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What are the best cities for homeownership in Texas, according to NerdWallet, a consumer advocacy site? Count Burleson among the top 20.

NerdWallet crunched the numbers to find the best cities in Texas for homeownership. The criteria included, are homes available, can you afford to live there, and is the area growing? Only cities with a population of 25,000 or higher were included. As of August 2013, the number of people who call Burleson home hit the mark at 39,010.

Burleson ranked 17<sup>th</sup> out of 20 in the study. The top city was Little Elm, a suburb of Dallas. Other DFW cities in the rankings included Frisco (four), Wylie (seven), Mansfield (nine), Allen (10), McKinney (12), Keller (13), Flower Mound (14), and Southlake (18).

Homeownership rates ranged from 94 percent to 71.3 percent (Burleson, 75.1 percent); median selected monthly homeowner costs varied from \$3,367 to \$1,431 (Burleson, \$1,431); median monthly household income ranged from \$9,894 to \$5,711 (Burleson, \$5,711); homeowner costs as a percentage of household income varied from 27.8 percent to 22.5 percent (Burleson, 25.1 percent); the 2010-2012 population growth varied from 16.7 percent to 3.5 percent (Burleson, 7.9 percent); and the overall score for homeowners went from 94.5 percent to 74.3 percent (Burleson, 76.5 percent).

Texas added 387,397 people between June 2012 and June 2013, more than any other state in the country during that period. Many suburbs surrounding the major cities of Dallas-Fort Worth, Austin and San Antonio continue to grow at rates of more than 10 percent per year, according to U.S. Census data crunched by NerdWallet.

The metro area's homeownership rate was studied to determine the availability of homes. A low homeownership rate is likely a signal of competitive inventory, more options for renters rather than buyers and expensive housing. Areas with a high homeownership rate led to a higher overall score.

“The homeownership rate in Burleson is 75.1 percent, well over the state average of 63.9 percent, (U.S. Census Bureau),” Justin Bond, economic development manager for the City said.

NerdWallet looked at the median household income and monthly homeowner costs to assess whether residents could live comfortably in the area. Monthly homeowner costs were used to measure the cost of living. Areas with high median incomes and a low cost of living scored higher.

“The median household income in Burleson is \$68,528, nearly 25 percent higher than the state average of \$51,563,” Bond said. “At the same time, the median value of an owner-occupied housing unit is more affordable than the state average - \$122,800 compared to \$128,000 (U.S. Census Bureau).”

NerdWallet measured population growth to ensure that the area is attracting new residents and showing signs of solid growth. Population growth is a signal of a robust local economy, an attractive characteristic for homebuyers.

“Burleson grew an average of 4 percent each year for the last 10 years and regional projections indicate this trend will only continue, (NCTCOG Cooperative Data Program, U.S. Census), “ Bond said.