered congested during peak traffic hours.

TRIP, a national transportation research nonprofit is focused on updating the Interstate Highway System to make them safer, is recommending major updates to the system like adding additional highway capacity, foundational reconstructing on highways and bridges, and adding corridors. Visit [tripnet.org](http://tripnet.org) to view the full report.