



S.C. business-friendly, but scores lower in other areas

Forbes magazine’s annual list of the best states for business knocked South Carolina down three spots to 28. The state ranked high for business-friendly regulations but low on quality of life and economic climate.

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Only two Southeastern states made the top 10 of [Forbes magazine’s best states for doing business for 2011](#), and South Carolina wasn’t one of them.

Top 10 best states to do business

Forbes magazine has ranked all 50 states and the District of Columbia using a number of data points, including annual growth over five years and the gross state product. Here are the top 10 on the *Forbes* list for 2011.

| State | 2011 Rank | 2010 Rank |
|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| Utah | 1 | 1 |
| Virginia | 2 | 2 |
| N. Carolina | 3 | 3 |
| N. Dakota | 4 | 11 |
| Colorado | 5 | 4 |
| Texas | 6 | 7 |
| Washington | 7 | 5 |

This year, South Carolina ranked 28 on the list of 50 states and the District of Columbia, dropping from 25 in 2010.

The *Forbes* rankings [used six categories](#) the magazine said are vital for doing business, including: costs, labor supply, regulatory environment, current economic climate, prospects for growth and quality of life.

Virginia was named the second best state for doing business, and North Carolina came in at No. 3. Georgia, which ranked 8 in 2010, came in at No. 11 for this year.

Utah was the top state for business, with the editors noting that large companies such as Procter & Gamble, Home Depot and Boeing Co. had all announced expansions in the state this year.

“We factor in 37 points of data to determine the ranks in the six main areas,” the editors wrote in the introductory piece.

| | | |
|------------|----|----|
| Washington | 7 | 5 |
| Nebraska | 8 | 9 |
| Oregon | 9 | 6 |
| Iowa | 10 | 13 |

“Business costs, which include labor, energy and taxes, are weighted the most heavily.”

South Carolina pulls up to No. 5 when the data is sorted by business-friendly regulatory environment at the state level. A number of Southeastern states make the top rankings using *Forbes’* analysis and data for business-friendly regulations, including North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia,

Source: *Forbes magazine*

Tennessee and Alabama.

South Carolina’s six data points

The Palmetto State ranked low on both economic climate and quality of life in the *Forbes* magazine analysis of the best places for business in 2011. Here is a breakdown of the data points used by the editors to rank all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Business cost 29 | Labor supply 22 | Regulations 5 |
| Economic climate 45 | Growth potential 26 | Quality of life 44 |

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