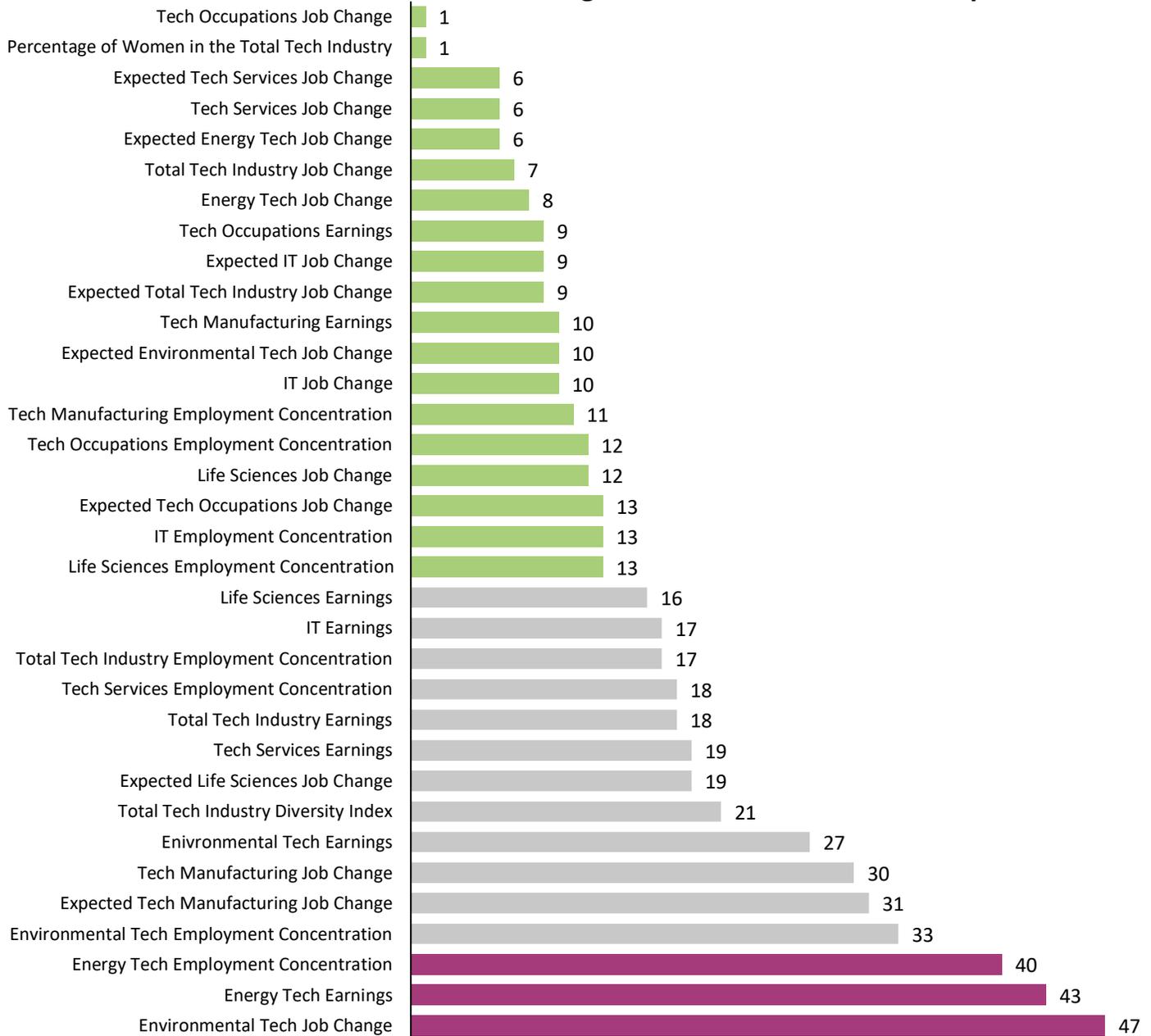


SECTION 9. KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR TECH SECTOR

The following chart lists all the metrics measured for North Carolina’s tech sector and its corresponding ranking among the other states and the District of Columbia. North Carolina ranks in the best 15 states for 19 out of the 34 tech industry and occupation metrics evaluated. The state ranked in the bottom 15 for just three indicators—an improvement from five indicators in last year’s report.

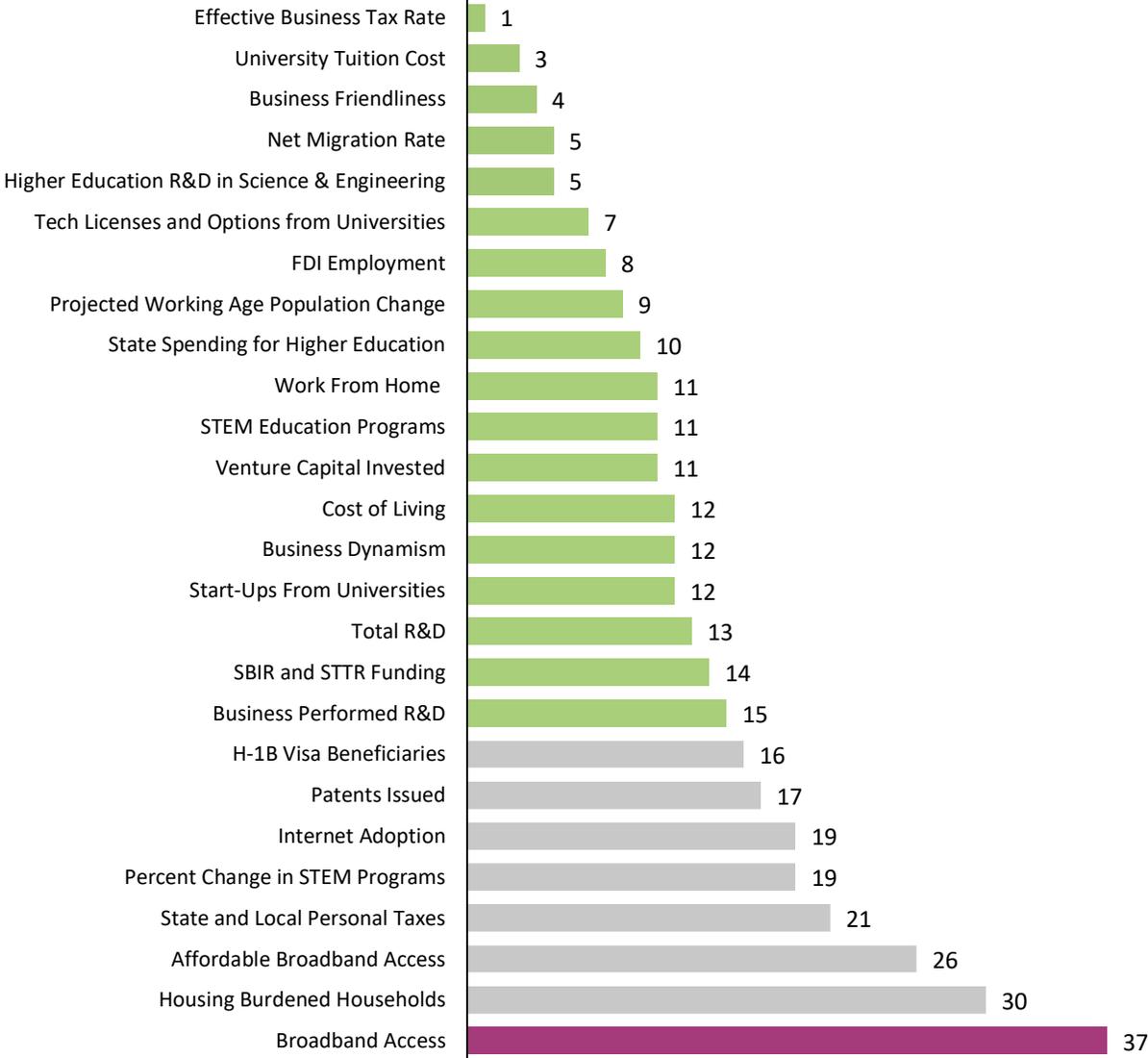
	Indicates a state ranking of 15 th or higher
	Indicates a state ranking between 16 th and 35 th
	Indicates a state ranking of 35 th or greater

North Carolina State Rankings for Tech Industries and Occupations



North Carolina ranks in the best 15 of all states for 18 out of the 26 tech infrastructure metrics that were measured. The state ranked in the bottom 15 for just one of these indicators. Across the twelve years of this research, North Carolina has shown significant improvement in metrics such as venture capital funding and business R&D funding. Looking back to the 2016 State of the Technology Sector Report, North Carolina ranked 36th and 23rd in private business R&D and venture capital funding, respectively. The state has many strengths that support tech sector competitiveness, including a deep pool of talent, outstanding quality of life, an affordable and competitive business climate, and the presence of world-class research universities.

North Carolina State Rankings for Tech Infrastructure Indicators



In this year’s report, the tech numbers continued to improve, even as many states experienced job losses during this period. North Carolina continues to strengthen its position and national reputation as a major player in technology. Going forward, job growth in tech is no longer a foregone conclusion, particularly with the advancement of AI, which can automate and augment many knowledge-based jobs. AI presents both an opportunity and a challenge for business as usual—not only within the tech sector, but across the entire state economy. North Carolina will need to be prepared to ensure responsible deployment and develop strategies to prepare the future workforce. In addition, the state should be ready for increased energy demands on the grid as AI-related investments grow.