

#1 in Texas Commute Time Spread

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San Marcos–New Braunfels leads in spatial fragmentation of daily travel

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THE DATA

11.5

Spread in Mean Commute Across the Market, in Minutes (2024)

The largest gap in average commute times between any two cities in the MSA is 11.5 minutes.

This 11.5-minute spread between Canyon Lake (38.9 minutes) and Dripping Springs (27.4 minutes) is not just a number—it reflects a structural divergence in infrastructure, development density, and employment clustering. The gap suggests that while some communities are becoming increasingly accessible, others remain isolated, even within the same metro area.

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

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-18-san-marcos-nb-commute-spread>



01

Growth is no longer uniform

The commute spread reveals that development in the San Marcos–New Braunfels MSA is not just expanding—it is fracturing. The region is no longer a single labor market but a network of distinct commuting zones, with Canyon Lake’s 38.9-minute average indicating deep suburban isolation. This suggests that future job creation and transit planning must account for this fragmentation, not assume connectivity across the MSA.



02

Commuting inequality is rising

The 11.5-minute spread is not just about time—it's about access. Communities like Dripping Springs, with shorter commutes, are likely attracting higher-income, mobile workers, while places like Canyon Lake may face long-term challenges in retaining talent and service workers. This spatial inequality could drive divergent housing value trajectories, with commute-advantaged areas outperforming others in both resale and rental markets.

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