



*Governor Nathan Deal*  
Office of the Governor



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## Georgia named No. 1 state in U.S. for business

*State's business climate tops Site Selection magazine annual ranking, fulfilling Deal pledge*

Gov. Nathan Deal announced today that Georgia's business climate has been named No. 1 in the nation by *Site Selection* magazine, one of the nation's top economic development trade publications.

"Making Georgia the premier state in the nation for business has been a strategic goal from day one of my administration," said Deal. "We have worked hard to stay ahead of the curve and anticipate business needs not only today, but in the future. Achieving this national recognition means we are on the right track and reminds us of the importance of continuing to strive for excellence in all we do."

"Georgia is a regular top finisher in our annual analysis of state business climates, with five Top Ten placements in the last five years," said *Site Selection* Editor in Chief Mark Arend. "Executives at companies investing there regularly point to its many logistics advantages, cutting-edge workforce training programs, particularly Quick Start, and proactive economic developers on the state and local levels who understand the business requirements of today's capital investors."

The magazine releases its annual rankings each November, bases its research partially on a survey of corporate real estate executives and in part by an index of tax burden criteria according to the Tax Foundation and KPMG's Location Matters analysis and the states' performance in Conway Data's New Plant Database, which tracks new and expanded business facility activity.

Georgia has ranked among the top 10 states in *Site Selection's* business climate rankings over the last 10 years, and moves up from No. 4 last year. The Peach State makes frequent appearances on national "Top 10" lists for business, including No. 2 in Area Development's 2013 rankings and No. 8 in CNBC's annual rankings.

"Our top-ranking business climate would not be possible without the efforts of our partners across the state who have long worked to position Georgia as a global economic powerhouse," said Chris Carr, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic

Development. “Rankings like these serve as a great calling card for site selectors, and then it’s up to us to follow up and give them deeper insight into our vast resources for business.”

*Site Selection* magazine, published by Conway Data Inc., delivers expansion planning information to 49,000 executives of fast-growing firms. The senior publication in the development field, *Site Selection* is also available via *Site Selection* Online ([www.siteselection.com](http://www.siteselection.com)). The publication also publishes or co-publishes e-newsletters, including The Site Selection Dispatch, Life Sciences Report, Aerospace Report and Energy Report; Site Selection International; The FDI Report; Trust Belt.com and the OnSITE Travel blog.