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Burleson ranked fourth in a field of 100-plus cities and towns in Texas as the Best Places for Young Families in Texas.

The top five includes Frisco, Friendswood, Allen, Burleson and Mansfield. Only places with a population over 25,000 residents were analyzed.

According to Nerdwallet, the consumer advocacy website that crunched the numbers that were released Oct. 3, Texas now ranks as the fastest-growing state for job growth, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The criteria for the honors include:

- Public school excellence: compares students' test scores to the state average on a 1-10 scale, with 10 as the highest.
- Home affordability: using U.S. Census Bureau data, weighed median home values and monthly homeownership costs, including mortgage payments, real estate taxes, insurance costs, utilities, fuel and other bills (places with more affordable homes had higher scores).
- Growth and prosperity: assessed a city's economy using census figures that detailed median household incomes from 2012 and long-term income growth since 1999.

"Lower home values and housing costs in Burleson make this the most affordable city in the Top 10," Bradley Ford, director of development services for the City of Burleson, said. "Burleson is a 20-minute-drive from downtown Fort Worth, along Interstate 35W. Burleson is commuter friendly with a strong local community and Burleson Independent School District. The city is flexing its business muscles too with more than \$100 million in new business projects including Dallas-Fort Worth's only H-E-B Plus!, AxoGen biomedical distribution facility, and Chicken Express' corporate headquarters."

According to the consumer advocacy website, Burleson's Great Schools rating is eight out of 10; the median home value in 2012 is \$122,800; the median monthly homeowner costs in 2012 were \$1,431; the median household income in 2012 was \$68,528; the median income growth from 1999 to 2012 was 35.88 percent; and the overall score on the Best Places in Young Families in Texas scorecard is 64.9. The highest overall score is 69.6 and the lowest is 57.0. Public schools made up 33.3 percent of the total score. The median home values, monthly homeowner costs, median household incomes and income change each made up 16.7 percent of the total.

Making the Top 20 are Sugar Land (6), Keller, Wylie, Pearland, Flower Mound, League City, The Woodlands, College Station, McKinney, Harker Heights, Southlake, New Braunfels, Schertz, Leander and Spring.