

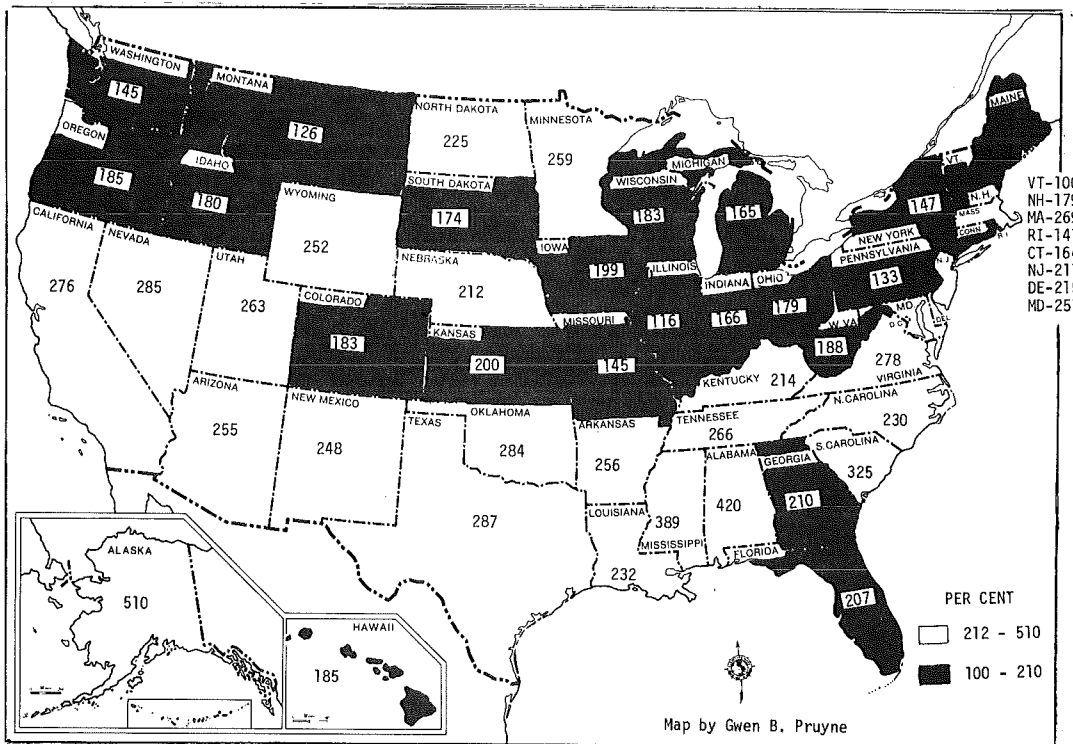
# GRAPEVINE

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TIMELY DATA CIRCULATED WHILE CURRENT



*States above and below the median in percentages of ten-year gains 1970-1980*

THE TEN-YEAR GAINS IN FIFTY STATES. Statewide increases in appropriations of state tax funds for annual operating expenses of higher education, 1970-80, range from 100 per cent to 510 per cent, with a median of 211 per cent . . . . . 1638-1642

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## THE TEN YEAR GAINS IN FIFTY STATES

In GRAPEVINE's issue for November 1979, Table 38 (page 1630) is an annual 50-state summary reporting for each state the net totals of *state tax funds* appropriated for annual operating expenses of all higher education, for fiscal years 1970, 1978, and 1980.

Table 38 also reports the percentages of gain for each state over the most recent two years (1978-80) and over the most recent ten years (1970-80). The two-year gains are presented graphically in a map on page 1625; and page 1629 carries a ten-item statement of "What the Figures Are Intended to Mean," which is a necessity to facilitate an approach to a reasonable degree of comparability.

### *Consistency Not Perfect*

Only by comprehending fully the ground rules on page 1629 is it possible to understand discrepancies between GRAPEVINE figures and others circulated in local newspapers, state or federal governmental documents, and other sources.

Statistics can not match with bank-clerk accuracy unless they are uniformly derived from bases characterized by consistent definitions. Otherwise discrepancies are bound to occur when "we are not talking about the same thing."

The multiplicity of diversities among the practices of the states and of institutions makes *absolute uniformity* unattainable; but happily it is possible with the infusion of a little common sense to make the real consequential discrepancies relatively few and relatively small.

### *Caution about Percentages of Gain*

By elementary statistical methods we shall discover that some states have apparently made relatively very rapid gains over the past ten years, while others have gained comparatively much more slowly. These rudimentary facts should not be hastily misinterpreted.

They refer only to *rates of increase*, and not to relative rankings by any other measures. For example, a state having the highest rate of gain may still rank among the lowest in the present adequacy of its tax support of higher education; and one at or near the bottom in rate of gain may still be near the top in the actual magnitude and sufficiency of its appropriations

### *Many Other Factors Enter*

How does the state rank among the other forty-nine if its appropriations *per citizen* are compared with its average of individual incomes over the same period? Or if the states are compared as to their appropriations *per \$1,000 of personal income*? Has the state gained population swiftly in recent years, or only modestly, or hardly at all?

There are many other quantifiable measures that could cast light from other angles on the matter of state support of higher education. And certainly not to be overlooked are the important non-quantifiable influences, such as the state's history and traditions, the ethnic composition of its people, its economic resources, its relative state of industrialization and urbanization.

### *Let the Figures Mean No More Than They Actually Say*

Comparative data should not be over-interpreted. In the real world there are so many variables that any statistical exhibit is necessarily fragmentary.

Probably the most valuable function of such work is to stimulate study of the myriad factors that could not be included. Another important service is to encourage all to recognize how fractional and incomplete is our grasp on ever-changing facts.

That, by the way, is why GRAPEVINE circulates its figures as nearly as possible to the beginning of the fiscal year.

TWELVE FAST-GAINING STATES: THE TOP QUARTILE

To simplify the picture, look first at the twelve states which apparently made ten-year gains (1970-80) of from 263 per cent to 510 per cent, with a median of 284 for the group.

At the extreme upper range, Alaska's gain was more than six-fold. This should not be discounted, but it should be recognized that this state's population is among the smallest in numbers; that its territorial extent is vast, its resources largely undeveloped, and its economic growth somewhat fluctuating due to the opening of the North Slope oil fields and the building of the Alaska pipe-line.

Among the other eleven states, the observation that leaps out immediately is that seven of them are in the South; and three others (California, Nevada, and Utah) are in what might be called the Far Southwest.

Only Massachusetts is in the Northeast. Populous New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey are not here.

Among a dozen states of the large region variously designated as the mid-west, the upper Mississippi valley, or the North Central, none appears here. Nor does any state in the whole north-western quadrant of the nation.

Table 42.

States	Ten-year gain Percentage
(1)	(2)
Alaska	510
Alabama	420
Mississippi	389
South Carolina	325
Texas	287
Nevada	285
Oklahoma	284
Virginia	278
California	276
Massachusetts	269
Tennessee	266
Utah	263

The presence of many of the Sunbelt states in this top quartile is in part explained by development of their agricultural and mineral resources, and a considerable surge of population increase.

Noteworthy is continued population growth in California, though not currently as rapid as in prior decades; in Texas, which has moved up and displaced Pennsylvania as third most populous among the fifty states; and in Nevada, which, though relatively small, has grown greatly in the "spillover" from adjacent California.

TWELVE SLOW-GAINING STATES: THE BOTTOM QUARTILE

Here we have twelve states which made ten-year gains (1970-80) of from 100 to 166 per cent, with a median of 145 per cent for the group. This median is only about half of the median percentage of gain for the twelve states making fastest rates of increase, already noticed in Table 42 above.

A glance shows that six of these twelve states are in the Northeast, including populous New York and Pennsylvania.

Four are in the North Central: Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri. Two are in the far Northwest: Washington and Montana.

Table 43.

States	Ten-year gain Percentage
(1)	(2)
Indiana	166
Michigan	165
Connecticut	164
New York	147
Rhode Island	147
Missouri	145
Washington	145
Pennsylvania	133
Montana	126
Maine	120
Illinois	116
Vermont	100

Thus in the quartile of slowest gainers, the Northeast, North Central, and far Northwest have a monopoly, while in the quartile of fastest gainers each of these regions had much less than its share--in fact, Massachusetts was the only fast gainer in all three of these regions stretching the length of the Canadian border.

Regarding the Northeast, it can be said that in general the region has suffered something of an economic slow-down during the decade just past; that there has been no large population gains and that most of the states have not yet fully emerged from the traditional heavy dependence on private institutions of higher education.

The North Central region continued to have robust industrial and agricultural activity, but has had no great surge of population increase. Another factor conducive to relatively slow rates of increased support for higher education during this decade is the fact that many of its states (notably Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota) were already in high positions at the beginning of the decade, and earlier.

In the far Northwest, it must be said that the same reason affects the ranking of Washington, which has historically been a good supporter of public higher education.

THE MIDDLE QUARTILES: TWENTY-SIX STATES

Table 44.

States	Ten-year gain Percentage	States	Ten-year gain Percentage
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Minnesota	259	Georgia	210
Arkansas	256	Florida	207
Arizona	255	Kansas	200
Wyoming	252	Iowa	199
Maryland	251	West Virginia	188
New Mexico	248	Hawaii	185
Louisiana	232	Oregon	185
North Carolina	230	Colorado	183
North Dakota	225	Wisconsin	183
New Jersey	217	Idaho	180
Delaware	215	New Hampshire	179
Kentucky	214	Ohio	179
Nebraska	212	South Dakota	174

The twenty-six states having medium rates of ten-year gain in state tax support of all higher education (1970-80), show a range from 174 per cent to 259 per cent, with a median of 211 per cent. In other words, it can be said that these 26 states (and the fifty states as well, having a median of 211 and a weighted average of 207 per cent), accomplished substantially more than a tripling of their dollar support of higher education over the decade.

In lieu of lengthy and detailed analysis, at least one pertinent comment appears here; namely, that any state undergoing growth of population much above the average rate should thereafter be increasing its rate of gain in support

of higher education. Two examples jump out of Table 44, Arizona and Florida, and there are others. These states having relatively rapid growth of population may be expected to rise out of these middle quartiles.

THE TEN MOST POPULOUS STATES

The ten most populous states (listed in Table 45, not in order of magnitude), collectively have roughly half of the population of the fifty states.

Collectively they appropriate \$10 billion--more than half the total of state tax funds appropriated by all fifty for annual operating expenses of all higher education.

In round numbers, the population of these ten states ranges from about six million in Massachusetts to some twenty-two million in California.

In Table 45, they are arranged in descending order of their *rates of gain* in appropriations for higher educational operating expenses over ten years (1970-80).

Texas and California are at the top. In Texas there has been substantial growth of population, and also forward strides in both enrollments and provision of facilities, within the present decade.

California has also moved ahead considerably in population. It now has 106 local public community colleges--approximately twice as many as any other states. The drastic limitation on local property taxes adopted by popular initiative in June 1978 gave the legislature the choice of seeing the community colleges severely crippled or of swiftly increasing their support from *state tax funds*. As a result, about 75 per cent of the operating expenses of community colleges is currently paid by the state. This change is forward-looking and in accord with the trend toward greater support of local services by larger units of government.

Florida is the only other state in the list which is in the Sunbelt. It has had long-continued growth of population, which would justify a higher place than its fifth rank in rate of gain.

Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey form a contiguous bloc in the Northeast. All have strong traditions of heavy dependance on non-public colleges and universities, and hence all are still a bit reluctant to develop swift gains in state tax support.

Table 45.

States	Ten-year gain Percentage
(1)	(2)
Texas	287
California	276
Massachusetts	269
New Jersey	217
Florida	207
Ohio	179
Michigan	165
New York	147
Pennsylvania	133
Illinois	116

The remaining three states--Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois--are all wealthy industrialized states of the East North Central (old Northwest territory). All are below the median in rates of gain in support of higher education, 1970-80.

The most plausible reason for this is that each of these states occupied a relatively high ranking among all fifty in tax support of higher education for *one or more decades prior to 1970*. From this it is not wholly unexpected that they might show somewhat moderated rates of gain after many years of advanced leadership.

The fact is undisputed, however, that all of the ten populous, wealthy, and industrialized states are exceeded somewhat by several smaller states in rates of gain in tax support of higher education over the past ten years. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the largest and most highly developed states do not quite keep abreast of relative rates of progress in comparison with the other states in this respect.

Here we speak only of ten-year *rates of gain*; not of relative size of appropriations this year or any other year. In fact, the midwestern states standing in the lower half of the table of percentages of gain, continue to rank near the top as to the adequacy of their appropriations, because of the leading positions they achieved during several decades prior to 1970.

THE FIFTEEN LEAST POPULOUS STATES

There are fifteen states having less than a million and a quarter of people each. Ten are west of the Mississippi River. Four states of New England, plus Delaware, make up the other five. In Table 46 they are arranged in descending order of their *rates of gain* in appropriations of state tax funds for annual operating expenses of all higher education over ten years (1970-80).

These states run the full range of the fifty states, from 100 per cent in Vermont (exactly doubling the appropriation) to 510 per cent in Alaska (raising it to more than sixfold).

The median, 185 per cent for Hawaii, is substantially lower than the median of 211 for all fifty states. It is observable that all the seven states *above* the median, except Delaware, are in the western region; and that four of the seven states *below* the median are in New England.

*Regional Differences*

Also among the slow gainers in this group are three states forming a contiguous bloc in the Northwest: South Dakota, Montana, and Idaho.

These fifteen states collectively appropriated for fiscal 1980 only a little more than \$1 billion for higher education--a sum greatly exceeded by each of three of the most populous states among the fifty: California, New York, and Texas.

In fact, in order to match or exceed California's appropriation of \$2.8 billion, it would be necessary to add in nine more sparsely populated states, making 24 in all.

Another way to put this is to say the appropriations of the twenty-four states of smallest population would be required to outweigh California's; and also that the aggregate appropriations of the twenty-four make up only a little over 5 per cent of the fifty-state total for fiscal 1980.

Table 46.

States	Ten-year gain Percentage
(1)	(2)
Alaska	510
Nevada	285
Utah	263
Wyoming	252
New Mexico	248
North Dakota	225
Delaware	215
Hawaii	185
Idaho	180
New Hampshire	179
South Dakota	174
Rhode Island	147
Montana	126
Maine	120
Vermont	100

ALLOCATIONS TO THE NINE CAMPUSES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Table 26, page 1621 (October 1979) can now be supplemented and completed by Table 47, carrying campus allocations which were not reported previously.

Table 47. State tax-fund appropriated for operating expenses of the separate campuses of the University of California, fiscal year 1979-80, in thousands of dollars.

Institutions	Sums appropriated
(1)	(2)
U of California	
Los Angeles	203,452
Berkeley	164,698
Davis	128,849
San Diego	80,302
San Francisco	74,595
Irvine	60,773
Santa Barbara	59,014
Riverside	45,699
Santa Cruz	32,091
System-wide	58,193
Subtotal, U of C -	\$907,666