

DOW 11,896.44 +29.82 | NASDAQ 2,693.07 +23.83 | S&P 500 1,260.34 +6.29 | 30-YR T-BONDS 3.89% -0.04 | GOLD \$1,663.40 +\$21.50 | OIL \$91.93 -\$1.86

## Columbus in plum location, study says

### City within 500 miles of 48% of U.S. population

By Mark Williams  
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Columbus is a great place to locate a business because of its proximity to much of the nation's population.

Local leaders have said so for years, and now, a new study by a local company backs that up with numbers.

In fact, four cities in Ohio, led by top-ranked Columbus, are in the top

five nationally on the list produced by Upper Arlington-based Three Scale Research.

The company looked at each of the 68 U.S. metropolitan areas with populations of at least 750,000 and then calculated the number of people who live within 500 miles. That distance represents a day's drive or a one-hour flight.

That means a business in Columbus is within easy reach of New York

City and Washington, D.C., to the east, Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C., to the south, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Louis to the west, and Detroit to the north.

Even with the growth in Sunbelt states in the South and West, 147.5 million people — 48 percent of the nation's population — still live within 500 miles of Columbus, according to the study.

Pittsburgh was second on the list

at 47 percent, Dayton and Cleveland were tied in third place at 46 percent, and Cincinnati was fifth at 44 percent.

Development leaders often tout the state's location as a way to persuade businesses to move to or expand in Ohio, especially for the logistics and distributions industries.

"As a state, we still do very well," said Ron McChesney, owner of Three Scale.

Steve Kelley, senior economist for the Ohio Department of Development, said the study doesn't take into account Ohio's proximity to markets in Canada as well.

"One of the key attributes in any site location is access to markets," he said. "This is a verification of that advantage."

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### Market accessibility

The metropolitan areas with access to the greatest percentage of Americans who live within 500 miles:

- |                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Columbus: 48 percent   | 6. Detroit: 44 percent         |
| 2. Pittsburgh: 47 percent | 7. Washington: 41 percent      |
| 3. Dayton: 46 percent     | 8. Louisville, Ky.: 41 percent |
| 4. Cleveland: 46 percent  | 9. Richmond, Ind.: 41 percent  |
| 5. Cincinnati: 44 percent | 10. Indianapolis: 40 percent   |

Source: Three Scale Research