



Regional Growth Partnership
BUILDING A HIGH-TECH, HIGH-PERFORMANCE ECONOMY

NEWS

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Toledo Metro Area Ranked Third Among Top Performing Cities By Site Selection Magazine

TOLEDO, Ohio – The Toledo Metropolitan Area has been named as one of the top performing communities nationally for economic development, according to a leading industry publication.

As part of its annual “Governor’s Cup Award,” *Site Selection* magazine ranked Toledo 3rd in the United States among metros with populations between 200,000 and 1 million. The rankings are based on new and expanded corporate facilities in 2008. Toledo reported 38 projects in 2008, behind only Dayton (41) and Akron (39). According to the publication, this is the first year Toledo has been ranked as a Top 10 Metro.

“This recognition demonstrates that northwest Ohio is making progress in moving the economy forward by creating new jobs and new investment,” said Steve Weathers, president and CEO of the Regional Growth Partnership. “While no one denies the economic challenges we face, this analysis does provide evidence that our region is taking the right steps to lower unemployment and create new opportunities.”

(More)

In addition, the state of Ohio won the Governor's Cup award as the top performing state in the country. Ohio reported 503 new projects in 2008, which topped the list, followed by the state of Texas reporting 497 new projects. It marks the third straight year that Ohio has won the award as top performing state.

"We cannot allow challenges of the moment to deter us from doing the things that will enable us to participate fully in the recovery that will come," said Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland in comments to Site Selection magazine. "We have to maintain our commitment to those efforts that will be essential once the economic storm has passed."

Site Selection focuses on new corporate location projects with significant impact. It does not track retail and government projects, or schools and hospitals. New facilities and expansions included in the analyses must meet at least one of three criteria: involve a capital investment of at least \$1 million; create at least 50 new jobs; add at least 20,000 square feet of new floor area.

"As with Ohio's previous Governor's Cup wins, the 2008 award demonstrates that companies will invest in those industrial states that are taking the steps needed to be competitive," said Mark Arend, editor-in-chief of Site Selection. "It is not enough to say your state is 'pro-business.' Site selectors are looking for specific measures to be in place, and Ohio is delivering."

The Regional Growth Partnership is a private nonprofit development corporation dedicated to fostering local, national and international economic growth opportunities for Northwest Ohio.

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