#1 of 3: Spread in County Unemployment Rate Across the Market, in Points (Septem

Coryell vs Lampasas: 0.6% Unemployment Spread

Killeen-Temple’s county-level disparity reveals economic divergence

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THE DATA

0.6

Spread in County Unemployment Rate Across the Market, in Points (September 2026)

The largest gap between any two counties in the Killeen-Temple MSA is 0.6 percentage points.

This spread—between Coryell County (5.1%) and Lampasas County (4.5%)—is not just a number; it's a signal of uneven economic resilience. While both counties benefit from Fort Cavazos and the Baylor Scott & White medical corridor, the variance suggests divergent labor market dynamics. Coryell County's higher unemployment may reflect lagging private-sector job creation, while Lampasas County's lower rate could indicate stronger local business retention or higher military-related employment stability.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, September 2026 (county, seasonally unadjusted) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-27-killeen-temple-within-county-unemployment

01

The military economy isn’t uniform

Fort Cavazos is a stabilizing anchor, but its impact varies across the MSA. Coryell County’s higher unemployment suggests that military-linked jobs are not evenly distributed, possibly due to infrastructure or housing constraints. This creates a dual economy: one county benefiting from military housing demand and service-sector jobs, another with underutilized employment potential. The divergence isn’t a weakness—it’s a signal of where new investment in workforce development and small business support could yield outsized returns.

02

Stability isn’t equal across the MSA

The fact that Lampasas County has the lowest unemployment despite similar macro drivers shows that local conditions matter more than regional branding. This county may have better access to training programs, more flexible zoning for small businesses, or stronger employer partnerships. For real estate strategists, this means that even within a strong metro, some areas are more resilient to economic shifts. Property values, rental demand, and job growth are not just regional trends—they’re county-specific outcomes.

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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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