

## CNBC: Massachusetts 8th In The Nation For Business

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CNBC ranked Massachusetts as the eighth best state in the nation in 2009 for business, citing education and technology innovation as strengths, while also pointing out the cost of doing business and quality of transportation as weaknesses.

CNBC ranked Virginia as the best state in the country for business, followed by Texas and Colorado. Massachusetts improved its ranking seven spots after being ranked 15th in the nation overall last year.

Massachusetts ranked much lower on the list (No. 40) for cost of doing business, which includes tax burdens, energy costs, wages and rental costs, according to the CNBC results, which the Associated Industries of Massachusetts announced Thursday.

The state also ranked 31st in transportation, measured by the value of goods shipped by air, land and water, access to air travel and the quality of roads.

The state ranked first in the education metric, based on the number of higher education institutions and education spending, class sizes and test scores.

The overall rankings were based on 40 separate metrics, with input from the National Association of Manufacturers, according to CNBC.