

Lowest Unemployment Spread in South Carolina — ALEX Intelligence 2026

0.3 Unemployment Spread — #1 in SC

ALEX Intelligence | July 2026: Beaufort vs. Jasper County

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THE DATA

0.3

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

This is the smallest gap between any two counties in South Carolina's coastal market.

Beaufort County's unemployment rate of 3.7% and Jasper County's 4.0% reflect a remarkably tight economic alignment across the Lowcountry's core counties. This minimal divergence suggests synchronized labor market performance, with no single county lagging significantly behind in job recovery or workforce participation.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, July 2026
(county, seasonally unadjusted) • ALEX Intelligence computation
<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-17-hilton-head-within-county-unemployment>



01

Resilience Through Parity

The 0.3-point gap in unemployment rates across Beaufort and Jasper counties signals a rare degree of economic parity within a high-growth coastal region. Unlike markets where one county dominates job creation while another stagnates, Hilton Head's Lowcountry is experiencing broad-based labor market strength. This parity reduces systemic risk and supports stable housing demand across the entire region.



02

Infrastructure as Equalizer

The proposed Lowcountry Rapid Transit (LRT) corridor—though centered in Charleston—is already shaping employment access across Beaufort and Jasper counties. With such synchronized labor outcomes, the LRT’s rollout could further equalize job access, reinforcing the region’s stability. This suggests that future infrastructure investments will not just boost growth—they will deepen existing economic convergence.

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Diane Hart Alexander, MBA, MHA

Chair & CEO, ALEX Companies

Designated Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC dba ALEX.realestate, et.al.

Texas License #574877-B · Broker License #565194-BB

diane@alex.realestate · +1 713.591.9902

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