

Most Uneven Unemployment Spread in San Antonio MSA — ALEX Intelligence 2026

0.6 Spread in County Unemployment — San Antonio MSA

Highest to lowest unemployment rate across counties, July 2026

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THE DATA

0.6

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

This is the gap between Atascosa County's 5.0% unemployment rate and Wilson County's 4.4%.

The 0.6-point spread across the San Antonio MSA's counties reveals a growing internal economic divergence. While Bexar County holds steady at 4.7%, Atascosa County sits at 5.0%—the highest in the metro—indicating that job market pressures are not evenly distributed. This disparity suggests that regional economic policies may be failing to address localized labor market weaknesses.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, July 2026
(county, seasonally unadjusted) • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-16-sa-msa-within-county-unemployment>



01

The Gap Favors the Core

Atascosa County's 5.0% unemployment rate—highest in the MSA—reflects its reliance on agriculture and small-scale service sectors, which are less resilient to national economic shifts. In contrast, Wilson County's 4.4% rate signals stronger integration into regional supply chains and higher wage sectors. This divergence means that capital, talent, and policy attention are increasingly concentrated in the core counties, leaving peripheral areas like Atascosa at a structural disadvantage.



02

Policy Must Target the Fringe

A 0.6-point gap in unemployment across the San Antonio MSA is not just a statistic—it's a signal of uneven development. The fact that Atascosa County leads the metro in joblessness despite being part of the same economic region suggests that workforce development, infrastructure investment, and business retention programs are not reaching the outer counties effectively. Without targeted fiscal and regulatory interventions, this gap may persist, undermining the MSA's long-term economic cohesion.

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