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2011 Top States For Doing Business: Full Results & Methodology

For the second year in a row, Area Development magazine has conducted a survey of a select group of highly respected location consultants who work with a nationwide client base.

Area Development Magazine Special Presentation (Fall 2011)

We asked the consultants to name their top-5 state choices in 12 site selection categories, as follows:

Business environment

1. Overall cost of doing business
2. Incentives programs
3. Business friendliness
4. Corporate tax environment

Labor climate

1. Labor availability
2. Labor costs
3. Work force development programs

Infrastructure/global access

1. Rail & highway accessibility
2. Certified sites & shovel-ready programs
3. Competitive utility rates
4. Access to global markets

Economy

1. Leading in the economic recovery

States were ranked in each of the 12 categories above based on the number of times they were named as a "top-5" choice by

the responding consultants. Next, a top-5 state's ranking in each of the 12 categories was assigned a weight in accordance with its position in these individual categories. Based on these total weighted scores, Texas is far and away the consultants' #1 choice for doing business, followed by Georgia, Alabama, and South Carolina (with weighted scores only a point apart), and finally Indiana in the #5 spot. Taking the #6-#10 rankings based on weighted scores are Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, Mississippi, and — surprisingly — California, in that order.

Top States for Doing Business 2011 »

A Closer Look at the Top Overall States »

Leading Site Consultants Analysis »

News Items **Around The Web** **Studies/Research**

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09/21/2011

New Time Warner Services Center to Add 500 Jobs to Tampa, FL, Economy
09/21/2011

CTA Acoustics to Build New Indiana Facility and Create 140 Jobs
09/21/2011

Automotive Parts Manufacturer's New \$200 Million Plant in Georgia Expected to Employ 426 Workers
09/21/2011

Defense Tech Firm to Relocate 130 Jobs to Virginia's Shenandoah Valley
09/20/2011

TeamHealth's New Tennessee Expansion to Create 160 Jobs
09/19/2011

Alcoa to Invest \$300 Million in Davenport, Iowa, Plant, Add 150 Jobs
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The top-5 states based on weighted scores were each mentioned in at least 8 of 12 categories. Three other states — Louisiana, Mississippi, and North Carolina — were mentioned among the top-5 states in 6 of 12 categories, and Tennessee was mentioned in 4 of 12. Several other states made the top-5 listings in the 12 individual categories (there were numerous ties), but were mentioned in fewer categories overall. Nonetheless, these states also are considered among 2011's top states for doing business according to the consultants responding to our survey.

Full Results:

2011 TOP STATES FOR DOING BUSINESS

Overall Weighted Point Totals

Ranked in 12 Survey Categories

Leading in Economic Recovery

1. TEXAS
2. INDIANA
3. LOUISIANA VIRGINIA
4. ALABAMA GEORGIA NORTH DAKOTA TENNESSEE UTAH
5. NORTH CAROLINA

OVERALL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT Business Friendliness

Incentive Programs

Corporate Tax Environment

Overall Cost of Doing Business

1. Alabama Louisiana Texas
2. South Carolina
3. Georgia
4. Oklahoma
5. Indiana Mississippi

OVERALL INFRASTRUCTURE

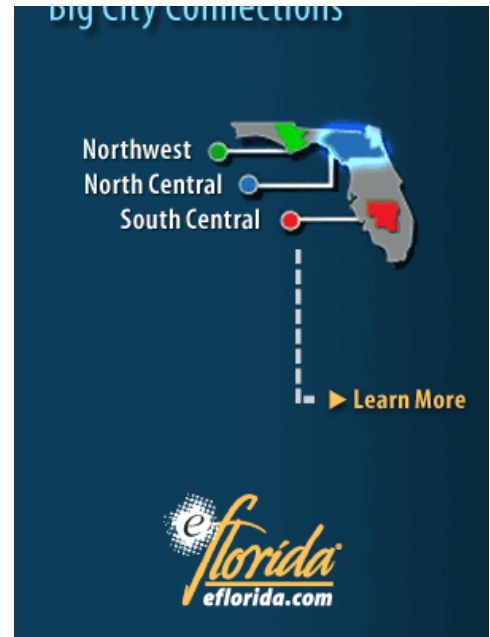
Certified Sites & Shovel-Ready Programs

Access To Global Markets

Competitive Utility Rates

Rail & Highway Accessibility

1. North Carolina Tennessee
2. South Carolina
3. Georgia Indiana Texas
4. Oklahoma
5. Alabama Ohio



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5. Global Innovation Trends Impact the Business Location Process
6. Correct Application of Green Technology in Buildings is Key
7. Half of American Private Firms Plan to Do Business Overseas Within Next 1 to 2 Years

OVERALL LABOR CLIMATE

Labor Availability

Labor Costs

Work Force Development Programs

1. Georgia
2. Alabama
3. North Carolina
4. Louisiana
5. South Carolina

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2011 Top States For Doing Business Survey Results

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