



**For Immediate Release
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Small Business Survival Index 2009 Ranks State Policy Climates for Entrepreneurship

Oakton, VA – The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council (SBE Council) today released its 14th annual rankings of the states according to their public policy climates for small business and entrepreneurship in the **“Small Business Survival Index 2009: Ranking the Policy Environment for Entrepreneurship Across the Nation.”** (Access the SBSI 2009 map of the states by [clicking here](#), or visiting <http://sbecouncil.org/survivalindex2009/>.)

SBE Council chief economist Raymond J. Keating, author of the study, said: “It’s hard to find any good news at the national level for entrepreneurs, small business and their employees. The U.S. economy slipped into a recession in December 2007, with matters getting far worse late last year. Congress and the White House have not offered positive solutions to help the job-creating sector. In fact, most of their actions will hurt, not help, small businesses. But what about the states? The ‘Small Business Survival Index’ helps business owners and investors understand the public policy burdens placed on entrepreneurship and small business, with the states ranked accordingly.”

Keating continued: “Policy matters. Most politicians talk a good game when it comes to small business, but their actions don’t often match their rhetoric. The ‘Small Business Survival Index’ gets at the public policy costs and trends that affect – directly or indirectly – entrepreneurship and small businesses. These measures should matter to everyone because small businesses, of course, drive innovation, economic growth and job creation. If we want to get our economy back on a solid, robust growth track, then we need pro-entrepreneur policies at the federal, state and local levels.”

The “Small Business Survival Index” is the most comprehensive measure of which states are truly friendly to small business, and which are not in terms of public policy decisions. The factors included in the Index – taxes, various regulatory costs, government spending, property rights, health care and energy costs, and much more – matter a great deal to the competitiveness of each state and to the well being of small business.

The 2009 Index has been expanded to cover 36 major government-imposed or government-related costs affecting small businesses and entrepreneurs. The measures are added together for an overall rating. The report is available at www.sbecouncil.org. (Look for the Index icon on the right side of the website’s front page.)

In terms of their policy environments, the Top-Ten entrepreneur-friendly states under the “Small Business Survival Index 2009” are: 1) South Dakota, 2) Nevada, 3) Texas, 4) Wyoming, 5) Washington, 6) Florida, 7)

South Carolina, 8) Colorado, 9) Alabama, and 10) Virginia. In contrast, the Bottom-Ten include: 42) Hawaii, 43) Minnesota, 44) Massachusetts, 45) Rhode Island, 46) Maine, 47) Vermont, 48) New York, 49) California, 50) New Jersey and 51) District of Columbia. Complete rankings are found below.

For a copy of the “Small Business Survival Index 2009,” visit SBE Council’s website at www.sbecouncil.org. SBE Council is a nonpartisan, nonprofit small business advocacy group that works to protect small business and promote entrepreneurship.

Following are the complete state rankings for the “Small Business Survival Index 2009”:

Small Business Survival Index 2009: State Rankings

Rank	State	SBSI Score
1	South Dakota	25.693
2	Nevada	31.348
3	Texas	32.082
4	Wyoming	37.069
5	Washington	42.955
6	Florida	45.284
7	South Carolina	48.001
8	Colorado	48.250
9	Alabama	48.823
10	Virginia	50.843
11	Ohio	51.250
12	Alaska	51.554
13	Tennessee	51.855
14	Utah	52.404
15	Indiana	52.602
16	Arizona	52.803
17	North Dakota	53.044
18	Missouri	53.277
19	Mississippi	53.439
20	Georgia	53.781
21	Oklahoma	53.868
22	Kentucky	54.877
23	Michigan	55.383
24	Illinois	55.983
25	Arkansas	56.006
26	Kansas	57.813
27	Pennsylvania	57.847
28	New Mexico	58.101
29	Louisiana	58.111
30	Wisconsin	58.800
31	Montana	59.041
32	Idaho	61.705
33	New Hampshire	61.995

34	Nebraska	62.143
35	Delaware	62.775
36	West Virginia	63.689
37	Maryland	64.342
38	Oregon	65.179
39	North Carolina	65.497
40	Connecticut	66.627
41	Iowa	67.485
42	Hawaii	68.454
43	Minnesota	72.149
44	Massachusetts	72.515
45	Rhode Island	73.339
46	Maine	74.699
47	Vermont	75.717
48	New York	76.940
49	California	77.749
50	New Jersey	84.730
51	Dist. of Columbia	84.795

(Please note that the District of Columbia was not included in the studies covering three of the measures included in the Index, so D.C.'s last place score is actually worse.)

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