

Top 10 In-Migration Source: 23.4% Increase in Households

23.4% In-Migration Surge in DFW

Top source counties reveal a surprising geographic engine of growth

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THE DATA

23.4%

Five-Vintage Change in Households Moving In (2023)

The Dallas-Fort Worth MSA saw a 23.4% increase in in-migration between 2017-18 and 2022-23, measured by IRS-reported household flows.

This surge is not driven by nearby Texas counties alone. Instead, the top sources—Maricopa County, AZ (673 households), King County, WA (470), and Cook County, IL (384)—reveal a national pattern: high-income, high-cost metros are sending households to DFW for affordability and growth. The data shows DFW is not just a regional magnet, but a strategic escape valve for those leaving expensive coastal and Sun Belt hubs.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2017-18 and 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-23-dfw-msa-mig-trend-in-long>



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DFW Is the New Escape Valve

This dynamic also implies that DFW's market is less vulnerable to local downturns—its growth is anchored in broader national economic shifts, not just local job creation. As long as high-cost metros continue to push residents out, DFW's in-migration engine remains robust.



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Affordability as a National Magnet

The implication is clear: DFW's next wave of growth will be shaped less by local policy and more by national economic forces. Its success depends on maintaining this affordability edge while scaling infrastructure, education, and public services to meet the needs of a diverse, nationally sourced population.

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