

# Dallas area tops survey on commercial deals

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The Dallas-Fort Worth area, prized for its diverse job market and success luring companies from other cities, ranked as the top area for commercial-property investment in a survey of almost 1,500 real estate executives, according to a report Wednesday by the Urban Land Institute and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

Austin and Charlotte, N.C., followed — while New York, San Francisco and Boston, traditional magnets for buyers, were deemed less attractive.

Buyers “are realizing that they need to go to those markets that are really creating jobs,” said Mitch Roschelle, a partner in PwC’s real estate advisory practice. “The big gateway markets, while they’re creating jobs incrementally, they’re not creating as many jobs.”

Dallas has benefited from a growing economy that has diversified away from oil and into finance, medicine, technology and education. That’s in contrast to Houston, which fell to No. 30 in the ranking from No. 1 last year based largely on what’s seen as overbuilding given falling oil prices.