

# North Carolina tops for business climate

*Site Selection* magazine has named North Carolina the state with the Top Business Climate for 2010.

Among North Carolina's strengths, according to corporate real estate executives associated with projects here, are its extensive higher-education resources, work-force training initiatives, moderate climate, transportation infrastructure and business-recruitment efforts.

Tennessee placed second this year, followed in order by Texas, Virginia and South Carolina.

The Tar Heel State also placed first in the magazine's Executive Survey of Business-Climate Rankings for 2010.

Those rankings are determined by new- and expanded-business facility activity, and by a survey of corporate site seekers across the country. The survey asked, "Based upon your experience, what are the top 10 state business climates, taking into consideration such factors as lack of red tape, financial assistance and government officials' cooperation?"

By that measure, North Carolina ranked first, followed by Texas, Georgia, Tennessee and South Carolina.

*Site* selectors also were asked to rank the factors most important to them when determining a location for a new facility. The top three factors this year are work-force skills, state and local tax schemes and transportation infrastructure.

"All states face economic and budgetary challenges these days, but this ranking reminds us that there are significant success stories, too," says **Mark Arend**, the magazine's editor in chief.

"North Carolina's first-place finish underscores its success across a wide spectrum of industries, from aerospace to life sciences to energy. We commend the governor and her economic development team for their focus on making and keeping their state business-friendly."

The business-climate story, as well as the publication's annual state legislative and incentives update, appears in the November edition of *Site Selection* and at [www.sitenet.com](http://www.sitenet.com).

**bizWatch**

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