

#1 Best Place to Live in Texas — U.S. News 2026

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Ranked by U.S. News & World Report — 2026

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## THE DATA

# 4.2%

### Year-Over-Year Change in Households Moving In (2023)

In-migration to the Killeen-Temple market declined between 2021-22 and 2022-23.

This 4.2% drop marks a reversal in the region's momentum as a top migration destination, despite its national recognition. The decline is not due to reduced demand but reflects a shift in origin patterns—fewer households are arriving from traditional feeder counties like Tarrant, Bexar, and El Paso. This suggests that the market may be approaching saturation in its current demographic corridor, even as it maintains top-tier rankings.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2021-22 and 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-21-killeen-temple-mig-trend-in-total>



# 01

## Growth is maturing, not stalling

The 4.2% dip in in-migration is not a sign of weakness but a signal of market maturity. Killeen-Temple has transitioned from a high-growth frontier to a stable, self-sustaining ecosystem. The presence of Fort Cavazos and the Baylor Scott & White medical corridor continues to anchor employment and housing demand, but new residents are now more likely to come from within Texas than from out-of-state. This shift reflects deeper local integration rather than a contraction in appeal.

# 02

## Safety is the new frontier

While the region maintains its national ranking for livability, recent incidents—including a 4-year-old killed by gunfire and a woman fatally shot after being mistaken for a deer—highlight a growing mismatch between perception and reality. These events, occurring within 24 hours, underscore that public safety is now a critical factor in long-term residential investment. The data on in-migration decline may be a quiet signal that residents are beginning to weigh safety risks more heavily than before, even in a high-performing MSA.



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