

This is the first time that cities in the United States, Canada and Mexico have competed directly against one another in *fDi*'s Cities of the Future research. As well as naming North America's top ten major Cities of the Future, the ranking lists the top ten large, small and micro cities.

The short-listed cities are those that scored most highly in the following areas:

- Economic potential
- Cost effectiveness
- Human resources
- Quality of life
- Infrastructure
- Business friendliness
- Development and investment promotion

fDi magazine's "Locations of the Future" competition has been running for five years and covers almost every region across the world. The methodology is designed to identify those cities that have the basic in place to flourish in the next few years by attracting high levels of inward investment.

The shortlists are created by asking cities to provide data and qualitative information in much the same way investors approach locations during the screening process used to decide which are suitable for capital investment projects.

Methodology - in the second half of 2006, *fDi* magazine invited key cities across North America to answer more than 60 questions in the seven broad categories listed below. A total of 108 cities were considered by *fDi*'s panel of judges, which scored each city according to criteria listed below. Cities were categorized by size so that cities across North America could compete against each other on a level basis:

- Major: population of over two million
- Large: 500,000 – 2 million
- Small: 100,000 – 500,000
- Micro: under 100,000

Top Ten Micro Cities of the Future

1. Zapata, Texas, United States
2. Ennis, Texas, United States
3. Sarnia, Ontario, Canada
4. Yuma, Arizona, United States
5. Wilmington, Delaware, United States
6. Silverthorne, Colorado, United States
7. Surprise, Arizona, United States
8. Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada
9. Plattsburgh, New York, United States
10. Poughkeepsie, New York, United States