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Burleson, Texas is listed in the 2012 Top 10 Cities/Highest Absolute Population Growth by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG). The report was released in March.

Absolute population growth is defined as the number of people added.

Burleson's estimated population as of Jan. 1, 2012, is 38,130. That is up 1,440 from the estimate of 36,690 on Jan. 1, 2011. Burleson joins the cities of Fort Worth, Frisco, McKinney, Dallas, Carrollton, Allen, Little Elm, Plano and Denton in the 2012 Top 10 Cities. The 16-county NCTCOG region includes Collin, Dallas, Denton, Ellis, Erath, Hood, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Navarro, Palo Pinto, Parker, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, and Wise counties. There are more than 170 cities listed in the NCTCOG report.

"This ranking says a lot about what Burleson has to offer," City Manager Dale Cheatham said. "Burleson appeals to new residents because of the close proximity to the Metroplex, low taxes, a family-oriented environment, outstanding school system, and more than 26 square miles of rolling hills, lakes and parks. We recently added a universally accessible park to our park system so that physically challenged and able-bodied children can play together. In Burleson, you're never at a loss for a great place to eat and shop with everything from the big-name chain retail outlets and restaurants to the small independent businesses that thrive on local support."

For 2012, the estimated population for the NCTCOG region is 6.64 million. Between Jan. 1, 2011, and Jan. 1, 2012, the region saw 56,160 additional people call the region home. Sixteen cities, including Burleson, saw an estimated population growth of 3 percent or more in that year's time. The growth in the City in 2011 resulted in a 3.1 percent annual growth rate, which represents 70 percent of the population growth within Johnson County.

The NCTCOG has produced population estimates for cities and counties in the region since 1974. The estimates are released each spring. Population estimates are based on current housing inventories for cities in the region with populations of 1,000 or more. For each city, NCTCOG calculates population separately for different housing types, including single family, multi-family, other units (such as mobile homes) and group quarters. The estimated populations in each of the four types are added together for a total estimated population for the city.

The population estimates rely heavily on data provided by the local government. Since 2011, cities provide data concerning the number of residential units permitted by type; number of units completed by type; number of units demolished or moved out by type; and the number of units annexed or moved in by type.

According to the NCTCOG, “housing unit completion levels in the last two years have been similar to those seen in the late 1980s and early 1990s when the economy was struggling to recover from another economic crisis.