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Virginia will pay the least, according to a Self Financial study.

Jason Bramwell • Apr. 05, 2024



Earlier this week WalletHub released a study that shows which states' residents have the [highest and lowest tax burden](#), measured as the proportion of total personal income that residents pay toward state and local taxes. Another [study released this week](#), from credit-building platform Self Financial, analyzed the lifetime cost of tax in the U.S.

The study looks at how much tax the average person is estimated to pay in each state throughout their lifetime. According to Self Financial, these figures were calculated by adding both federal and state lifetime taxes across earnings, sales, property, and

automotive, then compared against an estimated lifetime earnings figure based on

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- Residents of New Jersey will pay the most in lifetime taxes (\$987,117), and people in West Virginia will pay the least (\$358,407).
- Tax on earnings is where most tax will come from, with the average American paying \$270,414 in a lifetime just on their wages.
- Owning the most popular car (Toyota RAV4) will cost an additional \$38,889 in tax payments alone, across the average four cars owned in a lifetime.
- Tax on property will set the average homeowner back an additional \$165,492 on top of the purchase price and running costs.
- Taxpayers in Washington will pay the most on everyday expenses (\$83,014), followed by those in California (\$78,191), accounting for food, clothing, personal care, and entertainment.

The table below shows a state-by-state breakdown of the average lifetime earnings compared to estimated lifetime taxes, and the percentage of earnings that will go toward tax payments, according to Self Financial:

State	Lifetime earnings	Lifetime taxes	% of earnings
New Jersey	\$1,818,191	\$987,117	54.3%
Connecticut	\$1,731,261	\$855,307	49.4%
Vermont	\$1,442,094	\$651,434	45.2%
New York	\$1,658,872	\$748,199	45.1%
Massachusetts	\$1,857,438	\$816,700	44.0%
New Hampshire	\$1,674,402	\$722,610	43.2%
Rhode Island	\$1,600,495	\$684,828	42.8%

Illinois	\$1,580,130	\$665,286	42.1%
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Missouri	\$1,474,577	\$582,282	39.5%
Kansas	\$1,405,670	\$525,482	37.4%
Texas	\$1,437,047	\$531,438	37.0%
Washington	\$1,729,531	\$631,249	36.5%
Iowa	\$1,443,717	\$524,580	36.3%
Minnesota	\$1,645,072	\$589,066	35.8%
Oregon	\$1,461,612	\$521,500	35.7%
Utah	\$1,397,411	\$493,368	35.3%
Pennsylvania	\$1,508,483	\$532,077	35.3%
Virginia	\$1,652,307	\$581,874	35.2%
Michigan	\$1,386,964	\$487,842	35.2%
Maryland	\$1,871,450	\$655,454	35.0%
Idaho	\$1,254,081	\$420,886	33.6%
District of Columbia	\$2,652,904	\$884,820	33.4%
Missouri	\$1,392,011	\$463,997	33.3%
Hawaii	\$1,581,119	\$521,966	33.0%
Colorado	\$1,648,566	\$540,680	32.8%

Arizona	\$1,443,082	\$470,554	32.6%
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South Carolina	\$1,326,469	\$416,183	31.4%
Nevada	\$1,415,800	\$440,737	31.1%
New Mexico	\$1,224,927	\$379,638	31.0%
Arkansas	\$1,264,951	\$381,758	30.2%
Georgia	\$1,422,823	\$426,896	30.0%
Tennessee	\$1,359,081	\$390,663	28.7%
Oklahoma	\$1,306,352	\$371,432	28.4%
West Virginia	\$1,263,434	\$358,407	28.4%
Florida	\$1,335,046	\$377,379	28.3%
Wyoming	\$1,401,788	\$394,772	28.2%
Alabama	\$1,296,399	\$360,053	27.8%
North Dakota	\$1,523,518	\$422,314	27.7%
South Dakota	\$1,390,105	\$380,130	27.3%
Louisiana	\$1,318,458	\$358,611	27.2%
Delaware	\$1,526,730	\$392,091	25.7%
Alaska	\$1,632,895	\$400,742	24.5%

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