

Business Courier of Cincinnati - March 3, 2008

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Site Selection mag ranks Ohio, Cincinnati tops for development

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For the second year in a row, Ohio won the **Site Selection** Governor's Cup, based on the number of new and expanded corporate facilities it recorded in 2007. Kentucky also was ranked as one of the top 10 states.

The Cincinnati metro area placed second among "tier one" cities for its number of new and expanded facilities last year, the magazine said in a news release.

Ohio placed first with 399 projects in 2007, with Illinois, Tennessee, North Carolina and Texas rounding out the top five. It placed first with 431 projects in 2006. Kentucky was 10th, with 197 projects.

"The fact that tax reform was passed by a Republican governor and legislature and is now embraced by a Democratic governor says there is predictability and stability in terms of our business climate," Gov. Ted Strickland told the magazine.

Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, who also is economic development director for Ohio, added that the new tax structure particularly benefits the manufacturing sector by eliminating state and local taxes that hindered investment.

The Cincinnati-Middletown metropolitan statistical area placed second among the largest cities, with 111 projects last year. The Chicago-Naperville-Joliet MSA was first, with 238 projects.

Akron, Dayton and Lexington made the top 10 for tier two metro areas: Akron tied for second with 29 projects; Dayton tied for fourth with 27 projects, and Lexington tied for 10th with 22 projects.

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