

Indiana and Kentucky rank high in business survey

Business First

Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2010, 11:09am EDT

For the third year in a row, Indiana's business climate was rated in the top 10 nationally, according to Site Selection magazine's 2010 business climate rankings.

Feedback from a survey of national real estate executives and a review of Indiana's economic development record earned the state recognition as the eighth-best place for business in the United States, up one spot from ninth in 2009, according to a news release.

Kentucky was ranked 11th, according to the latest survey, available on www.sitenet.com.

The top-ranked states were North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and South Carolina.

Site Selection is published by Conway Data Inc. Its annual business climate rankings are determined in part by performance of the state in Conway Data's New Plant Database, which tracks new and expanded business facility activity, and by a survey of corporate site seekers across the country.

The survey asked companies to identify the top 10 state business climates, taking into consideration such factors as lack of red tape, financial assistance and government officials' cooperation. Respondents also were asked to rank the factors most important to them when determining a location for a new facility.

The Site Selection rankings, released in the magazine's November 2010 issue, comes less than one week after the Tax Foundation recognized Indiana for having the best business tax climate in the Midwest and the 10th best overall, up from 12th last year, the release said.

The Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan research group based in Washington, D.C., measures five indexes of states' business tax competitiveness: property tax rates, sales tax, individual tax, corporate tax and unemployment insurance taxes.

Kentucky was No. 19 in the Tax Foundation listing, up from 20th last year.