

Denver's Unemployment Spread Is 0.6 Points — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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A hidden fault line in the metro's economic cohesion — ALEX Intelligence,
2026

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THE DATA

0.6

Spread in County Unemployment Rate Across the Market, in Points (July 2026)

Denver County's 4.3% unemployment rate is 0.6 points higher than Douglas County's 3.7%.

This gap—between two adjacent counties in the same metro—reveals a structural divergence in labor market health. While Denver County leads in employment participation, Douglas County maintains a more stable, lower-unemployment profile. The 0.6-point spread is the highest within the Denver metro, indicating that economic resilience is not uniform across the region.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, July 2026
(county, seasonally unadjusted) • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-10-denver-within-county-unemployment>



01

The gap is not just data—it's a market signal

This 0.6-point spread isn't just a number; it's a proxy for housing demand divergence. Denver County, with higher unemployment, sees stronger pressure on affordability, driving demand for entry-level and subsidized housing. Meanwhile, Douglas County's lower unemployment supports higher home values and less turnover. This internal imbalance means the Denver market is not a monolith—buyers and sellers must treat it as a mosaic of distinct economic realities.

02

Where growth is concentrated, risk follows

The spread reveals that economic growth is not evenly distributed. Denver County, despite higher unemployment, continues to attract new residents and investment—particularly in service, hospitality, and tech sectors. But this growth is fragile: higher unemployment means lower household savings, tighter credit, and reduced home equity. The market’s resilience depends on whether this growth can stabilize labor conditions in the high-unemployment counties before affordability collapses.

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