

Fort Worth Business Press

Alliance Foreign Trade Zone takes top spot again

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For the third consecutive year, Fort Worth's Alliance Foreign Trade Zone has been identified as the top general purpose foreign trade zone in the United States based on the value of foreign goods admitted.

Alliance Foreign Trade Zone No. 196 topped the rankings in the Annual Report of the Foreign Trade Zone Board to the U.S. Congress with a total of \$5.36 billion in foreign products admitted.

One of the key players at the Fort Worth foreign trade zone is ATC Logistics & Electronics, which grew in 2009 to a nearly 1 million-square-foot lease and employs 2,600 workers at its Alliance facilities.

"ATCLE anticipates that the use of the Alliance Foreign-Trade Zone will allow us to realize significant cost savings for our customers," said Antony Francis, president of ATCLE, in a release. "As we grow and gain a better understanding of how effective it can be, we expect to expand our use of the Foreign Trade Zone in order to provide the best cost structure to our customers. ATCLE appreciates Hillwood's diligence in providing a low-cost operating environment at Alliance and working closely with us to establish our Foreign Trade Zone status."

Other Alliance companies using the foreign trade zone include Hyundai, Trans-Trade, LEGO, and Motorola.

Foreign trade zones are secure areas under the supervision of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. They are considered outside the customs territory of the United States for the purposes of duty payment. Under zone procedures, the usual formal customs entry procedure and payment of duties are not required on the foreign merchandise unless and until it enters U.S. Customs territory for domestic consumption, in which case the importer normally has a choice of paying duties either on the original foreign materials or the finished product. Foreign trade zone sites and activities remain within the jurisdiction of federal, state and local governments and agencies.

In large part due to its role in handling imports, AllianceTexas released a report recently outlining its economic impact of \$36.4 billion on the North Texas economy.

TOP U.S. GENERAL PURPOSE FOREIGN TRADE ZONES

By Value Of Foreign Goods Admitted

(in millions \$)

1. Fort Worth/Alliance (Texas)	\$5,357
2. Newark/Elizabeth (NJ)	\$4,060
3. Harris County (Texas)	\$3,775
4. Port Hueneme (Calif.)	\$3,063
5. El Paso (Texas)	\$1,200
6. Harrison County (MS)	\$1,168
7. Jacksonville (Florida)	\$1,101
8. Long Beach (California)	\$1,067

TOP TEXAS GENERAL PURPOSE FOREIGN TRADE ZONES

By Value Of Foreign Goods Admitted

(in millions \$)

1. Fort Worth/Alliance	\$5,357
2. Harris County	\$3,775
3. El Paso	\$1,200
4. Ellis County	\$995
5. Brownsville	\$987
6. Dallas	\$679
7. McAllen	\$456
8. D/FW Airport	\$379

