

Deficient Bridges

Federal law mandates the uniform inspection of all bridges for structural and functional adequacy at least every two years; bridges rated ‘deficient’ are eligible for federal repair dollars.

Despite large expenditures on bridges, the percentage of bridges rated deficient and or functionally obsolete worsened in 2007 from 2006, after a steady 22-year improvement to 2006. Of the 597,375 highway bridges in the current National Bridge Inventory, 151,101 — about 25.29 percent — were reported deficient for 2007 (Table 14, Deficient Bridges, and Figure 7), a slight worsening from 2006.

Arizona reported the lowest percentage of deficient bridges, 10.63 percent, while Rhode Island reported the highest, 52.94 percent.

As Figure 7 shows, the states with the highest percentages are primarily northeastern and New England states.

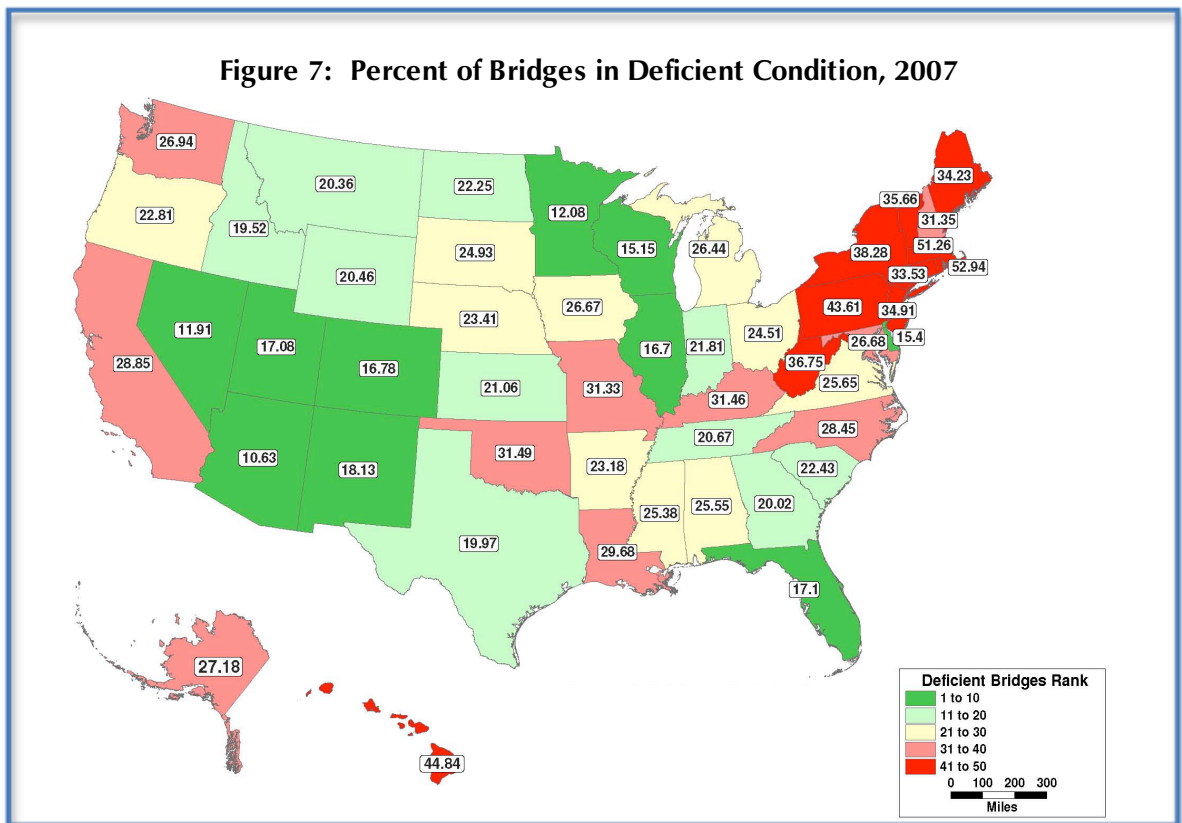


Table 14: Deficient Bridges					
Rank (1-25)	State	Percent Deficient	Rank (26-50)	State	Percent Deficient
1	AZ	10.63	26	MS	25.38
2	NV	11.91	27	AL	25.55
3	MN	12.08	28	VA	25.65
4	WI	15.15	29	MI	26.44
5	DE	15.40	30	IA	26.67
6	IL	16.70	31	MD	26.68
7	CO	16.78	32	WA	26.94
8	UT	17.08	33	AK	27.18
9	FL	17.10	34	NC	28.45
10	NM	18.13	35	CA	28.85
11	ID	19.52	36	LA	29.68
12	TX	19.97	37	MO	31.33
13	GA	20.02	38	NH	31.35
14	MT	20.36	39	KY	31.46
15	WY	20.46	40	OK	31.49
16	TN	20.67	41	CT	33.53
17	KS	21.06	42	ME	34.23
18	IN	21.81	43	NJ	34.91
19	ND	22.25	44	VT	35.66
20	SC	22.43	45	WV	36.75
21	OR	22.81	46	NY	38.28
22	AR	23.18	47	PA	43.61
23	NE	23.41	48	HI	44.84
24	OH	24.51	49	MA	51.26
25	SD	24.93	50	RI	52.94
				US	25.29