

State Senator Robert Mayer The Mayer Memo

Senator Robert Mayer - Serving Butler, Dunklin, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Ripley, Stoddard & Wayne Counties



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Missouri is Tops for Manufacturing

JEFFERSON CITY — In national news this week, Missouri was ranked the No. 1 state for manufacturing in the country.

Missouri was one of only six states to earn an A in the 2008 National Manufacturing and Logistics Report Card compiled by Ball State University. The report ranked all 50 states in 20 categories, including property taxes, sales taxes, crime and percentage of the population with college degrees. Missouri topped the list for reasonable property taxes, health care premiums and low long-term health care costs.

Neighboring Arkansas and Illinois both received C's in the ranking while Kansas also received an A rating from the Muncie-Ind.-based university. West Virginia ranked last in the survey — one of seven states graded an F.

Despite recent cutbacks across the country, the report found industrial production increased by 2.8 percent even as the national economy slowed in the final quarter of 2007. Missouri's own economy has moved forward in the past three years. While other states are looking to bail out their budgets, Missouri came into the current fiscal year with a surplus. Manufacturing and related employment are undoubtedly leading indicators of our state's economic health.

Local business experts contend the manufacturing industry has fared better in our area of the state than in other parts of the state. According to Southeast Missouri State University economics professor Bruce Domazlicky, who commented on the recent report, southeast Missouri has held its own in manufacturing compared to the rest of the country. He noted our central location, good transportation access, low-cost manufacturing environments and productive work force continue to make Missouri an excellent location for manufacturing.

Manufacturing will always remain vital for our state's economy. The 2008 National Manufacturing and Logistics Report Card is a positive sign that Missouri is one of the best places to do business.

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