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BEST PLACES TO LIVE

Money's list of America's best small cities

2008

- Full List
- Near You
- Housing
- Financial
- Quality of Life

56. Missouri City, TX

56 of 100

Back

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WINNER

Top 100 rank: 56

Population: 73,600

[Compare Missouri City to Top 10 Best Places](#)

The land now claimed as Missouri City was once advertised for sale in St. Louis as "a land of genial sunshine and eternal summer." The Houston suburb catches plenty of rays (and humidity) to match.

Located just southwest of Houston, this former bedroom community is growing into its own place with a combination of rapid commercial development and still undeveloped land.

Families enjoy the several master planned residential communities and parks and an acclaimed school district.



Township Square of Missouri City

PHOTO: ELSA MALAKOFF MAXEY

| Financial | City stats | Best places avg. |
|---|------------|------------------|
| Median family income (per year) | \$95,286 | \$93,075 |
| Family purchasing power (annual, cost-of-living adjusted) | \$115,358 | \$84,780 |
| Sales tax | 8.25% | 6.60% |
| State income tax rate | | |

Find Your Best Places

Region

Northeast South

Midwest West

Ranking

Top 100 winners only

Population

19,457 8.3M

Home Prices

2007 median sales prices \$50K \$1.63M

[Add options: schools, weather, more](#)

Submit

Find Your Graduating Class

I graduated in:

1998

1988

1978

1968

1958

classmates.com

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| (highest bracket) | N.A. | 5.17% |
| State income tax rate (lowest bracket) | N.A. | 2.43% |
| Auto insurance premiums (Average for the state) | \$1,710 | \$1,791 |
| Job growth % (2000-2007) | 43.88% | 18.72% |

| Housing | City stats | Best places avg. |
|--|------------|------------------|
| Median home price | \$186,300 | \$291,949 |
| Average property taxes (2006) | \$3,860 | \$3,886 |
| See Missouri City homes for sale | | |
| See million-dollar homes | | |

| Education | City stats | Best places avg. |
|--|------------|------------------|
| Colleges, universities and professional schools (within 30 miles) | 18 | 49 |
| Junior colleges and technical institutes (within 30 miles) | 17 | 25 |
| Test scores reading (% above/below state average) | -10.0% | 17.3% |
| Test scores math (% above/below average) | -8.5% | 16.8% |
| % students attending public/private schools (located within town limits) | 95.0/5.0 | 89.0/11.0 |

| Quality of life | City stats | Best places avg. |
|---|------------|------------------|
| Air quality index* (% of days AQI ranked as good) | N.A. | 75.9% |
| Personal crime incidents (per 1,000) | 2 | 2 |
| Property crime incidents (per 1,000) | 15 | 25 |
| Median commute time (in minutes) | 31.2 | 23.0 |
| % population with commute 45 mins. or longer | 25.1% | 15.7% |
| % population walk or bike to work | 0.9% | 3.0% |

| Leisure and culture | City stats | Best places avg. |
|---------------------|------------|------------------|
| Movie theaters | 56 | 51 |



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 Click map to enlarge
Show: Homes for sale | Million-dollar homes | Top companies | Colleges | Hospitals | Museums | Wineries | Gardens | Ski resorts

See Missouri City in...

...Featured Places

(1 of 1)



Where the jobs are

Especially in a tough economy, plentiful job opportunities are key to being a great place to live. These 25 counties have experienced the most job growth over the last seven years.

[See them all](#)

...What Readers Say

They speak out on Missouri City and other places ...

I chose to retire and live in Peachtree City, GA, because of the uniqueness...

This list is a bit skewed because its primarily comprised of suburbs. Su...

I don't get it..some of these picks show average home price hundre...

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Emerging Green Energy Co. Growth Stock Investment

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City State

Video

(5 of 5)



Where to beat the gas crunch

In places like State College, Pa., commutes are short or many residents get to work in ways that dont use a lot of fuel. [Watch](#)



Is your town a great place to live?

Do you live in a great place? Does your city have great cafes and culture? Lovely affordable homes? Low crime

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| (within 15 miles) | | |
| Restaurants (within 15 miles) | 4,628 | 4,094 |
| Bars (within 15 miles) | 533 | 408 |
| Public golf courses (within 30 miles) | 167 | 316 |
| Libraries (within 15 miles) | 67 | 89 |
| Museums (accredited by AAM; within 30 miles) | 5 | 13 |
| Ski resorts (within 100 miles) | N.A. | 33 |
| Arts funding (Dollars per person of state funds spent on arts) | 0.2 | 1.5 |

| Weather | City stats | Best places avg. |
|------------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Annual rainfall (inches) | 47.70 | 36.17 |
| % clear days in the area | 25 | 30 |
| High temp in July ° F | 93.6° | 87.8° |
| Low temp in Jan ° F | 41.7° | 22.9° |

| Health* | City stats | Best places avg. |
|---|------------|------------------|
| Has health plan (% of residents) | 84.4% | 88.3% |
| Body mass index (avg. for residents) | 26 | 27 |
| Diabetes rates (% of residents diagnosed) | 9.4% | 9.6% |
| Hypertension rates (% of residents diagnosed) | 27.5% | 27.2% |


| Meet the neighbors | City stats | Best places avg. |
|--|------------|------------------|
| Median age | 36.1 | 35.9 |
| Completed at least some college (% of residents) | 74.3% | 73.7% |
| Married | 62.5% | 57.5% |
| Divorced | 7.8% | 8.3% |
| Racial diversity index (100 is national average; higher numbers indicate greater diversity) | 408.8 | 104.2 |

Have your say

Nearby...

| PLACES | COMPANIES | HOMES |
|-------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| See city stats | | Compare |
| Stafford, TX | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sugar Land, TX | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| New Territory, TX | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mission Bend, TX | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pearland, TX | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Houston, TX | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alvin, TX | | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Compare

 Feedback on the Best Places to Live list? E-mail the editors

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Information powered by OnBoard LLC
Some data may be provided courtesy of its partners.


Additional data and consulting services provided by Bert Sperling's bestplaces.net.


Homes for sale provided by Trulia Real Estate Search.

and a thriving downtown? A thriving local economy? Amazing neighbors? Show us why your town is remarkable: [Send your photos and videos](#), and they could be profiled in an upcoming story.

Top 3

| TOP EARNING CITIES | FOR SINGLES, OVER 30 | AFFORDABLE HOMES |
|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| City | | Median income |
| New Canaan, CT | | \$231,138 |
| Darien, CT | | \$218,130 |
| Lake Forest, IL | | \$212,122 |

[See the rest](#)

How we picked the Best Places

Using statistics from data provider OnBoard and consultant Bert Sperling of BestPlaces.net, we crunched the numbers in order to zero in on America's best small cities for families. (Last year, we looked at small towns, with populations between 7,500 and 50,000.) [More](#)

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| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Amount spent on vacations (domestic and foreign, household avg. per year) | \$8,558 | \$8,007 |
|--|---------|---------|

From the August 2008 issue

Notes:
* County data
** State data

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