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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

64. Sugar Land, TX

64 of 100 **Back** **Next**

WINNER

Top 100 rank: 64

Population: 79,900

[Compare Sugar Land to Top 10 Best Places](#)

This southwest suburb of Houston is home to one of the nation's most diverse communities. It has attracted many Asian immigrants, for example, in part because of its top-notch schools and upscale amenities.

Corporate offices for Minute Maid and Aetna US Healthcare are headquartered in Sugar Land, though its also an easy commute to downtown Houston and other suburbs.



City Hall of Sugar Land

Financial	City stats	Best places avg.
Median family income (per year)	\$110,327	\$93,075
Family purchasing power (annual, cost-of-living adjusted)	\$121,506	\$84,780
Sales tax	8.25%	6.60%
State income tax rate (highest bracket)	N.A.	5.17%
State income tax rate	N.A.	2.43%

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

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(lowest bracket)		
Auto insurance premiums (Average for the state)	\$1,710	\$1,791
Job growth % (2000-2007)	46.24%	18.72%

Housing	City stats	Best places avg.
Median home price	\$272,151	\$291,949
Average property taxes (2006)	\$4,319	\$3,886

[See Sugar Land 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)	18	25
Test scores reading (% above/below state average)	4.6%	17.3%
Test scores math (% above/below average)	7.3%	16.8%
% students attending public/private schools (located within town limits)	86.4/13.6	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)	1	2
Property crime incidents (per 1,000)	20	25
Median commute time (in minutes)	29.5	23.0
% population with commute 45 mins. or longer	22.0%	15.7%
% population walk or bike to work	0.8%	3.0%

Leisure and culture	City stats	Best places avg.
Movie theaters (within 15 miles)	55	51
Restaurants	4,141	4,094



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See Sugar Land 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 Sugar Land 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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(2 of 5)



Why Fort Collins is a natural pick

Green-minded residents love this Colorado city, no. 2 on Money's Best Places to Live list, where you can borrow a bike, and enjoy the nearby mountains. [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)		
Bars (within 15 miles)	418	408
Public golf courses (within 30 miles)	160	316
Libraries (within 15 miles)	43	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	37.9	35.9
Completed at least some college (% of residents)	79.6%	73.7%
Married	66.6%	57.5%
Divorced	6.3%	8.3%
Racial diversity index (100 is national average; higher numbers indicate greater diversity)	228.8	104.2
Amount spent on vacations (domestic and foreign, household avg. per	\$8,896	\$8,007

Have your say

Nearby...

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

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



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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year)

From the August 2008 issue

Notes:

- * County data
- ** State data

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* : Time reflects local markets trading time. † - Intraday data delayed 15 minutes for Nasdaq, and 20 minutes for other exchanges. Disclaimer

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