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By Jennifer S. Evans

Despite base closures in Texas and around the country, the military still has a major economic impact on the communities in which they are located. The bases help keep local employment and housing turnover rates high.


According to the Defense ManPower Data Center, more than 103,000 active military personnel are stationed at military bases throughout Texas. In addition, more than 72,000 civilian employees serve the military.

For these 175,000 employees, the military provides only 13,000 on-base family housing units for soldiers stationed in Texas.

Killeen's Fort Hood, the largest Texas military base, has more than 45,000 military and civilian employees. An example of the economic impact of a military base on a community can be seen in the Temple-Killeen area. Its civilian and military payrolls total \$1.36 billion annually. Fort Hood has a total economic impact of \$3.7 billion on the area.

Although other military bases in the state do not have as many civilian and military personnel, the economic impact still is significant. Sheppard Air Force Base's payroll is about \$250 million annually. The economic impact on the local economy is estimated at \$814 million. Sheppard has 7,700 military and civilian employees.

Overall, military and civilian employees at Texas military bases represent almost 2 percent of Texas non-agricultural employment. In the communities where bases are located, military employment represents a much higher percentage. The 17,700 employees at Fort Bliss represent 6.7 percent of the area's employment. All of San Antonio's military bases combined represent 10.9 percent of the area's employment.

In the last decade, ten military bases were closed or are scheduled to close. The reduction in the number of bases does not mean the military is no longer a major part of the Texas economy. In fact, many bases have seen an increase in military presence as other bases have closed and operations have been consolidated. 

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# MILITARY MIGHT KEEPS STATE ECONOMY STRONG

## Military Bases

## Location

### Air Force

Brooks Air Force Base	San Antonio
Dyess Air Force Base	Abilene
Goodfellow Air Force Base	San Angelo
Kelly Air Force Base*	San Antonio
Lackland Air Force Base	San Antonio
Laughlin Air Force Base	Del Rio
Randolph Air Force Base	San Antonio
Sheppard Air Force Base	Wichita Falls

### Army

Fort Bliss	El Paso
Fort Hood	Killeen
Fort Sam Houston	San Antonio
Red River Army Depot*	Texarkana

### Navy

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi	Corpus Christi
Naval Air Station Fort Worth	Fort Worth
Naval Air Station Ingleside	Ingleside
Naval Air Station Kingsville	Kingsville

\* The Red River Army Depot and Kelly Air Force Base are in the process of privatizing.

Source: Defense ManPower Data Center

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