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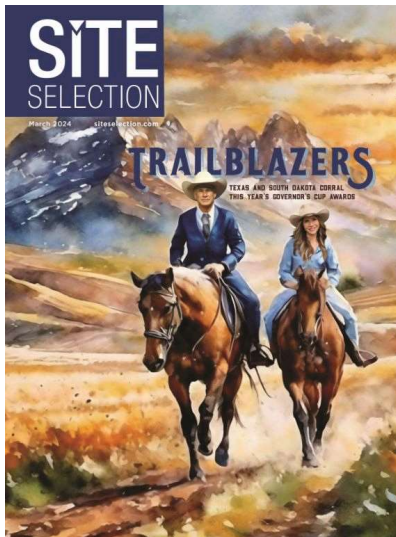**Adam Bruns, Editor in Chief**
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Press Release

Texas, South Dakota Earn Site Selection Magazine's Governor's Cup Awards

Top Metro and Micropolitan Areas for Corporate Facility Investment, Top Mississippi River Regions Also Named

Atlanta, March 1, 2024: Texas and South Dakota have won the **2023 Site Selection Governor's Cups**. This is the 10th year Site Selection recognizes the state with the most qualifying new and expanded facilities per capita, which South Dakota claims for the first time for its capital investment activity in 2023. Texas wins for the 12th straight time for having the most qualified projects of any state.

"Texas has a population 33 times the size of South Dakota's and tallied more than 31 times as many projects," says Adam Bruns, editor in chief of Site Selection. "But however the totals line up, leaders in all of our top-ranked states and metros know how important each new private-sector investment is to the community where it lands."

The 70-year-old Atlanta-based magazine has awarded the Governor's Cup annually since 1988, based on new and expanded corporate facilities as tracked by the proprietary Conway Projects Database. Site Selection, published by Conway Data, is the senior publication in the corporate real estate and economic development fields. The magazine's yearly analyses are regarded by corporate real estate analysts as "the industry scoreboard," and its controlled-circulation base consists of more than 41,000 subscribers, most of whom are involved in corporate facility location decisions at the CEO/President/COO level.

The Lone Star State's total of 1,254 qualifying projects was up by 226 projects (22%) over the state's 2022 total and outdistanced No. 2 Illinois by 702 projects, though the Land of Lincoln saw its own increase of 65 projects to reach 552. No. 3 Ohio sits just behind Illinois with 462 projects (down by a handful), followed by No. 4 California with 375 projects (nearly equivalent to last year's 374) and No. 5 Georgia repeating as No. 5 with 318 projects, up from 312 (see charts). The biggest upward mover in the Top 10 was No. 8 Florida, which moved up from just outside the Top 10 last year and reported 250 projects — 45 more than in 2022.

In the per capita (per 1 million population) contest, South Dakota earned its spot with 40 projects across a population 33 times smaller than that of Texas, which finished fourth in the per-capita rankings behind No. 2 Illinois and No. 3 Kentucky (192 projects). The biggest upward movers in the per-capita Top 10 were Texas (up from No. 7), South Dakota's neighboring state of Nebraska (up to No. 7 from No. 10 with 58 projects) and Georgia (up from No. 11 to No. 8).

"The Governor's Cups recognize not only the winning governors, but their entire economic development teams, and by extension, the many professionals throughout their states who work every day to attract new investment and retain and grow existing businesses," says Mark Arend, editor emeritus of Site Selection, who wrote the issue's cover story containing his conversations with Texas Governor Greg Abbott and South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem. "Governors Abbott and Noem and their teams deliver the kind of business climate and fiscal predictability that capital investors from around the world rely on for long-term success."

Site Selection's Conway Projects Database focuses on new corporate facility projects with significant impact, including headquarters, manufacturing plants, R&D operations and logistics sites, among others. It does not track retail and government projects, nor schools, hospitals or infrastructure investments. New facilities and expansions included in the analyses must meet at least one of three criteria: (a) a capital investment of at least US$1 million, (b) at least 20 new jobs or (c) at least 20,000 sq. ft. (1,858 sq. m.) of new floor area.

Top Metros and Micros

In this year's **Top Metros** rankings, Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, Illinois-Indiana-Wisconsin, was No. 1 for the 11th straight year among metro areas with populations over 1 million with 485 projects, while the Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington region (452 projects) and Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land region (413) finished 1-2 in the Tier 1 Top Metros Per Capita rankings. Houston finished second after not making the Top 10 Per Capita last year, while new entrants in the overall Top 10 included No. 7 Greater Phoenix and No. 9 Greater Indianapolis.

With 50 projects, the Lehigh Valley region of Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton ranks No. 1 among areas with populations between 200,000 and 1 million, just ahead of Dayton-

Kettering, Ohio (47), while the Tier 2 Per Capita rankings are topped by Sioux Falls, South Dakota (23 projects), and Reno, Nevada (35). Among Tier-3 areas with populations between 50,000 and 200,000, Bowling Green, Kentucky (23 projects), finished first in front of Sioux City, Iowa-Nebraska-South Dakota (19 projects), with the two regions reversing that finish in the per-capita tally. Both the Tier 2 and Tier 3 rankings were replete with regions moving up from outside last year's Top 10s.

In the magazine's ranking of **Top Micropolitans** — cities of 10,000 to 50,000 people which cover at least one county — Findlay, Ohio, once again was tops among the nation's 543 micropolitan areas, tallying 25 projects last year. Second place went to Cullman, Alabama (No. 3 last year), with Angola, Indiana, at No. 3, and then three communities finishing in a tie for fourth: Sidney, Ohio; Frankfort, Kentucky and Pottsville, Pennsylvania. Ohio once again led as the state with most Top 100 Micropolitans, with 15 of them, including five among the Top 10 and ties. Together, those 15 micros tallied enough projects (97) to account for more than one-fifth of the state's total. Georgia had 12 Top Micros for second place, while Indiana's 11 Top Micros took third place.

Mississippi River Corridor

In this same issue, St. Louis, Missouri-Illinois, and Blytheville, Arkansas, are recognized for the second year in a row as the overall and per-capita No. 1 metro areas along the entire length of the **Mississippi River Corridor**, based on private-sector facility projects tracked over an 18-month period tracing to July 2022. Greater St. Louis tallied 108 projects (up by one project from the prior 18-month period), edging out the 98 projects in Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, Minnesota-Wisconsin. In the per capita category, Blytheville, located north of Memphis, tops the charts with eight projects, decimal points ahead of the 14 projects in its fellow Arkansas metro area of Helena-West Helena, located almost the same distance from Memphis to the south.

Charts of the March 2024 issue's primary rankings can be found below. Full charts and data can be found in the rankings stories posted at the magazine's award-winning website, www.siteselection.com.

Site Selection magazine, published by Conway Data Inc., delivers expansion planning information to a qualified circulation of 41,000 executives of fast-growing firms. Now celebrating its 70th anniversary year, Site Selection is also available via [Site Selection Online](). Headquartered in Atlanta, Ga., Conway Data, publisher of [Site Selection magazine]() and industry newsletters, in 2017 was recognized as Georgia International Small Business of the Year by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Conway Data has been a trusted advisor to corporations, government economic development and investment promotion agencies around the world since 1954. Conway Data also manages the Industrial Asset Management Council.

(Note: All circulation information is publisher's own data unless otherwise specified).

2023 TOP STATES
BY NUMBER OF PROJECTS

2023 Rank	2022 Rank	State Name	Project Count
1	1	Texas	1,254
2	2	Illinois	552
3	3	Ohio	462
4	4	California	374
5	5	Georgia	318
6	6	New York	272
7	10	Indiana	253
8	11	Florida	250
9	8	Pennsylvania	232
10	7	North Carolina	216

Source: Conway Projects Database

2023 TOP STATES
BY PROJECTS PER CAPITA

2023 Rank	2022 Rank	State Name	Project Count
1	5	**South Dakota**	40
2	4	Illinois	552
3	2	Kentucky	192
4	7	Texas	1,254
5	3	Ohio	462
6	8	Indiana	253
7	10	Nebraska	58
8	11	Georgia	318
9	1	Kansas	80
10	6	South Carolina	139

Source: Conway Projects Database

TIER 1 TOP METROS
BY TOTAL PROJECTS

2023	2022	METRO	STATE	PROJECTS
1	1	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin	IL-IN-WI	485
2	2	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	TX	452
3	3	Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	TX	413
4	4	New York-Newark-Jersey City	NY-NJ-PA	215
5	6	Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell	GA	141
6	5	Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim	CA	124
7	–	Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale	AZ	115
8	8	Boston-Cambridge-Newton	MA-NH	111
9	–	Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson	IN	109
10	7	Austin-Round Rock	TX	96

Source: Conway Projects Database, Conway Data Inc./Site Selection

TIER 2 TOP METROS
BY TOTAL PROJECTS

2023	2022	METRO	STATE	PROJECTS
1	2	Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	PA-NJ	50
2	5	Dayton-Kettering	OH	47
3	3	Omaha-Council Bluffs	NE-IA	38
T4	1	Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	SC	35
T4		Reno	NV	35
6	7	Charleston-North Charleston	SC	29
7	4	Baton Rouge	LA	28
8	8	Greensboro-High Point	NC	27
9		Scranton–Wilkes-Barre–Hazleton	PA	26
T10		Lexington-Fayette	KY	25
T10		New Haven-Milford	CT	25
T10		Worcester	MA-CT	25

Source: Conway Projects Database, Conway Data Inc./Site Selection

TIER 3 TOP METROS
BY TOTAL PROJECTS

2023	2022	METRO	STATE	PROJECTS
1	**2**	**Bowling Green**	**KY**	**23**
2	1	Sioux City	IA-NE-SD	19
T3		Auburn-Opelika	AL	11
T3	3	Lima	OH	11
T3		Saginaw	MI	11
6		Hinesville	GA	9
7		Odessa	TX	8
T8		Albany	GA	7
T8		Bangor	ME	7
T8		Battle Creek	MI	7
T8	7	Burlington	NC	7
T8		Cleveland	TN	7
T8	8	Jackson	TN	7
T8		Joplin	MO	7
T8		Midland	TX	7
T8		Valdosta	GA	7

Source: Conway Projects Database, Conway Data Inc./Site Selection

TIER 1 TOP METROS
PER CAPITA

2023	2022	METRO	STATE	PROJECTS	PER CAPITA
1	2	Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	TX	452	58.3
2		Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land	TX	413	57.3
3	8	Indianapolis-Carmel-Anderson	IN	109	51.3
4	4	Chicago-Naperville-Elgin	IL-IN-WI	485	51
5	9	Grand Rapids-Wyoming	MI	50	45.8
6	5	Louisville/Jefferson County	KY-IN	57	44.4
7	1	Austin-Round Rock	TX	96	40.8
8	3	Cincinnati	OH-KY-IN	91	40.3
9	7	Columbus	OH	86	40
10	6	Richmond	VA	40	30.2

Source: Conway Projects Database, Conway Data Inc./Site Selection

TIER 2 TOP METROS
PER CAPITA

2023	2022	METRO	STATE	PROJECTS	PER CAPITA
1		Sioux Falls	SD	23	81.6
2		Reno	NV	35	70.4
3	6	Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton	PA-NJ	50	57.8
4		Dayton-Kettering	OH	47	57.8
5		Laredo	TX	15	56
6	2	Savannah	GA	22	53.7
7		Lexington-Fayette	KY	25	48.3
8		Wilmington	NC	14	48
9		Scranton–Wilkes-Barre–Hazleton	PA	26	45.8
10		Longview	TX	13	45.2

Source: Conway Projects Database, Conway Data Inc./Site Selection

TIER 3 TOP METROS
PER CAPITA

2023	2022	METRO	STATE	PROJECTS	PER CAPITA
1	**1**	**Sioux City**	**IA-NE-SD**	**19**	**127.3**
2	4	Bowling Green	KY	23	126
3		Hinesville	GA	9	108.6
4	2	Lima	OH	11	108.2
5		Auburn-Opelika	AL	11	62.1
6		Rome	GA	6	60.7
7		Saginaw	MI	11	58
8		Cleveland	TN	7	54.7
9		Battle Creek	MI	7	52.3
10		Odessa	TX	8	49.7

Source: Conway Projects Database, Conway Data Inc./Site Selection

2023 TOP MICROPOLITANS
BY NUMBER OF PROJECTS

2023	2022	Micropolitans	Projects
1	1	**Findlay, OH**	25
2	3	Cullman, AL	11
3	9	Angola, IN	10
T4	44	Frankfort, KY	9
T4	3	Sidney, OH	9
T4	44	Pottsville, PA	9
T7	9	Tupelo, MS	8
T7	9	Shelby, NC	8
T7	5	Greenville, OH	8
T10	44	Jefferson, GA	7
T10	44	Defiance, OH	7
T10	44	Wooster, OH	7
T13	17	Richmond, IN	6
T13	28	Chillicothe, OH	6
T13	44	Tiffin, OH	6
T16	144	LaGrange, GA-AL	5
T16	2	Thomasville, GA	5
T16	28	Huntington, IN	5
T16	44	Warsaw, IN	5
T16	7	Batavia, NY	5
T16	77	Jamestown-Dunkirk-Fredonia, NY	5
T16	22	Bucyrus-Galion, OH	5
T16	7	Fremont, OH	5
T16	77	New Philadelphia-Dover, OH	5
T16	44	Gaffney, SC	5
T16	77	Moses Lake, WA	5
T27	144	Bainbridge, GA	4
T27	44	Douglas, GA	4
T27	22	Dublin, GA	4
T27	77	Marion, IN	4
T27	144	Mason City, IA	4
T27	144	Alexandria, MN	4
T27	144	Amsterdam, NY	4
T27	44	Sandusky, OH	4
T27	144	Roseburg, OR	4

2023	2022	Micropolitans	Projects
T27	77	Seneca, SC	4
T27	77	Paris, TX	4
T27	144	Watertown-Fort Atkinson, WI	4
T40	144	Selma, AL	3
T40	144	Camden, AR	3
T40	144	Americus, GA	3
T40	77	Statesboro, GA	3
T40	22	Waycross, GA	3
T40	77	Ottawa, IL	3
T40	144	Pontiac, IL	3
T40	28	Salina, KS	3
T40	144	Danville, KY	3
T40	28	Murray, KY	3
T40	144	Somerset, KY	3
T40	144	Big Rapids, MI	3
T40	44	Sturgis, MI	3
T40	144	Traverse City, MI	3
T40	144	Faribault-Northfield, MN	3
T40	28	Columbus, MS	3
T40	144	Fremont, NE	3
T40	77	Albemarle, NC	3
T40	77	Pinehurst-Southern Pines, NC	3
T40	28	Jackson, OH	3
T40	77	Van Wert, OH	3
T40	144	Durant, OK	3
T40	144	Meadville, PA	3
T40	44	Brookings, SD	3
T40	144	Cookeville, TN	3
T40	144	Greeneville, TN	3
T40	77	McMinnville, TN	3
T40	28	Danville, VA	3
T40	44	Manitowoc, WI	3
T68	17	Blytheville, AR	2
T68	77	Cordele, GA	2
T68	144	Fitzgerald, GA	2

2023	2022	Micropolitans	Projects
T68	144	Toccoa, GA	2
T68	144	Dixon, IL	2
T68	77	Galesburg, IL	2
T68	144	Quincy, IL-MO	2
T68	44	Crawfordsville, IN	2
T68	77	Decatur, IN	2
T68	144	Plymouth, IN	2
T68	144	Seymour, IN	2
T68	144	Wabash, IN	2
T68	28	Washington, IN	2
T68	77	Clinton, IA	2
T68	144	Fort Madison-Keokuk, IA-IL-MO	2
T68	9	McPherson, KS	2
T68	77	Pittsburg, KS	2
T68	144	Madisonville, KY	2
T68	44	Richmond-Berea, KY	2
T68	77	Ruston, LA	2
T68	144	Cadillac, MI	2
T68	144	Fergus Falls, MN	2
T68	77	Meridian, MS	2
T68	144	Norfolk, NE	2
T68	77	Pahrump, NV	2
T68	28	Cortland, NY	2
T68	77	Plattsburgh, NY	2
T68	144	Marion, NC	2
T68	44	Sanford, NC	2
T68	144	Jamestown, ND	2
T68	77	Norwalk, OH	2
T68	77	Salem, OH	2
T68	144	Stillwater, OK	2
T68	144	Lufkin, TX	2
T68	77	Martinsville, VA	2
T68	144	Clarksburg, WV	2
T68	77	Point Pleasant, WV-OH	2

Source: Conway Projects Database

2023 TOP STATES
BY NUMBER OF TOP 100 MICROS

Rank	State	Counts	Projects
1	Ohio	15	97
2	Georgia	12	44
3	Indiana	11	42
4T	Kentucky	6	22
4T	Illinois	6	14
6T	North Carolina	5	18
6T	New York	5	18
8	Michigan	4	11
9T	Alabama	3	19
9T	Mississippi	3	13
9T	Minnesota	3	9
9T	Tennessee	3	9
9T	Iowa	3	8
9T	Kansas	3	7

Source: Conway Projects Database

2023 TOP MISSISSIPPI RIVER CORRIDOR METROS

Total Projects per Capita

Rank	Metro	Population	Projects
1.	Blytheville, AR	39,661	5
2.	Helena-West Helena, AR	15,906	2
3.	Muscatine, IA	42,688	5
4.	Clinton, IA	46,463	4
5.	Natchez, MS-LA	47,118	4
6.	Baton Rouge, LA	871,905	63
7.	Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	381,568	27
8.	Union City, TN	30,466	2
9.	St. Cloud, MN	200406	11
10.	New Orleans-Metairie, LA	20,810	1

Total Projects

Rank	Metro	Projects
1.	St. Louis, MO-IL	108
2.	Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI	98
3.	Baton Rouge, LA	63
4.	New Orleans-Metairie, LA	54
5.	Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL	27
6.	Memphis, TN-MS-AR	22
7.	St. Cloud, MN	11
T8.	Blytheville, AR	5
T8.	Muscatine, IA	5
T10.	Clinton, IA	4
T10.	Natchez, MS-LA	4
T10.	Paducah, KY-IL	4
T10.	Dubuque, IA	4

Source: Conway Projects Database