

#1 Shortest Commute in DFW — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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University Park leads the MSA in average work travel time — ALEX Intelligence, 2026

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THE DATA

17.3

Mean Commute to Work by City, in Minutes (2024)

University Park's 17.3-minute average commute is the shortest in the DFW MSA.

This figure is not a midpoint or estimate — it is a true mean of travel time to work, derived from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2024. The data reflects actual worker behavior, not aggregated assumptions. The fact that the top-ranked city is a small, high-income enclave underscores a shift in urban value: proximity to employment is no longer just a cost-saving feature, but a marker of elite status.

01

Commute Time as Exclusivity

In DFW, the shortest commutes are not in the largest or most densely populated cities — they are in the most architecturally and socially exclusive. University Park, with its low-density, high-income profile, achieves the best average commute not through infrastructure, but through spatial design: homes clustered near major employment corridors, often with private access and limited through-traffic. This suggests that the value of a home is increasingly tied to time efficiency, not just square footage or school ratings.

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The Suburban Paradox

Cities like Irving, Denton, and Colleyville — often seen as suburban growth engines — rank 9th, 8th, and 10th in commute efficiency. This indicates that suburban expansion, while increasing housing supply, may be sacrificing the very urban efficiency that attracts talent. As DFW continues to grow outward, the cost of longer commutes may be internalized through reduced productivity, higher stress, and lower quality of life — all factors that may eventually influence where companies choose to locate their headquarters.

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