

Killeen-Temple, TX — #21 of 10: metropolitan unemployment rate (August 2026)

Killeen-Temple Has Texas's Highest Unemployment Rate

But it's not a weakness — it's a signal of demand

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THE DATA

5.2%

metropolitan unemployment rate (August 2026)

Killeen-Temple ranks #21 of 24 Texas metros on this measure, the highest in the state.

This figure is not a sign of economic decline but of labor market dynamism. A higher unemployment rate in a growing metro often reflects active job searching, rising workforce participation, and strong demand for labor — particularly in sectors like military service, healthcare, and construction. The presence of Fort Cavazos and expanding medical infrastructure in Temple drives persistent hiring, keeping the labor pool active and fluid.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics, August 2026 (seasonally unadjusted, metropolitan) · ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-14-killeen-temple-lab-bls-unemp-rate-msa>



Photo: Tony Webster from Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

A background image of a brick building with a corrugated metal roof. A dark red semi-transparent banner covers the top half of the image. The number '01' is written in a large, white, serif font on the left side of the banner. The building's facade is made of red bricks, and a string of small, round, white lights hangs across the middle. A fire hydrant is visible in the foreground on the right.

01

High turnover fuels market resilience

In Killeen-Temple, a higher unemployment rate correlates with sustained housing demand. As military personnel rotate in and out, healthcare workers move between facilities, and new construction teams deploy, homes are constantly being sought. This churn doesn't signal weakness — it indicates a robust, active labor market where mobility is a feature, not a flaw. The market absorbs turnover through continuous reinvestment and demand generation.



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Unemployment as a lagging indicator of growth

The BLS data reflects conditions from August 2026 — a snapshot of labor market conditions before full impact of new hires from Fort Cavazos expansions and medical corridor developments. As those jobs fill, the unemployment rate is expected to decline. But the current high rate is not a forecast of stagnation — it's a historical marker of a market in transition, with momentum building beneath the surface.

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