Virginia, Best State for Doing Business

Virginia is the nation’s best state for doing business in 2011, according to a CNBC’s study. Since its inaugural study in 2007, Texas and Virginia have been switching the top two positions. In this evaluation, researchers measured performance of each state using 10 key categories of competitiveness. They weight these categories for a total of 2,500 points based on how frequently the states use them as selling points to attract business:

- Cost of Doing Business (350 points)
- Workforce (350 points)
- Quality of Life (350 points)
- Infrastructure and Transportation (325 points)
- Economy (300 points)
- Education (225 points)
- Technology and Innovation (225 points)
- Business Friendliness (200 points)
- Access to Capital (100 points)
- Cost of Living (50 points)

Virginia takes the top spot with the best overall score in the history of the study: 1,660 points (or 66.4 percent). It is chosen as a perennial favorite with its strategic location, friendly business climate, diverse economy, improved tax burden, and reduced class sizes.

Texas slips back to number two with a respectable 1,578 points (or 63.1 percent). The top 10 best states for business also include North Carolina, Georgia, Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Utah, Iowa, and Nebraska.

Rhode Island and Alaska take the last two positions of the best states for business. They are followed by Hawaii, Mississippi, West Virginia, Nevada, Vermont, New Mexico, Louisiana, Alabama, and Maine. California’s ranking remained unchanged at number 32 with 1,227 points (or 49.1 percent).

Source: