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Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States

"Rapid technological advances will spread a new wave of automation across the U.S., increasing unemployment, depressing American consumer spending and further shrinking the middle class. It is a Catch 22—we need automated manufacturing if we are to compete internationally, but this means fewer jobs," says economist and corporate relocation expert Dr. Ron Pollina in the just-released Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2014, co-published with the American Economic Development Institute (www.aedi.us).

"That means the middle class will spend less on discretionary items, which will result in decreased income for businesses producing products and services for the domestic market, thereby pressuring these companies to lay off workers. This is the cycle the American people and American companies servicing the domestic market are currently caught up in," Dr. Pollina explains.

"But a handful of states have shown exemplary leadership in growing their economies and employment base while countering these trends by improving their business environment, adding new companies and growing existing companies. These states have broken the bonds that hold others back and positioned themselves for success today, tomorrow and the remainder of the decade, which is a remarkable achievement in the aftermath of the Great Recession."

The Pollina Corporate annual 50-state ranking indicates how well each state has or has not positioned itself to retain and create jobs as well as sustain America's middle class. Now in its tenth edition, the study has also become an important tool for corporations to evaluate their current and future U.S. locations.

The study examines 32 factors relative to state efforts to be pro-business and has become recognized as the "Gold Standard" for evaluating states. It is the most comprehensive and impartial examination (with no advertising) of states available.

The Top 10 states listed below exhibited leadership that truly understands the importance of producing the best business environment, and thus the best opportunities for job growth and economic prosperity. All 10 top-ranked states should be held up as models for the other 40 states and the federal government.

2014 Top 10 Pro Business Rankings

- | | |
|------------|------------------|
| 1 Utah | 6 North Dakota |
| 2 Wyoming | 7 Indiana |
| 3 Nebraska | 8 Missouri |
| 4 Virginia | 9 South Carolina |
| 5 Kansas | 10 South Dakota |

In the U.S. today, if you combine state, local, and federal taxes, the tax burden on companies is among the highest the world. Add labor costs, and we are one of the highest cost nations to do business in. American companies, if they are to survive in a global economy, must be located in the most pro-business locations possible.

The **Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States** study is based on 32 factors that our clients indicate are most important and more than 30 years of experience as site selectors. We weigh all factors based on the requirements of our corporate clients and our three decades of site selection experience.

Our ranking takes a comprehensive two-stage approach. Stage I, Labor, Taxes and Other Factors, is based on 19 factors, including taxes, human resources, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, worker compensation legislation, and jobs lost or gained. Stage II, Incentives and State Economic Development Agency Factors evaluation, examined 13 additional state government-controlled factors, including state financial incentive programs and state economic development department evaluations.

Visit the [AEDI Website](http://www.aedi.us) for the full 50 State Ranking and to download the report.

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Top Business States in U.S.



**"We demand that big business give the people a square deal;
in return we must insist that when anyone engaged in big business
honestly endeavors to do right he shall himself be given a square deal."**

~ President Theodore Roosevelt ~

AEDI/Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business Study for 2014

The International Monetary Fund states that the U.S. lacks a “credible strategy” to stabilize its mounting debt. The lingering recession, deficit spending, family debt, disastrous trade policies, offshoring of jobs, high taxes, tax loopholes, choking regulations, a decline in research and development, overzealous unions, out-of-control medical costs, and an outdated educational system are convincing evidence of the failure of the American economic model.

Most of these problems stem from political leadership, both Democratic and Republican, that has been unable to perceive and adjust to the rigors of a global economy and the competition it has created. This same leadership is so focused on each election and the funding necessary to win that it has lost sight of its responsibility to the American people.

The Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States study, now in its eleventh year, draws attention to those states with political leaders who have a strategic plan that works as well as states that need help. The study is a joint endeavor of the American Economic Development Institute and Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc.

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AEDI/Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States Minimize the Impact of Automation on Middle Class & Unemployment

CHICAGO—(July 15, 2014)—“Rapid technological advances will spread a new wave of automation across the U.S., increasing unemployment, depressing American consumer spending and further shrinking the middle class. It is a Catch 22—we need automated manufacturing if we are to compete internationally, but this means fewer jobs,” says economist and corporate relocation expert Dr. Ron Pollina in the just-released Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2014, co-published with the American Economic Development Institute (www.aedi.us).

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One state stands above all others. Brent Pollina, Vice President of Park Ridge, Illinois-based Pollina Corporate Real Estate and co-author of the 2014 study, says Utah is a symbol of economic growth that other states should emulate.

“Under Governor Gary Herbert’s leadership, Utah has held the top position for the third year in a row. In 2005, Utah ranked #23 and by 2012 it ranked #1 moving up in rank 22 places in only seven years,” he explains. “Utah is a great example of what enlightened and motivated political leadership can accomplish with a solid plan. Like the early Utah pioneers, the recent political leaders of Utah have relied on their own ‘industry’ to prosper.” Michigan is the Most Improved State for 2014 because of a spectacular 21-position climb in rank from 2011 to 2013. Their Most Improved State status reflects political leadership that has come to grips with 21st century

international competition for jobs and business investment. Certainly, two of the state's boldest moves were to pass Right-to-Work legislation and repeal of the maligned MBT business tax.

The Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2014 are:

Pollina Corporate Real Estate, Inc. Top 10 Pro-Business States 2014					
1	UTAH		6	NORTH DAKOTA	
2	WYOMING		7	INDIANA	
3	NEBRASKA		8	MISSOURI	
4	VIRGINIA		9	SOUTH CAROLINA	
5	KANSAS		10	SOUTH DAKOTA	

The study, considered the most comprehensive, unbiased and unvarnished by the economic development industry, is the “Gold Standard” for evaluating and ranking states based on 32 factors controlled by state government, including taxes, human resources, education, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, regulatory environment, workers compensation laws, economic incentive programs and state economic development efforts.

The states suffering the greatest drop in the study—Oklahoma and New Mexico—also deserve special attention so their leadership can modify their economic strategy in order to keep pace with their peers. California moved from #49 to dead last in 2014, a spot it has occupied for 10 of 11 years.

The AEDI/Pollina Corporate 50-state ranking follows, but if you want details about how your state or others did this year, [click here](#) to access the 2014 Report Cards.

2014 – Pro-Business 50-State Rankings

Rank	State	Rank	State
1	UTAH	26	TENNESSEE
2	WYOMING	27	TEXAS

3	NEBRASKA		28	DELAWARE
4	VIRGINIA		29	MARYLAND
5	KANSAS		30	NEW YORK
6	NORTH DAKOTA		31	KENTUCKY
7	INDIANA		32	ARKANSAS
8	MISSOURI		33	ALASKA
9	SOUTH CAROLINA		34	WASHINGTON
10	SOUTH DAKOTA		35	NEW MEXICO
11	NORTH CAROLINA		36	HAWAII
12	ALABAMA		37	OREGON
13	IDAHO		38	NEW HAMPSHIRE
14	IOWA		39	PENNSYLVANIA
15	FLORIDA		40	MINNESOTA
16	LOUISIANA		41	MASSACHUSETTS
17	NEVADA		42	VERMONT
18	MICHIGAN		43	CONNECTICUT
19	ARIZONA		44	MAINE
20	OKLAHOMA		45	WEST VIRGINIA
21	MISSISSIPPI		46	WISCONSIN
22	GEORGIA		47	NEW JERSEY
23	OHIO		48	RHODE ISLAND
24	MONTANA		49	ILLINOIS
25	COLORADO		50	CALIFORNIA

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