

## SAVED REVIEW

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### State Profiles: The Population and Economy of Each U.S. State

Shana Hertz Hattis, ed.

**Publisher:** Bernan Press, Lanham, MD (2014)**Price:** \$165.00**ISBN13/ISSN:** 978-1-59888-721-1, 978-1-59888-7**Content:** [DEMOGRAPHICS](#); [STATISTICS](#)**Area:** [United States](#); [Statistics](#); [Statistics, Demography, and Urban Studies](#)**Julia Frankosky** - Government Information Librarian, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

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Finding statistics about states and the United States as a whole is not necessarily challenging for a librarian but it can be time-consuming and tedious to find answers to questions such as "which state uses the most energy?" Or, "how much money did the state of Arizona collect in taxes and what was the amount derived through property taxes?" At times it can also be tricky to remember which government agency would collect the information sought. The sixth edition of *State Profiles: The Population and Economy of Each U.S. State* does an excellent job of compiling basic economic and social statistics. From population counts through state government tax collection, this resource provides general statistics for each state and the District of Columbia in an easy to use volume. Beginning with a textual summary about the United States, followed by statistical charts ranking each state based on a variety of topics (total population, median household income, and traffic fatalities, just to name a few examples), this volume is then organized alphabetically by state (including the District of Columbia). Each entry begins with a summary page, providing "Facts and Figures" such as location and size information; state motto, nickname, and song; date of statehood; and other basic facts. This page also includes a bulleted "At a Glance" section that highlights some key facts, such as rate of population growth, median household income, homeownership (actual bulleted points vary depending on the state), and the numerical ranking for the state for these factors. The rest of the entry consists of 16 tables, which are the same tables for every state and in the same order; a list of tables is provided following the contents page at the start of the book to enable users to easily see what information is provided for each state. In addition to tables, charts and graphs are provided for selected aspects. A "Notes and Definitions" section at the end of the book provides information about each of the tables, such as the source of the data, definitions for the terminology used by the originating source, the source's methodology, and where to go for more information. One thing of note is the lack of citations for the statistics used for the United States Rankings in the first section of the volume. An index is included after the "Notes and Definitions" section, providing users with the specific page numbers for a particular state's statistical tables. Statistical information was primarily collected from American FactFinder and other Census Bureau Websites. Additional sources include the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), U.S. Department of Education, and Uniform Crime Reports from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). For this 2014 edition, data is predominantly from 2012, with some tables using 2010, 2011, and some 2013 information as well. While the most recent data at the time of publication was included, some tables also include older data (often 2000 and 2010) to show users change over time. While all of the data used to create the statistical tables that make up this resource are freely available, knowing where to look and how to use the various government Websites can be laborious for users. Because of this, this volume is an excellent ready reference source for a library of any type and size and its ease of use allows it to be accessible to library patrons of all levels of research experience.