



MEMORANDUM

Louisiana Top 10 Rankings

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Louisiana Ranking: #9 Top State for Doing Business

Source: [Area Development Top States for Doing Business](#)

Improvement: Louisiana jumped to 9th nationally after ranking 11th in 2024. This marks Louisiana's first top 10 finish in over five years (2019, 8th)

Why this matters: The Top States for Doing Business ranking is established by surveying 40+ site selectors about 15 categories that impact company location plans. The national decision makers are now telling us, we want to do business in Louisiana.

Louisiana Ranking: #8 in Business Environment

Source: [Wallet Hub's Best State to Start a Business](#)

Improvement: Louisiana had the biggest gains nationally in Wallet Hub's *Business Environment* ranking, shooting up to 8th (ranking 25th in 2024).

Why this matters: *Business Environment* includes factors such as growth in number of small businesses and start-ups, industry variety, entrepreneurship, and job growth – demonstrating the Louisiana is a good place to start a business and supports entrepreneurship and innovation. Considering more than half of Louisianans work for a small business, having a strong business environment to start a business is important to Louisiana families.

Louisiana Ranking: #3 in First-Year Business Survival

Source: [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics](#)

Louisiana businesses have the third highest first year survival rate in the nation (80.4%). Analysis based on the number of businesses that were first established in 2024 and remained in operation in 2025.

Why this matters: This ranking demonstrates that entrepreneurs are not only launching companies, but they are successfully establishing viable businesses. This points to a healthy business environment and reflects factors such as favorable operating costs, access to customers and a predictable regulatory environment.

Louisiana Ranking: #8 in Prosperity Cup

Source: [Site Selection 2026 Prosperity Cup](#)

Improvement: Louisiana's #8 ranking marks three consecutive years in the Top 10 of Site Selection's Prosperity Cup (2025 – 8th; 2024 – 10th). Prior to this stretch, Louisiana's only other Top 10 showing was in 2017 (10th nationally).

Why this matters: The Prosperity Cup measures a state's competitiveness in business attraction and expansion, reflecting the overall economic environment. The ranking considers recent project wins and key business climate factors, including announced projects, jobs, and capital investment, as well as executive survey responses, tax climate rankings, and workforce career readiness certificates.



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Louisiana Ranking: #1 Exporter per Capita

Source: [LED Analysis of U.S Census Bureau, USA Trade](#)

Why this matters: Louisiana's unique advantages including geographic features, location, and infrastructure make it a global export leader. This status highlights the state's continued importance in producing key goods and serving vital domestic and global supply chains.

Louisiana Ranking: #2 FDI per Capita

Source: [LED Analysis of Financial Times, fDi Markets](#)

Why this matters: Over the past 20 years Louisiana's business environment has been a national leader in attracting significant investment from global business. This sustained success reflects industry expertise, relationships, and Louisiana's global footprint.

COST OF DOING BUSINESS

Louisiana Ranking: #10 Top State for Corporate Income Tax

Source: [2026 State Tax Competitiveness Index](#)

Improvement: Louisiana is now in the Top 10 for Corporate Income Tax rank, Louisiana's best performance ever and the first time the state has been in the Top 10 for Corporate Income tax. (10th up from #29th). Overall, Louisiana improved to 31st, up from 40th in the 2025 report - out of the bottom 10 nationally. This is Louisiana's best overall ranking since 2011 (31st), and the largest improvement nationally.

Why this matters: This is the first *Index* that incorporates Louisiana's historic tax reform. Louisiana's dramatic improvements are a direct reflection of Louisiana's coordinated, forward-thinking approach to long-term statewide competitiveness.

WORKFORCE

Louisiana Ranking: T-#1 in Labor Force Participation Rate Growth

Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics – Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Statewide Data](#)

Why this matters: Louisiana's labor force participation rate growth **leads the nation** as the national rate has **declined**. This growth reflects a stronger talent pipeline and alignment between workforce development, education, and economic opportunity, benefitting Louisiana's businesses, workers, and communities.

Louisiana Ranking: #1 in K-12 Reading Growth and #2 in Math

Source: [National Education Scorecard \(2026\)](#)

Why this matters: Louisiana leading in the Nation's Report Card points to a bright future for Louisiana, and a strengthening talent pipeline. Improving student achievement today means higher graduation readiness, better workforce preparedness, and a larger pool of skilled employees.

Louisiana Ranking: #9 in Manufacturing Talent Pipeline

Source: [Area Development State Talent Pipeline Rankings](#)

Why this matters: The index emphasizes a state's ability to produce industrial workforce talent in alignment with industry needs, and provides additional insight for business leaders outside of traditional view of a state's workforce based on its *current* employment count. Workforce availability is now a primary site selection driver, not a secondary consideration. States that produce talent (not just employ it) are winning projects.