



WHY TEXAS?

TIME

Texas is America's fastest-growing large state, with three of the top five fastest-growing cities in the country: Austin, Dallas and Houston. In 2012 alone, total migration to Texas from the other 49 states in the Union was 106,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Since 2000, 1 million more people have moved to Texas from other states than have left ... Over the past 20 years, more than 4 million Californians have moved to Texas. (Tyler Cowen, "Why Texas is Our Future" 10/28/13)

Austin takes the top spot on FORBES' annual list of America's Fastest-Growing Cities for the 4th year in a row. With a 2.5% population growth rate (estimated annual) for 2013—the highest of all the geographic regions—and an economy that expanded 5.88% last year, it's hard for other cities to compete these days. (Erin Carlyle, America's 20 Fastest-Growing Cities, 2/14/14)

Forbes



While New York City continued to top the travel charts in 2013, many of the U.S.'s charming small cities and regions emerged with record interest. Texas Hill Country, situated between Austin and San Antonio and home to a burgeoning wine scene, saw the most dramatic growth in 2013, with a 258% increase in page views according to Fodors.com website statistics. ("A Year in Travel: Fodor's Reveals 2013's Most Popular Destinations and Emerging Hotspots," 2/10/14)

Austin leads the country in overall job creation for the past five years, boosting the number of private industry jobs by 11.8 percent since 2008. No other U.S. city comes close to that percentage growth, with Houston ranking second at 9 percent. (Greg Barr, "Austin retains ranking as No. 1 economy in the U.S.," 11/23/13)



Forbes

Most of the strongest local economies combine the positive characteristics associated with blue states — educated people, tech-oriented industries, racial diversity — with largely red, pro-business administrations. This is epitomized by our top-ranked metro area, Austin, Texas, which has enjoyed double-digit growth in GDP, jobs, population and birthrate since 2007. (Joel Kotkin, "The Metro Areas With The Most Economic Momentum Going Into 2014," 2/14/14)

"So what is it about Texas that makes good companies better and attracts people? Texas has been able to tie the two together — people and businesses, and provide a great climate for both. ... Sure, it's hot in the summer, but Texas is a great place to live and raise a family. Top schools, hospitals, entertainment, sports and outdoor recreation make it fun to live here. We all use this to our advantage, too; we entertain clients, vendors and employees here." (Clint Greenleaf, "Why I Moved My Business from Ohio to Texas: Greenleaf," www.cnbc.com, 7/12/12)



TexasMonthly

“Roll on to Leakey, bearer of yet another lofty moniker, the Swiss Alps of Texas. The majestic 2,400-foot rock faces seem beyond compare to me, but you can debate that over a cold one at the Bent Rim Grill, an icehouse that caters to—you guessed it—bikers but welcomes the four-wheeled traveler as well. Take a bit more time for a vueltecita down to Concan. In his elegy for the Brazos, John Graves writes of the way in which ‘pieces of rivers can have meaning,’ and this little stretch of the Rio Frio is my piece, conjuring memories of my grandparents, Styrofoam koozies in hand, sitting in teetering aluminum lawn chairs on the limestone banks and watching me relieve the crystal-clear water of a large number of its mossy rocks. Detour to the squiggly roads that jut off to the east of U.S. 83 (1120, 2748, 350, 348), whose elegant pas de deux with the cypress-lined Frio allow for a few thrilling opportunities to drive through the water at the river crossings.”

(Courtney Bond, “The Hill Country Drive,” Texas Monthly, 6/12)

“Texas became the USA's second-largest economy during the past decade — displacing New York and perhaps heading one day toward challenging California — in one of the biggest economic shifts in the past half-century. ... Texas notched one of the biggest increases in size in a half-century, surpassing \$1 trillion in annual economic output. The state gained nearly a full percentage point in its share of the U.S. economy during the decade, reaching 8.3% in 2010.”

(Dennis Cauchon, “Texas wins in U.S. economy shift,” USA Today, 6/21/11)



CHIEF EXECUTIVE

“In Chief Executive’s eighth annual survey of CEO opinion of Best and Worst States in which to do business, Texas easily clinched the No. 1 rank, the eighth successive time it has done so. ... The Lone Star State was given high marks foremost for its business-friendly tax and regulatory environment. But its workforce quality, second only to Utah’s, is also highly regarded.”

(JP Donlon, “Another Triumph for Texas: Best/Worst States for Business 2012,” 5/2/12)

“Texas has done it again. The Lone Star State makes a triumphant return as America’s Top State for Business—its third time at the top of our rankings. ... In our sixth annual study, Texas racked up an impressive 1,604 points out of a possible 2,500, with top-10 finishes in six of our 10 categories of competitiveness. Texas has never finished below second place since we began the study in 2007.”

(Scott Cohn, “Texas Is America's Top State for Business 2012,” www.cnbc.com, 7/10/12)



“The Texas Hill Country is certainly one of the most scenic and unique sections of Texas with rolling hills, rugged terrain, forests, plains, and a diverse range of fauna. The Texas Hill Country has got to be the best place to have fun, enjoy the natural and manmade attractions, listen to Texas country music, enjoy the lakes and rivers, and retire! You'll find a wide variety of fun cities to explore - from the Cowboy Capital of Texas (Bandera) to the Tourist Capital of Texas (San Antonio) to the Live Music Capital of the Universe (Austin). Most of the Hill Country cities have their own unique heritage, attractions, and culture and offer a wide variety of fun things to see.”

(“Texas Hill Country - 25 Fun Things To See and Do,” Guide to Texas Outside, <http://www.texasoutside.com/texas-hill-country/>, Accessed 8/6/12)