

Spotlight on the State of Ohio

Teamwork Brings Award Winning Results

Economic Development - A Collaborative Effort

Economic development in Ohio is a true collaborative effort with many local, regional and state organizations (public and private) working together to strengthen the State's economy:

- Leading this impressive team, the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) tries to attract, create, grow, and retain businesses through competitive incentives and targeted investments. ODOD understands the needs of the private sector and works "at the speed of business" to accelerate and support the teamwork necessary for success.
- The Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA) represents over 300 economic development professionals from across Ohio. OEDA advocates on behalf of economic development issues important to growing the Ohio economy. The organization and its members work closely with State officials to better position Ohio for business investment.
- The Ohio Business Development Coalition (OBDC) is a nonprofit organization that markets the state for capital investment. The OBDC provides marketing strategy and implementation to support Ohio's economic development efforts.

These organizations partner with literally hundreds of local economic development officials across the State to establish opportunities for businesses considering expansion or relocation and ultimately create jobs for Ohio residents.

Teamwork Brings Success

This impressive collaboration of economic development professionals produces award-winning results. On March 3, 2010, Site Selection Magazine/Conway Data, reported that Ohio was the number one State in the U.S for new plants and expansion in 2009. Governor Strickland was awarded the Governor's Cup for this achievement. This was the fourth year in a row for Ohio to win this award.

Ohio Governor Ted Strickland attributes Ohio's fourth consecutive Governor's Cup win to the state's manufacturing strengths, logistics capabilities, skilled workforce and competitive business environment.

"One of the reasons I believe in Ohio is that companies know Ohio is a great place to do business," Governor Strickland said. "We have reduced taxes and regulations, we have increased the skills and education of our workforce, and we have been recognized once again by setting the pace for the nation in new and expanded capital investments."

The No. 1 ranking for Ohio was based on the number of private capital investments for new or expanded facilities that involved an investment of at least \$1 million, created a minimum

of 50 new jobs, or added at least 20,000 square feet of new floor area. According to Site Selection's rankings, Ohio won the award with 381 projects. This year marks the eighth time Ohio has been awarded the Governor's Cup, receiving the award in 1993, 1994, 1995, 2003, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Ohio was also recognized for having several cities ranked in the top 10 metropolitan and micropolitan categories for new and expanded corporate facilities, proving the business strength of its five distinct regions and urban areas. The Cincinnati/Middletown region was ranked 6th respectively among metropolitan areas with populations of over one million. Dayton swept the top spots again for the second year in a row in mid-sized metropolitan areas with a population between 200,000 and one million. Wooster, Ashtabula and Findlay ranked 2nd, 6th, and 10th respectively among micropolitan cities of 10,000 to 50,000 in population.

The Advantages of an Ohio Business Address

Long recognized as an effective place to do business because of its central location, Ohio has redefined its business climate for the 21st century. Investing in Ohio now brings about many more benefits than in the past, including tax reform, strong incentive packages and a resource-rich workforce. Invest in Ohio and enjoy these key benefits:

- *Easy Access to Profitable Markets* - Did you know Ohio is within 600 miles of 60 percent of the U.S. population and 50 percent of the Canadian population? In fact, Ohio is recognized nationally and internationally as having one of the world's strongest global platforms for routing goods and services worldwide.
- *World Class Key Industries* - Ohio is at the forefront of many technological advances in such diverse fields as bioscience, polymers and fuel cells. The state's economy is built upon a legacy of strength in manufacturing and innovation. It's no surprise that 61 companies on Fortune's 1000 list are headquartered in the state.
- *A Robust Workforce and Education System* - Ohio has a statewide workforce of six million, more than the total population most states can claim. With 180,000 graduating high school seniors and more than 78,000 college graduates ready to join the workforce every year, Ohio is a juggernaut of worker productivity.
- *Public-Private Support* - Ohio's legislative history of working closely with industry is a leading indicator of the state's pro-business climate. Ohio's no-surprise regulations and impressive R&D sector provide a perfect mix to foster innovation. Businesses with emerging technologies and new product development are offered built-in advantages through Ohio's network of research and development facilities including seven Edison Technology Centers located throughout the state.

In Ohio you can build your business and love your life, realizing professional and personal success without sacrificing one for the other. Many successful companies and executives have found their state of perfect balance in Ohio. Discover how by visiting the Ohio Department of Development website at <http://development.ohio.gov>.