052 Dallas-Fort Worth (United States of America)

4.4 million inhabitants according to the UN´s *Urban Agglomerations 2003*.

1. Territorial Levels, Population and Area

Territorial Level	Population*	% of total	Area (km2)	Density (people/km2)
Dallas	1,213,825	0.4	995	1,220
Fort Worth	624,067	0.2	772	808
Dallas County	2,305,454	0.78	2,350	981
Tarrant County	1,620,479	0.55	2,320	698
Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area**	5,819,475	1.96	24,000	242.5
State of Texas	22,860,000	7.7	696,000	32.8
United States of America	296,410,000	100	9,830,000	30.2

* Data from the U.S. Census Office for the estimated population at December 2005.

** The definition for the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) of Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington established by the U.S. Census Office for 2005 was taken as reference. Structured around two urban centers: Dallas and Fort Worth.

2. Administrative Designation and Number of Municipalities

Name	Designation	Number of Municipalities
Dallas	City of Dallas	1 City 14 Districts
Fort Worth	City of Fort Worth	1 City 9 Districts
Dallas County	Dallas County	1 County 26 Cities
Tarrant County	Tarrant County	1 County 41 Cities
Dallas Metropolitan Area	Metropolitan Statistical Area of Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington	12 Counties: Collin, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Kaufman, Rockwall, Johnson, Parker, Tarrant, Wise. 217 Cities
State of Texas	State of Texas	1 State 254 Counties 453 Cities
United States of America	United States of America	50 States, 1 Federal District 3,034 Counties 19,431 Municipalities 16,506 Townships

3. Institutional framework and political powers

Dallas

General Aspects

The City of Dallas has its home rule powers guaranteed by the Constitution of the State of Texas (which are awarded to cities with more than 5,000 inhabitants). It has the power to exercise or develop any government action within its own interests. This includes the preparation of public policies relating to public health, sanitation, security, morals and wellbeing; tax creation and even debt capacity. It has powers in: water provision and drainage; transport; urban planning and land use; public road maintenance; urban traffic; parks; police; libraries; personal services (children, youth, the elderly, the homeless); public housing; emergencies and the environment. It is divided into 14 districts for census and administrative purposes.

Mayor

The Mayor holds the maximum executive responsibility for the city, leads the departments in his or her government and elects the heads of departments. The Mayor's responsibilities are as follow: to chair City Council meetings, represent the city at official events, create the different committees (finance and housing, economic development, public security, transport and environment) and appoint their members. The Mayor has a vote on the city council. Mayoral elections are always held in May on uneven years, for a four-year term of office. The Mayor can only serve two mandates.

City Council

This is the legislative organ of the city. Responsibilities include: the preparation of public policies; the approval of the annual budget and tax rates; together with the Mayor, the Council appoints different positions (City Manager, City Attorney, City Auditor, City Secretary, city judges, commissions, citizens committees); buys and sells municipal properties; creates city departments, approves bylaws. The election of the 15 city councilors always takes place in May on uneven years, for a two-year mandate, and they may exercise this position for four mandates. Each councilor is elected in his or her district and represents it before the Council, while the Mayor is elected by the whole city.

Public Companies in the City of Dallas

Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART)

Created in 1983, it is the public transport service operator in the Dallas area and covers buses, trams, suburban trains and shared transport *(*vanpool/carpool*).* The DART covers the City of Dallas and 12 neighboring municipalities (Addison, Carrollton, Cockrell Hill, Farmers, Branch, Garland, Glenn Heights, Highland, Park, Irving, Plano, Richardson, Rowlett and University Park). In total, it works in an area of around 1,800 km2. It is run by a board of 15 representatives from the member cities.

Fort Worth

General Aspects

The City of Fort Worth has its home rule powers guaranteed by the Constitution of the State of Texas (which are awarded to cities with more than 5,000 inhabitants). It has the power to exercise or develop any government action within its own interests. This includes the preparation of public policies relating to public health, sanitation, security, morals and wellbeing; tax creation and even debt capacity. It has powers in: water provision and drainage; transport; urban planning and land use; public road maintenance; urban traffic; parks; police; libraries; personal services (children, youth, the elderly, the homeless); public housing; emergencies and the environment. It is divided into 9 districts for census and administrative purposes.

Mayor

The Mayor holds the maximum executive responsibility for the city, leads the departments in his or her government and elects the heads of departments. The Mayor's responsibilities are as follow: to chair City Council meetings, represent the city at official events, create the different committees (economic development and revitalization of the center, transport and infrastructures, legislative and intergovernmental affairs, finances and audits) and appoint their members. The Mayor has a vote on the city council. Mayoral elections are always held in May on uneven years, for a four-year term of office. The Mayor can only serve two mandates.

City Council

This is the legislative organ of the city. Responsibilities include: the preparation of public policies; the approval of the annual budget and tax rates; together with the Mayor, the Council appoints different positions (City Manager, City Attorney, City Auditor, City Secretary, city judges, commissions, citizens committees); buys and sells municipal properties; creates city departments, approves bylaws. The election of the 10 city councilors always takes place in May on uneven years, for a two-year mandate, and they may exercise this position for four mandates. Each councilor is elected in his or her district and represents it before the Council, while the Mayor is elected by the whole city.

Public Companies in the City of Fort Worth

Fort Worth Transportation Authority (the T)

It is the public transport service operator in the city of Fort Worth and is own metropolitan area. It operates the bus service, the light train and shared transport (vanpool/carpool). Together with the DART, the T provides nearly 56 km of rail transport (the Trinity Railway Express) which unites the centers of Dallas and Fort Worth with stops in the cities in the middle and at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Dallas County

General Aspects

Dallas County has authority over the legal system, social services and welfare, compliance with the law and the building of highways. Its powers are limited by State laws.

Commissioners' Court

It is the political and legislative organ of government in the county. It has authority to establish public policies via bylaws and resolutions in the areas under the authority of the County. It consists of a member chosen from across the territory, i.e., the country judge and four county commissioners, elected in the different precincts. It approves the budget, appoints members of standing committees and subcommittees. It also decides on the rate for the hospital district which is charged with providing health services.

County Judge

Has executive responsibility on the Court, chairs Court meetings and is responsible for the administration of the county government, but does not have the right to veto Court decisions. The County Judge also supervises county magistrates.

Tarrant County

General Aspects

Tarrant County has authority over the legal system, social services and welfare, compliance with the law and the building of highways. Its powers are limited by State laws.

Commissioners' Court

It is the political and legislative organ of government in the county. It has authority to establish public policies via bylaws and resolutions in the areas under the authority of the County. It consists of a member chosen from across the territory, i.e., the country judge and four county commissioners, elected in the different precincts. It approves the budget, appoints members of standing committees and subcommittees. It also decides on the rate for the hospital district which is charged with providing health services.

County Judge

Has executive responsibility on the Court, chairs Court meetings and is responsible for the administration of the county government, but does not have the right to veto Court decisions. The County Judge also supervises county magistrates.

Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area

General Aspects

There is an institution that covers the whole of the metropolitan area and a further four counties: this is the North Central Texas Council of Governments. There are also around a hundred organizations with a single function responsible for providing different services (water, garbage collection and selection, etc.).

North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)

This is a voluntary association of local governments, created in 1966 to promote cooperation between its members in order to contribute to regional development. As an association, it also advises its members on common questions, such as territorial planning and environmental protection, via numerous mobility studies, economic development reports, etc. As the statistical metropolitan area, the North Central Texas region is structured around two urban centers: Dallas and Forth Worth. However, the NCTCOG covers over 30,000 km2 and includes around six million people, i.e., more

than the metropolitan area defined by the Census Bureau. In reality, a further four counties form part of the Association, as well as the ones defined in the statistical metropolitan area: Erath, Hood, Navarro and Somervell.

All up, the NCTCOG has more than 230 members, including 16 counties, 165 cities, 25 school districts and 24 special districts. As well as the General Assembly, there is an Executive Committee formed of 13 local elected representatives which manages the Association's policies. The Committee has various technical committees of professionals for the preparation of proposals, plan designs, etc. Of note are the studies carried out on issues of mobility, air and water quality, natural spaces and waste management, among others. The Association also addresses other issues, such as aid for the elderly, security and emergencies.

North Texas Commission

Created in 1971, the North Texas Commission is a non-profit organization to promote regional economic development and act as a catalyst for the regional economy, thanks to public-private cooperation, strong leadership, marketing strategies and publicity. It has 400 members, including companies, cities, counties, chambers of commerce, economic development agencies, universities, etc.

State of Texas

General Aspects

The US Constitution recognizes the sovereignty of the states except in areas of federal authority. Thus, as a federal state, the Government and legislature have very broad authority, including over social services and public health, community development (public housing, economic development, coastal regeneration, parks, facilities), public security, environment (water, sewerage and solid-waste management), transport (public transport, highways, canals, freeways), employment and consumer affairs. In many of these sectors, the state carries out its functions via committees, agencies or boards.

Governor

Has executive power and is responsible for compliance of state laws. His or her powers include: the appointment of non-elected senior positions, with the consent of the Senate; organizing the functions and responsibilities of state agencies and departments; preparing the state budget and presenting it to the General Assembly; and exercising the power of veto at the first reading of laws approved by the General Assembly. The Governor is elected by the public via a majority voting system to serve four-year terms.

As well as the Governor, other official positions are elected by the public: the Lieutenant Governor (who heads up the Senate and appoints committee members), the Comptroller of Public Accounts (who decides whether state income is enough to guarantee the State budget), the Land Commissioner, Attorney General, Agriculture Commissioner, the three members of the Texas Railroad Commission and the State Board of Education. The Secretary of State is appointed by the Government with the agreement of the Senate.

General Assembly

Bi-cameral organ composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate: the former is made up of 150 members and the latter of 31, elected every two years. The two chambers have the same legislative powers and all laws must be approved by both.

Public companies in the State of Texas

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)

A government agency for the mobility of people and goods across the state. The TxDOT is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the freeway network, the issuing of drivers' licenses and the coordination of the public transport network. It is governed by a five-person Committee appointed by the Governor.

United States of America

President

This figure combines the powers of head of state with those of the head of government. Has maximum executive responsibility for the federal government, while also carrying out the main symbolic and representative functions of the republic. Is elected via an electoral college with 538 votes that represent the federal states in a proportional fashion. The votes are assigned by a majority system that grants all the votes in each state to the candidate that received the most votes in that state. May be reelected only once.

House of Representatives

This chamber forms the legislative power in Congress together with the Senate. Has legislative initiative and shares legislative power with the Senate. The 435 representatives are elected in 435 districts in a single-member district plurality system for two-year terms. The elections to the House coincide with the presidential elections every two terms.

Senate

Forms the legislative power together with the House of Representatives. As well as legislative power, has the responsibility for validating the senior positions appointed by the President, ratifying international treaties and initiating the presidential impeachment process. The 100 senators are elected on the basis of two per state in a relative majority system. One-third of the Senate is renewed every two years, coinciding with the presidential elections and the elections for the House of Representatives.

4. Websites and Documentation

Websites:

City of Dallas: http://www.dallascityhall.com/
Dallas Area Rapid Transit: http://www.dart.org/
Dallas County: http://www.dallascounty.org/
City of Fort Worth: http://www.fortworthgov.org/
Fort Worth Transportation Authority: http://www.the-t.com/
Tarrant County: http://www.tarrantcounty.com/eGov/site/default.asp
North Central Texas Council of Governments: http://www.nctcog.org/
North Texas Commission: http://www.ntc-dfw.org/
State of Texas: http://www.state.tx.us/
Texas Secretary of State: http://www.sos.state.tx.us/index.html
Texas Department of Transportation: http://www.dot.state.tx.us/
Texas Association of Regional Councils: http://www.txregionalcouncil.org/index.htm
United States Government (FirstGov): http://www.firstgov.gov
US Census Bureau: http://www.census.gov/
State and Local Government on the Net: http://www.statelocalgov.net/index.cfm

Documentation:

Summary of *Dallas Area Rapid Transit*: http://www.dart.org/DARTOverviewMar06.pdf

Complete document, *Mobility 2025,* North Central Texas Council of Governments (2005): http://www.nctcog.org/trans/mtp/current/full_report.asp

2006 population estimate by member cities and counties of the North Central Texas Council of Governments:
http://www.nctcog.org/ris/demographics/population/2006popestimates.pdf

2007-2011 Strategic Plan, Texas Department of Transportation:
ftp://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot-info/lao/strategic_plan2007.pdf