

	JOB 100	JOB JMD	INV 100	INV JMD	TOTAL DEALS	TOTAL POINTS	*PPM
ALABAMA	9	14	6	22	51	330	1ST PLACE 71.77 POINTS PER MILLION
<p>The State of Alabama got one for the thumb. Yep, Alabama won "State of the Year" again, getting the ring for the fifth time in six years. Alabama turned the "Deal of the Year," too, with German steel maker ThyssenKrupp along with other impressive projects. And once again it sits atop the points per million ranking. While just about every place in the state is contributing, Mobile and Huntsville are just lights out right now.</p>							
ARKANSAS	1	6	1	2	10	60	13TH PLACE 21.27 POINTS PER MILLION
<p>Last year we wrote in this spot, "We'll be watching closely how new Gov. Mike Beebe and his new economic development team fares." Well, they fared pretty well in their first year. But we believe they are just starting. Check out Arkansas' deals in this issue's Relocation and Expansion section (page 12). The spring 2008 quarter was one of the best ever for Arkansas. But this ranking is based on 2007. While Little Rock had a record year in 2007, we'd like to see more deals in other parts of the state, which is happening so far in 2008.</p>							
FLORIDA	8	24	5	15	52	325	16TH PLACE 17.80 POINTS PER MILLION
<p>Florida had its worst year in SB&D 100 history last year with 260 points. This year was better, but note Florida's next to last place in points per million. Florida's economy is not necessarily suffering, but it isn't flourishing either. We love some of Florida Gov. Charlie Crist's green initiatives, but Florida, with a labor force of over 9 million people, needs to pick it up.</p>							
GEORGIA	7	7	2	5	21	150	17TH PLACE 15.79 POINTS PER MILLION
<p>If these figures are correct then Georgia set a record of futility in turning big deals in 2007. A last place in the per capita department is not good and neither is the fact that Atlanta has simply quit turning big deals. Either that or they have quit reporting them. Our figures show that Macon and LaGrange are performing better than Atlanta. How can that be?</p>							
KANSAS	3	3	5	7	18	130	4TH PLACE 48.74 POINTS PER MILLION
<p>With a fourth place finish in points per million residents, Kansas had a great year in 2007. The 18 deals almost matched Georgia's 21 deals. Not bad for a state with 2.77 million residents.</p>							
KENTUCKY	6	4	4	11	25	175	6TH PLACE 41.27 POINTS PER MILLION
<p>Kentucky posts yet another solid yet unspectacular year. Last year's total of 230 points was its best total in six years. But dropping down to 175 in this "100" is not as bad of a performance as some would think. Kentucky didn't fall as far as some Southern states did. A sixth place per capita finish is also worth noting.</p>							
LOUISIANA	5	3	11	10	29	225	3RD PLACE 52.44 POINTS PER MILLION
<p>Louisiana continues to impress following its first "State of the Year" honor last year. We gave them an "Honorable Mention" this time around and it is going to be interesting how new Gov. Bobby Jindal does. We have heard some good things about Gov. Jindal. One of those is he kept most of the key players in Louisiana Economic Development, the state's economic development department. That rarely happens when a new administration comes into power, particularly if its a different party.</p>							
MARYLAND	5	7	1	5	18	120	12TH PLACE 21.35 POINTS PER MILLION
<p>Well, it's about time. Maryland posted its second-best year since 1993 with 120 points and 18 big deals after a miserable 2007 SB&D 100. We won't even repeat their number last year, which was the worst point total of any Southern state since 1993. Eighteen big deals is really a good performance for Maryland. The state helped the D.C. region win "Mega Market of the Year."</p>							