USAA®

SAN ANTONIO

A SNAPSHOT OF MILITARY FINANCES 2019-2023

The Greater San Antonio area is home to approximately 80,000[1] active-duty military, stationed at Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base and Randolph Air Force Base, among others. Using USAA Bank data as a snapshot, we find that, on average, military members in the region have more in savings and are more likely to carry a revolving credit card balance over six months or longer than their servicemember peers nationally.

In the last five years, on average, local military members have seen their savings and checking balances increase. Debt management has also improved, with more members making card payments on-time. Spending on essentials and non-essentials has grown.

HOW DID LOCAL MILITARY COMPARE TO THE AVERAGE SERVICEMEMBER NATIONALLY IN 2023?

Balances for local military were marginally higher than the national average for servicemembers.

6% HIGHER
SAVINGS BALANCES VS THE NATL AVERAGE

9% HIGHER
CHECKING BALANCES VS THE NATL AVERAGE

Credit management metrics were slightly behind the national average for servicemembers.

1% HIGHER
CREDIT CARD BALANCES VS THE NATL AVERAGE

8%
MORE LIKELY TO CARRY A REVOLVING CREDIT BALANCE[2]

How local military credit card spending compared to the national average for servicemembers:

LOCAL CC SPEND ON CONSUMER ESSENTIALS, 2023

Groceries & Pharmacies	Fuel	Utilities
2% BELOW THE NATL AVERAGE	17% BELOW THE NATL AVERAGE	8% BELOW THE NATL AVERAGE

LOCAL CC SPEND ON CONSUMER DISCRETIONARY, 2023

Restaurants	Entertainment	Apparel + Dept. Stories
6% BELOW THE NATL AVERAGE	0.1% BELOW THE NATL AVERAGE	4% BELOW THE NATL AVERAGE

HOW DID FINANCES CHANGE FOR THE AVERAGE LOCAL SERVICEMEMBER BETWEEN 2019 AND 2023?

12% INCREASE
IN SAVINGS BALANCES 2019-2023

17% INCREASE
IN CHECKING BALANCES 2019-2023

16% LOWER
AVERAGE CREDIT CARD BALANCE 2023 VS 2019

17%
LESS LIKELY TO CARRY A REVOLVING BALANCE IN 2023 VS 2019[3]

Debit Card Spend[4]		Credit Card Spend
+12%	Groceries & Pharmacies	+22%
+21%	Fuel	+27%
+26%	Utilities	+11%
+27%	Restaurants	+25%
+13%	Entertainment	+20%
+28%	Apparel/Dept. Stores	+20%

[1]Source: https://installations.militaryonesource.mil/in-depth-overview/joint-base-san-antonio-lackland-randolph-sam-houston
[1]40% of local servicemembers carried a revolving balance for six months or longer in 2023 versus 37% of servicemembers nationally.
[2]40% of local servicemembers carried a revolving balance for six months or longer in 2023 versus 47% of local servicemembers in 2019.
[3]Debit card spend inclusive of USAA Bank checking and savings accounts.

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