West Virginia’s bridges are not only deteriorating, they are deteriorating at a faster rate than anywhere in the country.

In a new report on U.S. roadway bridge conditions, West Virginia now ranks fifth worst in the nation based on 17 percent, or 1,247, of the state’s total bridges being structurally deficient.*

This is up from 8th worst in 2015, 12th in 2014 and 15th in 2013.

West Virginia also had the highest rate of decline - 14.2% - of any state in the nation.

In 2015, the WV Division of Highways had to transfer money from the small bridge repair and replacement program when the state’s secondary road program did not meet pavement performance standards under the congressional “Drive Act”.

The state has identified needed repairs on 3,416 bridges, which the state estimates will cost $3 billion.

Every year, $49.8 billion in goods are shipped annually from sites in West Virginia and another $54.1 billion in goods are shipped annually to sites in West Virginia, mostly by truck.

If a company has to drive miles out of its way due to a bridge having a reduced posted weight limit, the company will either not locate in West Virginia or will add the increased cost onto the price of the product which consumers must pay.