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Study: Midland County the financially healthiest place in Texas

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Midland County is the most financially healthy place in Texas and the 10th healthiest place nationally, according to a study by personal finance website SmartAsset.

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SmartAsset examined debt as a percentage of income, bankruptcies per 1,000 people, poverty rates and unemployment rates. Each county was weighted and indexed. Financially healthy counties had a low average debt as a percentage of income and a low chance of being affected by personal bankruptcies, poverty and unemployment.

Midland County ranked No. 1. Debt as a percentage of income is 0.86 percent, and there are 0.5 bankruptcies per 1,000 people. Poverty is at 8.9 percent. The average

unemployment rate for 2016 was 4.4 percent.

Andrews County placed fifth, Ector County was 17th and Howard County ranked 87th.

Here are the top 10 financially healthiest counties in Texas:

- 1. Midland
- 2. Gillespie
- 3. Williamson
- 4. Lavaca
- 5. Andrews
- 6. Fayette
- 7. Randall
- 8. Kendall
- 9. Collin
- 10. Fort Bend.

When looking strictly at poverty rates, Midland County was the ninth lowest. Here are the top 10:

- 1. Rockwall, 6 percent
- 2. Williamson, 6.6 percent
- 3. Collin, 6.6 percent
- 4. Fort Bend, 7 percent
- t5. Kendall, 8 percent

- t5. Denton, 8 percent
- 7. Comal, 8.3 percent
- 8. Randall, 8.5 percent
- 9. Midland, 8.9 percent
- 10. Parker, 9.4 percent

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