

Ohio Business Development Coalition



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OHIO RANKS BEST IN THE U.S. FOR MICROPOLITAN CITIES

State tops national list of most attractive small cities for business growth

Columbus, OH (March 28, 2007) – Ohio ranks No. 1 in the nation for number of attractive [micropolitans](#) for [capital investment](#), according to a new report by *Site Selection Magazine*, one of the nation's leading location assistance publications. CEOs are increasingly recognizing that Ohio is the state of perfect balance and are investing capital so they and their employees can pursue both their professional and personal aspirations without having to compromise one for the other.

The U.S. Census Bureau defines a micropolitan city as a community with 10,000 to 50,000 people that has a largely self-sustaining local economy.

Officials for *Site Selection Magazine* said they based the rankings 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. Ohio has 20 micropolitan cities that meet these criteria. North Carolina ranked second with 12 micropolitans, while Minnesota and Alabama tied for third.

“Ohio’s unique micropolitan economies as well as many larger cities offer executives the flexibility in location based on their company needs,” said Ed Burghard, executive director of the [Ohio Business Development Coalition](#), a nonprofit organization that provides marketing strategy and implementation to support Ohio’s [economic development](#) efforts. “The diversity of location choices is coupled with Ohio’s many lifestyle options, allowing executives to achieve perfect balance between their professional and personal lives. It is this unique structure that enables us to promise an executive he/she can ‘Build Your Business and Love Your Life’ In Ohio.”

Micropolitan cities are an important aspect of business growth in Ohio. [Site Selection's 2006](#)

[Governor's Cup](#) was awarded to Ohio as the nation's leader in new and expanded business facilities overall, with 431 projects. Of these, 102 were projects in micropolitan cities.

Leading the growing micropolitan cities in Ohio was Wooster with 21 projects. One of these projects was Northeast Ohio's largest building production plant, Stonecraft Industries, which moved into a new 300,000-sq.-ft. plant in Wooster in December. The \$24-million project created 300 jobs.

Other top micropolitans in Ohio are Ashtabula, Cambridge, Chillicothe, Coshocton, Defiance, Findlay, Fremont, Greenville, Marion, Mount Vernon, Norwalk, Point Pleasant, Portsmouth, Sidney, Tiffin-Fostoria, Van Wert, Wapakoneta and Zanesville.

About the Ohio Business Development Coalition

The Ohio Business Development Coalition (OBDC) is a nonprofit organization that provides marketing strategy and implementation to support Ohio's economic development efforts.

For more information, visit www.ohiomeansbusiness.com.

For more information about the Top Micropolitan rankings, visit www.siteselection.com.

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