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★ AMERICA'S TOP STATES FOR BUSINESS '09 ★

Overall Rankings - 2009

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We scored all 50 states—using publicly available data—on 40 different measures of competitiveness. States received points based on their rankings in each metric. Then, we separated those metrics into the ten broad categories, with input from business groups including the National Association of Manufacturers. We weighted the categories based on how frequently each is cited in state economic development marketing materials.

Here are the ten categories ranked in our study:

- Cost of Doing Business
- Workforce
- Quality of Life
- Economy
- Transportation
- Technology & Innovation
- Education
- Business Friendliness
- Access to Capital
- Cost of Living

| Overall | State | Cost of Business | Workforce | Quality of Life | Economy | Transportation | Technology & Innovation | Education | Business Friendliness | Access to Capital | Cost of Living |
|---------|----------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Virginia | 26 | 8 | 18 | 7 | 10 | 12 | 7 | 2 | 18 | 27 |
| 2 | Texas | 33 | 14 | 32 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 30 | 20 | 4 | 7 |
| 3 | Colorado | 22 | 12 | 10 | 5 | 36 | 11 | 33 | 5 | 9 | 32 |
| 4 | Iowa | 1 | 21 | 20 | 4 | 31 | 24 | 14 | 11 | 34 | 15 |
| 5 | Utah | 7 | 9 | 7 | 14 | 34 | 26 | 29 | 7 | 23 | 21 |
| 6 | Minnesota | 30 | 28 | 13 | 9 | 12 | 9 | 10 | 18 | 19 | 32 |
| 7 | Kansas | 23 | 10 | 28 | 6 | 9 | 27 | 11 | 12 | 24 | 5 |
| 8 | Massachusetts | 40 | 26 | 6 | 12 | 31 | 5 | 1 | 17 | 2 | 36 |
| 9 | North Carolina | 16 | 2 | 31 | 42 | 8 | 13 | 24 | 12 | 36 | 19 |
| 10 | Georgia | 17 | 1 | 42 | 38 | 3 | 17 | 27 | 15 | 15 | 3 |
| 11 | Nebraska | 12 | 24 | 15 | 7 | 17 | 32 | 19 | 6 | 36 | 11 |
| 12 | South Dakota | 2 | 17 | 12 | 29 | 21 | 48 | 27 | 3 | 36 | 7 |
| 13 | Wyoming | 14 | 16 | 5 | 2 | 27 | 50 | 16 | 25 | 36 | 25 |
| 14 | Missouri | 4 | 34 | 41 | 25 | 6 | 21 | 21 | 23 | 26 | 5 |
| 15 | Indiana | 13 | 31 | 32 | 46 | 4 | 23 | 21 | 4 | 36 | 13 |
| 16(tie) | North Dakota | 6 | 27 | 14 | 28 | 19 | 47 | 24 | 12 | 11 | 17 |
| 16(tie) | Washington | 32 | 35 | 11 | 18 | 30 | 6 | 18 | 37 | 5 | 34 |
| 18(tie) | Arizona | 23 | 4 | 35 | 33 | 25 | 20 | 45 | 7 | 22 | 34 |
| 18(tie) | Oregon | 20 | 13 | 22 | 39 | 14 | 19 | 37 | 26 | 16 | 38 |
| 20 | Tennessee | 19 | 4 | 49 | 39 | 6 | 25 | 44 | 10 | 20 | 3 |
| 21 | New Hampshire | 34 | 30 | 1 | 14 | 47 | 31 | 5 | 9 | 30 | 40 |
| 22 | Idaho | 11 | 7 | 17 | 30 | 28 | 37 | 47 | 29 | 36 | 13 |
| 23 | Oklahoma | 9 | 29 | 37 | 3 | 42 | 36 | 46 | 16 | 27 | 1 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 24 | New Jersey | 44 | 38 | 9 | 21 | 34 | 15 | 3 | 39 | 6 | 45 |
| 25 | Illinois | 38 | 41 | 25 | 21 | 12 | 4 | 19 | 43 | 13 | 23 |
| 26 | Wisconsin | 27 | 44 | 23 | 36 | 11 | 18 | 11 | 30 | 32 | 21 |
| 27 | Maryland | 42 | 35 | 29 | 14 | 36 | 14 | 13 | 19 | 8 | 45 |
| 28 | Florida | 43 | 3 | 27 | 43 | 18 | 15 | 40 | 26 | 12 | 40 |
| 29 | Ohio | 29 | 46 | 36 | 33 | 2 | 10 | 15 | 43 | 14 | 17 |
| 30 | Vermont | 35 | 32 | 2 | 17 | 46 | 39 | 4 | 26 | 36 | 43 |
| 31 | Arkansas | 3 | 11 | 44 | 19 | 33 | 44 | 32 | 32 | 36 | 1 |
| 32 | California | 49 | 23 | 19 | 12 | 15 | 1 | 31 | 49 | 1 | 49 |
| 33 | Pennsylvania | 41 | 43 | 26 | 37 | 15 | 8 | 6 | 36 | 7 | 27 |
| 34 | Kentucky | 8 | 19 | 46 | 44 | 4 | 32 | 35 | 31 | 33 | 9 |
| 35 | Connecticut | 47 | 42 | 2 | 30 | 43 | 22 | 9 | 20 | 17 | 43 |
| 36 | New York | 50 | 50 | 16 | 20 | 23 | 2 | 2 | 42 | 3 | 47 |
| 37 | South Carolina | 5 | 6 | 48 | 47 | 41 | 29 | 39 | 35 | 36 | 19 |
| 38 | Montana | 27 | 40 | 21 | 9 | 24 | 45 | 17 | 41 | 36 | 31 |
| 39 | Alabama | 18 | 14 | 47 | 33 | 26 | 30 | 37 | 34 | 31 | 9 |
| 40 | Maine | 39 | 45 | 8 | 26 | 36 | 41 | 8 | 24 | 29 | 38 |
| 41 | Michigan | 31 | 39 | 40 | 45 | 20 | 7 | 34 | 39 | 10 | 23 |
| 42 | Delaware | 37 | 19 | 45 | 41 | 45 | 32 | 21 | 1 | 35 | 29 |
| 43 | New Mexico | 25 | 33 | 30 | 32 | 21 | 32 | 48 | 45 | 21 | 29 |
| 44 | Louisiana | 21 | 35 | 50 | 21 | 40 | 37 | 40 | 32 | 25 | 25 |
| 45 | Mississippi | 14 | 22 | 43 | 27 | 43 | 43 | 50 | 46 | 36 | 11 |
| 46 | West Virginia | 10 | 48 | 39 | 11 | 39 | 49 | 35 | 50 | 36 | 15 |
| 47 | Nevada | 36 | 18 | 34 | 49 | 29 | 40 | 49 | 20 | 36 | 36 |
| 48 | Rhode Island | 46 | 25 | 24 | 50 | 48 | 28 | 26 | 47 | 36 | 40 |
| 49 | Hawaii | 48 | 47 | 4 | 24 | 49 | 42 | 40 | 48 | 28 | 49 |
| 50 | Alaska | 44 | 49 | 38 | 47 | 50 | 46 | 43 | 37 | 36 | 47 |

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