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Ohio tops list on economic expansion

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Ohio has been named the top state for new and expanded facilities for the fourth straight year by trade magazine Site Selection, winning the magazine's Governor's Cup for 2009.

The state has won the award a total of eight times. In the survey, Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky ranked sixth overall among cities with a population of more than 1 million.

Based on research conducted by the Cincinnati USA Partnership, there were 247 businesses in the three-state, 15-county region that added or retained jobs, added investment or added square footage during 2009.

"Certainly, no metro market has been completely unscathed by the economic conditions, but this ranking substantiates Cincinnati USA's ability to weather the storm better than other regions," said Doug Moormann, vice president of economic development at the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber, in a release. "It is a credit to the region that we consistently receive national recognition for our collective efforts."

Conway Data, Site Selection's publisher, has annually recognized the U.S. state with the most new and expanded corporate facilities since 1978 as tracked by its new plant database.

"One of the reasons I believe in Ohio is that companies know Ohio is a great place to do business," Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland said in a release. "We have reduced taxes and regulations, we have increased the skills and education of our workforce, and we have been recognized once again by setting the pace for the nation in new and expanded capital investments."
