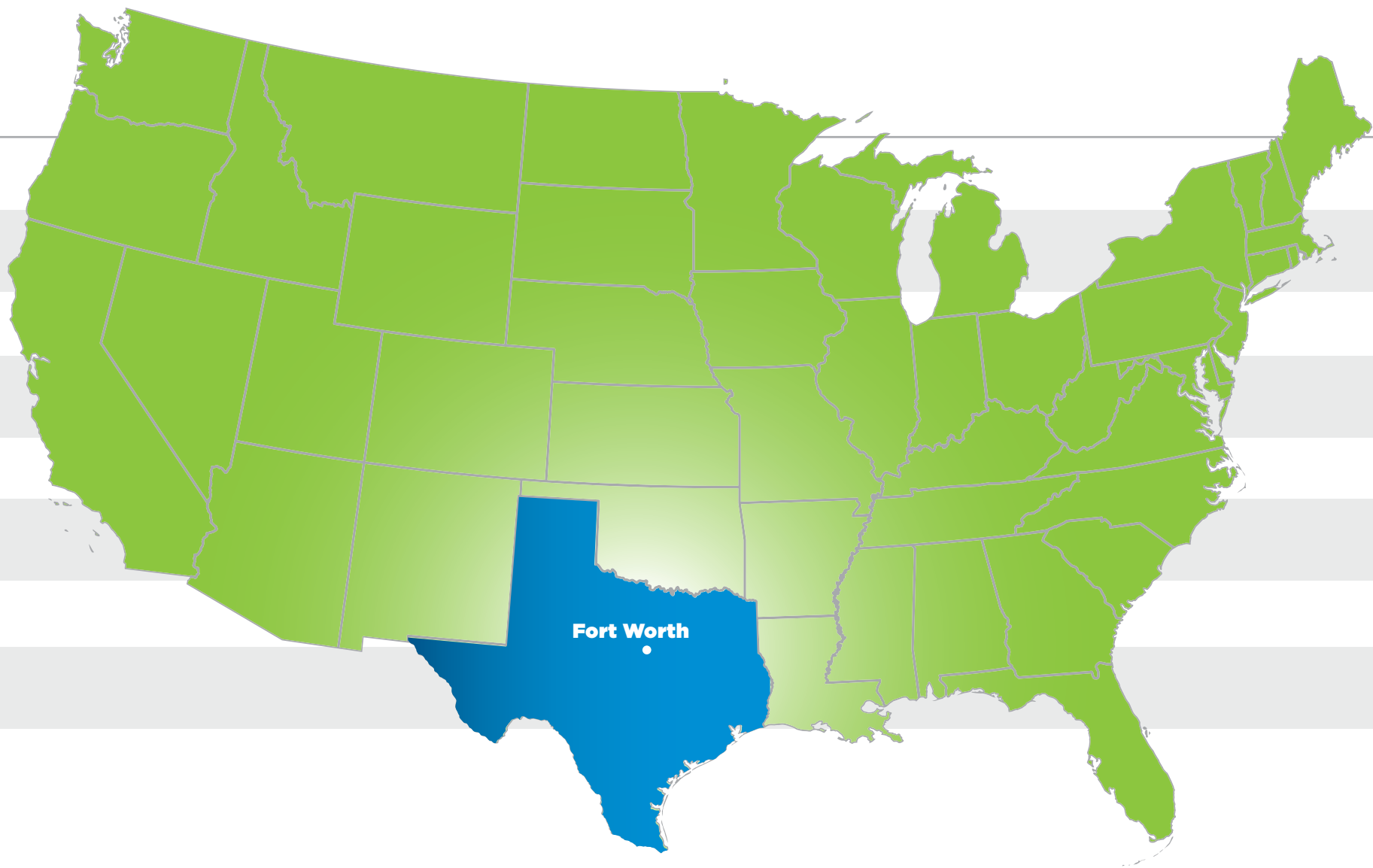


welcome

FORT WORTH GUIDE

2008-09





about Fort Worth

Fort Worth offers a casual lifestyle with a distinctly western/southwestern character. Properly nicknamed “The City Where the West Begins,” Fort Worth was once a booming frontier settlement and a major cattle marketplace.

While Old West settlers and cattle no longer roam the streets, visitors are often surprised by all this famous city has to offer. The historic Fort Worth Stockyards have been transformed into a modern entertainment and shopping district. In addition, Fort Worth boasts a bustling downtown that is the pride of its citizens and a model for cities across the nation. The city also offers a number of remarkable museums, sophisticated visual and performing arts venues, outstanding education from kindergarten through college and popular attractions such as the Texas Motor Speedway.

Today, this former rowdy cowboy town is a modern city whose diverse economic base includes technology, transportation, manufacturing, retail and a heavy emphasis on military defense. It is home to several major corporations such as American Airlines,

Chesapeake Energy, Lockheed Martin, Motorola and Pier 1 Imports.

The 18th-largest city in the nation and one of “America’s Most Livable Communities,” Fort Worth combines its historic past with modern industry to create a unique home. Today, the city is a thriving center of culture and commerce. With affordable, high-quality living, a strong economy and a thriving business environment, Fort Worth is a great place to call home.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living in Fort Worth is low compared to other major cities in the United States. The Fourth-Quarter 2007 ACCRA Cost of Living Composite Index for Fort Worth is 88.2; with 100 being the average of U.S. metro areas participating in the survey. The housing cost index for Fort Worth is 74.0, the grocery cost index is 95.3, the utility cost index is 97.9, the transportation cost index is 97.7, the health care cost index is 90.1 and the miscellaneous goods index is 91.1. All of this makes Fort Worth a very affordable place to live.

about Fort Worth

CRIME

Fort Worth is among the 10 safest cities in the country with populations of 500,000 or more, according to a 2006 Morgan Quitno Press Survey. Fort Worth's crime rate has continued to decline since 2004. The reduction is attributed to the Fort Worth Police Department's innovative community policing efforts, which include Citizens on Patrol, Neighborhood Policing Districts and Neighborhood Police Officers.

Fort Worth residents are fortunate to not pay any state or local income taxes.

POPULATION

The Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington Metroplex is the second-fastest-growing metro area in the nation, trailing only Atlanta, Georgia. The estimated population for the North Texas region is more than 6.5 million. The estimated population of Fort Worth is 702,850. Both the city of Fort Worth and the Fort Worth - Arlington Metro Division (Tarrant, Johnson, Parker and Wise counties) populations continue to grow. Fort Worth added 16,000 new residents in 2007, leading the region's growth. The Fort Worth - Arlington Metro Division forms the western half of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) Metroplex. The DFW Metroplex is the largest market in the southern U.S. and fourth-largest in the nation.

STATE & LOCAL TAXES

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| State income tax rate | none |
| State sales tax rate | 6.25% |
| <small>(food and prescription drugs are exempt)</small> | |
| Local income tax rate | none |
| Local sales tax rate | 2.0% |
| Property tax rate | \$.8650 per \$100 |
| <small>(assessed valuation = 100% of market value)</small> | <small>of assessed valuation</small> |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Population density per square mile | 2,027 |
| Average age of Fort Worth residents | 31.2 years |
| Household characteristics | 46.6% married |
| | 53.4% single |
| Average travel time to work | 26.6 minutes |
| Median Income | \$38,776 |

things to do

You'll find evidence of Fort Worth's legendary past everywhere you go – downtown's Sundance Square, the Cultural District and especially the historic Fort Worth Stockyards.

Art lovers will cherish Fort Worth's magnificent performing arts scene with symphony, ballet, opera and live theater performances year round. Known as the "Museum Capital of the Southwest," Fort Worth isn't just home to Western heritage museums, the city's Cultural District is home to five world-famous museums, including the renowned Amon Carter Museum.

Fort Worth provides family fun with the top-ranked Fort Worth Zoo, interactive exhibits at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History and nearby Six Flags Over Texas and Hurricane Harbor.

The city's famous Sundance Square is one of the most exciting and pedestrian-friendly downtown areas in America with 20 historic blocks where people play, work and live. Featuring a variety of specialty boutiques, restaurants, art galleries, theaters and the Bass Performance Hall, Sundance

Square is an award-winning model of urban development.

Sports fans will fall in love with Fort Worth, as the city is a short distance from Texas Motor Speedway, the Texas Rangers, Dallas Cowboys, Dallas Mavericks and the Dallas Stars. In addition, Fort Worth is home to the Fort Worth Cats (minor league baseball team) and the Fort Worth Flyers (NBA development league), as well as a regular host of PGA tour events such as the Byron Nelson Championship.

From daily cattle drives to metropolitan opera performances, Fort Worth offers something for everyone.

OTHER HELPFUL LINKS

www.fortworth.com

www.fortworthchamber.com

www.destinationdfw.com

www.sundancesquare.com

www.tarrantcounty.com