

#3 of 7: 12-month growth in metropolitan payroll employment (August 2026)

12-month growth in metropolitan payroll employment (August 2026): 0.2%

New data reveals resilience in a constrained market

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THE DATA

0.2%

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

Denver's growth trails Fort Collins and Colorado Springs but remains positive in a cooling regional economy.

This modest 0.2% growth in metropolitan payroll employment signals that Denver's labor market is holding steady despite broader economic uncertainty. While not the fastest-growing metro in Colorado, the city maintains a stable employment base, which underpins sustained housing demand. This resilience is especially notable given rising construction costs and persistent affordability pressures.

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/2026-10-24-denver-lab-bls-payroll-growth-12m-msa>

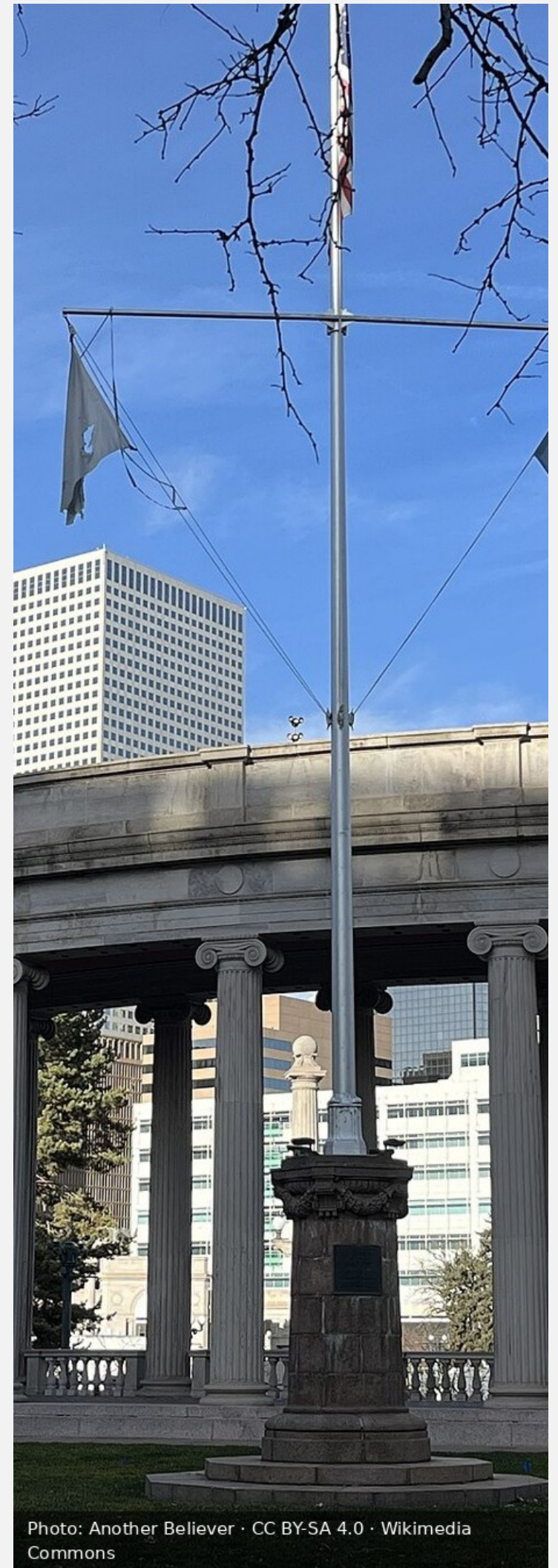
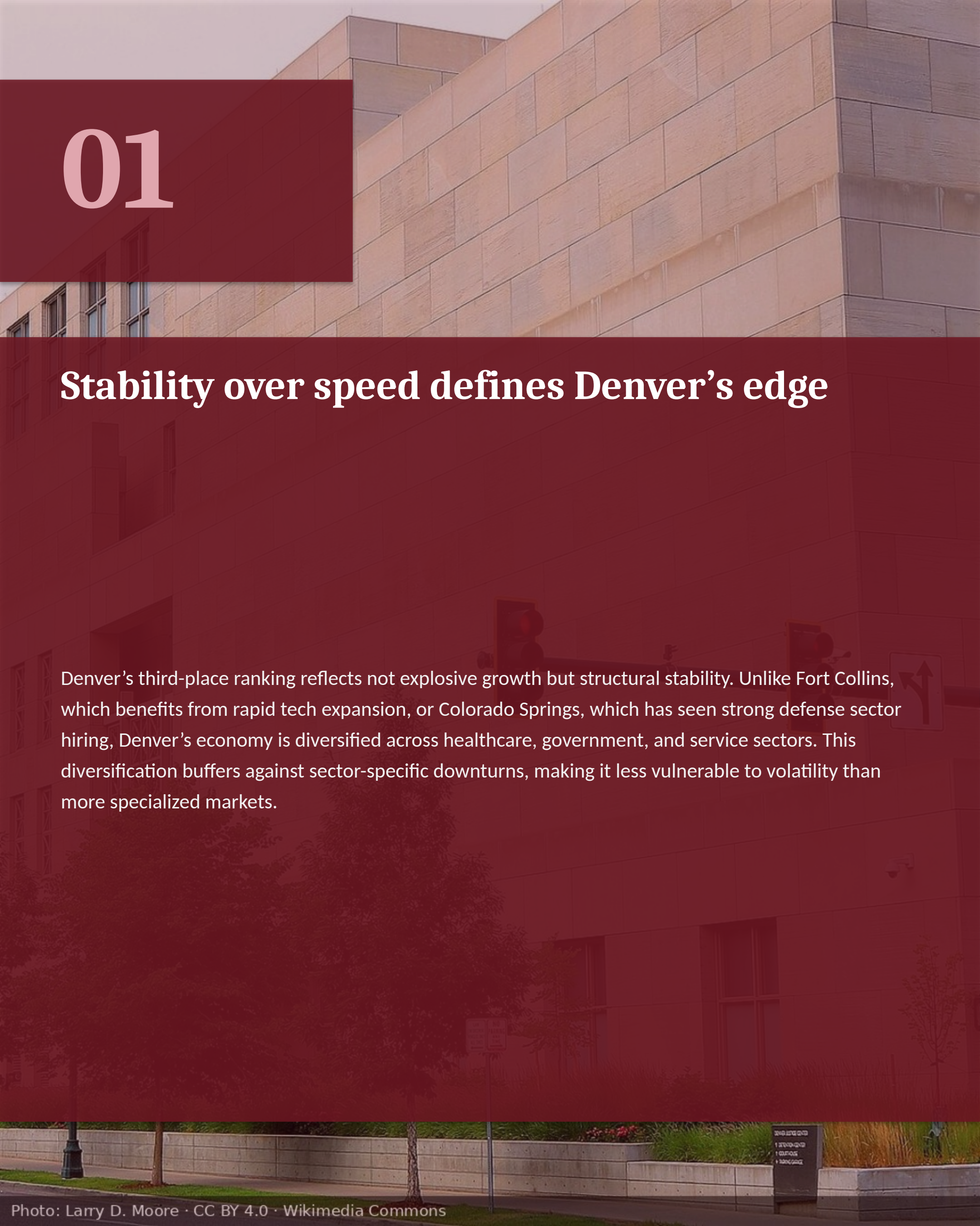


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01

Stability over speed defines Denver's edge

Denver's third-place ranking reflects not explosive growth but structural stability. Unlike Fort Collins, which benefits from rapid tech expansion, or Colorado Springs, which has seen strong defense sector hiring, Denver's economy is diversified across healthcare, government, and service sectors. This diversification buffers against sector-specific downturns, making it less vulnerable to volatility than more specialized markets.

02

Resilience is a competitive advantage

In a region where poverty thresholds are rising faster than income growth, a stable payroll base is not just economic—it's social. Denver's ability to maintain employment gains, even at a slow pace, supports housing demand and helps prevent mass outmigration. This suggests that long-term investors should view stability as a value driver, not a limitation, especially in a market where affordability is under strain.



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