

History Space: Where does Vermont rank?

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Vermont is always showing up on various lists, top 10 for this, bottom 10 for that. Some of it depends on who is putting the list together. The Center for Research on Vermont has been collecting those listings for several years. Here we present some of the highlights grouped into these categories: Health Care, Education, Safety, Energy & the Environment, the Economy, Civic Culture, Tourism, Quality of Life and Miscellaneous.

Miscellaneous

Vermont topped the Strolling of the Heifers' Locavore Index for the sixth year in a row, reflecting the state's commitment to promoting local food. The analysis weighed seven factors concerning local food production — including the number of farmers markets per capita, farm-to-school participation, and hospitals serving locally sourced food. The state was joined by Maine, Oregon, Montana, and New Hampshire in the top five, upholding 2016's ranks in order.

Vermont has the best insurance regulatory environment in the country for the third year in a row. According to the Insurance Regulation Report Card conducted by the R. Street Institute, Vermont received the only A+ score in the country, with underwriting freedom as a strength in the state's model.

There's reason to celebrate Earth Day: Vermont was ranked second nationally in the Clean Energy Momentum: Ranking State Progress Report published by the Union of Concerned Scientists for its widespread use of sustainable energy. Second only to California, the state stood out for leading the country in clean energy jobs per capita and for its carbon reduction target. See the VT Digger article for further analysis.

Vermont's bird population has dropped by 14.2 percent over the past two and a half decades, according to the Vermont Center for Ecostudies' recent report. Climate change, invasive species and the natural cycle of developing forests were identified as notable contributing factors — though anthropological habitat fragmentation also played a part in the birds' downturn. Among the species with the biggest decline is the common bluejay, whose population dwindled by 25 percent between 1989 and 2013.

Vermont has the fifth largest affordability gap for renters in any state in the nation, according to the annual Out of Reach report by the National Low Income Housing Coalition. In order to afford a modest 2-bedroom rental home, individuals would need to earn a "Housing Wage" of \$21.90 per hour — the equivalent of working 88 hours per week, or 2.2 full-time jobs, at Vermont's current minimum wage income. Among the other states' Housing Wage ratings,

Kentucky's was the most affordable (\$13.95/hour) and Hawaii was the least (\$35.20/hour); the federal minimum wage is just \$7.25/hour. [Read the Vermont Business Journal article here.](#)

While budget cuts to federal funding for the arts continue to be debated in Washington, the arts continue to be a vibrant contributor to the Vermont economy. A recent [survey by the National Endowment for the Arts](#) reported that some 64 percent of Vermonters personally performed or created artworks in 2015 — significantly more than the national average (45.1 percent).

Latest [data from the Vermont Department of Labor](#) estimates some 4,400 Vermonters were employed in the “Arts, Entertainment and Recreation” industry in 2016, a slight increase from the previous year.

Vermont was [ranked number ten in a recent study by the U.S. World News Report ranking all fifty states](#). The criteria included a variety of areas including education, health care, economy, and more. The state was carried largely by a number one ranking in crime and corrections, contrasting low scores in economy and infrastructure. See the [Burlington Free Press article](#) for further analysis.

Vermont also ranks high nationally in government expenditures, according to a list compiled by economist Arthur Woolf — [number one in health care spending per capita, third in welfare spending and fourth in transportation spending](#).

[Vermont was ranked the third least religious state in the nation](#). About one-third of Vermont's residents are considered to be highly religious based upon the methodologies by Pew Research. In comparison, Alabama is the most religious state with about three-fourths of the population deemed highly religious.

From 1996 to 2016, [the average marathon finish time increased by about 25 minutes](#). However, [Vermont has the third fastest average](#) behind Massachusetts and Washington D.C. When broken down by gender, Vermont men are the fastest in the nation. While Vermont women average the second fastest.

Health

States with stricter gun laws that spend more on mental health and education have fewer school shootings, [says a recent study](#) featuring researchers from Boston University, Columbia University, and the University of Texas. Vermont is ranked fifth on education expenditure in the country and was one of the states that has had no school shootings during the 2013-2015 study period.

With just one juvenile lock-up facility (Woodside Juvenile Rehabilitation Center, located in Essex), Vermont has the country's lowest levels of juvenile incarceration. This rank is based on [data](#) from 2013, compiled by U.S. News and World Report. (Data from 2013)

[A recent study measuring openness and access in healthcare systems](#) has identified Vermont as one of the most restrictive states in the U.S. Conducted by the Mercatus Center, the report ranked

Vermont 42nd overall for the discretion patients and providers have over broad areas of healthcare and last for free market insurance.

Vermont ranks No. 1 nationally for health care spending per capita, according to an [article](#) by UVM economics professor Art Woolf in the Burlington Free Press. Vermont spends \$343 million on health care, which can partially be attributed to the 28 percent of Vermonters under age 65 that are enrolled in Medicaid (significantly higher than the national average of 20 percent). The article is based on data compiled by the US Census Bureau. (March 2017)

Vermont ranks No. 3 nationally for public welfare spending per capita; totalling \$1.7 billion, it is the state's largest expenditure. Vermont's spending on public welfare — which includes many different programs that help low-income Vermonters — is 50 percent higher than the national average. The ranking is based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, as reported in an [article](#) by the Burlington Free Press. (March 2017)

According to [data](#) compiled by U.S. News and World Report, Vermont ranks 8th in the country for the lowest obesity rates. In 2015, 25.1 percent of Vermonters weighed in as obese. Throughout the United States, no state has an obesity rate lower than 20 percent — and Louisiana's was the country's highest, at 36.2 percent. (Data from 2015)

According to the Vermont Department of Health, [Vermont's binge drinking rate is higher than the national average](#). Last year, some [17.2% of Vermont adults reported binge drinking at least one day in the past month](#), versus 16.3 percent for the rest of the country. That puts our state in the top third of the country's heaviest drinkers.

Vermont was counted among the national frontrunners in providing summer nutrition for children, ranking third in the country for the second year in a row. An average of 9,041 children participate in the various programs each day, according to the [“Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation” report](#). See the [VT Digger article](#) for more information.

[Vermont was ranked the best state to have a baby in](#). Factored into this ranking are other rankings including: the fifth lowest infant mortality rate, the most midwives and OB/GYNs per capita, the third most pediatricians and family doctors per capita, and the most child care centers per capita.

Vermont was ranked among the best in a [recent study conducted by Medicare Health Plan evaluating the degree to which the nation's primary care providers are overworked](#). Contrasting the national average of 12.8 nurses per 1,000 citizens, there are 21.3 nurses for every 1,000 Vermonters—the highest ranked ratio in the country. As for doctors, Vermont ranked ninth, with 3.4 doctors per 1,000 citizens. A [recent study published in Health Affairs](#) suggests that more doctors and nurses per capita may correlate with better health care. Check out the [Vermont Biz article](#) for further analysis.

Bennington County was ranked as one of the unhealthiest populations in the state, according to the [County Health Rankings and Roadmaps report](#). While Addison and Chittenden counties are home to Vermont's healthiest individuals, Grand Isles and Orleans counties fell into 13th and

14th (of 14 counties), respectively. The disparity has largely been attributed to vastly different socio-economic demographics, and the worst-off counties landed there at least partially from addiction.

According to data from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, in 2014 Vermont ranked as the eighth state with the most homelessness per 100,000 residents, having 249 per 100k residents. This ranking has risen drastically from 2011, when Vermont was ranked as the 16th state with the most homelessness.

Based on a comprehensive report from the United Health Foundation and the American Public Health Association Vermont ranks as the second healthiest state. The report took into account everything from personal behaviors, like smoking and exercise, to measures of community well-being such as air pollution, violent crime, high school graduation rate, premature deaths, child poverty, diabetes, health insurance and public health funding.

Vermont was recently named one of the top states for insurance enrollment and preventive care delivery in adolescents and young adults. In a study by researchers at the University of California, Vermont and six other top performing states' approaches to increasing insurance enrollment were studied, finding strategies such as use of partnerships, special populations outreach, leveraging laws and resources, and youth engagement to be most effective.

Vermont was awarded a 'B' rating for enforcing policies that support new parents. In light of the 23rd anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), a state-by-state analysis revealed that most states earned a 'C' or lower by failing to enact measures that go beyond the act's protections against unpaid leave. Vermont's higher grade reflected expanded policies, including the paid sick day law enacted earlier this year.

The University of Vermont Medical Center earned a top ranking at 13th for the sixth consecutive year in the Vizient University HealthSystem Consortium Quality and Accountability Study. Other top-tier honorees included elite academic hospitals like Mayo Clinic, and the Vizient UHC Study has been noted as the most intensive and credible examination of its kind.

Older adults in Vermont report some of the lowest overall well-beings in the country, according to a new Gallup poll. The results were found by interviewing over 115,000 adults aged 55 and over across the U.S., and following a Well-Being Index that takes into account elements essential to happiness, like purpose, social and financial fulfillment, a sense of community, and physical health. Hawaii had the highest Well-Being Index score for the second year in a row.

Contrasting the nation's overall declining health in preterm births, Vermont was one of just four states, including New Hampshire, to earn an "A" grade on the latest March of Dimes Birth Report Card. Vermont had the lowest prematurity rate in the country at 7.3 percent. See the Vermont Biz article for more information.

The 2016 America's Health Ranking Senior Report revealed that while Vermont ranks second in the U.S. for overall health in citizens over the age of 65, the state also ranks 41st for its alarming rate of falls. Just under one third of Vermont seniors (31.7 percent) reported having had a fall

within the past year—significantly higher than the national average of 28.7 percent. Check out this commentary in the [Bennington Banner](#) for more information (September, 2016).

October 1: 2016: The [America's Health Rankings report](#) ranked Vermont No. 2 in overall health of women and children and number one for children with adequate health insurance. The northeast fared well overall, with Massachusetts and New Hampshire rounding out the top three. [Vermont was ranked the 8th best state for aging.](#) The ranking was based off of various factors including one of the best nursing home qualities in the country.

Safety and criminal justice

Burlington has been ranked the fourth safest city for kids in [a recent study by Value Penguin](#). The study used data points such as school enrollment, police presence, and children in poverty to determine the ranking. Burlington [received points for access to healthcare and education, but scored lower in crime.](#)

If you're the type that puts a lot of stock in surveys, you might consider relocating to Barre, Vermont. [Vermont is ranked #1 the nation for public safety](#) by the U.S. News & World Report "Best States" rankings, coming in lowest in both property crime and violent crime rates. What's more, the town of Barre topped the list of Homesnacks.net's ["Ten Safest Cities in Vermont for 2017,"](#) based on FBI Uniform Crime Report data for violent, property, and total crimes per capita.

[Vermont ranks the safest state in the nation.](#) Vermont has been ranked the No. 1 safest state in the nation. In a violent crime rate [review by 24/7 Wall Street](#), Vermont was reported to have only 118 violent crimes per 100,000 state residents. For an in depth analysis see the [article by the Burlington Free Press](#).

Vermont drivers have been ranked some of the best in the country. [A study conducted by Car Insurance Comparison compiled statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration](#) ranked each state in terms of fatal car wrecks and their causes, including drunk driving, speeding, and careless driving.

[A report by the Trust for America's Health](#) reveals Vermont is working hard to combat prescription drug abuse. A state by state analysis found that Vermont was one of only two states to score 10 out of a possible 10 possible indicators of [promising strategies to fight prescription drug abuse](#). To develop scores for the report, the organization worked with public-health, clinical, injury-prevention, law-enforcement and community organization experts to review a range of national recommendations. [Read the Kentucky Health News Story here.](#) (Oct.11, 2013).

Quality of life

Availability of affordable rental housing continues to be an ongoing issue for Vermonters. The state was ranked the fifth worst in the country for discrepancy between wage and the Fair Market Rent for an ordinary two-bedroom apartment. According to the annual [Out of Reach report](#),

Vermont renters have to make \$21.90 an hour, or \$45,545 a year, to bear the expense—and a minimum wage worker would have to work 88 hours per week, or 2.2 full time jobs.

According to the CATO Institute “Freedom in the 50 States 2016” report, Vermont ranks 10th in the country in personal freedom. The ranking takes into account incarceration and arrests, marriage freedom, education, gun control, alcohol, marijuana freedom, gambling, asset forfeiture, tobacco, travel freedom, civil liberties, and campaign finance.

Vermont is one of the best places in America to raise girls, according to a Girl Scout Research Institute report, “The State of Girls: Thriving or Surviving?” The report, which rated Vermont 5th out of 50 states, gleaned its results from data on girls’ physical health and safety, as well as their economic well-being, education, emotional health and extracurricular or out-of-school activities. The report found that the Midwest, Northeast and Mid-Atlantic tended to score more highly, while states in the South tended to receive lower rankings. Read the Huffington Post story here (September, 2014).

(Source: <http://www.youengagement101.com/relationships/2010/01/finding-love-online/>)
According to a recent report, Vermont ranks number one in the country as the safest state for online dating. The report theorizes Vermont may be a safe haven for those seeking love online due to its aging population, lower crime rates, and effective sex education. The findings come from an analysis of data on each state drawn from FBI and CDC data regarding cyber crime and violent crime rate per capita and reported cases of chlamydia and gonorrhea, respectively. (Report published 1/24/17)

EDUCATION

According to the College Board’s Trends in Higher Education 2016-2017 report, Vermont has the nation’s highest average out-of-state tuition and fees at its public four-year institutions, averaging \$36,820. But the tide may be turning: in mid-May, the University of Vermont—the state’s largest public university—announced its lowest tuition increase in 40 years, with a 2.7% increase in in-state tuition, and 2.5% increase in out-of-state tuition.

Vermonters rank fifth nationally for educational attainment, with 45.5 percent of residents 25 years or older earning an associate's degree or higher. This ranking is based on data from 2015 compiled by U.S. News and World Report. (Data from 2015)

According to a report by U.S. News and World Report, Vermont’s 8th graders in public school had the nation's third highest reading scores on the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP). Following closely behind are those same students’ NAEP math scores, which place them fifth nationally. These rankings are based on data reported in 2015. (Data from 2015) Vermont students beat out the national average for ACT scores in all four subjects this year, according to a new study released by the ACT Profile Report. In each category, Vermonters outpaced the nation by at least eleven percent in terms of college readiness. Compared to the state’s 2013 graduates, this year’s 2,108 students scored slightly higher—the average score improved from 23 to 23.6. Six percent of those who took the test this year would be the first in their family to attend university. See the VT Digger article for more statistics.

Vermont rank number four in the country for education spending, with \$1.6 billion going into elementary and secondary schools in the 2013-2014 school year. For every dollar spent on taxes, forty cents go toward the state's educational facilities. For each student, the state spends \$18,066—\$8,000 more than the national average.

According to data from the National Center for Educational Statistics, Vermont ranks No. 7 for having the most elementary and secondary schools per capita. Having 0.631 schools per 1000 people. Other states with small, rural populations accompany Vermont in the top ten, including the Dakotas, Montana, Alaska, Nebraska, and Wyoming.

Data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau found that the state of Vermont expends the fifth highest amount of revenue on education of any state, at \$18,066 per student in 2014.

Additionally, 87.7 percent of Vermont students that were freshmen in 2011 graduated in 2015, taking the expected four years. See the Burlington Free Press article for more information (June 2, 2015).

The University of Vermont rank number 23 among national university pass rates for the Certified Public Accountants Exam (CPA). UVM students had a whopping 78.6 percent first-time pass rate for the exam, as compared to the national and international first-time pass rate of 54.4 percent. The majority of the 49 UVM students that took the CPA were in the Grossman School of Business's Master of Accountancy Program. The ranking is based on the most recent data published by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy. (Published: 2/17/17)

Economy

Vermont ranked 49th in the ALEC-Laffer "Rich States' Poor States" State Economic Competitive Index for the tenth year in a row, with an economic performance rank of 39th. The analysis weighed variables like top marginal property tax rate, property tax burden, and state minimum wage. The state's high rate of domestic migration was a notable factor in determining an unfavorable rank. For more information, check out the Vermont Biz article examining New England states' rankings.

Compared to the national technical efficiency in the public sector, Vermont's efficiency is fairly low. A recent study evaluated all fifty states' GSP and the public expenditures that comprise it, including education, health and welfare spending. Technical efficiency refers to a state's ability to effectively utilize its resources to produce the desired services. The mean national technical efficiency from 1992-2012 was relatively high, at 0.878 — comparatively, Vermont's technical efficiency was 0.802. The lowest mean efficiency was that of West Virginia, at 0.748.

According to National Conference of State Legislatures, Vermont has the fourth highest minimum wage, tied with Connecticut and Rhode Island at \$9.60 per hour. Effective Jan 1, 2017 the minimum wage increased to \$10 and effective Jan 1, 2018, the wage will increase to \$10.50. Starting on Jan 1, 2019 the minimum wage in the state will increase by 5 percent or the consumer price index, whichever is higher.

According to the [Brewers Association](#), Vermont ranks No. 1 for the state with the most craft breweries per capita, home to 9.7 breweries per 100,000 21+ residents. Oregon ranks second, two breweries per capita behind, with 7.7 per 100,000 21+ residents. Vermont also ranks #1 for the highest craft beer production in gallons per capita, producing 17.4 gallons per 21+ adult. Colorado follows Vermont, with about three gallons per person behind, producing 14.1 gallons per 21+ adult.

In a recent [social media study](#), Vermont was ranked 4th in the country for states where people love their jobs. The study, done by [Monster and Brandwatch](#), swept Twitter for sentiments towards users' jobs, taking in the location and other pertinent details in order to rank job happiness by state. Read the [full article](#) on the Vermont Biz website.

While Vermont's small-state economy ranks 41 out of 50, [Business Insider](#) also notes "Vermont has seen the greatest economic growth in New England since the Great Recession."

CNBC ranks Vermont 36 in its [Top U.S. States for Business 2016](#), using more than 60 measures of competitiveness.

Vermont imposes the highest taxes on retirees in the country, [according to the Kiplinger Letter](#). The state taxes most retirement income, including Social Security, and has an income tax ranging from 3.55 percent to 8.95 percent. Check out the [Barre Montpelier Times Argus article](#) to learn more.

Vermont is the [most bartender-friendly state](#), according to a recent study by Zippia. The average annual salary is \$29,530, with experienced workers earning as much as \$48,490. The study took a number of factors into account, using data from the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#), including entry-level salary, number of jobs, and location quotient. See the [Vermont Biz article](#) for more information.

Vermonters' credit card debt is higher in total, yet because the state has higher than average wealth, it is lower as a percent than the rest of the United States. [According to the annual report released by SmartAsset](#), Chittenden County residents have some of the lowest credit debt in the state. [See the article in Vermont Biz](#) for details.

Vermont was awarded a 'B' [rating](#) by the National Partnership for Women & Families for enforcing policies that support new parents. Released on the eve of the 23rd anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the state-by-state analysis noted that most states earned a 'C' or lower by failing to enact measures that go beyond the act's protections against unpaid leave. Vermont's higher grade reflected expanded policies, including a [paid sick day](#) law enacted earlier this year. (August, 2016)

Vermont's economic outlook ranks 49th in the latest [Rich States, Poor States Report](#) by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a conservative nonprofit. With much of the ranking predicated on tax policy, Vermont has predictably finished near or at the bottom. In the eight years of the study, Vermont has not finished higher than 49th and has been 50th twice.

While ranking low for all the income and property tax questions, Vermont was 7th best in sales tax and 5th in debt service. [Read the Vermont Business Journal article here.](#) (April 9, 2015) Vermont comes in 15th for [the cheapest states to raise a family](#), according to [gobankingrates.com](#), a personal finance and consumer banking website. The survey compared the costs and factors that affect family finances in all 50 states, scoring each for the following five factors: (1) median income, (2) state family leave policies, (3) food costs, (4) housing costs and (5) child care costs. Each category was weighted equally and used to generate a family affordability score for each state. (November 9, 2015).

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According to a [study conducted by Pew Trusts](#), states rely on property taxes for less than 2 percent of their total revenues on average. However, 34 percent of Vermont's revenue is comprised of property taxes, with personal income taxes making up an additional 23.3 percent. Vermont imposes the highest taxes on retirees in the country, [according to the Kiplinger Letter](#). The state taxes most retirement income, including Social Security, and has an income tax ranging from 3.55 percent to 8.95 percent. Check out the [Barre Montpelier Times Argus article](#) to learn more.

[Vermont was ranked 47 overall on the tax climate index.](#) The rankings that go into the overall vary depending on the tax type. [For property taxes, Vermont ranks 48 while it ranks 16 for sales tax.](#)

Vermont was ranked [second in the nation for having the most fair and reasonable liability systems](#) for US businesses. In the past 7 years, Vermont has risen 23 spots. The scoring will encourage more to do business in Vermont based on the laws and policies put in place. The survey focuses on perceptions of people from all across the nation. To find out more about Vermont, go to [VermontBiz](#).

[Vermont has the fifth highest taxes](#) in the United States when comparing percentages. Vermont collected over 12 percent of all the income earned in the state. While all states combined to under 11%. The difference in percentages correlates to a difference of \$30 million in taxes. To read more about comparisons to other states, check out [Burlington Free Press](#).

Energy and environment

Vermont was ranked second nationally in the [Clean Energy Momentum: Ranking State Progress Report](#) published by the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) for its widespread use of sustainable energy. Second only to California, the state stood out for leading the country in clean energy jobs per capita and for its carbon reduction target. See the [VT Digger article](#) for further analysis.

Vermont is No. 1 on Forbes list of [America's Greenest States](#), thanks to environmentally friendly policies, energy-efficient building and higher per-capita energy efficiency spending.

Vermont tops all other states in terms of their commitment to local food, according to the 2016 Locavore Index.

Civic culture

If you've ever complained about Vermont's drivers, you may have good cause—the state is home to the nation's most distracted drivers, according to a recent study conducted by Zendrive. Despite Vermont's legal limitations on handheld phone use while operating a vehicle, the respondents reported spending 7.42 percent of the time they spent driving using their phones each day. 88 percent of the car trips analyzed by the study involved the driver using a smartphone in some way.

Vermont was ranked the most toxic state for online comments in a recent study conducted by Wired and Disqus. A toxic comment was defined as a “a rude, disrespectful, or unreasonable comment that is likely to make you leave a discussion,” and 12.2 percent of Vermonters' comments on platforms like Infowars and the Wirecutter fell into this category. Though the most active time for commenters was around 9 p.m., the worst “trolls” tended to come out at 3 a.m., with 11 percent of comments identified as toxic. Because the study was limited to sites using Disqus' software, comments on sites like Facebook and Twitter were not evaluated.

The unique Vermont culture may stem from the state's high levels of social capital, or the deep connections between citizens that allow them to pull together in times of crisis. The state is “consistently at the top” of states with high social capital according to the U.S. News and World Report, exemplified in the vitality of citizen legislators and the state's bounce back from Hurricane Irene. Researcher Robert D. Putnam chronicled the nationwide reduction in social capital in his study Bowling Alone, which he largely attributes to the development of technology and a consequent disinterest in forming lasting community relationships.

Vermont ranks in the top 10 most politically engaged states, but is trending down, reports tech company SmartAsset. In 2010, Vermont had the 5th highest voter turnout in the country, at 55 percent. That number then fell to 42.5 percent in 2014, and the state is now ranked 8th this year. See this vermontbiz.com article to learn more.

Vermont was ranked number one by Ballotpedia in state election agency accessibility, providing political candidates with timely and useful information. The study was conducted by determining the ease of access to and quality of information as well as the speed at which the agency returned an inquiring email. Vermont earned 49 out of 50 points. See the VT Digger article for more information.

Based on data retrieved from the 2010 and 2012 voter turnouts, 2012 voter registration, and 2012 presidential donations, Vermont was ranked 7th among the top ten most politically active states by SmartAsset. New England as a whole was found to be politically engaged, with five of the six states that it is comprised of included in the top 10.

Tourism and recreation

Vermont 108 near Smugglers Notch was named one of the Top 10 beautiful tree tunnels of the world.

Eight towns in Vermont rank in Yankee Magazine's top 25 foliage towns in New England. Stowe was listed by Country Living Magazine as one of the 18 most charming small towns across America.

Grafton ranks in the top 12 of America's most beautiful places.

Home to Stowe, Sugarbush, Jay, Stratton, Mad River Glen, and other beloved ski meccas, Vermont ranks as one of the top 10 skiing destinations of the world.

Other

In Dateline Vermont journalist Chris Graff lists the Top 20 Stories of the 20th century in Vermont (Thistle Hill Publications, 2006; 215-229). The top five are; development of the interstates, the 1965 House reapportionment, the 1927 flood, Phil Hoff's 1962 election and the passage of Act 250 in 1970. Bernie Sanders' election as mayor of Burlington makes it as No. 18.