



	TOTAL DEALS	TOTAL POINTS	*PPM	*PPM RANK
Alabama	44	250	52.1	6
A pretty good year. . .slightly better for Alabama than last year. . .but nowhere near the performance from 2003 to 2008 when it won "State of the Year" five out of six years. The Remington project was a big win and 16 automotive projects led all other sectors.				
Arkansas	11	75	25.8	13
Another year of improvement for Arkansas. Some really nice projects, like Big River Steel (500 jobs, \$1.3 billion) and Peco Foods (1,000 jobs, \$165 million). The new administration looks serious about economic development and the new director of the Arkansas EDC worked for former Florida Secretary of Commerce Gray Swoope. Look for Arkansas to keep improving.				
Florida	36	200	15.9	15
The Sunshine State's economy has really improved each year since the end of the recession, but it is still too dependent on tourism, which is setting records. There are well over 1,000,000 Floridians working in tourism in the state and expect over 100 million tourists — a record — to visit the state this year. Florida is really doing well in two areas: information technology and aviation/aerospace.				
Georgia	34	295	29.5	12
A slightly lower performance compared to last year, except this year Atlanta just killed it, beating Dallas-Fort Worth in points for the first time in 21 years. Projects in the Atlanta area accounted for 215 of Georgia's 295 total points. The 3,000-job State Farm deal in Atlanta is the third largest job project for the year. Georgia's list features a nice mix of headquarters, manufacturing and technology projects.				
Kentucky	40	285	63.4	2
Awesome year by Kentucky, its best in 21 years. Second place PPM. Every year since the recession, Kentucky has increased its point score and PPM ranking. There have been 12 years out of 21 that both the No. 1 PPM state and/or the No. 1 point state did not win "State of the Year." This is the 12th. For the first time, Kentucky is SB&D's "State of the Year" for 2015. We loved the variety of manufacturing projects as well as service deals. The rural projects were outstanding, with Calvert City winning "Rural Market of the Year." Congratulations to the Commonwealth.				
Louisiana	77	485	105.4	1
Another outstanding year for Louisiana, even though this year was a little behind last year's SB&D 100. The petrochemical sector in Louisiana may have never seen a run like the last few years. No. 1 in PPM and No. 2 in points would normally win "State of the Year." However, of Louisiana's 77 projects, only 13 qualified for the job threshold. That's not enough. Good enough for honorable mention, though.				
Mississippi	15	100	32.8	10
Not a lot of big projects from Mississippi in calendar year 2014, but the ones they landed were special. Nissan expanded again in Canton and the Mississippi Silicon project in Tishomingo County is huge for that rural county. Glenn McCullough Jr. was named executive director of the Mississippi Development Authority in the spring. McCullough's experience will be critical for the state of Mississippi moving forward.				
Missouri	27	200	20.8	9
Missouri saw significant improvement this year, more than doubling its points from the previous year. Kansas City had an outstanding year and the Cerner project (15,000 jobs) is the largest job project ever announced in the South. Boeing continues to relocate jobs away from its base in the Puget Sound. St. Louis snagged 1,200 jobs from Boeing last year.				

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North Carolina	77	450	45.5	7
<p>North Carolina landed 20 more projects than it did last year and for the first year ever, it had more investment deals (44) than job deals meeting or exceeding our thresholds. The Alevo project in Concord is a monster deal. Technology projects have replaced financial services as the main source of large projects in North Carolina. A good year, earning an honorable mention.</p>				
Oklahoma	34	240	63.2	3
<p>Huge year by Oklahoma, worthy of "State of the Year" consideration. Third place PPM score, and 10 more projects and 80 points higher than last year. Rarely does Oklahoma score projects of 900, 1,300 and 2,500 jobs in the same year. We loved the 900 Boeing relocated defense jobs Oklahoma City got from the Puget Sound. Honorable mention.</p>				
South Carolina	29	255	53.1	5
<p>Another nice year by South Carolina economic development practitioners, but we are looking forward to next year when the Palmetto State will put two new auto plants — Daimler and Volvo — on its deal list. This year saw BMW expand again and the Toray Carbon Fibers deal was huge. South Carolina recruits manufacturing projects with the best of them, but there were some very nice service projects landed, too.</p>				
Tennessee	63	380	58.5	4
<p>Another awesome year from Tennessee, earning an honorable mention. Finally, Volkswagen pulled the trigger on its expansion in Chattanooga, creating 2,000 more jobs at that plant. Chattanooga was the 2015 "Mid-Market of the Year" with 75 points. Tennessee's deal list is very diverse and the state's economy is a nice mix of distribution, automotive, healthcare and medical devices.</p>				
Texas	121	875	32.5	11
<p>A third consecutive 100-plus deal year for Texas. It improved its deal count and points this year over last year when it was named "Co-State of the Year" with Louisiana. But, it dropped one place on the PPM ranking. It earned an honorable mention, regardless. The Toyota headquarters relocation to Plano is one of the top five deals from 2014. The oil and gas industry may be struggling in Texas, but not the LNG and chemical industries. This is the first year any state landed two \$10 billion-plus projects, and Texas did it with Cheniere Energy and Freeport LNG projects.</p>				
Virginia	40	310	37.3	8
<p>Middle of the pack PPM score for Virginia, but really, it was a pretty good year considering defense spending in Northern Virginia has essentially vanished. There was only one defense deal out of Virginia's 40 projects meeting or exceeding our thresholds. That has got to be an all-time low on defense deals and a concern for VEDP and Gov. Terry McAuliffe. Chinese investment in the South is skyrocketing after 20 years of trying to capture it. Let's see if Virginia can capture more Chinese deals after landing Shandong Tranlin Paper's \$2 billion, 2,000 job project.</p>				
West Virginia	3	20	11.1	15
<p>A total of 20 points from just three projects meeting or exceeding our thresholds is a new state low in the 21-year history of the SB&D 100. That does not mean West Virginia's economy is not growing. It grew faster in gross state product than all but two states in 2014. A few more large projects are needed, however.</p>				

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