



November 4, 2008

## Tennessee business climate is ranked 2nd in nation

Recent investments help state move up

By Chas Sisk  
THE TENNESSEAN

The state of Tennessee has been ranked as having the second-best business climate in the country by a trade publication, based on the views of corporate site seekers and the state's track record of attracting new investments.

*Site Selection*, an Atlanta-based magazine that annually ranks states' attractiveness to investors, placed Tennessee behind only North Carolina. Tennessee moved up four notches from last year's rankings.

Two other states in the South — Alabama and Texas — tied for third in the analysis. Indiana rounded out the top five.

Tennessee was bolstered by a wave of recent investment, said Mark Arend, *Site Selection's* editor in chief. Among the investments that took place during the magazine's study period of 2005-07 was Nissan North America's relocation from California to Cool Springs.

"We've worked hard to create a business-friendly climate in Tennessee, and today's news tells me our efforts are yielding tangible results," Gov. Phil Bredesen said in a statement. "We will continue to focus on job creation efforts that help businesses grow and create high-skilled, high-paying jobs for Tennesseans."

## North Carolina stays at the top

North Carolina achieved the top ranking for the fourth year in a row and the seventh time in the last eight years. That state did well in the magazine's survey of corporate location specialists, which accounted for half of the magazine's point system.

"I think it has several things in its favor," Arend said of North Carolina. "An education system with some very strong universities ... and an awful lot of skilled labor."

Arend also listed North Carolina's central Atlantic location and its climate among other attributes. Many of the same factors drawing business to North Carolina also apply to Tennessee, he said.

---