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

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U.S. News & World Report, 2026 — Killeen-Temple MSA leads the state in livability

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THE DATA

$85,576

Average Income of Arriving Households (2023)

Denton County, TX leads all U.S. counties in income of households moving to the Killeen-Temple MSA.

This figure — $85,576 — represents the average income of households arriving from Denton County, Texas, the top sender to the Killeen-Temple MSA. It signals not just migration, but a shift in economic quality. These aren't just new residents — they are high-earning, high-impact newcomers, likely professionals and service-sector managers from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Their arrival reinforces the region's growing economic diversification beyond military and healthcare.

Source: U.S. Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income Migration Data, county-to-county inflows, 2022-23 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-26-killeen-temple-mig-in-agi

01

Wealth is migrating in, not just people

The data reveals a subtle but critical shift: the Killeen-Temple MSA is no longer just a destination for military relocation or medical employment. The highest-income flows are from affluent suburbs like Denton County, suggesting a new class of economic migrants — professionals drawn by affordability, quality of life, and access to major employment hubs. This isn't a one-way pull from Austin or Dallas; it's a two-way economic magnetism, where the region now offers a higher return on lifestyle investment than the cities they're leaving.

02

The real estate market is being redefined

With the average incoming household earning $85,576 — above the national median — and coming from high-income regions, the demand for housing is no longer just about affordability. It’s about quality, stability, and long-term value. This inflow of wealth is likely to drive upward pressure on home values, not just in Killeen and Temple, but across the MSA, especially in neighborhoods with strong school districts, access to Fort Cavazos, and proximity to the Baylor Scott & White medical corridor. The market is evolving from a military-dependent economy to a hybrid model where civilian wealth now sets the pace.

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