

# Ohio moves into Top 3 for best business climates in the U.S., Site Selection says

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**Laura Newpoff** Assistant Managing Editor-Digital *Columbus Business First*

Ohio, again, is a top place where businesses invest capital.

*Site Selection* magazine revealed its annual ranking of state business climates that reflects announced capital investment projects in the Conway Projects Database and several other objective measures of state attractiveness.

Ohio is No. 3 this year, up from No. 5 in 2015 and 2014.

The Buckeye State follows No. 1 Georgia and No. 2 North Carolina. Texas and Tennessee round out the top five.

"We are pleased that Ohio has moved up two more spots in Site Selection's best business climate survey, ranking third-best in the country," said JobsOhio spokesman Matt Englehart. "The improvement is additional confirmation that Ohio has quickly become a top destination for new business investment and job creation."

Ohio's big investment wins recently include two huge Amazon.com fulfillment centers in the Columbus region. Zulily is another big company that's bullish on Central Ohio.

Here are site selectors' top location criteria this year:

1. Work force skills
2. Incentives
3. State and local tax scheme
4. Transportation infrastructure
5. Land/building prices and supply
6. Work force development
7. Utilities (cost, reliability)
8. Higher education resources
9. Ease of permitting and regulatory procedures
10. Quality of life

Methodology: 50 percent of the overall Business Climate Ranking is based on a survey of corporate site selectors who are asked to rank the states based on their recent experience of locating facilities in them. The other half is based on an index of seven criteria: performance in Site Selection's annual Prosperity Cup ranking; total Conway Projects Database-compliant facilities in 2015; total new facilities in 2015 per capita; total 2016 new projects year-to-date; total 2016 projects year-to-date per capita; state tax burdens on mature firms and on new firms according to the Tax Foundation and KPMG Location Matters analysis.