

The nation's leading business analysts agree: **Virginia is the best place for business**—to start, to grow, to prosper. But we won't rest on our laurels until we can show you—personally—what Virginia can do for your business.



VIRGINIA MAKES BUSINESS HISTORY: Triple Crown for Virginia in top business accolades.

Virginia has done it again, and again—and again.

Only one state has received the No. 1 ranking from three influential business sources in the same year. Most notably, Forbes.com named Virginia the “Best State for Business” for the FOURTH consecutive year on September 23, 2009. Prior to Forbes’ announcement, CNBC ranked Virginia first in the nation in its annual “America’s Top States for Business” study. Finally, Pollina Corporate Real Estate, a top U.S. corporate site relocation expert, bestowed its highest rank to the Commonwealth: “No. 1 Pro-Business State.”

Virginia is proud of its top national business rankings. With a business-friendly environment, low corporate tax rate, highly skilled workforce, and great quality of life, it's no wonder Virginia consistently attracts some of the world's most innovative corporate leaders to its borders. In these tough economic times in particular, this national recognition is an incredible affirmation that Virginia has what it takes to compete in the national and global arenas.

Forbes.com describes Virginia as “booming” compared to other states in these difficult economic times. “Amid the (economic) mess, Virginia nabbed the top spot with the best business climate in the country for the fourth straight year.” The Forbes study considers six objective criteria, including quality of life (Virginia took first), regulatory environment (second), and labor supply (third). Virginia was the only state to rank at least 20th in every category. Forbes also commended the state for its “highly educated” workforce, below average energy costs, and general financial strength.

In July 2009, CNBC published the results of its annual competition for the nation's most business-friendly climate, concluding, “Virginia has what it takes to emerge from an economy turned upside down.” Virginia finished first this year, as in 2007, and ranked second in 2008. CNBC uses 40 measures of competitiveness divided into 10 broad categories of comparison, such as cost of doing business, workforce, quality of life, and economy.

One month prior to CNBC's announcement, Illinois-based Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc., named Virginia “America's Most Pro-Business State.” Pollina's annual Top 10 Pro-Business States study evaluates and ranks states based on 33 factors, including taxes, human resources, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, workers compensation laws, economic incentive programs and state economic development efforts. Brent Pollina, author of the study, notes, “Virginia's economic development department truly understands what global competition is all about.”



Virginia Economic Development Partnership
901 East Byrd Street • Richmond, Va 23219 • 804 545 5700
www.YesVirginia.org • info@YesVirginia.org



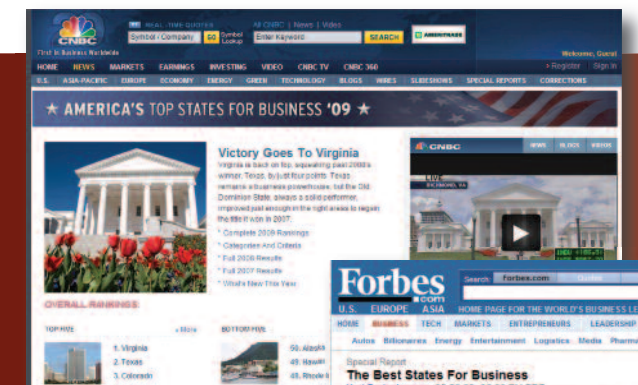
Virginia offers the best quality of life in the U.S., according to Forbes.com.



CNBC gives top honors to Virginia over Texas, Colorado, Iowa and Utah.



Pollina Corporate Real Estate names Virginia “America's Most Pro-Business State.”



Overall Rank	State	Business Costs Rank ¹	Labor Rank ²	Regulatory Environment Rank ³	Economic Climate Rank ⁴	Growth Prospects Rank ⁵	Quality of Life Rank ⁶	Population	Gross State Product (\$bil)	Five-Year Change (%)
1	Virginia	20	3	2	18	12	1	7,804,600	325	2.9
2	Washington	27	2	5	3	1	24	6,593,900	265	3.3
3	Utah	14	4	11	11	22	17	2,756,900	88	4.6
4	Colorado	33	1	17	5	2	15	4,975,800	203	2.8
5	North Carolina	3	15	4	16	33	34	9,305,500	329	2.8
6	Georgia	28	7	1	23	15	33	9,765,700	329	1.9
7	North Dakota	6	37	26	8	4	21	643,200	24	4.1
8	Texas	29	23	10	1	3	39	24,553,400	926	3.7
9	Nebraska	11	24	23	23	23	10	1,788,800	67	2.1
10	Oregon	17	6	41	13	17	25	3,820,400	147	4.5
11	Idaho	12	17	35	10	36	18	1,534,900	46	4.5
12	Maryland	42	8	29	18	7	14	5,642,600	221	2.2
13	Montana	23	8	38	6	16	35	972,500	27	3.2
14	Iowa	9	39	16	22	46	8	3,009,100	110	3.0
15	Kansas	25	21	12	30	26	27	2,814,600	98	2.5
16	South Dakota	1	33	41	21	21	23	807,100	30	3.4
17	Minnesota	32	10	30	35	20	6	5,242,700	217	2.0
18	Florida	36	11	25	14	9	40	18,388,700	603	3.0
19	New Hampshire	41	5	46	26	5	4	1,320,400	51	2.0
20	Oklahoma	13	41	9	4	47	38	3,647,900	107	2.5
21	Delaware	5	12	26	40	39	36	878,500	49	1.9
22	Wyoming	2	29	48	15	26	32	536,000	22	2.9
23	Tennessee	10	39	3	38	34	42	6,244,600	210	2.2
24	Illinois	34	27	13	32	28	20	12,942,500	516	1.5
25	South Carolina	19	31	6	36	30	43	4,507,200	127	1.2
26	Arkansas	8	44	34	17	14	41	2,866,700	79	2.3
27	New Mexico	26	32	31	11	6	48	1,992,100	61	2.7
28	Alabama	22	42	19	25	13	45	4,679,700	137	2.4
29	Missouri	15	38	21	42	25	29	5,924,000	194	1.1
30	Indiana	7	43	14	47	49	16	6,399,200	210	0.6
31	Nevada	24	26	28	2	40	49	2,615,100	103	4.8
32	New York	46	30	17	18	35	13	19,506,400	965	3.6
33	Pennsylvania	38	34	15	37	32	7	12,466,600	444	1.5
34	Massachusetts	48	16	22	33	40	2	6,506,600	312	2.2
35	Connecticut	45	18	33	31	37	3	3,504,700	178	2.2
36	Arizona	31	14	45	7	38	47	6,562,700	210	3.8
37	Ohio	30	47	8	43	48	12	11,491,200	386	0.4
38	California	50	22	39	27	10	26	36,962,400	1,546	2.9
39	Hawaii	47	19	43	9	31	28	1,292,700	50	3.2
40	Mississippi	18	49	20	46	19	46	2,946,000	72	1.5
41	Maine	44	25	32	39	28	19	1,315,600	40	1.6
42	Alaska	37	28	40	29	11	44	690,000	30	1.8
43	Kentucky	16	45	24	45	44	31	4,290,400	127	1.6
44	Louisiana	20	50	36	34	8	50	4,418,500	145	1.9
45	New Jersey	49	20	47	44	24	5	8,699,200	390	1.3
46	West Virginia	4	48	49	28	43	37	1,815,700	46	1.7
47	Vermont	43	13	44	49	42	9	621,300	22	2.1
48	Wisconsin	35	36	37	41	45	11	5,638,700	198	1.5
49	Michigan	39	46	6	50	50	30	9,978,900	326	-0.9
50	Rhode Island	40	35	50	48	18	21	1,050,600	38	0.9

Business Costs: index based on cost of labor, energy and taxes. Labor: measures educational attainment, net migration and projected population growth. Regulatory Environment: measures regulatory and tort climate, incentives, transportation and bond ratings. Economic Climate: reflects job, income and gross state product growth as well as unemployment and presence of big companies. Growth Prospects: reflects projected job, income and gross state product growth as well as business openings/closings and venture capital investments. Quality of Life: index of schools, health, crime, cost of living and poverty rates. Sources: Moody's Economy.com; Pollina Corporate Real Estate; Pacific Research Institute; Tax Foundation; CFED, Sperling's Best Places.

1 Index based on cost of labor, energy and taxes.
 2 Measures educational attainment, net migration and projected population growth.
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 6 Index of schools, health, crime, cost of living and poverty rates.

Overall	State	Cost of Business	Workforce	Quality of Life	Economy	Transportation	Technology & Innovation	Education	Business Friendliness	Access to Capital	Cost of Living
1	Virginia	26	8	18	7	10	12	7	2	18	27
2	Texas	33	14	32	1	1	3	30	20	4	7
3	Colorado	22	12	10	5	36	11	33	5	9	32
4	Iowa	1	21	20	4	31	24	14	11	34	15
5	Utah	7	9	7	14	34	26	29	7	23	21
6	Minnesota	30	28	13	9	12	9	10	18	19	32
7	Kansas	23	10	28	6	9	27	11	12	24	5
8	Massachusetts	40	26	6	12	31	5	1	17	2	36
9	North Carolina	16	2	31	42	8	13	24	12	36	19
10	Georgia	17	1	42	38	3	17	27	15	15	3
11	Nebraska	12	24	15	7	17	32	19	6	36	11
12	South Dakota	2	17	12	29	21	48	27	3	36	7
13	Wyoming	14	16	5	2	27	50	16	25	36	25
14	Missouri	4	34	41	25	6	21	21	23	26	5
15	Indiana	13	31	32	46	4	23	21	4	36	13
16(tie)	North Dakota	6	27	14	28	19	47	24	12	11	17
16(tie)	Washington	32	35	11	18	30	6	18	37	5	34
18(tie)	Arizona	23	4	35	33	25	20	45	7	22	34
18(tie)	Oregon	20	13	22	39	14	19	37	26	16	38
20	Tennessee	19	4	49	39	6	25	44	10	20	3
21	New Hampshire	34	30	1	14	47	31	5	9	30	40
22	Idaho	11	7	17	30	28	37	47	29	36	13
23	Oklahoma	9	29	37	3	42	36	46	16	27	1
24	New Jersey	44	38	9	21	34	15	3	39	6	45
25	Illinois	38	41	25	21	12	4	19	43	13	23
26	Wisconsin	27	44	23	36	11	18	11	30	32	21
27	Maryland	42	35	29	14	36	14	13	19	8	45
28	Florida	43	3	27	43	18	15	40	26	12	40
29	Ohio	29	46	36	33	2	10	15	43	14	17
30	Vermont	35	32	2	17	46	39	4	26	36	43
31	Arkansas	3	11	44	19	33	44	32	32	36	1
32	California	49	23	19	12	15	1	31	49	1	49
33	Pennsylvania	41	43	26	37	15	8	6	36	7	27
34	Kentucky	8	19	46	44	4	32	35	31	33	9
35	Connecticut	47	42	2	30	43	22	9	20	17	43
36	New York	50	50	16	20	23	2	2	42	3	47
37	South Carolina	5	6	48	47	41	29	39	35	36	19
38	Montana	27	40	21	9	24	45	17	41	36	31
39	Alabama	18	14	47	33	26	30	37	34	31	9
40	Maine	39	45	8	26	36	41	8	24	29	38
41	Michigan	31	39	40	45	20	7	34	39	10	23
42	Delaware	37	19	45	41	45	32	21	1	35	29
43	New Mexico	25	33	30	32	21	32	48	45	21	29
44	Louisiana	21	35	50	21	40	37	40	32	25	25
45	Mississippi	14	22	43	27	43	43	50	46	36	11
46	West Virginia	10	48	39	11	39	49	35	50	36	15
47	Nevada	36	18	34	49	29	40	49	20	36	36
48	Rhode Island	46	25	24	50	48	28	26	47	36	40
49	Hawaii	48	47	4	24	49	42	40	48	28	49
50	Alaska	44	49	38	47	50	46	43	37	36	47

CNBC scored all 50 states — using publicly available data — on 40 different measures of competitiveness. States received points based on their rankings in each metric. Those metrics were put into 10 broad categories, with input from business groups. CNBC weighted the categories based on how frequently each is cited in state economic development marketing materials. In the grid above, states are ranked from 1 to 50 (based on point totals) in all 10 individual categories, as well as the overall one. Based on CNBC scoring systems, ties did occur.