



5. McKinney, TX



COURTESY: MCKINNEY, GVB

WINNER

Top 100 rank: 5

Population: 125,000

Unemployment: 7.8%

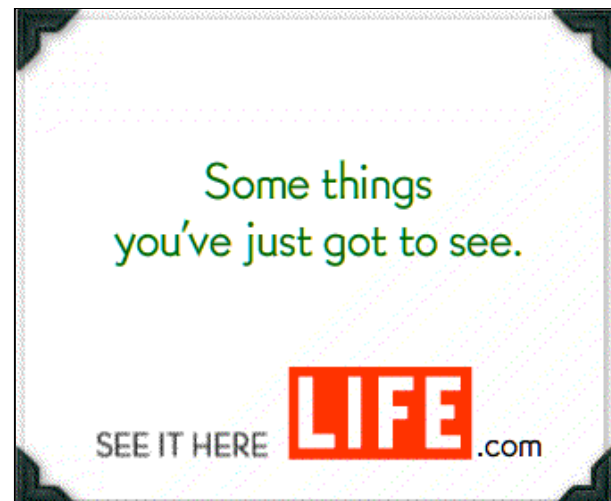
Lots of towns near Dallas have low crime, affordable homes, and good jobs; McKinney is no exception. What makes it stand out is its gem of a downtown. Lovingly restored 19th-century buildings house restaurants, boutiques, and galleries; the 1875 courthouse contains a new performing-arts center.

McKinney's employment opportunities are robust, sparing many residents a rush-hour drive of up to an hour to Dallas. Defense contractor Raytheon has a 3,700-person division here, and a mix of businesses in financial services, medical technology, and eco-friendly manufacturing are moving in.

Though McKinney has grown like mad over the past decade, you'd never suspect it when driving through its tree-filled communities surrounded by ponds, parks, and hiking trails.

--Vanessa Richardson

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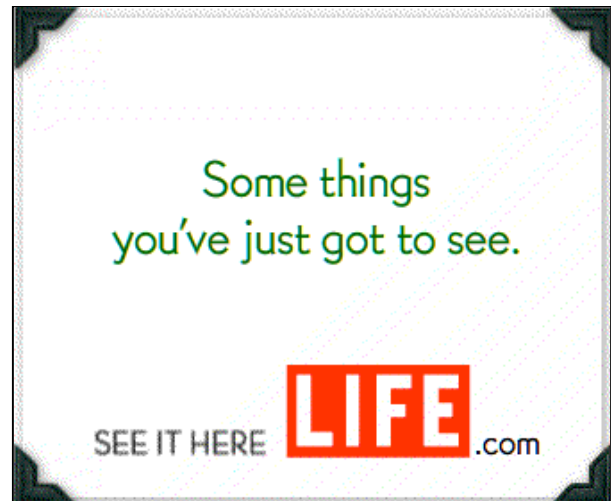


McKinney stats

	City stats	Best places avg.
Median family income (per year)	\$107,046	\$90,957
Job growth % (2000-2009) *	124.34%	15.71%
See jobs near McKinney		
Median home price	\$175,820	\$239,391
See McKinney homes for sale		
Test scores reading (% above/below state average)	6.3%	22.9%
Test scores math (% above/below average)	7.1%	22.9%
Personal crime incidents (per 1,000)	2	2
Property crime incidents (per 1,000)	22	24
Restaurants (within 15 miles)	2,758	2,967
High temp in July ° F	93.4 °	86.2 °
Low temp in Jan ° F	31.6 °	21.3 °
Median age	31.8	35.3

From the August 2010 issue
Notes: *County data

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