



dallasnews

Powered by *The Dallas Morning News*

Survey says: Executives see Texas as having top business climate



77

58

0



2

1



Survey: States for best business climates

Respondents were asked to rate the top three and bottom three states on their business climate. Texas ranked first, being listed in nearly half of respondents' top three.

Texas	49.7%
Florida	18.1%
Georgia	17.6%
North Carolina	17.6%
South Carolina	12.6%
Tennessee	11.6%
California	11.1%
Indiana	10.6%
New York	10.6%
Louisiana	9.0%
Virginia	9.0%

SOURCE: Development Counsellors International

Staff Graj

By [MICHAEL A. LINDENBERGER](#)

Washington Bureau

mlindenberger@dallasnews.com

Published: 19 October 2014 08:30 PM

Updated: 19 October 2014 08:48 PM

Texas has won some big bets and lost others when it comes to persuading firms to relocate — or make major expansions — in Texas this past year. But business leaders and the site-selection consultants who advise them still think it's the top place to do business.

Fully half of the respondents said Texas has the best climate for business — mostly citing low taxes and a light regulatory touch. Tax abatements and other incentives were far less likely to be cited as important.

The survey asked executives and consultants to list the states with the three best business climates and the three states with the worst. California — despite the enormous draw of Silicon Valley and the state's university-centered research — was most often selected as having the worst business climate.

"Texas was the clear-cut favorite," according to a press release announcing the results of the 2014 survey by Development Counsellors International.

The results provide “a glimpse into the minds of corporate executives and site selection consultants and their perceptions of locations across the United States and the world,” said the firm’s president, Andrew T. Levine.

Most of the 356 responses to the survey came from business leaders directly involved in company relocations and expansion decisions. Eighty-nine of the responses, or about a quarter of them, came from consultants.

The next five runners-up were also in the South: Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee.

The survey also notes that participants ranked the Texas governor’s economic development office as tied with Louisiana for second best in the country. The Georgia Department of Economic Development was ranked best.

For Gov. Rick Perry, the pro-business climate in Texas has been a major source of boasting. Wages in Texas are low and poverty rates in its largest cities high, but Perry has traveled the country showcasing the state’s low unemployment rate and light touch when it comes to regulation. He’s made headlines across the nation urging businesses in other states to move to Texas.

His office, and Texas generally, has had some big wins and losses of late.

Last summer, Toyota announced it would create a North American headquarters in Plano, providing Perry perhaps his best reason to crow. Last month, Texas was tossed aside in the running for an even larger prize — Tesla’s 5 million-square-foot battery manufacturing plant — when Elon Musk chose to set up shop in the Nevada desert.

Follow Michael A. Lindenberger on Twitter at @lindenberger.

Did you see something wrong in this story, or something missing? [Let us know.](#)

From Around the Web



[Slideshow: 10 Best Bathroom Remodeling Trends](#)
(DIY Network)



[An Extremely Brilliant Way To Pay Off Mortgage](#)
(Bills.com)



[Nine good reasons to be an engineer](#)
(ExxonMobil's Perspectives Blog)



[Investing 101: What is a Hedge Fund?](#)
(Managed Funds Association)

Recommended by

More From the Web

- [10 Things Bosses Never Tell Employees](#) Inc.com
- [Inside the Shark Tank: Why PetPaint walked away from a deal](#) Bigcommerce
- [9 Money Habits That Can Help You Build Wealth](#) LearnVest

More From Dallasnews.com

- [Good weather leads to record-setting State Fair](#) Entertainment
- [Ebola isolation ending, but not fiancée's grief](#) News
- [Couple with \\$2 million nest egg can afford to have some fun](#) Business

Recommended by

Comments

To post a comment, log into your chosen social network and then add your comment below. Your comments are subject to our [Terms of Service](#) and the privacy policy and terms of service of your social network. If you do not want to comment with a social network, please consider writing a [letter to the editor](#).

1 Comment

Sort Subscribe RSS



Weapon

1 day ago

" Last month, Texas was tossed aside in the running for an even larger prize — Tesla’s 5 million-square-foot battery manufacturing plant — when Elon Musk chose to set up shop in the "

Well yeah, when you can't sell your product in a state due to overreaching regulations bribed in by the auto dealer lobby. That kind of hurts your chance of winning.

Reply Share

1 0

