Santa Rita Ranch — #1 of 6: Mean Commute to Work by City, in Minutes (2024)

Santa Rita Ranch leads Williamson County in commute time

Longest average commute by city, 2024

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THE DATA

37.5

Mean Commute to Work by City, in Minutes (2024)

Santa Rita Ranch has the highest average commute time among Williamson County cities.

This 37.5-minute average is not a statistical outlier — it reflects a structural pattern in how development and employment are distributed across the county. The concentration of high-income, tech-driven employment in Round Rock, Leander, and Cedar Park has created a geographic imbalance: new residential communities are expanding rapidly in the western and southern parts of Williamson County, while job centers remain clustered in the east.

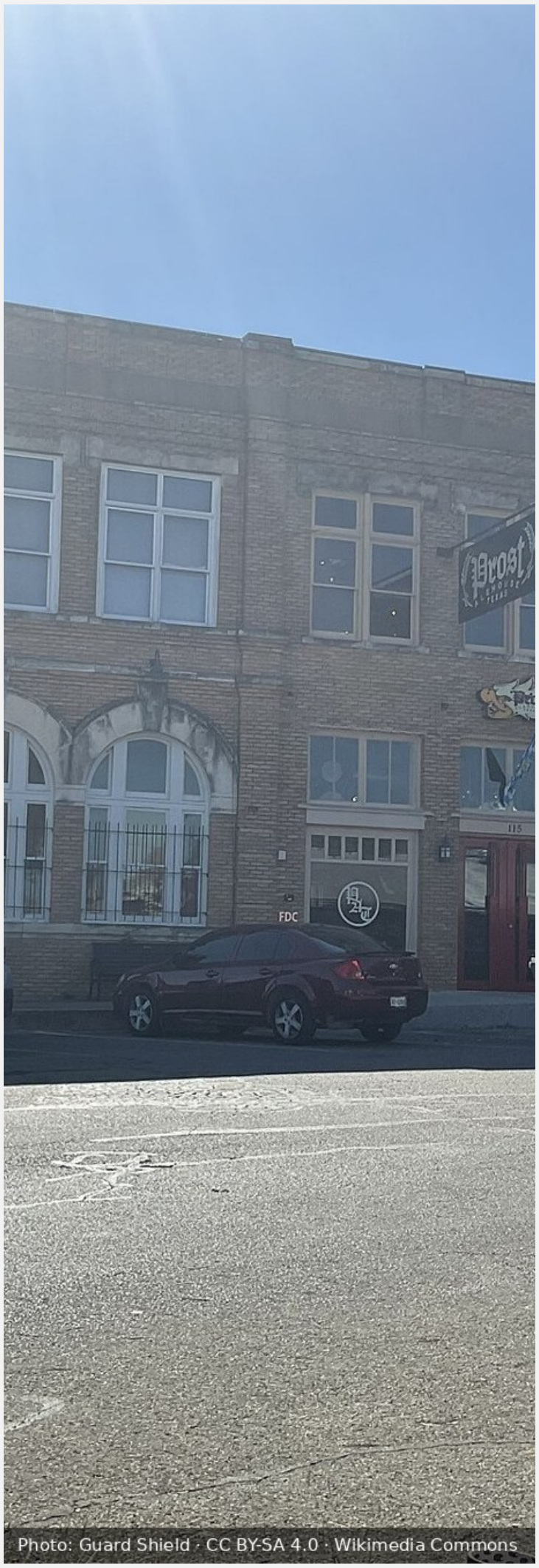

Photo: Guard Shield · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2024 · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-23-williamson-commute-place-long

01

Commuting is the new zoning

The data reveals that commute time is no longer just a byproduct of sprawl — it’s becoming a de facto land-use signal. Developers in Santa Rita Ranch are building homes without immediate access to local employment, relying on the assumption that residents will commute long distances to high-wage jobs. This creates a feedback loop: longer commutes attract higher-income buyers who demand more space and privacy, which further distances them from job centers, reinforcing the pattern.

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02

The commute premium is a pricing signal

In a market where housing supply is constrained and demand is surging, long commutes are becoming a hidden value proposition. Homebuyers in Santa Rita Ranch are accepting longer commutes not because they're forced to, but because they're trading time for space, privacy, and lower density. This suggests that in Williamson County's non-Georgetown markets, the commute is no longer a liability — it's a feature that can be priced into the home. The 37.5-minute average isn't a flaw; it's a market signal of premium positioning.

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