

CHAD WARMINGTON

PRESIDENT & CEO

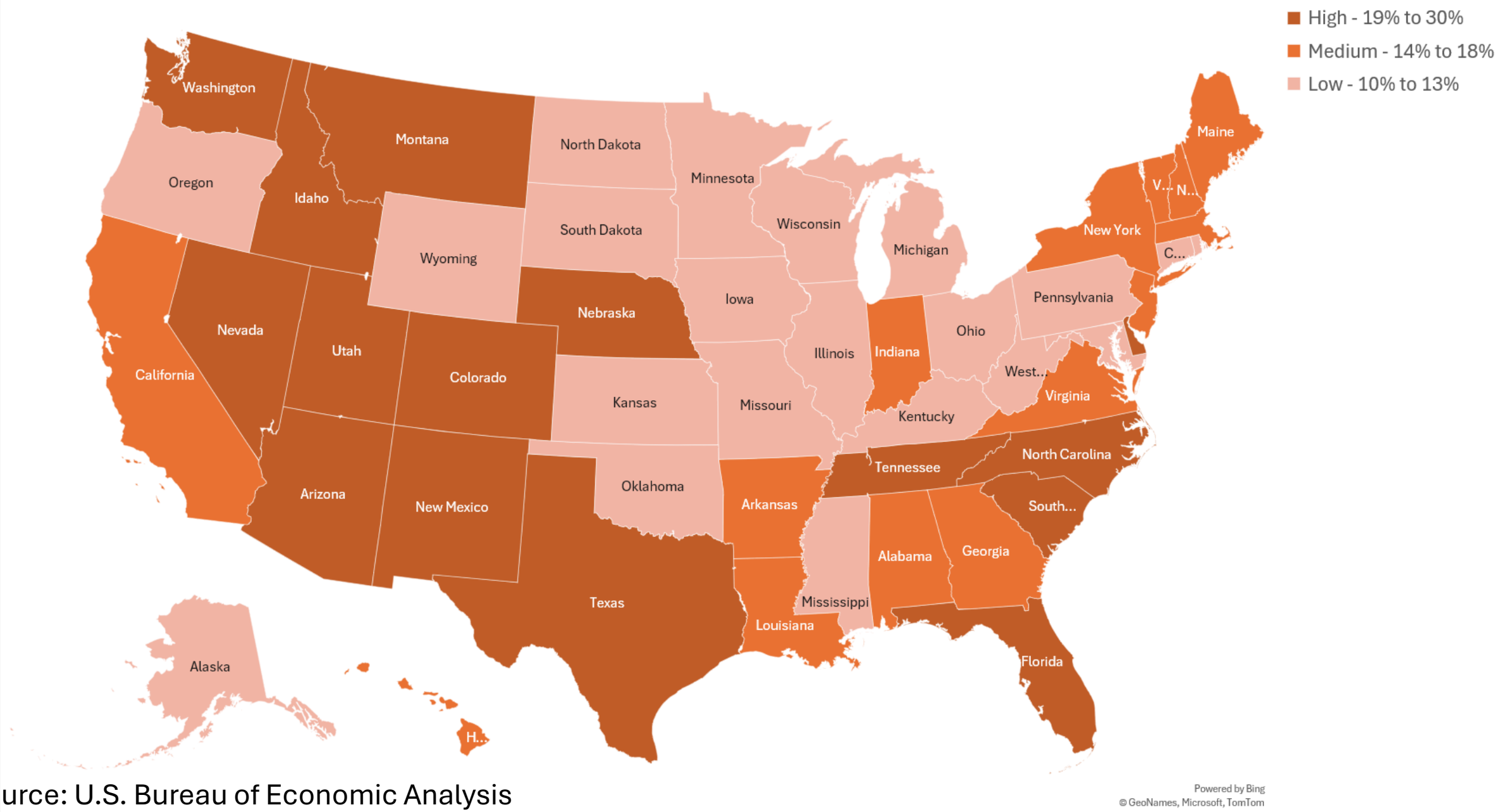
THE STATE CHAMBER

WHAT IS THE STATE CHAMBER?

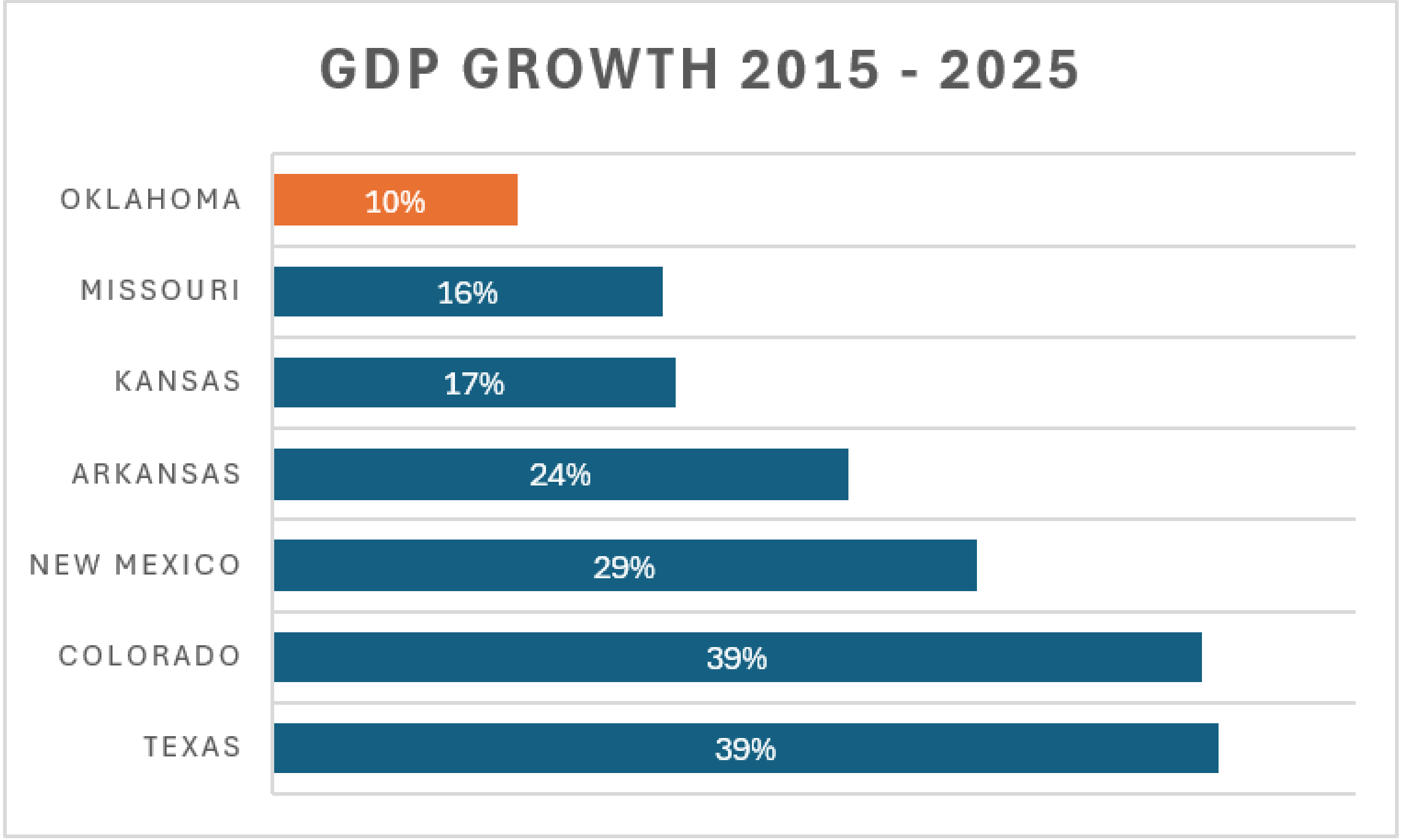
THE STATE CHAMBER


POLICY
ADVOCACY
POLITICS

REAL GDP GROWTH 2020 - 2025



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

OKLAHOMA BUSINESS LEADERS POLL 2026

View the full results:

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION:
THE DEFINING CONSTRAINT ON GROWTH

Barrier	Overall
Recruitment pipeline (not enough candidates)	54%
Retention / turnover	44%
Technical skills gap	43%
Durable / soft skills gap	33%
Entry-level availability	16%
Executive / management availability	12%
Degree attainment	11%

The biggest hiring challenge is not simply finding better applicants. For many employers, it is finding enough applicants at all.

WORKFORCE & EDUCATION:
THE DEFINING CONSTRAINT ON GROWTH

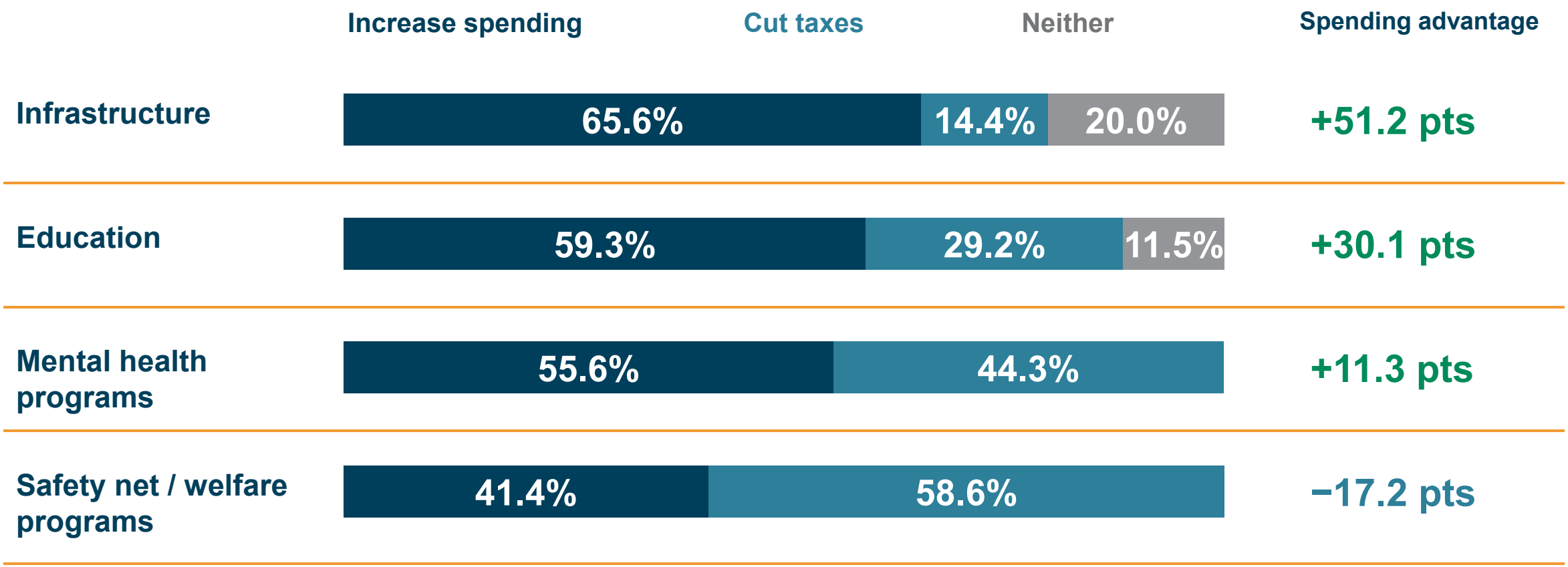
WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION BARRIERS

Policy	Overall
Childcare Access	**77%**
Benefits Cliff Reform	**39%**
Immigration / Visa Pathways	**34%**
Transportation	**34%**
Workforce Housing	**30%**

CHILDCARE ACCESS IS IN A CATEGORY OF ITS OWN.

ECONOMIC CLIMATE:
PRO-GROWTH, NOT ANTI-INVESTMENT

Leaders prioritize key investments over tax cuts



Tax cuts lead only for safety net / welfare programs

Combines “definitely” + “maybe” responses. Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Source: Oklahoma Business Leaders Poll. N=401 each wave. Infrastructure and education: Spring 2026. Mental health and safety net: Fall 2026.


OKLAHOMA
COMPETES

What do states compete on?

- Affordability
- Productivity
- Innovation

FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPETITIVENESS

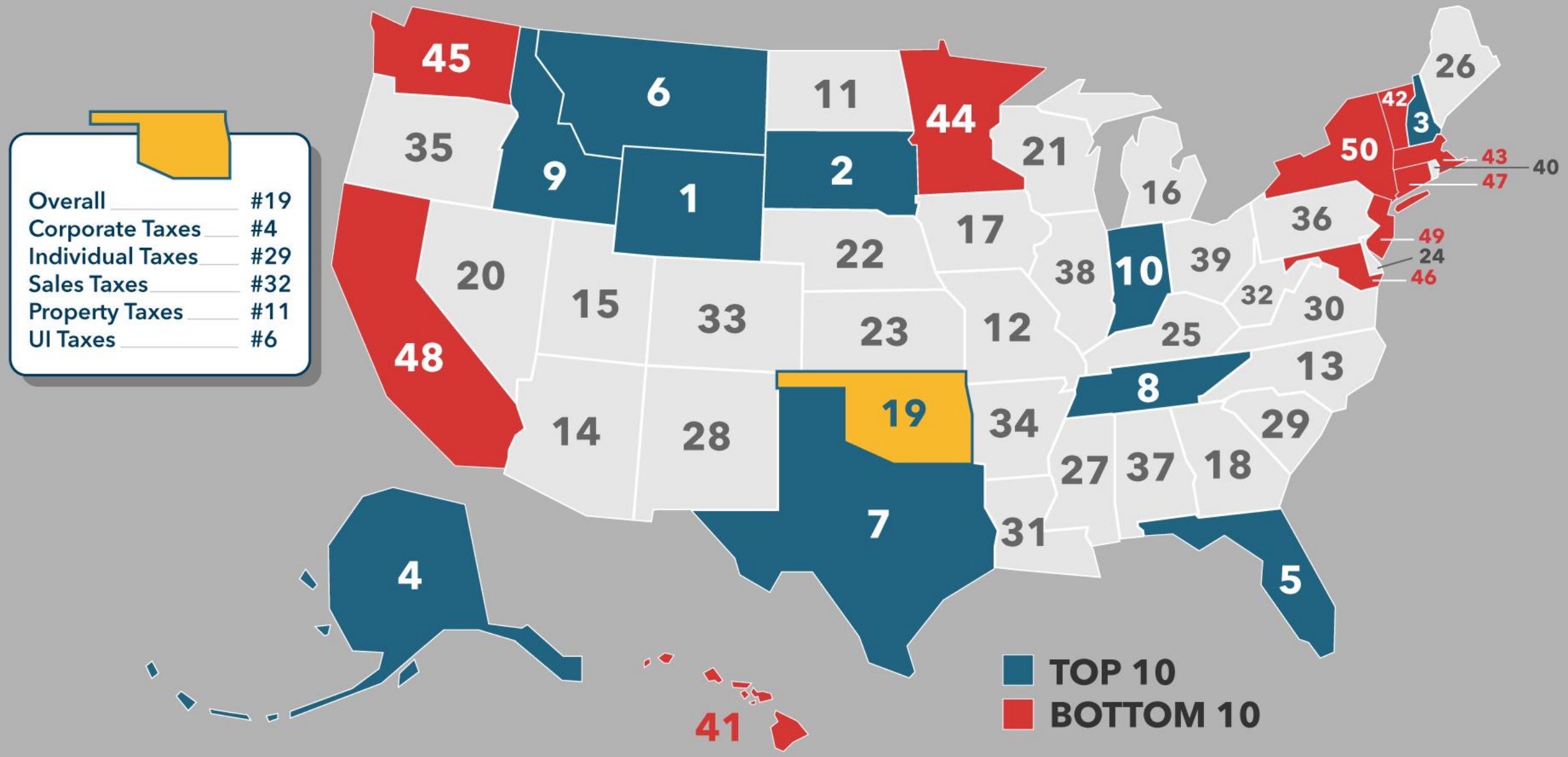
ECONOMIC CLIMATE

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

INFRASTRUCTURE

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

2026 BUSINESS TAX CLIMATE INDEX



OKLAHOMA COMPETES

Infrastructure is a competitive foundation.

Oklahoma ranks near the top third nationally—but the next economy will demand more.

OVERALL INFRASTRUCTURE

#17

NATIONALLY

U.S. NEWS • 2024

WHAT DRIVES THE RANKING

#11
ENERGY
infrastructure

#21
TRANSPORTATION
infrastructure

#28
INTERNET
infrastructure

Protect the foundation—and build the capacity the next economy requires.

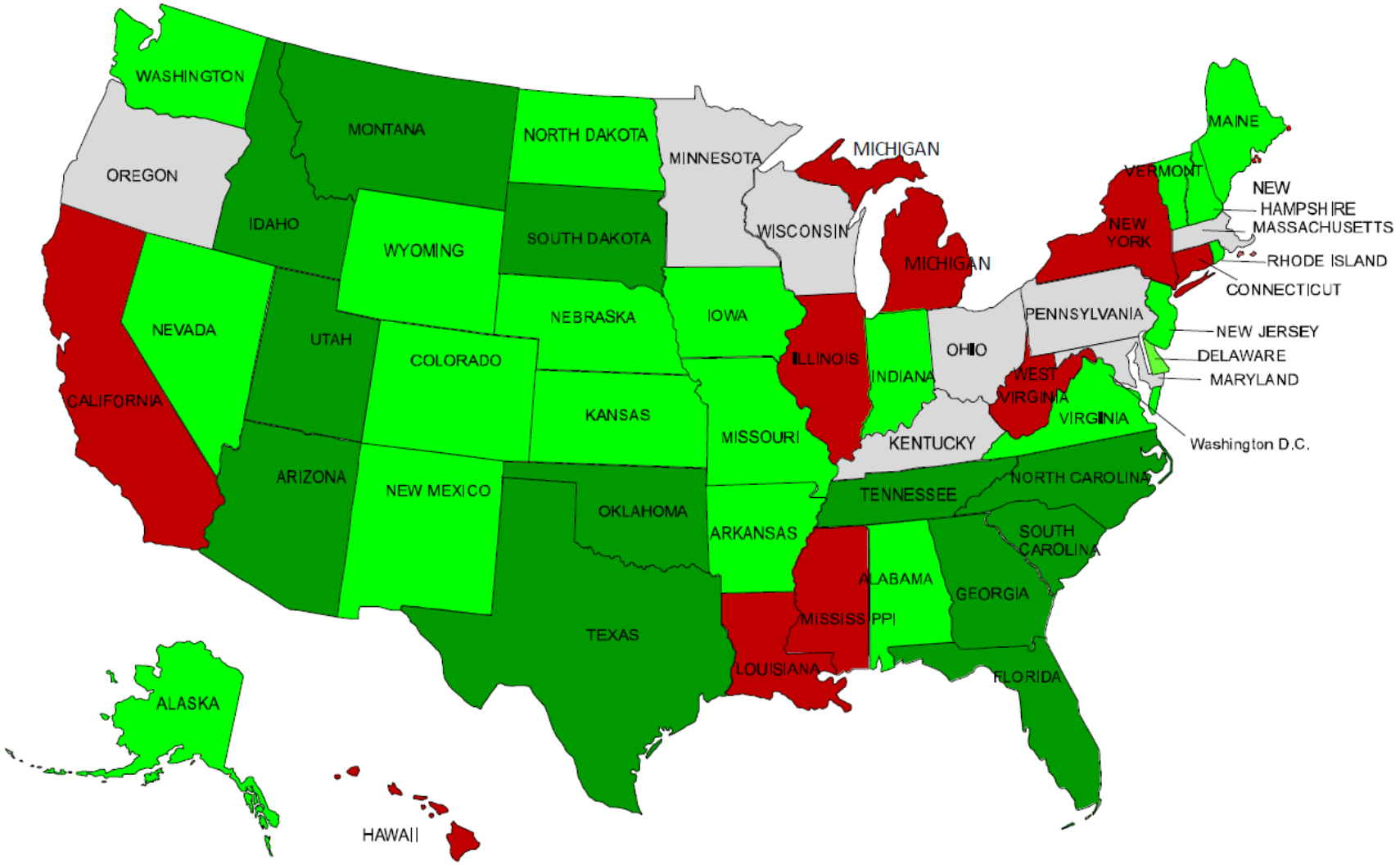
THE TAKEAWAY

A solid position today is not the same as readiness for tomorrow.

Source: U.S. News & World Report, Best States 2024

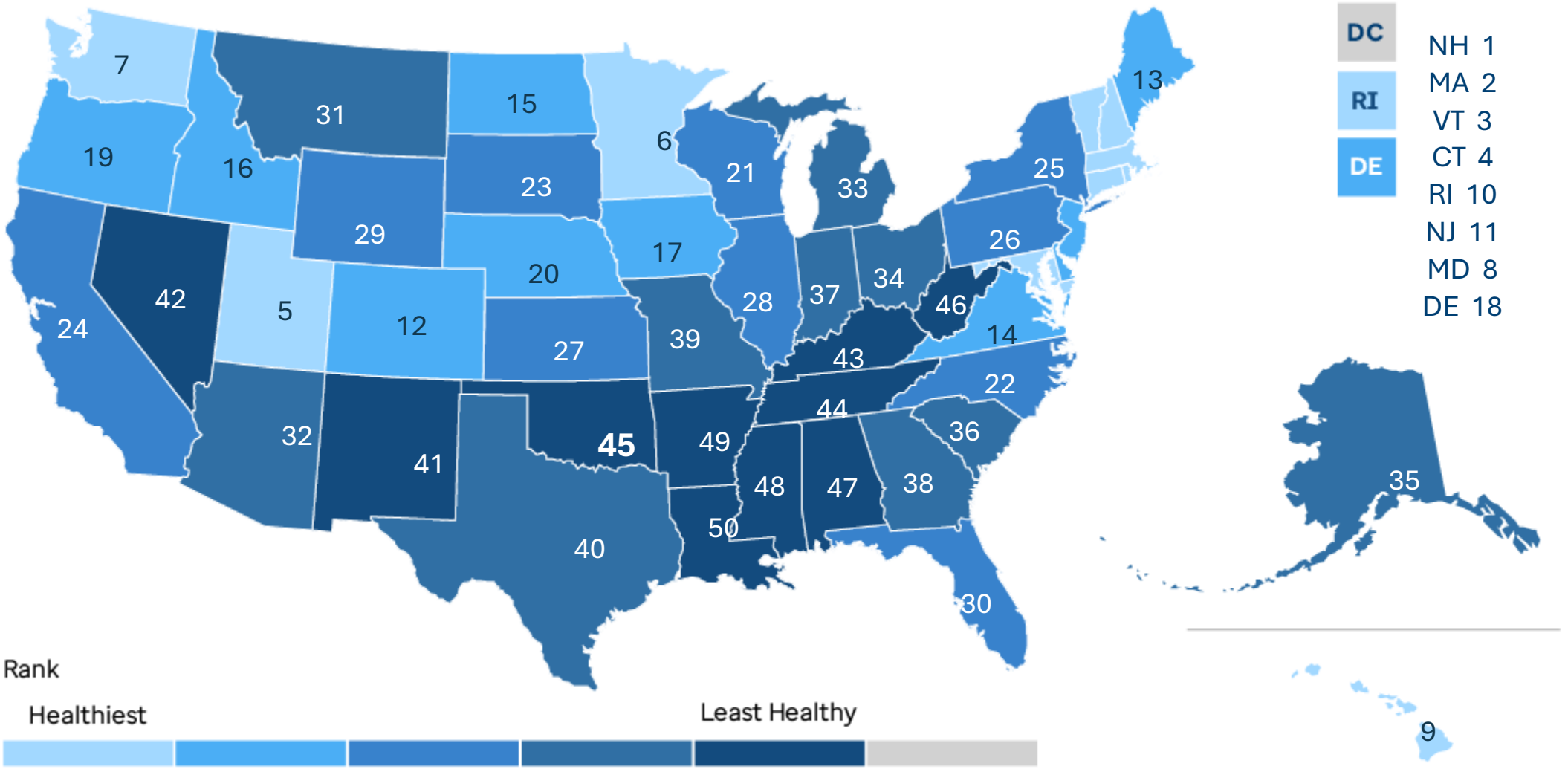
Projected Population Change 2024–2034 Ages 25-64

- Growth over 7%
- Growth under 7%
- Under 1% change
- Population loss



Source: Lightcast 2025.1

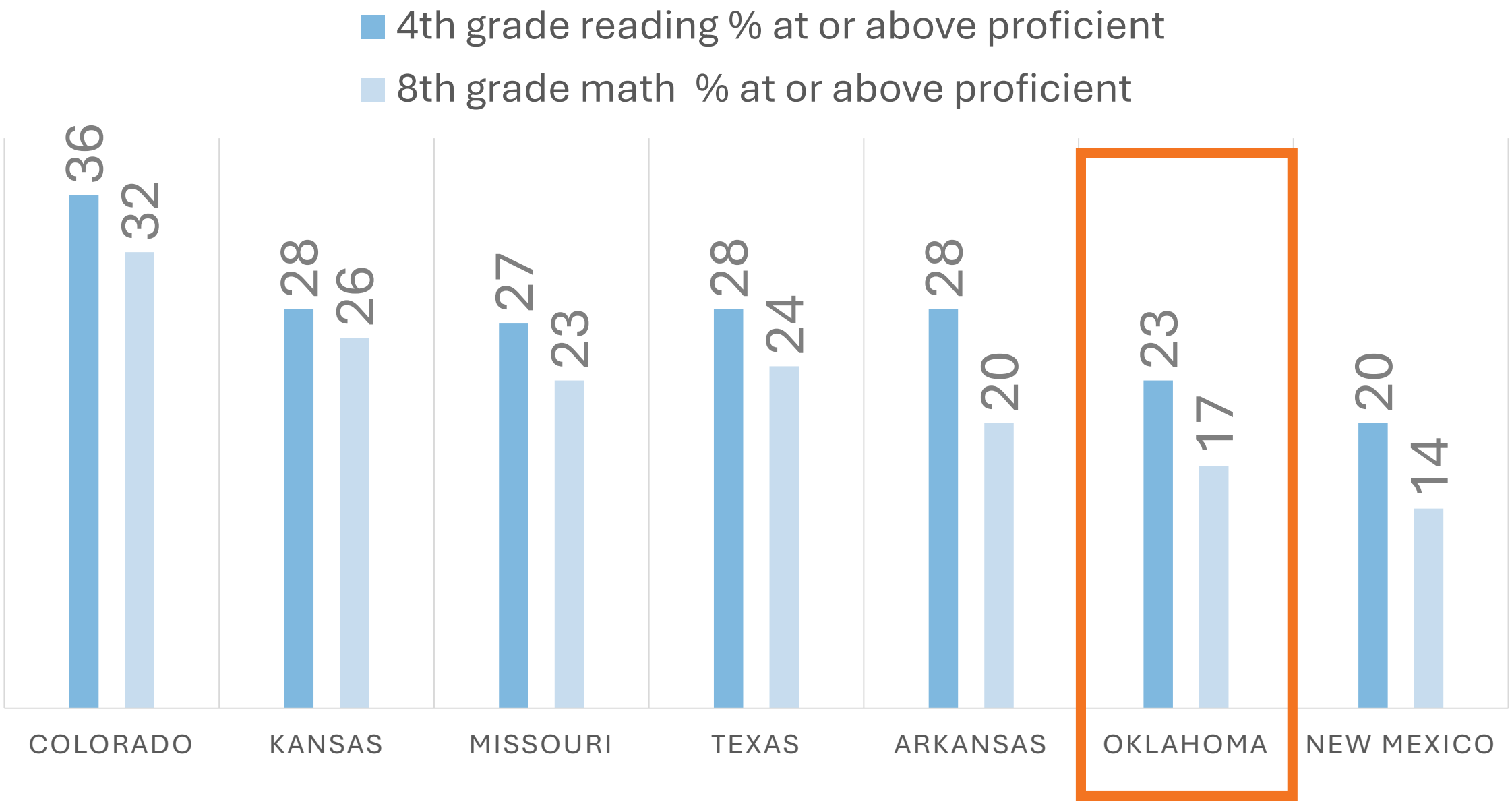
2025 Annual Report State Rankings



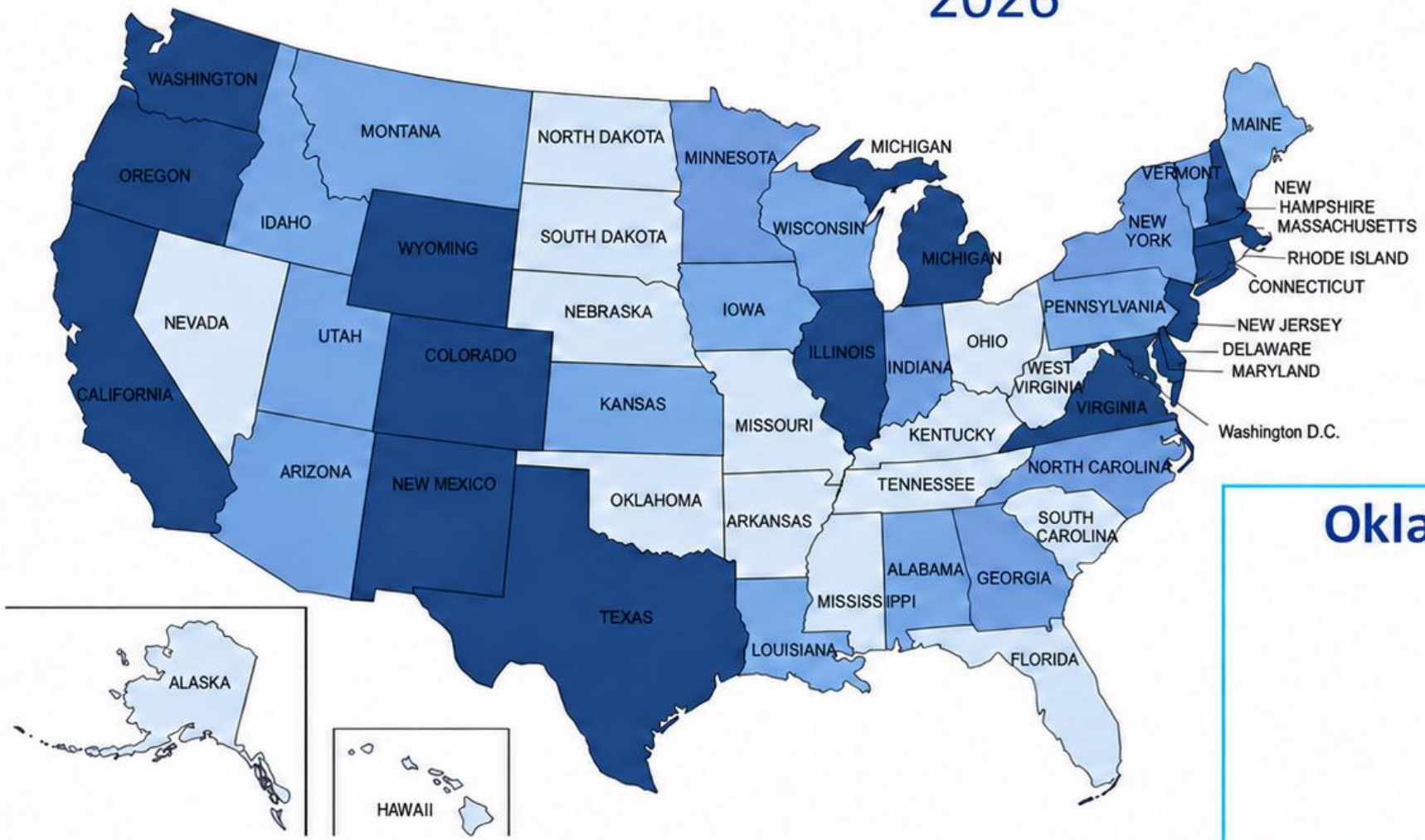
Source: *America's Health Rankings* composite measure, 2025.

Oklahoma: 45th

NAEP 2024 Regional Scores



Information Technology and Innovation Foundation Innovation Rankings 2026



Lowest Third
#35 - #51

Middle Third
#18 - #34

Highest Third
#1 - #17

Oklahoma Overall Rank

41st

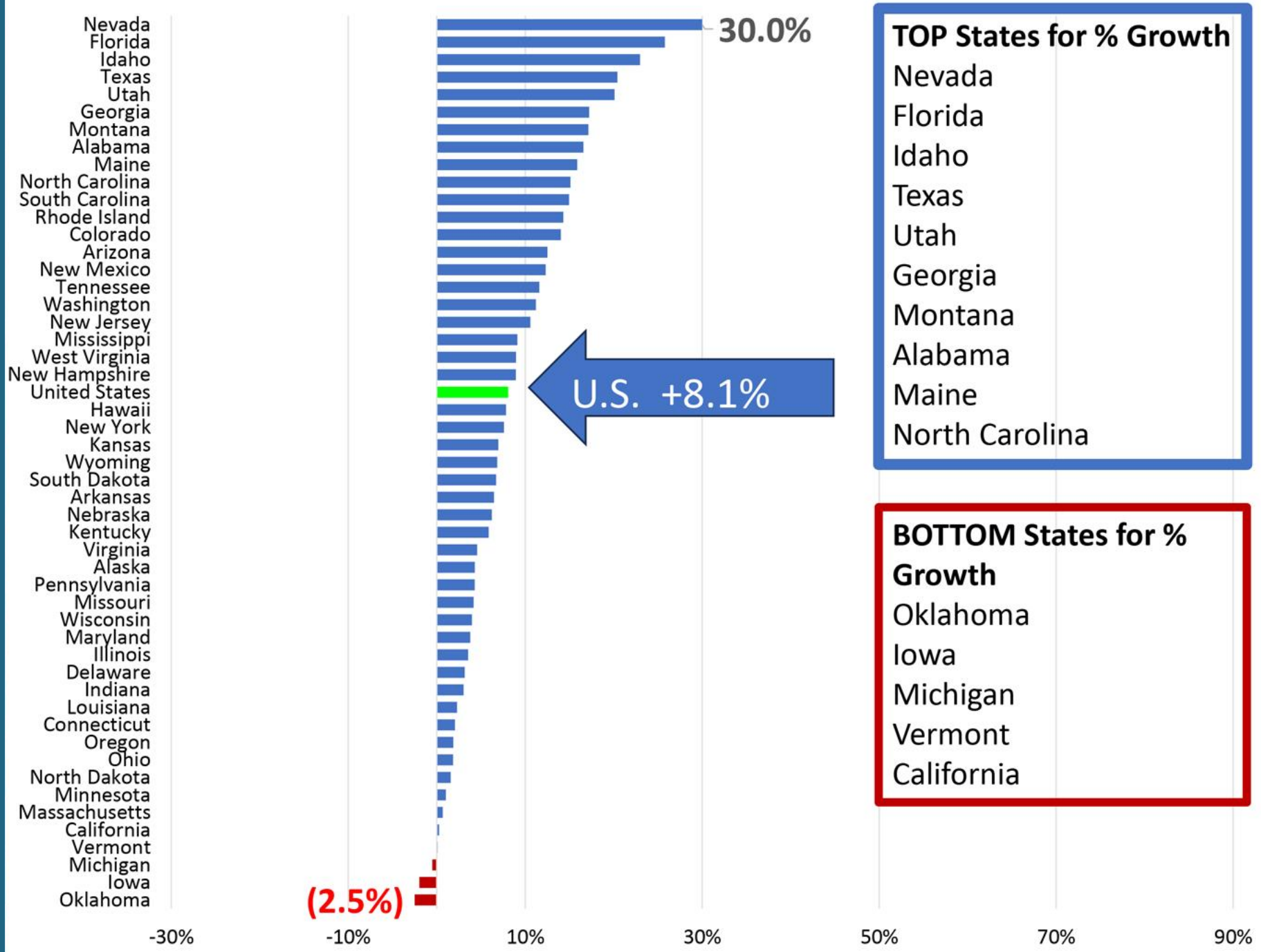
Knowledge 46th

Globalization 25th

Innovation 37th

Source: ITIF, 2026 US–India Subnational Innovation Competitiveness Index, Table 1 (Oct. 13, 2026)
Ranks include 50 states and Washington, D.C. • Report edition 2026; underlying indicator years vary

Advanced Industries Totals Percentage Change 2019 - 2025



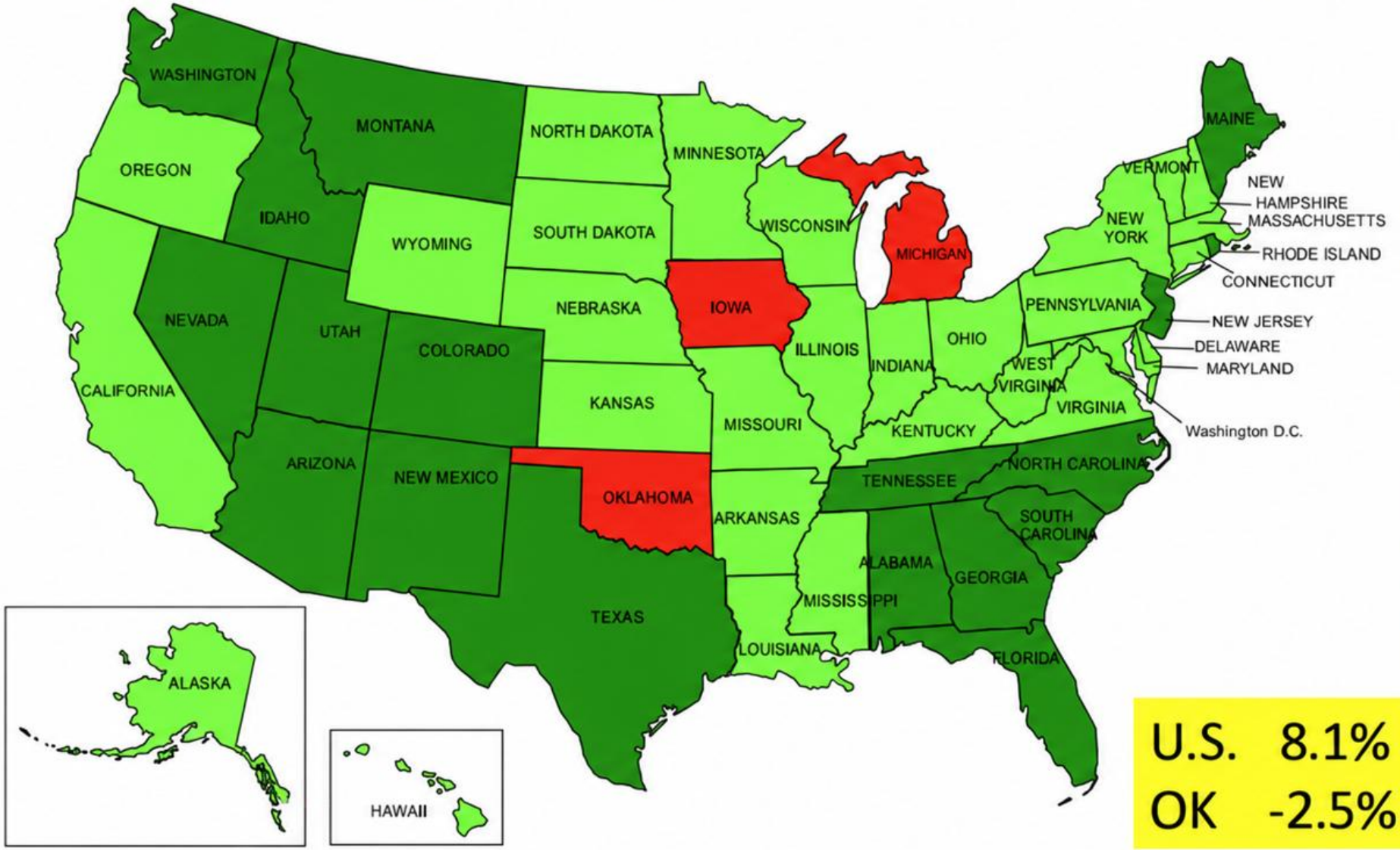
TOP States for % Growth

Nevada
Florida
Idaho
Texas
Utah
Georgia
Montana
Alabama
Maine
North Carolina

BOTTOM States for % Growth

Oklahoma
Iowa
Michigan
Vermont
California

Percentage Change Advanced Industry Jobs 2019-2025



Advance Industry Jobs

Characterized by its deep involvement with technology research and development (R&D) and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) workers, the "Advance Industry" sector encompasses 50 industries ranging from manufacturing industries such as automaking and aerospace to energy industries such as oil and gas extraction to high-tech services such as computer software and computer system design, including for health applications. *– Brookings-*

Over 10% gain

Up to 10% gain

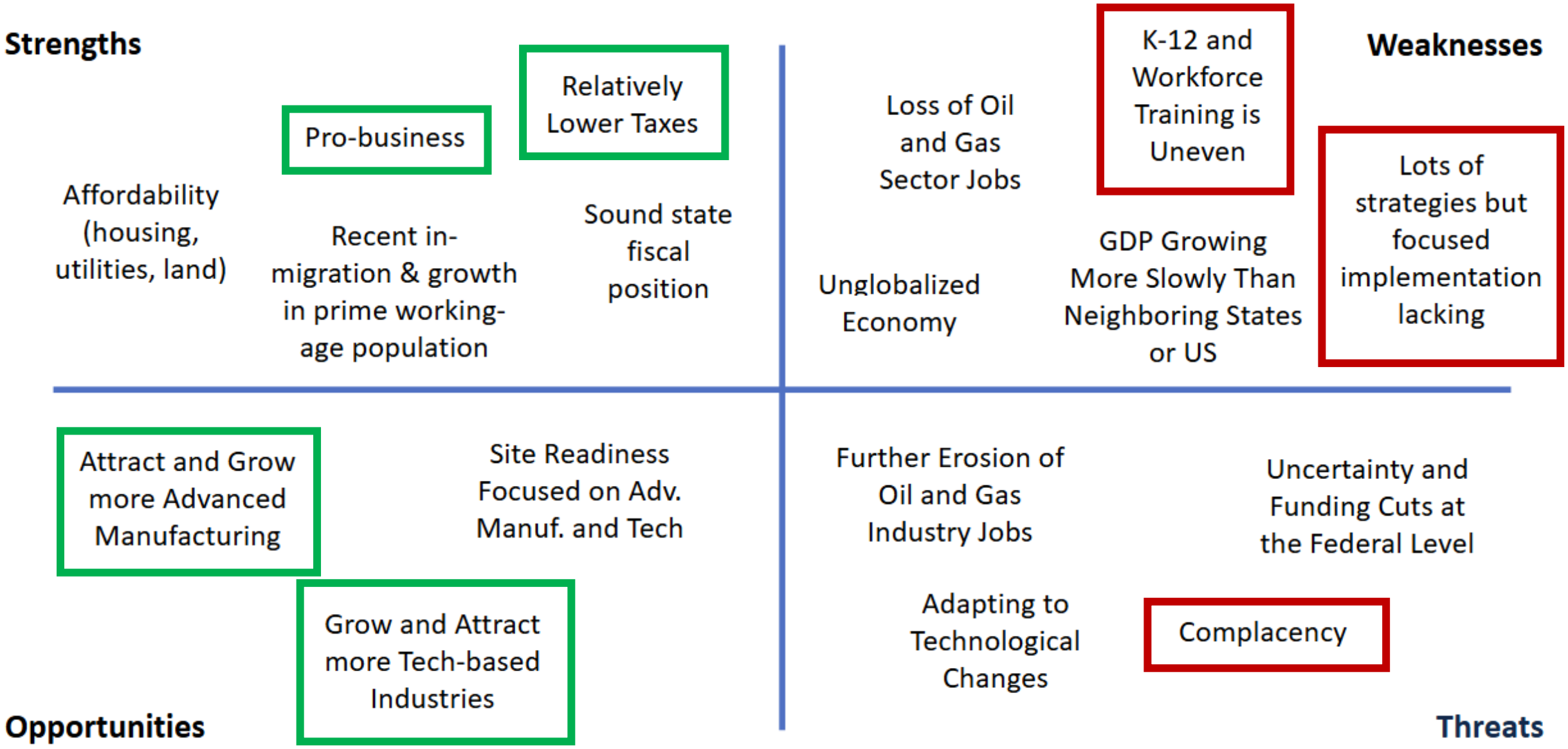
Job loss

U.S. 8.1%

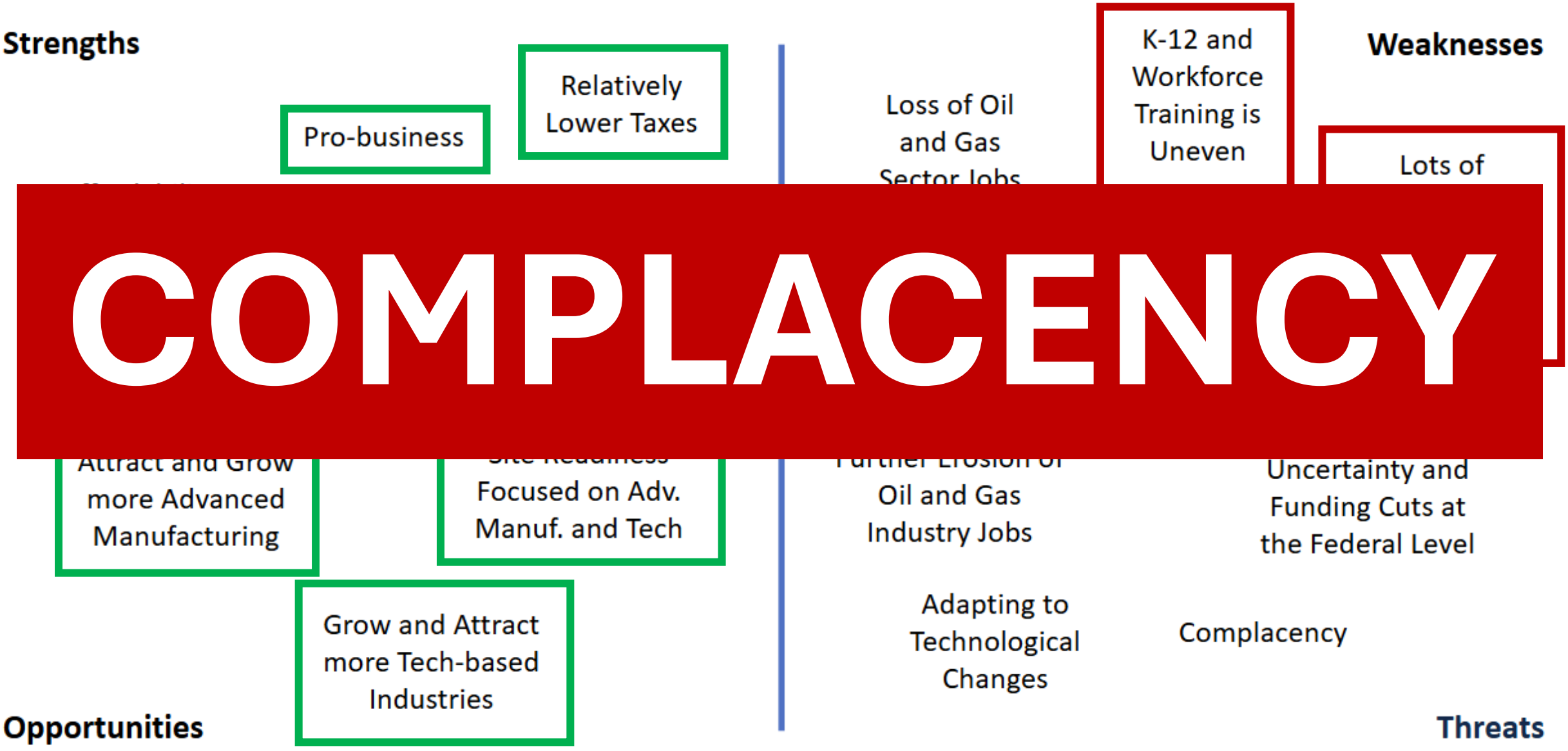
OK -2.5%

Source: Supplied 2019-2025 advanced industries chart

Oklahoma SWOT Analysis



Oklahoma SWOT Analysis




STRONG READERS
STRONG OKLAHOMA
READERS TODAY
LEADERS TOMORROW
READING IS MY
SUPERPOWER
STRONG READERS
ARE
STRONG LEADERS
READERS TODAY
LEADERS TOMORROW
STRONG READERS
ARE
G LEADERS
E WANT TO
E STRONG
READERS!