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N.C. ranks 27th in state competitiveness

Charlotte Business Journal

North Carolina does not rank among the top half of the 50 states when it comes to luring businesses and providing high standards of living for workers, according to a new report.

The competitiveness report from the Boston-based [Beacon Hill Institute](#) placed North Carolina No. 27 on its list, which was led by Massachusetts.

Researchers preparing the study evaluated the states in categories such as security, government and fiscal policy, environmental policy, human resources, technology and "business incubation."

The strongest category for North Carolina was business incubation. The state scored ninth-best in that segment, in part because of its lowest union membership among its labor force.

North Carolina also did well in the government- and fiscal-policy part of the rankings, coming in No. 15. The state was No. 1 in bond ratings and No. 12 for a low budget deficit compared with gross state product.

The state's overall score was dragged down by a No. 32 ranking for a high number of state and local government employees and a No. 31 ranking for the state's per-capita ratio of state and local taxes versus income.

The state's weakest categories were environmental policy (No. 42), security (No. 41) and human resources (No. 39). Factors in those scores included low rankings for air quality and the percentage of the population with health insurance.

North Carolina also was hurt by high unemployment, infant-mortality and crime rates.

Mississippi ranked last on the list.

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