#1 of 6: Spread in Mean Commute Across the Market, in Minutes (2024)

Gypsum’s 7.6-minute commute gap

Ranked by ALEX Intelligence, November 06, 2026

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THE DATA

7.6

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

The difference between the longest and shortest average commutes among High Country cities is 7.6 minutes.

This spread reflects a deep structural divergence in daily mobility across the region. While Steamboat Springs sees an average commute of 14.3 minutes, Gypsum's is 21.9 minutes—nearly 7.6 minutes longer. This gap is not just about distance; it signals unequal access to infrastructure, employment hubs, and housing affordability.



Photo: TruenoCity · CC BY 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-06-high-country-commute-spread

01

Commuting is a proxy for access

The 7.6-minute spread reveals that commute time is not a neutral metric—it's a barometer of economic equity. Gypsum, with the longest average commute, is also the region's most affordable housing market, attracting remote workers and service-sector employees. In contrast, Steamboat Springs, with the shortest commute, is a high-income, high-demand resort hub with limited land for affordable development. The gap reflects a growing divide: access to opportunity is increasingly tied to where you live, not just where you work.



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02

Infrastructure lags behind mobility demand

Despite rising demand for micro-mobility and transit access, the region still relies on car-dependent models. The current commute spread suggests that even with strong public interest, infrastructure investment has not kept pace. This creates a feedback loop: longer commutes deter new residents, limit workforce diversity, and reduce long-term economic resilience.

Real Estate Strategy & Intelligence Leader. Democratized Blue Ocean Strategist & Operator.

Diane Hart Alexander, MBA, MHA

Chair & CEO, ALEX Companies

Designated Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC dba ALEX.realestate, et.al.

Texas License #574877-B · Broker License #565194-BB

diane@alex.realestate · +1 713.591.9902

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