

#115 of 152 U.S. metros on 12-month unemployment change

Austin MSA Ranks #115 on Job Market Growth

A hidden strength in a stagnant national economy

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THE DATA

0.4%

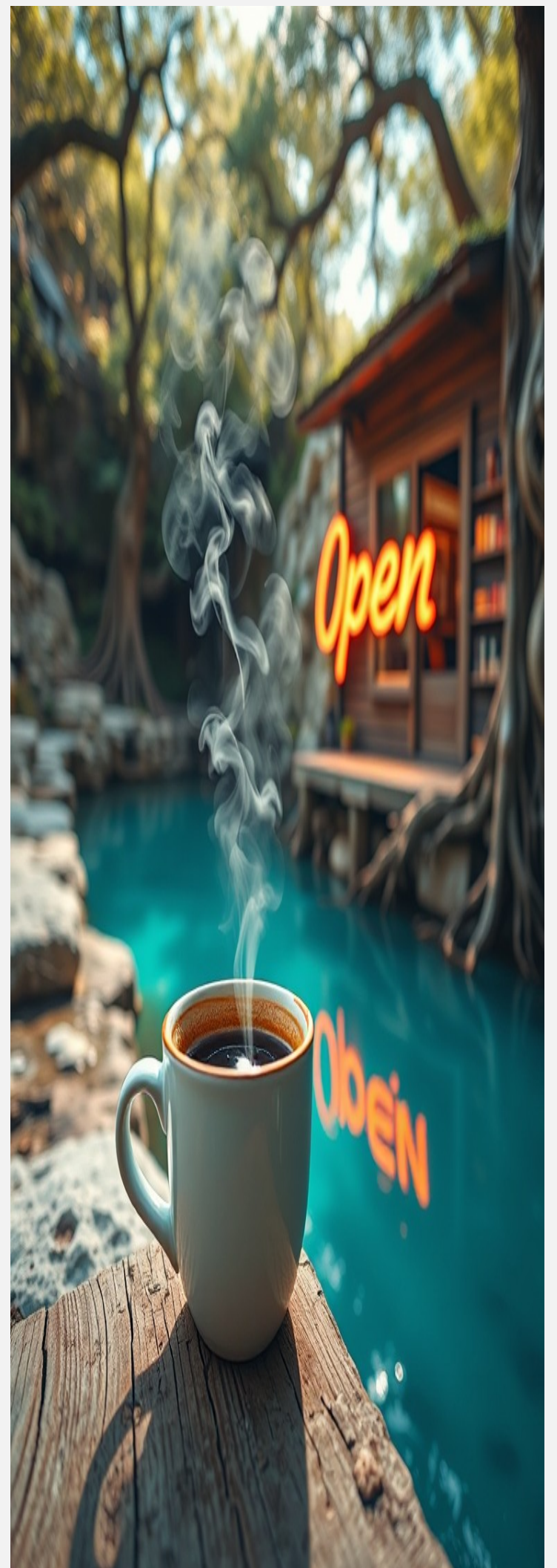
12-month change in the metropolitan unemployment rate (July 2026)

Austin-Round Rock-San Marcos, TX ranks #115 of 152 U.S. metros on 12-month change in the metropolitan unemployment rate.

This modest 0.4% improvement in unemployment rate over the past year places Austin well below the national average of positive job growth. While not leading the nation, it reflects a market where job losses are not accelerating — a quiet stability in an era of widespread economic anxiety. This suggests that the labor market in Austin is not contracting, even as national headlines focus on volatility.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics, July 2026 (seasonally unadjusted, metropolitan) • ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-09-18-austin-msa-lab-bls-unemp-rate-chg-12m-msa>



01

Stability is the new edge

This quiet strength means companies aren't scrambling to hire during boom cycles or laying off en masse during downturns. Instead, they can plan long-term, which supports sustainable real estate demand and commercial activity. The city's appeal isn't just in growth — it's in predictability.



02

The cost of being 'not bad' in a bad year

Without a significant drop in unemployment, Austin may be missing the kind of labor market dynamism that fuels rapid housing demand and business formation. The lack of a 'pull' from strong job growth may be holding back broader economic momentum — even as the city avoids the worst of the downturns.

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