# Idaho's Tax Code in National Context

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# ABOUT THE TAX FOUNDATION

we've worked for 79 years

on objective research, data, & analysis at the federal, state, & local levels

### **ABOUT THE** TAX FOUNDATION





International Tax

Competitiveness

How Corporate I Eliminates Double

> 2016 State Business Tax

Climate Index

we've worked for

79 years

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**FACTS** FIGURES

FOR YOUR SMARTPHONE

TAX FOUNDATION

How do the 2016 Presidential Tax Plans Compare So Far?

	Bush	Carson	Cruz	Paul	Rubio	Santorum	Trump
10-Year GDP Growth	10%	16.0%	13.9%	12.9%	15%	10.2%	11.5%
10-Year Capital Investment Growth	28.8%	46.6%	43.9%	40.5%	48.9%	29%	29%
10-Year Wage Rate Growth	7.4%	10.9%	12.2%	11.4%	12.5%	7.3%	6.5%
Added Jobs (millions)	2.7	5.2	4.9	4.3	2.7	3.1	5.3
10-Year Static Revenue Estimate (billions)	-\$3,665	-\$5,617	-\$3,666	-\$1,797	-\$6,055	-\$3,223	-\$11,980
10-Year Dynamic Revenue Estimate (billions)	-\$1,610	-\$2,472	-\$768	+\$737	-\$2,401	-\$1,093	-\$10,135

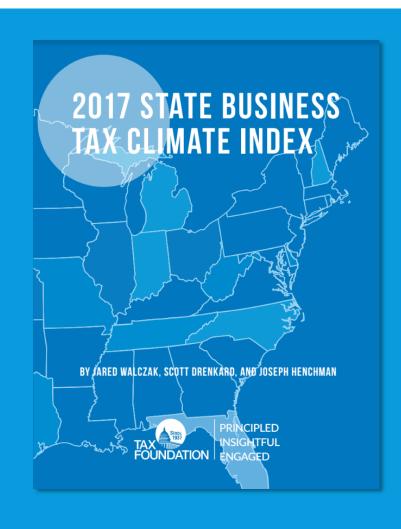
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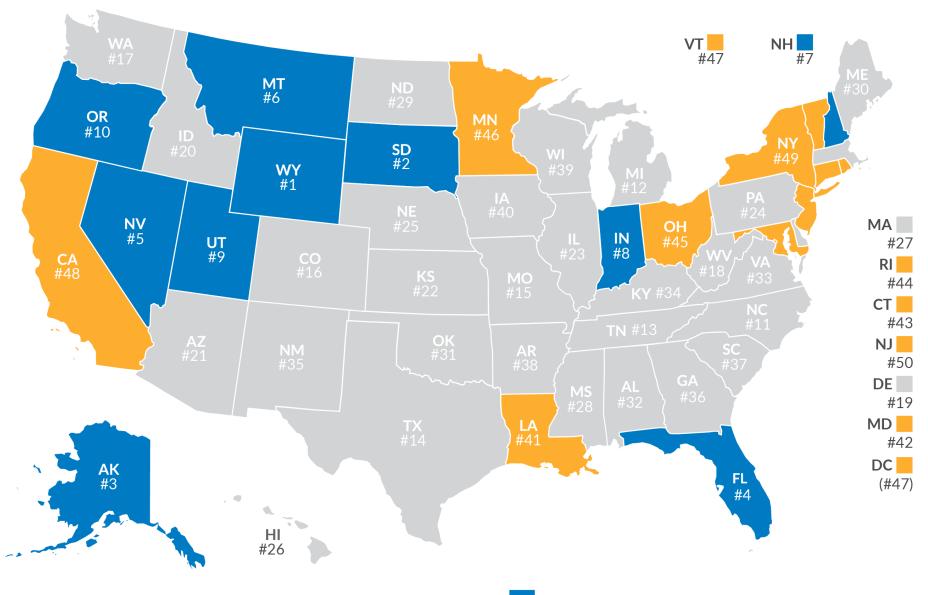
#### STATE BUSINESS TAX CLIMATE INDEX

#### **MAJOR STUDIES**

- A comprehensive look at state tax structures
- The how rather than how much
- Five areas of tax:
  - Individual income taxes
  - Corporate income taxes
  - Sales and excise taxes
  - Property taxes
  - Unemployment insurance taxes



#### **2017 State Business Tax Climate Index**



Note: A rank of 1 is best, 50 is worst. Rankings do not average to the total. States without a tax rank equally as 1. DC's score and rank do not affect other states. The report shows tax systems as of July 1, 2016 (the beginning of Fiscal Year 2017).

Source: Tay Foundation

10 Best Business Tax Climates

10 Worst Business Tax Climates

#### STATE BUSINESS TAX CLIMATE INDEX

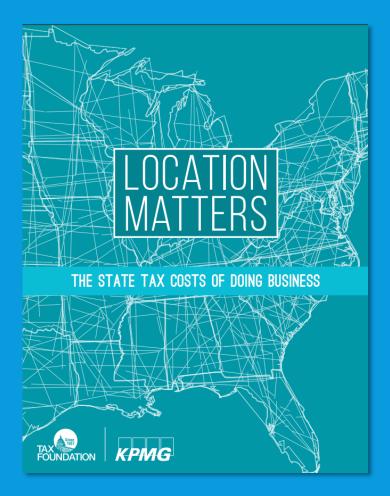
#### **MAJOR STUDIES**

- Overall Rank: 20th
  - Corporate Taxes: 24th
  - Individual Income Tax: 23rd
  - Sales Tax: 26th
  - Unemployment Insurance Tax: 46th
  - Property / Wealth Taxes: 2nd

#### LOCATION MATTERS

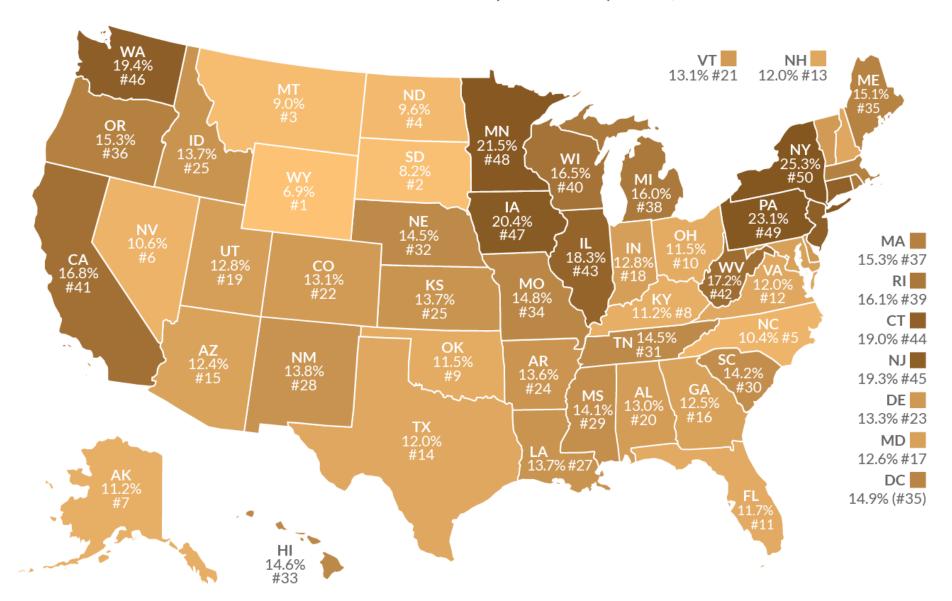
#### **MAJOR STUDIES**

- Model firms study
- Calculates how much by maturity, industry, and state
- Includes all taxes on businesses
- Takes tax incentives into account



#### **Location Matters: The State Tax Costs for Corporate Headquarters**

Total Effective State and Local Tax Rate on a Mature Corporate Headquarters, 2014



#### LOCATION MATTERS

#### **MAJOR STUDIES**

- Corporate Headquarters: 25th
- R&D Facility: 27th
- Retail Store: 26th
- Capital-Intensive Manufacturer: 36th
- Labor-Intensive Manufacturer: 37<sup>th</sup>
- Call Center: 36th
- Distribution Center: 22nd

Seven bracket tax with top rate of 7.4%

```
1.6% > $0
3.6% > $1,452
4.1% > $2,940
5.1% > $4,356
6.1% > $5,808
7.1% > $7,260
7.4% > $10,890
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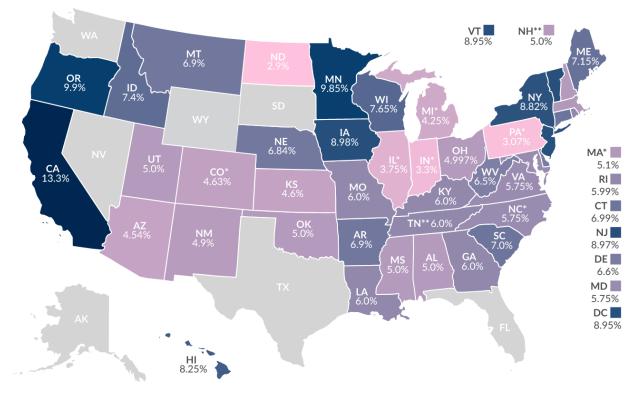
- Inflation-indexed brackets, std. deduction, and p.e.
- Historical top rate was 10.5% (1964)

- Idaho PIT features
  - High rate, progressive
     But kick-in of top rate is low
  - Brackets indexed for inflation
  - Avoids marriage penalty
  - Ranks 24th on individual income tax component of the State Business Tax Climate Index

State	Ranking		
Idaho	23		
Montana	21		
Nevada	1		
Oregon	32		
Utah	12		
Washington	6		
Wyoming	1		

#### How High Are Income Tax Rates in Your State?

Top State Marginal Individual Income Tax Rates, 2016



Note: (\*) State has a flat income tax. (\*\*) State also only taxes interest and dividends income. Map shows top marginal rates: the maximum statutory rate in each state. It is not an effective marginal tax rate, which would include the effects of phase-outs of various tax preferences. Local income taxes are not included.

Source: State tax forms and instructions.

### Top State Marginal Individual Income Tax Rate Lower Higher

#### Idaho's neighbors

- NV, WA, & WY
   No PIT
- UT: Single-rate PIT
- MT, OR:
  Graduated rate
  (6.9% and 9.9% top rates)

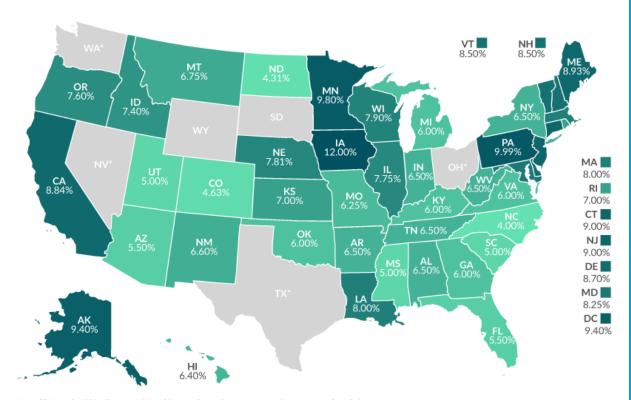
- Effects of individual income taxes
  - Excessive PITs discourage wealth creation
  - High top marginal rates reduce GSP growth
  - Graduated-rate PITs increase labor costs
  - Many businesses pay individual income taxes
     (pass-through taxation of S corps, LLCs, partnerships, and sole proprietorships)

- Modernizing the PIT -
  - Secure rate reductions w/ SUT base broadening ID implicit base breadth: 37.9%; SD: 57.6%, ND: 69.2%, WY: 88.6%
  - Implement "tax triggers" to phase in reductions
    Provides revenue stability during pendency of tax reform
  - Consolidate brackets
     Expanding standard deduction & personal exemption are more effective ways to ensure desired progressivity

- Imposed at flat rate of 7.4%
- Has jobs, R&D, and investment credits
- Throwback rule
- Loss treatment:
  - 2 year carryback (\$100,000 cap)
  - 20 year uncapped carryforward

#### How High Are Corporate Income Tax Rates in Your State?

Top State Marginal Corporate Income Tax Rates in 2016



Note: (\*) Nevada, Ohio, Texas, and Washington do not have corporate income taxes but do have gross receipts taxes with rates not strictly comparable to corporate income tax rates. Arkansas assesses a surcharge of 3% of the taxpayer's total liability. Connecticut's rate includes a 20% surtax. Delaware and Virginia have gross receipts taxes in addition to their corporate income taxes. Illinois' rate includes two separate corporate income taxes, one at a 5.25% rate and one at a 2.5% rate. The tax rate in Indiana will decrease to 6.25% on July 1, 2016.

Top State Marginal Corporate
Income Tax Rate
Lower Higher

#### Idaho's neighbors

- NV, WA, & WY:
   No CIT
- MT & UT: Single-rate CIT
- OR:
  Graduated rate
  (12.0%, 7.0%)

Source: State tax statutes, forms, and instructions; Commerce Clearinghouse.

- Idaho CIT features
  - Above-average rate
  - Heavy tax incentives reliance
  - Ranks 24th on corporate income tax component of the State Business Tax Climate Index

State	Ranking		
Idaho	24		
Montana	13		
Nevada	34		
Oregon	35		
Utah	3		
Washington	48		
Wyoming	1		

- Trends in corporate income taxes
  - Single-rate corporate income tax systems

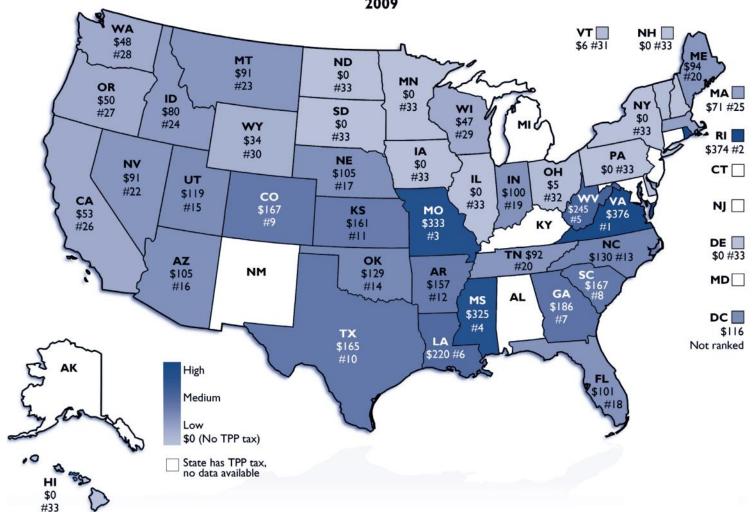
    More consistent with simplicity, neutrality; no meaningful "ability to pay" concept
    Minimizes incentives for firms to engage in expensive tax planning / arbitrage
  - Review of incentives programs

    Cost/benefit analysis of targeted incentives with emphasis on base broadening
  - Reduced reliance on corporate income taxation
    High volatility & admin costs, low collections; 15 states + DC cut CITs since 2008
- *n.b.* Many businesses pay individual income taxes (pass-through taxation of S corps, LLCs, partnerships, and sole proprietorships)

- Modernizing the CIT -
  - Moving away from ineffective carve-outs
    Enhancing tax neutrality, lowering rate, creating more pro-growth tax code
  - Implement "tax triggers" to phase in reductions
    As with PIT, an attractive way to phase in cuts over time as revenues permit

- Tangible personal property taxes are imposed on "things that can be touched or moved"
- Idaho's TPP is essentially a tax on machinery and equipment & trade fixtures
- Has a de minimis exemption of \$100,000 and an acquisition threshold of \$3,000
- The Mountain West relies on TPP more heavily than many other regions, though states across the nation are gradually moving away from such taxation

#### Tangible Personal Property Tax Collections Per Capita



- Effects of TPP taxes
  - Disincentivize capital investment

    Apply to select business inputs, creates incentivizes outflow of mobile capital
  - Impose high compliance costs (taxpayer active)
    Taxpayer must document & depreciate personal property subject to taxation
  - Levied non-transparently
     Baked into consumer costs, hidden from view

- Modernization options
  - Increase acquisition price threshold
     Currently, all business personal property with acquisition price under \$3K exempt
  - Exempt new property from taxation
    Limits immediate impact on local bases, largely phases out over time
  - Enact a local option

    Permit localities to make exemptions more generous or repeal them outright

# UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAXES

- Fourth-highest taxable wage base in the country (tie) \$37,200 (tied with ND), after WA, HI, and AK (average of \$18,041)
- Charging method: most recent employer only
- Surtaxes and Reserve Taxes
  Loan & Interest Repayment Surtax, Reserve Tax, Surtax for Administration
- Experience rating qualification time period: 1.5 yrs

# TAX POLICY NATIONAL TRENDS

#### Reduced Capital Taxation

States are moving away from taxes on capital (capital stock taxes, tangible personal property taxes, and inventory taxes)

#### Income Taxes Down, Sales Taxes Up

Nineteen states have cut PITs and fifteen states have cut CITs since 2008, but sales tax rates are trending upward, responsive to continued base erosion

#### Return of Gross Receipts Taxes

After decades of GRTs falling into relative obsolescence, there has been a recent resurgence (Texas, Ohio, and Nevada, with a proposal failing in Oregon this November)

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