

#148 of 152 U.S. Metros on 12-Month Unemployment Growth

Denver Ranks #148 on Job Growth Momentum

12-month unemployment change shows weakest growth among 152 U.S. metros

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THE DATA

0.8%

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

Denver's 12-month unemployment rate change is the weakest among the 152 largest U.S. metros.

This figure—0.8%—indicates minimal job market expansion in the Denver-Aurora-Centennial MSA over the past year. While other metros saw job growth accelerate, Denver's labor market stagnated, reflecting a divergence from national trends. The stagnation may be masking deeper structural pressures in housing and workforce participation.

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

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-03-denver-lab-bls-unemp-rate-chg-12m-msa>



01

Job Growth Is Not Keeping Pace

The data suggests that Denver's housing market is being sustained by demographic momentum rather than economic momentum—making it vulnerable to a softening in migration or tightening of credit.

02

Affordability Is Undermining Resilience

The city's ability to maintain its status as a high-demand metro depends not just on supply, but on whether the labor market can deliver the income necessary to sustain demand.



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