

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BKD Sponsors 2009 Competitiveness Redbook**

*Helpful guide gives decision makers snapshot of state economies*

SPRINGFIELD, MO. – **BKD, LLP**, a top 10 CPA and advisory firm in the U.S., is pleased to sponsor the **2009 Competitiveness Redbook: National Edition**. This guide provides essential information about a state’s operating climate to help leaders assess how to best plan business opportunities for the year. This is the third year the firm has sponsored the project.

The Redbook is designed to give decision makers in business, government, economic development and other organizations information related economic indicators for all 50 states. It includes concise tables related to key areas such as cost of doing business index, state and local tax estimates, non-agricultural growth, educational statistics, union memberships and unemployment insurance taxes.

“During these difficult times, businesses are attempting to cut costs wherever possible and relocations of plants of even whole companies will be considered as part of this process,” says Ed Crumm, industry partner for BKD National Manufacturing & Distribution Group. “This guide is an invaluable starting point for gathering information to analyze where to locate or relocate.”

The guide is produced by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), Association of Washington Business, Washington Research Council and BKD. First produced in 2005, the Redbook originally grew from a cost study report that generated extensive interest among political leaders, legislators, economists and commentators. NAM members requested more specific information on state-level structural cost factors, driving the creation of this guide.

To obtain a free copy of the 2009 Competitiveness Redbook, visit [www.bkd.com/redbook](http://www.bkd.com/redbook).

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