



The sweetest place in Texas for business.

# Manufacturing



Conceptual Rendering  
Existing and New Plant Looking East

02/10/2020  
Rendering courtesy of Gray Architects and Engineers, P.S.C.  
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On September 24, 2020 Georgia-Pacific announced today that it is building a state-of-the-art gypsum wallboard production facility near Sweetwater, Texas. The new \$285 million plant will be Georgia-Pacific's second gypsum wallboard facility in Nolan County. The new facility will be located adjacent to Georgia-Pacific's existing gypsum plant, on Highway 1856, off Interstate 20, and will incorporate state-of-the-art production processes. Once it is operational, the new plant will employ approximately 120 full-time employees. Read the full press release at [sweetwatertexas.net](http://sweetwatertexas.net).

The Manufacturing Industry employs over 12% of Nolan County's workforce. The current manufacturing employers and estimated full-time employees they have are as follows:

- Ludlum Measurements, Inc. (350-360 FTE)
- United States Gypsum Corporation (240-250 FTE)
- Buzzi Unicem USA Maryneal (130-135 FTE)
- Georgia-Pacific current plant (80-100 FTE)
- EMA Electromechanics (35-40 FTE)
- Global Fiber Glass Solutions (4-16 FTE)
- IcyBreeze Cooling (4-12 FTE)

Because of Nolan County's presence in the manufacturing industry, three out of eight seats on the [Big Country Manufacturing Alliance](#) board are held by representatives from Nolan County.



# retail academy

In February of 2020, Sweetwater Economic Development applied for a grant through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to participate in the Retail Academy organized by The University of Texas at San Antonio and Retail Strategies. Sweetwater was one of only communities chosen to receive the grant. The Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce and Sweetwater Economic Development will be partnering to represent Sweetwater. The final product of the Retail Academy will be delivered in July of 2021 and will guide us to retail establishments or restaurants that may be interested in locating in Sweetwater. Read more about this program at [sweetwatertexas.net](http://sweetwatertexas.net).



## *Demolition of Dilapidated Structures*

Keep an eye on Broadway over the next few weeks. Four properties will be undergoing asbestos abatement and demolition. One of these properties is the Palomino Motel located at 1500 E. Broadway. Once these four properties are finished, a total of twenty-two properties will have been demolished by the City of Sweetwater, SEED MDD, and property owners. Keep an eye on the beautification efforts carried out by the City of Sweetwater and Sweetwater Economic Development by visiting [www.sweetwatertexas.net](http://www.sweetwatertexas.net).



## *Boundary Expansion for Facade Improvement Grant*

The MDD Board voted to expand the eligible boundaries for the Facade Improvement to include commercial and non-profit buildings located in the 9-block Downtown District and on the main corridors (Broadway, Elm, Hailey, and Lamar Streets). The MDD is willing to reimburse half of the expenses up to \$15,000.00 to those that would like to improve the appearance of their building and help beautify our community. To learn more about the program and qualifications, visit [www.sweetwatertexas.net](http://www.sweetwatertexas.net).



# REGIONAL XLR8

Act today. Empower tomorrow.

Sweetwater Economic Development and The Sweetwater Chamber of Commerce are partnering with IC2 and 48 other Texas communities in an accelerator for economic development program. In the XLR8 program, communities will explore regional collaboration, identify opportunities for growth fitting regional assets, develop a plan to turn "opportunity into reality," and empower a local team to make the future happen today. Sweetwater is in the West Texas group along with 17 other communities including Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, Perryton, Plainview, and Amarillo.

## *Housing*



Three spec homes and two custom builds have been sold in the Southwood Terrace addition on the south side of Sweetwater. The developer plans to start the sixth house (4 bed 2.5 bath / 1,900 SF) within the next 30 days. Two additional spec homes are being constructed on Fairway Drive.

The SEED MDD Board of Directors recently approved an incentive agreement for three patio homes to be constructed within the city limits of Sweetwater.

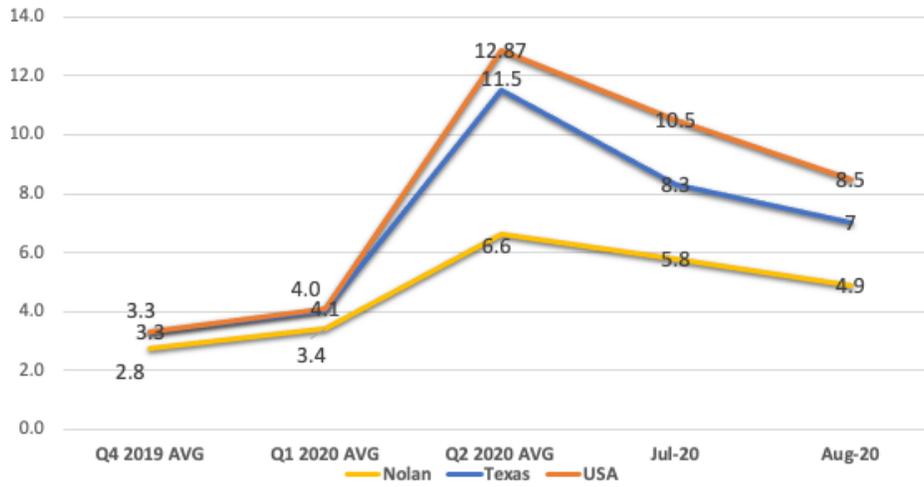
**Year-to-date Data for Nolan County (*Sweetwater, Roscoe, Lake Sweetwater, County Estates, and Oak Creek*):** There were 55 sales (annualized to 82) with a median price of \$128,000 and a median price per square foot of \$72.09. On average, a home was listed on the market for 96 days and the sales to list ratio is 96.6%.

## *The Oaks Apartments*

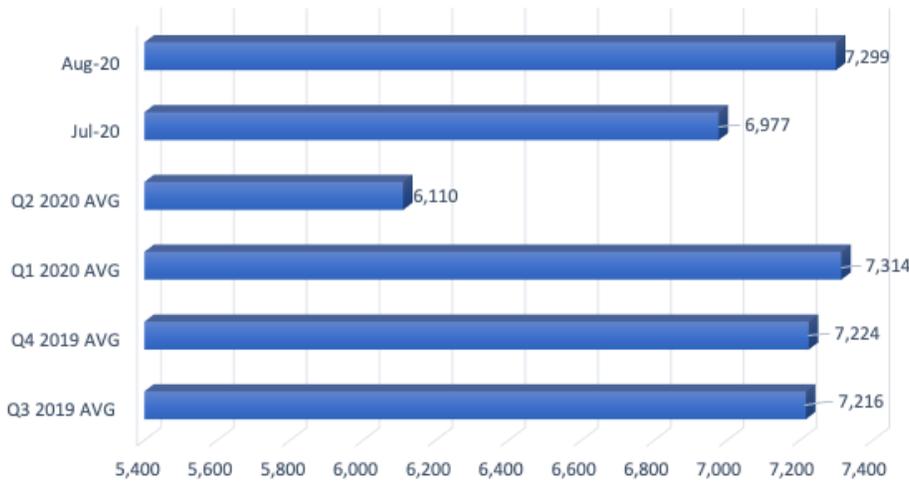


With the help of MDD incentive funds, twenty of the eighty units at The Oaks apartment complex have been completely remodeled. The group repaired the complex's pool, so the residents were able to enjoy it during the summer.

### Unemployment Rate



### Nolan County Labor Force



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Don't mess with the Census count in Texas.

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Having an accurate, complete count in Texas this decennial Census year will ensure we get millions in funding and up to 3 more congressional seats. We only get one shot every 10 years, don't mess this up! Learn more at [texascounts.org](http://texascounts.org) or visit [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) to respond before October 31, 2020.

## PROGRESS



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