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## Report: Indiana Business Climate Fifth Best in Nation, Top in Midwest

**INDIANAPOLIS** (Nov. 7, 2008) - A national survey of real estate executives and a review of Indiana's record-breaking success in economic development scored the Hoosier state a top five finish nationally in *Site Selection* magazine's 2008 business climate survey.

Revealed in the November 2008 issue of the magazine, Indiana was the top place finisher in the Midwest and was the most improved state in the nation, moving up six places in the annual survey from eleventh place in 2007 to fifth place in 2008.

"In tough economic times, it's important to stand out, and now for about the fifth or sixth time this year, the world is reading that Indiana is the very best place to bring jobs," said Governor Mitch Daniels.

The annual business climate rankings are determined 50 percent by performance of the state in Conway Data's New Plant Database, which tracks new and expanded business facility activity, and 50 percent by a survey of corporate site seekers across the country. The survey asked companies to identify the top 10 state business climates, taking into consideration such factors as lack of red tape, financial assistance and government officials' cooperation. Respondents were also asked to rank the factors most important to them when determining a location for a new facility.

*Site Selection's* report of Indiana's economic improvement is the latest in a series of national accolades garnered by the state. In October, IBM named the Hoosier state as number one per capita for job attraction from international investment, and earlier this year CNBC named Indiana "the most improved state" for business. *Chief Executive* magazine named Indiana a "best place for business" in 2008, and *Forbes* magazine listed Indiana as the Midwest and sixth nationally for cost of doing business in its 2008 Best States for Business Index. The 2008 awards follow similar announcements in 2007 such as Ernst & Young Investment Monitor that found the Hoosier state to be number one in winning new competitive job-creating investments from all sources when measured on a per capita basis in both 2006 and 2007.

Indiana's award-winning efforts to attract new jobs and investment comes as the Indiana Economic Development Corporation is on pace for a fourth consecutive year of success. Since January, 137 businesses have committed to create 17,297 new jobs and invest more than \$4.1 billion in their Indiana operations. Despite the national economic slow down, the jobs-hunting agency is nearly at the same totals for job attraction as it was at this time in 2007.

Following the governor's creation of the agency in 2005, the state has logged three years of record-level attraction of new job-creating investment. Cumulatively since its inception, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation has worked with nearly 620 companies that have committed to create more than 76,000 new jobs and invest more than \$18.6 billion in their Indiana operations.

*Site Selection's* business climate survey story, as well as the publication's annual state legislative and incentives update, appears in the November 2008 edition of *Site Selection* and at [www.sitenet.com](http://www.sitenet.com).

**About Site Selection Magazine**

Site Selection magazine, published by Conway Data Inc., delivers expansion planning information to 44,000 executives of fast-growing firms. The senior publication in the development field, Site Selection is also available via Site Selection Online ([www.siteselection.com](http://www.siteselection.com)). SiteNet Dispatch, a weekly e-mail newsletter, goes to more than 29,000 industry professionals. For more information visit [www.siteselection.com](http://www.siteselection.com).

**About IEDC**

Created by Governor Mitch Daniels in 2005 to replace the former Department of Commerce, the Indiana Economic Development Corporation is governed by a 12-member board chaired by Governor Daniels. Indiana Secretary of Commerce Nathan Feltman serves as the chief executive officer of the IEDC. Since Daniels created the IEDC, the state has posted three consecutive years of record-breaking commitments for new jobs. For more information about IEDC, visit [www.iedc.in.gov](http://www.iedc.in.gov).

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