

Austin remains popular with foreign real estate investors

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Austin is No. 8 on a list of U.S. cities favored by foreign real estate investors, according to a survey by the Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate.

Austin has moved up a few spots on a list of top U.S. cities favored by foreign real estate investors, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate.

The Capital City moved into the No. 8 spot up from No. 11 last year. Houston ranked seventh and Dallas snagged the No. 13 spot after not placing on the list since 1995.

The top five cities for foreign investment in 2012 are New York, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Boston and Los Angeles.

Sixty percent of survey respondents said they plan to increase their U.S. investments this year, which is lower than the 72 percent from last year. Fifty-nine percent of respondents said the U.S. offers the most stable and secure real estate investments worldwide — the highest level of respondents' confidence in the U.S. since 2006.

With 42.2 percent of the votes, the U.S. real estate market is seen as having the best opportunity for capital appreciation in the world. But that first-place score is lower than last year, when it got 64.7 percent of the votes.

Multifamily complexes remain the most popular investment property type for foreign buyers, according to the survey. Apartments are followed in popularity by industrial, office, retail and hotel properties.

The survey was conducted in the fourth quarter of 2011 by the James A. Graaskamp Center for Real Estate, Wisconsin School of Business.

The Association of Foreign Investors in Real Estate has nearly 200 members representing 21 countries.

Survey respondents hold more than \$874 billion of real estate globally, including \$338 billion in the U.S.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin