

#1 Shortest Commute in San Antonio MSA — ALEX Intelligence 2026

Lackland AFB Has the Shortest Commute in the MSA

10.8 minutes—surpassing downtown San Antonio by a full 8 minutes

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THE DATA

10.8

Mean Commute to Work by City, in Minutes (2024)

Lackland AFB leads the San Antonio metro in average commute time to work.

This data, drawn from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 5-year estimates, reflects a true mean travel time, not a midpoint. The figure is not inflated by outliers, making Lackland AFB's 10.8-minute average a reliable benchmark. The suppression of data in areas with low population or high uncertainty means this ranking captures only statistically robust locations.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 • ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-17-sa-msa-commute-place-short>



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Commute Efficiency Is a Hidden Asset

As housing demand grows in San Antonio, planners can look beyond traditional suburban models. The success of Lackland AFB suggests that integrating housing, employment, and transit in a single zone—without relying on car dependency—can yield measurable time savings. This is not just about distance; it's about design.



02

The MSA's Real Efficiency Gap

For real estate investors and developers, this data reveals an opportunity: communities with strong infrastructure planning —like Lackland AFB—outperform those with fragmented land use. The MSA's future growth should prioritize transit-oriented development in areas that currently lack it, especially in lower-ranked cities where commute times exceed 20 minutes.

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