



Business Environment Rankings

Florida ranks No. 1 for entrepreneurship and No. 6 overall

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[US News & World Report]— Business environment holds 20 percent of the weight in ranking the Best States for economy. This subcategory evaluates both the private sector business birth rate and the number of patents granted per million people in a state. Inventors, entrepreneurs and out-of-the-box thinkers thrive in environments where they can push the status quo, and often flock to the same areas of the U.S., where they can pursue their business aspirations surrounded by fellow innovators. Those new ideas and businesses can be a boon to a state's economy.

California, home to Silicon Valley and Los Angeles, ranks first in the nation for business environment. The overall No. 1 state, Massachusetts, places second in this subcategory, followed by Idaho, Colorado and Utah, three Rocky Mountain states. The states with the poorest business environment are predominantly Southern and include the No. 50 overall state of Louisiana, South Dakota, Alabama, Mississippi and West Virginia, which ranks 49th in economy. Alaska, the state with the worst economy in the nation, ranks 35th for this subcategory.

Business Environment Rank	State	Entrepreneurship	Patent Creation
#6	 Florida	1	32

This seasonally adjusted metric evaluates the rate at which new businesses were formed between 2013 and 2015. With an average of 3.75 percent, Florida had the best business birth

rate. Despite its standing as the No. 40 overall state, Nevada boasted the second best business birth rate and 10th best economy in the nation. The states with the worst business birth rates were No. 50 Ohio, which ranked 31st in economy, West Virginia, Connecticut, Iowa – the No. 6 state overall – and Pennsylvania.

From 2013 to 2015, the fewest businesses were created in the Great Lakes region, while the Rocky Mountains experienced the highest business birth rate. By December 2015, the most recent quarter evaluated, the national business birth rate hit a high of 3.1 percent compared with 2.8 percent in March 2013.

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