



**OHIO CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE**

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Ohio Moves Into Top Five States for Business

COLUMBUS, OHIO – CNBC today released its “America’s Top States for Business” rankings for 2025, and Ohio came in at fifth overall.

An important part of the Ohio Chamber’s mission is economic competitiveness. To fulfill that mission, the organization has partnered with JobsOhio to improve awareness of the state’s current economic competitiveness rankings and the Ohio Chamber’s recommendations to improve them.

As part of this effort, the Ohio Chamber will publish one chart per month offering a critical, data-driven perspective on key measurables of Ohio’s economic health and prosperity. The organization has also published a book of roughly 40 different economic charts that will be distributed to Ohio policymakers.

“While these new rankings aren’t surprising, they are encouraging,” said Steve Stivers, President & CEO of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce. “We know Ohio is a great state — we have a low cost of living and a high quality of life, and our GDP is the seventh largest in the country. We’re proud that others are recognizing our potential as a top state for business. We do still have work to do, but our improvement this year shows that we’re certainly on the right track.”

This year, Ohio improved from its 2024 overall ranking of seventh to the current fifth place position. Notably, the state ranked first in Infrastructure, a significant jump from last year’s 13th. The study enhanced its Infrastructure metrics in the 2025 edition to determine how states are delivering on companies’ power and data demands, and Infrastructure is now the second-heaviest weighted category.

“Thank you to Gov. DeWine and the Ohio Legislature for their continued efforts toward improving infrastructure in our state. We couldn’t have achieved this first-place rank

without their service,” said Stivers. “To continue this upward momentum, we now need to focus on bolstering our workforce, strengthening electric generation and modernizing our grids, and continuing to diversify Ohio’s economy.”

In addition to Infrastructure, Ohio landed in the top five for four of the other 10 broad categories, including second in Cost of Doing Business, sixth in Technology & Innovation, and seventh in both Access to Capital and Cost of Living.

Ohio does still have some areas of improvement to tackle, ranking in the 20s for Economy, Business Friendliness and Education and at 31 for Workforce.

The Ohio Chamber had also included the “America’s Top States for Business” rankings in its new three-year strategic plan’s benchmarks, identifying a top-five rank as one of its highest priorities. While the organization celebrates this win, it also recognizes that Ohio business advocates cannot grow complacent, and it will continue to work toward making Ohio the best place in the world for business.

The study, which is now in its 19th year, scores all 50 U.S. states on 135 business-related metrics that are separated into 10 broad categories. To form these categories, the study identifies the factors that companies consider when making site selection decisions and those that states tout when looking to attract and retain businesses.

The Ohio Chamber is the state’s leading business advocate and represents thousands of companies that do business in Ohio. Our mission is to aggressively champion free enterprise, economic competitiveness and growth for the benefit of all Ohioans.

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