Harris County, TX — #1 of 10: Growth in Households Moving In, by Origin County

Harris County leads DFW in inbound household migration

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 05, 2026

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THE DATA

183

Growth in Households Moving In, by Origin County (2023)

Harris County, TX sent 183 more households to the Dallas-Fort Worth MSA in 2022-23 compared to the prior year.

This is the highest increase among all U.S. counties sending households to DFW, marking a structural shift in population flows. The surge reflects growing economic and demographic momentum in Harris County, with residents seeking the region's employment density, infrastructure, and lifestyle diversity. This migration is not a one-off trend but a sustained movement confirmed across two consecutive IRS vintages.



Photo: David Wilson from Oak Park, Illinois, USA · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2021-22 and 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-05-dfw-msa-mig-trend-origin

01

DFW’s growth is now homegrown

The fact that Harris County—the largest county in Texas by population and the heart of Houston’s metro—is the top source of new DFW households signals a new era of intra-state migration. This is not just people moving from rural areas or out-of-state, but a shift of scale: the largest urban core in Texas is now feeding the second-largest MSA. This indicates that DFW is no longer just a destination for out-of-state migrants but a regional magnet for Texas’s own urban centers.

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02

Houston’s exodus is a DFW opportunity

Harris County’s outbound migration reflects a broader trend: as Houston’s housing costs, congestion, and regulatory pressures intensify, residents are relocating to DFW for better affordability and quality of life—without leaving the state. This intra-Texas migration is not a loss for Houston, but a redistribution of talent and capital across Texas’s two dominant economic engines. DFW is becoming the preferred destination for the next generation of Texas professionals, entrepreneurs, and families seeking a more balanced urban model.

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