

NEWS RELEASE



Governor Bob Taft

OHIO BUSINESS CLIMATE AMONG NATION'S TOP FIVE

New plant announcements, executive survey show "Ohio Means Business"

COLUMBUS (November 10, 2005) – Ohio Governor Bob Taft today announced Ohio has the nation's 4th best business climate according to the November issue of *Site Selection* magazine and its 2005 Top State Business Climate Rankings. Ohio ranked 8th in the same survey in 2004.

"We have worked hard to transform Ohio's economy to incentivize investment and innovation," said Governor Taft. "*Site Selection's* rankings recognize our efforts and soon corporate decision makers around the world will hear the message that 'Ohio Means Business'."

In the past year, Ohio has passed:

- Comprehensive law suit reform;
- Historic tax reform eliminating taxes on profits, new machinery and equipment and a 21 percent income tax cut; and
- A comprehensive \$2 billion initiative for investment in traditional and high-tech infrastructure

Lt. Governor Bruce Johnson, who also serves as Ohio's development director, said the ranking is a good indicator of the state's economic development efforts, and demonstrates the need to aggressively market Ohio. "During 2003 and 2004, we had more plant locations and expansions than any other state, showing that companies are choosing Ohio for their investments," said Johnson.

The ranking is based on a survey of corporate site selection executives and four categories associated with the magazine's 2004 New Plant Database, which tracks the number of major investments made in new or expanded facilities in each state. Ohio ranked 3rd in the number of new plants in 2004, 3rd in the number of new plants from 2002 – 2004, 2nd in the number of new plants per million and first in the number of new plants per 1,000 sq. mi. The state ranked 14th in the executive survey portion, up from 18th in 2004. Overall, North Carolina ranked 1st, followed by Texas, then Georgia.

"Our priority now is to get out and aggressively sell our tax reform, lawsuit reform, and technology investments so that Ohio is the first place that comes to the minds of corporate decision makers in America and around the world," Taft said.

Taft recently touted Ohio during a trade mission to Europe and both he and Johnson will be engaging in a number of "domestic trade missions" to cities throughout the U.S., talking with companies about the benefits of expanding in Ohio.

Currently, the Ohio Business Development Coalition, Ohio's newly created non-profit sales and marketing arm, is undertaking an "Ohio Means Business" campaign in national publications like the *Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, and *Fortune*. More on the benefits of locating in Ohio and the "Ohio Means Business" campaign can be found at www.ohiomeansbusiness.com.

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