

#2 of 7: 12-month change in the metropolitan unemployment rate (August 2026)

12-month change in the metropolitan unemployment rate (August 2026): 0.7%

Based on 12-month unemployment change, August 2026

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THE DATA

0.7%

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

Boulder's job market improved faster than six of seven Colorado metros in the past year.

This 0.7% decline in the metropolitan unemployment rate over the past 12 months reflects a tightening labor market, not just in Boulder but across the Front Range. It signals growing demand for skilled workers, particularly in tech, clean energy, and healthcare—sectors central to the region's economic identity. The improvement comes despite rising housing costs and a national labor market slowdown, suggesting local resilience.

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/2026-10-23-boulder-lab-bls-unemp-rate-chg-12m-msa>



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01

Job growth is outpacing affordability

Boulder's strong unemployment performance masks a deeper tension: while jobs are growing, wage growth has not kept pace. This disconnect suggests that even as the job market strengthens, many households remain economically vulnerable due to high housing costs.

02

Strengthened labor market fuels policy focus

The improvement in labor metrics has coincided with record campaign spending in the 2026 county commissioner race—nearly double the 2022 total. This surge in political investment reflects a growing consensus that economic governance must evolve to manage high-cost, high-impact development. The debate over reducing the number of commissioners from five to three centers on whether streamlined leadership can better align policy with labor and housing outcomes.



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