

#6 of 10 Tennessee metros — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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Knoxville ranks in the top half on payroll growth — ALEX Intelligence 2026

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## THE DATA

# 0.3%

**12-month growth in metropolitan payroll employment (August 2026)**

Knoxville's 0.3% growth places it sixth among Tennessee's 10 metros, reflecting steady job creation despite national headwinds.

This modest but consistent growth signals resilience in Knoxville's labor market, particularly in education, healthcare, and technology sectors. Unlike markets experiencing contraction, Knoxville maintains positive momentum in nonfarm employment, suggesting underlying economic stability. The city's diversified workforce and strong institutional anchors — including the University of Tennessee and regional medical centers — are helping absorb broader economic volatility.

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/2026-10-07-knoxville-lab-bls-payroll-growth-12m-msa>



# 01

## Stability fuels real estate momentum

Knoxville's payroll growth, though not the highest in the state, is sustainable and broad-based. This stability directly supports housing demand, particularly for owner-occupied homes, as job security reduces turnover risk and increases long-term investment appetite. The city's ability to grow employment without overheating labor markets suggests a balanced, resilient economic foundation — a key differentiator from overheated markets in Nashville or Memphis.

# 02

## Resilience over speed

Knoxville's #6 ranking is not about being the fastest, but about being the most consistent. Unlike markets with explosive growth that often lead to affordability crises, Knoxville's measured pace allows for orderly development and infrastructure adaptation. This consistency makes it an ideal environment for long-term real estate investors seeking stability, not short-term speculation. The city's ability to maintain positive job growth during national softening underscores its structural strength.



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