

Greater Fort Hood Economy: January 2020

The economic indicators for the Greater Fort Hood area continue to show strength, improvement and sustainability in the State of Texas. Below are just a few examples of what is happening in the area.

Fort Hood:

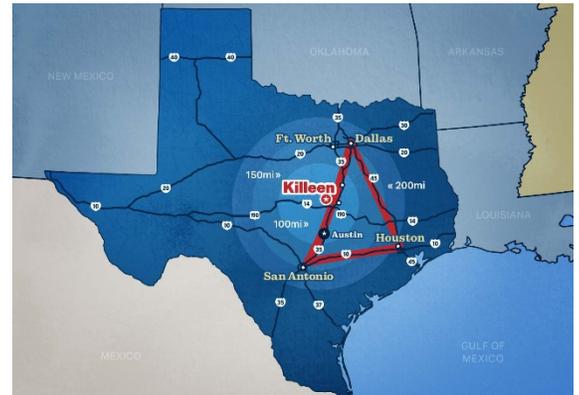
- Fort Hood is the U.S. Army's largest power projection platform. It is the home of the U.S. Army's Armored Corps. The installation is "mission critical" to the U.S. Army and what is known as an "Enduring Installation".
- Fort Hood is one of the top three Army installations in terms of Military Value. It continues to be the most effective and least expensive training facility in the U.S. Army.
- The Fort Hood had an economic impact of \$24.56 billion on the State of Texas in 2017, according to Texas Comptroller. It is the largest single site employer in the state.
- Current Authorized Military Strength: 35,840 as of March 2020
- Current Assigned Strength: ≈ 36,986 Soldiers & Airmen
- Family Members: 51,848 (73.8% off-post)
- Civilian Employees ≈ 5,373 (+1,414 AAFES and Commissaries)
- Contractors/Others: ≈ 4,876 (Others include warrior transition unit & on-post Killeen Independent School District Staff.)
- The Veteran's Inventory Report consistently indicates that approximately 5,400 – 7,800 Soldiers transition out of the Army each year at Fort Hood. Approximately thirty eight percent of those transitioning Soldiers indicate they intend to stay in the region upon separation (4th Qtr. 2019). This is a constant pipeline of available talent for prospective businesses.
- Military personnel are trained to work independently and as a team, as a leader and as a follower. They are dependable, disciplined and forward-thinking. Skillsets of the military soldier include but are not limited to: engineering; logistics and distribution; healthcare; analyst; project management and many others. Please see our Veteran's Inventory Report, on this website, for more detailed information.
- There are two free training programs available for hiring veterans:
 - **Heroes make America** program is a career skills program through the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM). At the end of the training, veterans will receive industry specific certification.
 - **Hire Our Heroes** is a 12-week corporate fellowship program for management-level careers or civilian-equivalent jobs.

Interstate 14:

- The segment of US Highway 190 in Bell County is now the first segment of Interstate 14, the newest Interstate Highway in the U.S. I14 will eventually connect to I10 to the west at El Paso and to Savannah, Georgia to the east. In Bell County, I14 connects to I35. Other segments along the route are under development.

Killeen Economic Development Corporation (KEDC):

- MGC Pure Chemicals America Inc. (MPCA) located in the Killeen Business Park and processes ultra-pure Hydrogen



Peroxide for the semiconductor industry, such as Samsung. The company is expanding their plant to process Ammonia Hydroxide to meet the demands of an evolving semiconductor industry.

- Z-Modular, a division of Zekelman Industries, the largest independent steel pipe and tube manufacturer in North America, produces a one-stop shop for modular construction products and services utilizing their unique VectorBloc system. The VectorBloc steel modular construction system provides extremely tight tolerances to ensure even stacking, while providing the design flexibility to create buildings of virtually any form factor. The company employs approximately 250 people.
- Solix Inc: Expanded their downtown operations plans to create 180 new jobs.

Texas A&M University Central Texas:

- TAMUCT occupies a new 662-acre campus provided by Fort Hood and the U.S. Army.
- The university serves over 2,500 full-time students. Approximately one half of those students are military connected.
- A virtual research park to incubate emerging technologies is being planned.
- The university conducts cutting edge research in alternative energy, among other things, to develop new strategies to lower the cost of power generated by solar cells. The university's holistic research program addresses all levels of the global, photovoltaic supply chain.

National Mounted Warfare Museum:

- The state-of-the-art museum will be located just outside the main gate of Fort Hood and should be open in 2021.

Housing:

- The housing market continues to be robust. New developments are locating in south Killeen. The City has focused its efforts on street expansion and construction to accommodate the growth and increased vehicle traffic. New home sales rose to 1,530 in the first quarter of 2020, a 9.1 percent increase year over year. Median home prices increased 10.4 percent to \$174,000. Closed sales in March rose 3.7 percent year over year to 199. Housing inventory dropped from 1.7 to 1.3 months. The Real Estate Center considers six to 6.5 months of inventory a balanced market.

Retail:

- A Retail Leakage Analysis is available online at www.killeenedc.com/data

Rankings or Valued Data:

- Because of the large concentration of military employment, Bell County is likely to experience a moderate economic effect, compared to Texas at large, according to M. Ray Perryman, founder and CEO of The Perryman Group, an economic analysis firm based in Waco.
- In 2019 Killeen ranks 21st medium-sized city in Best for Veterans: Places to Live
- In September 2018, Allstate ranked Killeen in the top 100 safest cities for drivers
- In 2017, Killeen ranked 40th Nationally in Top 150 Cities for Millennials
- In 2017, Killeen ranked 4th Most Recession-Recovered Midsize City
- In January 2017, Wallethub.com ranked Killeen 4th Most Recession-Recovered Midsize City
- In January 2017, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked Killeen 10th Nationally in Construction Job Growth
- Killeen's Public Protection Classification, determined by the Insurance Services Office (ISO), is Class 1. Just one-tenth of one percent of communities in the United States has achieved this rating. Only 26 Texas cities have received this classification. The rating lowered fire insurance premiums throughout the city.

