



OVERVIEW

Alabama is recognized as a great place to start and grow a business..... A great place to get an education.....A great place to build a career.....A great place to put down roots....A great place to thrive...A great place to WIN. But don't just take our word for it. Check out a few of the recent accolades.

BUSINESS CLIMATE

- Alabama earns a “Silver Shovel” Award from Area Development Magazine. The publication noted that automotive and aerospace manufacturing continues to drive healthy economic activity. (June 2018)
- Alabama maintains their ranking as top economic development leader and business partner for international companies. (April 2018)
- Alabama ranks No. 3 for auto exports, with exports topping \$7.75 billion in 2017. The state shipped to 88 nations in 2017, and trail just behind Michigan and South Carolina for exports of motor vehicles. (March 2018)
- In Business Facilities’ 2017 Economic Development Deal of the Year competition, Alabama’s Department of Commerce and Birmingham Business Alliance earn honorable mention for the attraction of Mercedes Benz Global Logistics Center in Bibb County. (February 2018)
- Alabama ties for the #6 spot in Site Selection Magazine’s 2017 Top 25 State Business Climate Ranking. 50% of the ranking is based on a survey of corporate site selectors. Alabama ranked #4. (November 2017)
- Site Consultants rank Alabama a Top State for Business. Area Development’s survey of site consultants listed Alabama 6th overall and among the top10 in 10 categories: business cost, business incentive programs, cooperative and responsive state government, favorable regulatory environment, speed of permitting, prepared site program, favorable utility rates, competitive labor environment, leading workforce development programs, and most improved economic development policies. (Q3 2017)



Alabama ranks high in State Business Climate Ranking

Alabama tied for No. 6 overall in *Site Selection* magazine’s 2017 Top 25 State Business Climate Rankings and ranked No. 4 by corporate site selectors.

(November 2017)



Alabama is a Top State for Doing Business

Alabama ranked No. 6 among states in the *Area Development* magazine’s annual “Top States for Doing Business” consultants survey.

(September 2017)



Alabama Ranks High for Workforce Development and Manufacturing Strength

Alabama wins the No. 2 spot among US states for workforce development, No. 5 for automotive manufacturing strength, and No. 5 for overall manufacturing strength in *Business Facilities’ 2017 Rankings Report*.

(August 2017)



Alabama Leads US States in Employee Engagement

A *Gallup* survey finds that Alabama has the highest percentage of employees nationwide who are engaged in their jobs.

(February 2017)



EDUCATION

- The 2018 U.S. News & World Report College Rankings report included five Alabama universities classified as national doctoral research universities: University of Alabama, Auburn University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Alabama in Huntsville and The University of South Alabama. (September 2017)
- The 2017 Forbes list of America's Best Colleges included ten Alabama colleges: Samford University (182), Auburn University (195), University of Alabama (264), Birmingham-Southern College (419), University of Alabama at Birmingham (447), University of Alabama in Huntsville (474), Spring Hill College (555), University of South Alabama (616), Troy University (640) and Tuskegee University (648). (July 2017)
- The 2018 U.S. News Best High Schools in America list recognized 117 Alabama schools as either the Gold, Silver, or Bronze categories indicating their level of college readiness. (April 2018).
- The Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education College Rankings 2018, a comparative assessment of more than 1,000 US universities and colleges based on resources, engagement, environment, and outcomes, ranked Samford University (226), University of Alabama at Birmingham (268), Auburn University (306), Tuskegee University (340), University of Alabama in Huntsville (455), University of Alabama (464), and Birmingham Southern (489). (February 2018)

COMPANIES

- Thermo Fisher Scientific in Auburn, Alabama was named 28th in its class of IW Best Plants Award Winners. Performance is key for these companies, and there is no lack of leaders, a team atmosphere, and the willingness to embrace any challenge faced. (March 2018)
- Alabama is home to 59 companies on Inc. Magazine's Top 5000 Companies for Growth, including five Alabama companies in the top 500: Sparks Energy (139), Fulcrum Construction Group (315), R2C Support Services (381), Mission Driven Research (458), VetInternetCo.com (469). (September 2017)
- Four Alabama businesses were ranked on the Forbes Largest Private Companies list— EBSCO Industries (163), Brasfield & Gorrie (191), Drummond Company (208), and O'Neal Industries (216). (July 2017)
- Forbes World's Biggest Public Companies list includes Alabama-based Regions Financial (557) and Vulcan Materials (1428). (May 2017)
- Alabama-based Regions Financial (436) was ranked on the Fortune 500 list. Two additional Alabama companies making the list of largest American companies are HealthSouth (619) and Vulcan Materials (635). (May 2017)

COMMUNITIES

- Two Alabama MSAs were among the top 10 listed on Forbes' 2018 list of America's Best Small Cities for Jobs: Auburn-Opelika MSA (6th) and Daphne-Fairhope-Foley MSA (11th). (May 2018)
- Huntsville ranks 3rd in Forbes 2017 Top 10 Cities for Employment Engagement. (July 2017) and the 7th best place to live in America by U.S. News and World Report (April 2018)
- Forbes 2016 Best Small Places for Business and Careers list ranked three Alabama cities in the top 100 best small metros— Auburn (8), Daphne (16), Tuscaloosa (55). (October 2017)
- Birmingham was named one of the Top 25 Best Cities for Jobs in 2017 by Glassdoor. (September 2017)