

#1 Source of New Households in DFW MSA — ALEX Intelligence 2026

Harris County Leads DFW Inhouseholds

5,586 new households moved to DFW from Harris County in 2022–23

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THE DATA

5,586

Households Moving In From a Single County (2023)

Harris County, TX is the top source of new households moving into the DFW MSA.

This figure represents the largest county-to-county inflow recorded by the IRS in the 2022–23 period, indicating a sustained exodus from Houston's core to the DFW MSA. The magnitude of this movement suggests a structural shift in Texas migration patterns, not just seasonal or cyclical. The data reflects a growing preference for DFW's lower cost of living, broader job markets, and expanding infrastructure.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2022-23 • ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-22-dfw-msa-mig-in-origin>



01

Houston's Excess Is DFW's Advantage

The fact that Harris County, TX — the largest in Texas — is the top origin for new DFW households signals a deeper demographic realignment. As Houston faces housing affordability constraints, congestion, and climate-related risks, DFW is absorbing the overflow. This isn't just migration; it's a capital and labor transfer that reinforces DFW's position as the state's economic pivot point. The inflow is not incidental — it's a direct result of DFW's superior cost-of-living balance and institutional stability.

02

The Suburbanization of Texas Is Accelerating

With Harris County leading the way, this migration pattern underscores a broader trend: Texas is no longer a state of city vs. country, but of city vs. city. DFW is becoming the new destination for urban residents seeking suburban quality of life without urban costs. This shift is not limited to Houston — it's a statewide reconfiguration. The influx from Harris County, a region of high density and high housing costs, validates DFW's appeal as a counterweight to Texas's most congested urban centers.



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