

## **Houston area and Dallas-Fort Worth top nation's fastest-growth list**

By MICHAEL E. YOUNG / Staff Writer

Dallas-Fort Worth added more new residents than almost anywhere else in the U.S. in the latest population estimates.

The area trailed only Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, the Census Bureau reported Thursday.

Credit the booming Texas economy and strong population growth in the Texas Triangle, the part of the state roughly bounded by Interstates 35, 45 and 10.

Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, the fourth-largest metro area in the country and the largest in the southern U.S., added more than 131,000 people from July 1, 2013, to July 1, 2014. Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land saw an increase of 156,371 people.

To put that sort of growth in perspective, compare those numbers with New York-Newark-Jersey City, which ranked third on the list, said Steve Murdock, director of the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University.

“You look at the Houston area and the Dallas area, and then New York, which is a much larger metropolitan area, and you see that it added 91,000,” he said. “It just shows the phenomenal growth in this state.”

Four Texas counties — Harris, Bexar, Dallas and Tarrant — were among the Top 10 nationally in numeric growth. Three others — Hays, Fort Bend and Comal — were among the 10 fastest-growing counties of 10,000 or more residents by percentage increase.