

# CEOs: SC 4th-best state for doing business

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THE STATE

South Carolina was ranked as the fourth-best state in the nation for business, according to an annual survey of chief executives by Chief Executive magazine.

The Palmetto State advanced three places from last year in the magazine's 13th annual Best and Worst States for Business survey, and moved back into the top five for the first time since 2014, according to a news release. The survey was released Tuesday.

The ranking is South Carolina's highest since the survey's inception in 2004, the release said, although the state has consistently ranked in the top 10 in recent years. The rankings reflect CEOs' perceptions of best and worst states based on a range of measures from quality of life to taxes to workforce.

Texas, Florida and North Carolina ranked ahead of South Carolina. Full results and additional information can be found at [chiefexecutive.net/b](http://chiefexecutive.net/b) and in the May/June issue of Chief Executive.

In addition to the overall state rankings, Chief Executive's 2017 Best & Worst States for Business survey also presents individual category rankings, including workforce, taxes/regulation, living environment and best communication of business incentives. Additionally, states were ranked by major industry, including health care, technology, financial services and retail, among others.

South Carolina's rankings in key categories included No. 6 for Living Environment; No. 9 for Taxes and Regulation; and No. 19 for Workforce Quality.

In state rankings by industry, South Carolina fared well, ranking No. 3 for manufacturing, No. 5 in technology, No. 6 in financial services and No. 10 in retail.

"The annual Best and Worst States Survey is a key component of South Carolina's ability to attract new jobs," said Marshall S. Cooper, CEO of Chief Executive Group, which has conducted the survey for the past 13 years. "The rankings ... are a good gauge of the state's ability to attract and retain business investment."