
STARs
Statistics, Testimonials, Awards, and Rankings

GNO, Inc. has helped to drive and promote broad third-party recognition over the past two years, repositioning the Greater New Orleans region and Louisiana as outstanding places to live and work:

Economy

- Greater New Orleans was the **#1 most improved metro** on the **2011 “Best Cities for Business”** list, moving up 44 spots from 2010 [*Wall Street Journal*]
- Greater New Orleans won **2011 Co-Major Market of the Year** [*Southern Business & Dev.*]
- Louisiana was named **2011 State of the Year** [*Southern Business & Development*]
- Greater New Orleans was named the **#1 Metro for IT Job Growth in the USA** [*Forbes*]
- Louisiana was named the **#2 State for Economic Growth Potential** [*Business Facilities*]
- Greater New Orleans demonstrated **3rd fastest wage-growth** in the USA [*CareerBuilder.com*]
- Louisiana named **#4 Most Competitive Economy in the USA** [*New Geography*]
- New Orleans MSA was ranked **Top 5 in the USA for “Logistics/Distribution/Shipping Hubs”** (highest ranking ever) [*Business Facilities*]

Economic Development / Business Conditions

- GNO, Inc. was named a **Top 20 Economic Development Group in the USA** [*Site Selection*]
- Louisiana won the **2010 State Economic Competitiveness Award** [*Site Selection*]
- Louisiana was ranked **#2 in the U.S. for Incentives and Economic Development Agency Performance** [*Pollina Corporate Real Estate*]
- Louisiana placed **3rd in the Governor’s Cup Rankings** [*Site Selection*]
- Louisiana was ranked **#6** on the list of **Top States for Doing Business** [*Area Development*]
- Louisiana has risen 19 spots on the **“Best States for Business”** ranking since 2008, the largest gain made by any state during that time period [*Forbes*]

Talent / Workforce

- New Orleans was ranked **#1** on the list of **“America’s Biggest Brain Magnets”** for attracting people under 25 with college degrees [*Forbes*]
- New Orleans MSA was named the **#2 Best Big City for a Job** [*Forbes*]
- Greater New Orleans was ranked **#2 Employment Market in the Country** [*Manpower*]
- New Orleans was named **8th on list of Top Cities for Relocation** [*Forbes*]
- New Orleans placed **10th** on a “Next Cities” ranking of the **Best Places to Live and Work for Young Professionals** [Next Generation Consulting]

Entrepreneurship

- New Orleans was ranked the **Top City for Young Entrepreneurs 2011** [Under30CEO.com]
- Louisiana placed **6th on the State Entrepreneurship Index** [University of Nebraska]

Quality of Life

- New Orleans was named **“America’s Best City for School Reform”** [Thomas B. Fordham Institute]
- New Orleans was included at **#16** on the **2011 Best Cities for Families** list [Parenting.com]