

Greater Fort Hood Economy: January 2019

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 \$35.4 billion on the State of Texas during fiscal 2015-16, according to Texas Comptroller. It is the largest single site employer in the state.
- Current Authorized Military Strength: 35,911
- Current Assigned Strength: \approx 36,187 Soldiers & Airmen
- Family Members: 49,515 (72.4% off-post)
- Civilian Employees \approx 5,493 (+1,440 AAFES and Commissaries)
- Contractors/Others: \approx 7,502 (Others include warrior transition unit & on-post Killeen Independent School District Staff.)
- The Veteran's Inventory Report consistently indicates that approximately 6,000 Soldiers transition out of the Army each year at Fort Hood. Approximately thirty four percent of those transitioning Soldiers indicate they intend to stay in the region upon separation (3rd Qtr 2018 report - 20-29% of retirement-eligible Soldiers and 71-80% of non-retiring Soldiers). This is 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.

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 held a ribbon cutting ceremony on their \$30 million plant. MPCA will manufacture ultra-pure Hydrogen Peroxide for the semiconductor industry, such as Samsung. MPCA plans to be operational in the summer of 2019.
- Z-Modular, a division of Zekelman Industries, the largest independent steel pipe and tube manufacturer in North America, purchased the 230,000sf building at 710 Swanner Loop in the Killeen Industrial Park. The company is expected to create approximately 250 jobs over the next three years. Z Modular is a one-stop shop for modular construction products and services utilizing the 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.

- Solix Inc: Expanded their downtown operations and will 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.
- Construction of the third building on campus is now complete.
- 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 foundation continues to raise funds and develop plans to build and operate a state-of-the-art museum just outside the main gate of Fort Hood. This development will be a tourist destination facility. Anticipated operational date is 2019.

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.

Retail:

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

Rankings:

- In 2019 Killeen ranks 21st medium-sized city in Best for Vets: Places to Live
- In September 2018, Allstate ranked Killeen in the top 100 safest cities for drivers
- 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
- In July 2016, Saveonenergy.com ranked Killeen the 13th Fastest Growing City in Texas.
- In June 2016, Smartasset.com ranked Killeen 7th nationally in Most Affordable Cities for Renters.
- In May 2016, KaBoom! named Killeen Playful City USA for the 8th Year.
- 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.