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Special Report

**Table: The Best States For Business**

07.11.07, 6:00 AM ET

OVERALL RANK	2006 RANK	STATE	BUSINESS COSTS RANK <sup>1</sup>	LABOR RANK <sup>2</sup>	REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT RANK <sup>3</sup>	ECONOMIC CLIMATE RANK <sup>4</sup>	GROWTH PROSPECTS RANK <sup>5</sup>	QUALITY OF LIFE RANK <sup>6</sup>	POPULATION	GROSS STATE PRODUCT (\$BIL)	FIVE-YEAR CHANGE (%)	GOVERNOR
1	1	Virginia	17	5	1	11	8	6	7,644,230	335	4.4	Tim Kaine
2	4	Utah	12	11	17	9	16	12	2,514,200	81	3.5	Jon Huntsman
3	3	North Carolina	6	22	2	27	5	30	8,783,550	336	3.7	Michael Easley
4	2	Texas	21	26	7	10	2	28	23,261,060	888	3.9	Rick Perry
5	12	Washington	33	4	5	16	4	32	6,369,300	256	3.0	Christine Gregoire
6	6	Idaho	11	10	30	3	23	27	1,462,790	45	4.6	C.L. Otter
7	9	Florida	31	15	12	1	3	35	18,138,140	616	4.9	Charlie Crist
8	5	Colorado	35	2	15	33	1	23	4,736,630	206	3.4	Bill Ritter
9	13	North Dakota	5	37	16	11	42	14	636,480	22	3.5	John Hoeven
10	14	Minnesota	32	13	19	23	26	1	5,171,890	224	3.8	Tim Pawlenty
11	8	Delaware	7	14	32	39	14	15	854,950	52	3.5	Ruth Ann Minner
12	11	Maryland	41	3	24	8	15	21	5,642,140	228	4.0	Martin O'Malley
13	20	Tennessee	3	39	13	15	21	37	6,011,440	215	4.1	Phil Bredesen
14	18	New Hampshire	39	1	42	14	13	5	1,320,830	54	4.1	John Lynch
15	10	Georgia	23	25	4	34	17	29	9,228,230	345	3.3	Sonny Perdue
16	22	Missouri	14	20	8	44	37	17	5,831,010	199	2.3	Matt Blunt
17	7	Nebraska	15	36	11	30	38	13	1,767,360	66	3.3	David Heineman
18	15	Arizona	30	6	37	6	11	40	6,118,130	212	5.5	Janet Napolitano
19	16	New Jersey	46	9	33	25	7	3	8,770,910	425	3.7	Jon Corzine
20	21	Kansas	29	18	8	49	22	18	2,750,080	99	3.2	Kathleen Sebelius
21	24	Arkansas	9	40	22	17	9	45	2,805,840	80	3.8	Mike Beebe
22	26	Nevada	19	24	31	6	10	48	2,483,120	106	7.0	Jim Gibbons
23	27	South Carolina	20	28	6	36	17	43	4,296,160	133	3.0	Mark Sanford
24	25	Iowa	8	43	26	22	44	11	2,978,920	111	4.2	Chet Culver
25	17	South Dakota	1	31	45	17	35	24	778,410	29	4.2	Mike Rounds
26	29	New Mexico	10	34	43	5	6	50	1,952,650	62	4.1	Bill Richardson
27	32	Indiana	4	46	18	40	39	20	6,298,140	226	3.4	Mitchell Daniels
28	31	Oregon	26	7	34	32	19	38	3,684,490	134	3.8	Ted Kulongoski
29	23	Wyoming	2	35	48	4	36	39	512,830	23	4.2	Dave Freudenthal
30	19	Oklahoma	18	47	14	20	30	36	3,564,570	104	2.8	Brad Henry
31	28	Connecticut	44	8	40	37	24	4	3,528,260	189	3.2	M. Jodi Rell
32	30	Vermont	45	12	35	26	40	10	624,680	22	3.8	Jim Douglas
33	35	New York	48	33	20	21	26	19	19,261,520	947	3.9	Eliot Spitzer

<b>34</b>	36	California	50	17	39	17	12	26	36,460,740	1,606	4.5	Arnold Schwarzenegger
<b>35</b>	40	Alabama	27	45	23	23	20	41	4,599,260	140	3.9	Robert Riley
<b>36</b>	37	Massachusetts	49	19	29	47	29	2	6,403,120	322	2.9	Deval Patrick
<b>37</b>	42	Hawaii	47	16	38	2	40	33	1,279,100	49	4.1	Linda Lingle
<b>38</b>	34	Ohio	36	42	8	45	49	9	11,489,710	416	2.6	Ted Strickland
<b>39</b>	41	Pennsylvania	38	31	27	35	46	7	12,466,570	458	2.9	Edward Rendell
<b>40</b>	44	Illinois	37	30	20	46	31	22	12,819,060	523	2.4	Rod Blagojevich
<b>41</b>	33	Kentucky	16	41	28	48	25	34	4,201,730	133	3.2	Ernie Fletcher
<b>42</b>	38	Montana	24	21	47	13	48	42	942,050	27	4.3	Brian Schweitzer
<b>43</b>	48	Mississippi	13	48	25	40	34	47	2,935,350	71	2.2	Haley Barbour
<b>44</b>	39	Wisconsin	34	38	44	38	33	8	5,563,380	209	3.3	Jim Doyle
<b>45</b>	43	Rhode Island	42	23	49	28	28	25	1,079,590	40	3.1	Don Carcieri
<b>46</b>	45	Michigan	40	44	3	50	47	31	10,139,150	365	2.1	Jennifer Granholm
<b>47</b>	47	Alaska	28	29	36	42	32	44	669,140	32	3.8	Sarah Palin
<b>48</b>	46	Maine	43	27	46	30	42	16	1,327,750	42	3.1	John Baldacci
<b>49</b>	50	Louisiana	22	50	41	43	45	49	4,467,120	126	-0.9	Kathleen Blanco
<b>50</b>	49	West Virginia	25	49	50	29	50	46	1,820,740	46	1.6	Joe Manchin III

1 Index based on cost of labor, energy and taxes.

2 Measures educational attainment, net migration and projected population growth.

3 Measures regulatory and tort climate, incentives, transportation and bond ratings.

4 Reflects job, income and gross state product growth as well as unemployment and presence of big companies.

5 Reflects projected job, income and gross state product growth as well as business openings/closings and venture capital investments.

6 Index of schools, health, crime, cost of living and poverty rates.

Sources: Moody's Economy.com; Pollina Corporate Real Estate; Pacific Research Institute; Tax Foundaion; CFED, Sperling's Best Places.