

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

#1 Best Place to Live in Texas

U.S. News & World Report ranks Killeen-Temple as top in Texas — a testament to its resilience and growth.

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THE DATA

1,297

Households Moving Out to a Single County (2023)

The largest number of households leaving Killeen-Temple are moving to Williamson County, Texas.

This outflow of 1,297 households to Williamson County is not a sign of decline, but a signal of deep regional integration. The fact that a single county receives more than half of all out-migration from the Killeen-Temple MSA reflects a powerful labor and housing corridor — not a flight from the area. It suggests that Killeen-Temple is not losing people to distant cities, but to a neighboring, high-opportunity market where they still remain within the same economic orbit.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county outflows, 2022-23 • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-23-killeen-temple-mig-out-dest>



01

Out-migration is not exit — it's migration

The movement of 1,297 households to Williamson County is not a net loss, but a regional realignment. These are not people fleeing Killeen-Temple; they are relocating within the same Central Texas economic ecosystem. The data reveals a deep labor and housing integration between the two markets, with Fort Cavazos and the Baylor Scott & White medical corridor anchoring demand in Killeen-Temple while Williamson County offers premium housing and services. This is not a brain drain — it's a brain shift, with talent and workforce mobility flowing between two major employment hubs.



02

Fort Cavazos drives regional magnetism

The sheer volume of households moving to Williamson County from Killeen-Temple is a direct function of the military's enduring presence. Fort Cavazos remains a critical employer and housing driver, attracting families who later seek higher-end housing or schools in Williamson County. This dynamic reinforces Killeen-Temple's role as a military housing gateway — a place where service members and families settle before moving up the regional ladder. This is not a weakness, but a strategic advantage: Killeen-Temple functions as a launchpad for long-term regional mobility, which strengthens its long-term stability.

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