

Community Profile – City of Junction, Texas

Located in Kimble County, the City of Junction, with a population of 2,618, is a very business friendly place. It offers businesses a low tax environment, with minimal regulatory and other governmental requirements.

The Junction Area

Located on the western edge of the beautiful Texas Hill Country, Junction and the surrounding area are an increasingly popular get-away for residents from large cities. With its easy access, reasonable cost of living, beautiful rural scenery, and abundance of wildlife, Junction has become a place where many individuals take their vacations or maintain second homes. The hunting in the Junction area is excellent, and deer hunters are major contributors to the area's economy. Fishing is also excellent. Bird watching and eco-tourism are becoming increasingly popular.

Junction is located on Interstate Highway 10, and is also served by U.S. Highways 83 and 377. The town is a short distance from the U.S. 290 intersection on 1-10. Junction is 120 miles northwest of San Antonio, 150 miles west of Austin, 260 miles southwest of Dallas, and 450 miles east of El Paso. San Angelo is 90 miles to the northwest. The Kimble County Airport is a frequent stopover for cross-country fliers of small aircraft.

Area Employers

The majority of the area's employees are concentrated in retail, public administration, and precision products. The area labor force is around 2,400. Employers range from wood products and cedar wood oil firms, to metal building manufacturers, to advertising specialty companies. Pedernales Electric Cooperative also maintains an office in Junction to serve its members in Kimble and surrounding counties.

Education

Texas Tech University has a Learning Center in Junction. The diverse 400-acre campus provides a natural landscape for academic learning, recreation, and solitude. The richness of the flora and fauna and the beauty of the physical surroundings create an unusually relaxing atmosphere while also providing the opportunity for intensive academic study. The Center is the site of many ongoing research projects. It also hosts meetings and conferences throughout the year.

Other options for higher education include Angelo State University and Schreiner University in Kerrville, approximately 53 miles to the southeast.

Junction supports one elementary, middle, and high school. The Texas Education Agency (TEA) most recently rated the middle and high schools as “Academically Acceptable”, with the elementary school receiving a “Recognized” rating. Total enrollment among all grades is approximately 739 students, and they are served by a 20,000-volume public library.

Government

An elected mayor and city council administer the City of Junction, which is a “Type A General Law Municipality” under Texas law. The city’s annual budget is approximately \$2 million. A four-member police force and the County Sheriff’s Office serve the community. Junction has a highly trained 30-member Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). The Kimble County Ranch Fire Association also has firefighting personnel and equipment. The city and surrounding area are served by ambulance and rescue services.

The city also has a local economic development corporation that offers financial incentives to bring new private sector jobs to the community. The City also works closely with the Chamber of Commerce to promote business in the area.

Community's Tax Structure

Junction's **2012** tax structure per \$100 property valuation is as follows:

Hickory Water District	\$0.0350
Kimble County Groundwater Conservation District	0.0110
City	0.4587
County	0.3263
Hospital	0.3055
School (Junction ISD)	0.9533
Total	\$2.1393

Retail sales tax is set at the following rates:

State	6.25 percent
City	1.5 percent
County	0.5 percent
Total	8.25 percent

Infrastructure

Junction is served by 1-10, U.S. 83 and 377, and County Road 2169. The Kerrville Bus Company provides transcontinental bus service, with interstate and overnight courier service provided by Federal Express, UPS, and the U.S. Postal Service.

Air service utilizes the Kimble County Airport's 5,000-foot paved and lighted runway. Commercial air service is available from San Antonio International Airport and San Angelo's Mathis Field, which receives flights from American and Continental Airlines.

The Lower Colorado River Authority and AEP/WTU provide wholesale power to the region. The distributor for electric power in Kimble and surrounding counties is the Pedernales Electric Cooperative, the largest such cooperative in the United States. West Texas Gas provides natural gas to the area. Liquid propane gas is distributed by a locally owned business.

Infrastructure (Continued)

Verizon is the primary provider of telephone service, and there are a number of Internet Service Providers serving the area. Numerous cell phone companies operate in the area.

Residents of Junction receive their water from the city's reservoir. The water treatment plant's capacity is two million gallons per day, with average consumption of one million gallons per day. Peak daily water consumption, during the summer, is approximately 1.85 million gallons. The city's water supply and treatment facilities have recently been modernized.

Quality of Life

Junction and environs provide an outstanding quality of life for residents and visitors, with ample opportunities for recreation, including hunting, fishing, hiking, and bird watching. Kimble County has more miles of running water than any other county in Texas. The region's climate is moderate with an annual average temperature of 64.7 degrees and annual average rainfall of approximately 24 inches.

Residents can relax in any of three parks: a 13-acre city park, a 34-acre county park, and the scenic and highly popular 2,630-acre South Llano River State Park. There is a public swimming pool, a nine-hole golf course, and tennis courts, as well as two museums in the area.

Residents and visitors can dine in any of 18 restaurants. Because of its proximity to I-10, there are 10 hotels and motels offering 310 rooms. Fifteen "bed and breakfasts" and cabin lodgings also serve the area. There is one grocery store in the community, as well as a dry cleaner and washaterias.

The Kimble Hospital – a Medicare-designated Critical Access Hospital – serves the needs of residents and visitors alike. The hospital has 15 beds and the latest in medical technology to serve its patients. Star Flight and AirMed of Shannon are available for emergency medical transport. Three family doctors, one internal medicine physician, one pediatrician, one nurse practitioner, three physician assistants, one dentist, and a chiropractor provide care in the area.

Quality of Life (Continued)

Prescriptions may be filled locally. Specialized medical facilities are easily accessible in San Antonio, San Angelo, Fredericksburg and Kerrville. Veterinarian services are locally available.

Banking services are available from Junction National Bank and First State Bank, both locally owned and operated. A branch of the Kerr County Federal Credit Union is also located in Junction.

There are houses of worship representing many denominations. Residents' news needs are met weekly by the local newspaper The Junction Eagle (www.junctioneagle.com) and daily by the San Angelo Standard Times and the San Antonio Express News. Two radio stations, Radio Hill Country KHLB 102.5FM and Hill Country Radio Network KOOK 93.5FM and KMBL 1450AM, offer music and local news. Cable and satellite television services are also available.

Community-Related Websites

County of Kimble: <http://www.co.kimble.tx.us/>

City of Junction: <http://www.cityofjunction.com/>

Junction Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.junctiontexas.net/index.htm>

Junction Texas Economic Development Corporation:
<http://www.junctionedc.org/>

Texas Tech University – Junction:
<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/hillcountry/junction/>

South Llano River State Park:
http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/south_llano_river/