

AEDI/Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States Minimize the Impact of Automation on Middle Class & Unemployment

CHICAGO—(July 15, 2014)—“Rapid technological advances will spread a new wave of automation across the U.S., increasing unemployment, depressing American consumer spending and further shrinking the middle class. It is a Catch 22—we need automated manufacturing if we are to compete internationally, but this means fewer jobs,” says economist and corporate relocation expert Dr. Ron Pollina in the just-released Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2014, co-published with the American Economic Development Institute (www.aedi.us).

“That means the middle class will spend less on discretionary items, which will result in decreased income for businesses producing products and services for the domestic market, thereby pressuring these companies to lay off workers. This is the cycle the American people and American companies servicing the domestic market are currently caught up in,” Dr. Pollina explains.

“But a handful of states have shown exemplary leadership in growing their economies and employment base while countering these trends by improving their business environment, adding new companies and growing existing companies. These states have broken the bonds that hold others back and positioned themselves for success today, tomorrow and the remainder of the decade, which is a remarkable achievement in the aftermath of the Great Recession.”

The Pollina Corporate annual 50-state ranking indicates how well each state has or has not positioned itself to retain and create jobs as well as sustain America’s middle class. Now in its eleventh edition, the study has also become an important tool for corporations to evaluate their current and future U.S. locations.

One state stands above all others. Brent Pollina, Vice President of Park Ridge, Illinois-based Pollina Corporate Real Estate and co-author of the 2014 study, says Utah is a symbol of economic growth that other states should emulate.

“Under Governor Gary Herbert’s leadership, Utah has held the top position for the third year in a row. In 2005, Utah ranked #23 and by 2012 it ranked #1 moving up in rank 22 places in only seven years,” he explains. “Utah is a great example of what enlightened and motivated political leadership can accomplish with a solid plan. Like the early Utah pioneers, the recent political leaders of Utah have relied on their own ‘industry’ to prosper.”

Michigan is the Most Improved State for 2014 because of a spectacular 21-position climb in rank from 2011 to 2013. Their Most Improved State status reflects political leadership that has come to grips with 21st century international competition for jobs and business investment. Certainly, two of the state’s boldest moves were to pass Right-to-Work legislation and repeal of the maligned MBT business tax.

The Pollina Corporate Top 10 Pro-Business States for 2014 are:

government, including taxes, human resources, education, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, regulatory environment, workers compensation laws, economic incentive programs and state economic development efforts.

The states suffering the greatest drop in the study—Oklahoma and New Mexico—also deserve special attention so their leadership can modify their economic strategy in order to keep pace with their peers. California moved from #49 to dead last in 2014, a spot it has occupied for 10 of 11 years.

The AEDI/Pollina Corporate 50-state ranking follows, but if you want details about how your state or others did this year, [click here](#) to access the 2014 Report Cards.

2014 – Pro-Business 50-State Rankings

Rank	State	Rank	State
1	UTAH	26	TENNESSEE
2	WYOMING	27	TEXAS
3	NEBRASKA	28	DELAWARE
4	VIRGINIA	29	MARYLAND
5	KANSAS	30	NEW YORK
6	NORTH DAKOTA	31	KENTUCKY
7	INDIANA	32	ARKANSAS
8	MISSOURI	33	ALASKA
9	SOUTH CAROLINA	34	WASHINGTON
10	SOUTH DAKOTA	35	NEW MEXICO
11	NORTH CAROLINA	36	HAWAII
12	ALABAMA	37	OREGON
13	IDAHO	38	NEW HAMPSHIRE
14	IOWA	39	PENNSYLVANIA
15	FLORIDA	40	MINNESOTA
16	LOUISIANA	41	MASSACHUSETTS
17	NEVADA	42	VERMONT
18	MICHIGAN	43	CONNECTICUT
19	ARIZONA	44	MAINE
20	OKLAHOMA	45	WEST VIRGINIA
21	MISSISSIPPI	46	WISCONSIN
22	GEORGIA	47	NEW JERSEY
23	OHIO	48	RHODE ISLAND
24	MONTANA	49	ILLINOIS
25	COLORADO	50	CALIFORNIA

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