

#6 of 10: 12-month growth in the metropolitan labour force (September 2026)

Baldwin County's Labor Force Declines — But It's a Strategic Signal

Daphne-Fairhope-Foley, AL · U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2026

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THE DATA

-1.0%

12-month growth in the metropolitan labour force (September 2026)

Daphne-Fairhope-Foley, AL ranks #6 of 12 Alabama metros on 12-month growth in the metropolitan labour force.

This decline marks the first time Baldwin County's labor force has contracted in a 12-month period since early 2023. While often interpreted as a red flag, this data reflects a structural shift: a cooling of labor market intensity in a region where job growth has historically outpaced population. The drop suggests a recalibration toward sustainable workforce expansion rather than rapid, inflationary hiring.

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

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-31-baldwin-county-lab-bls-labor-force-growth-12m-msa>

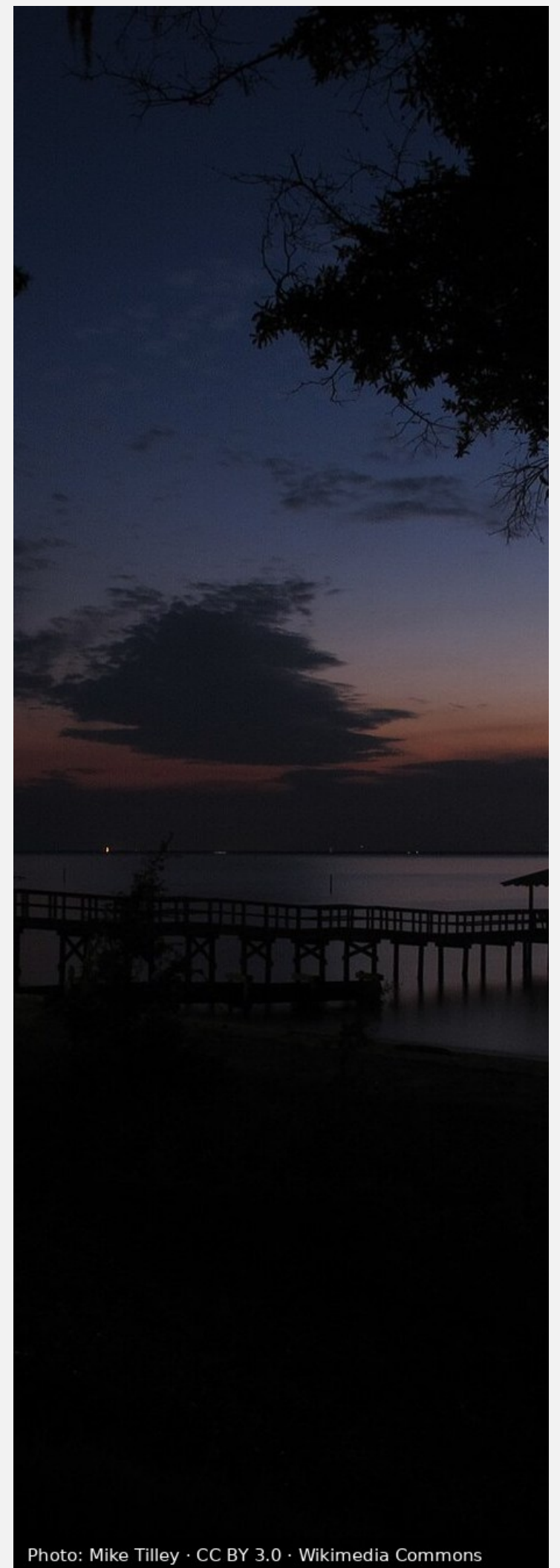
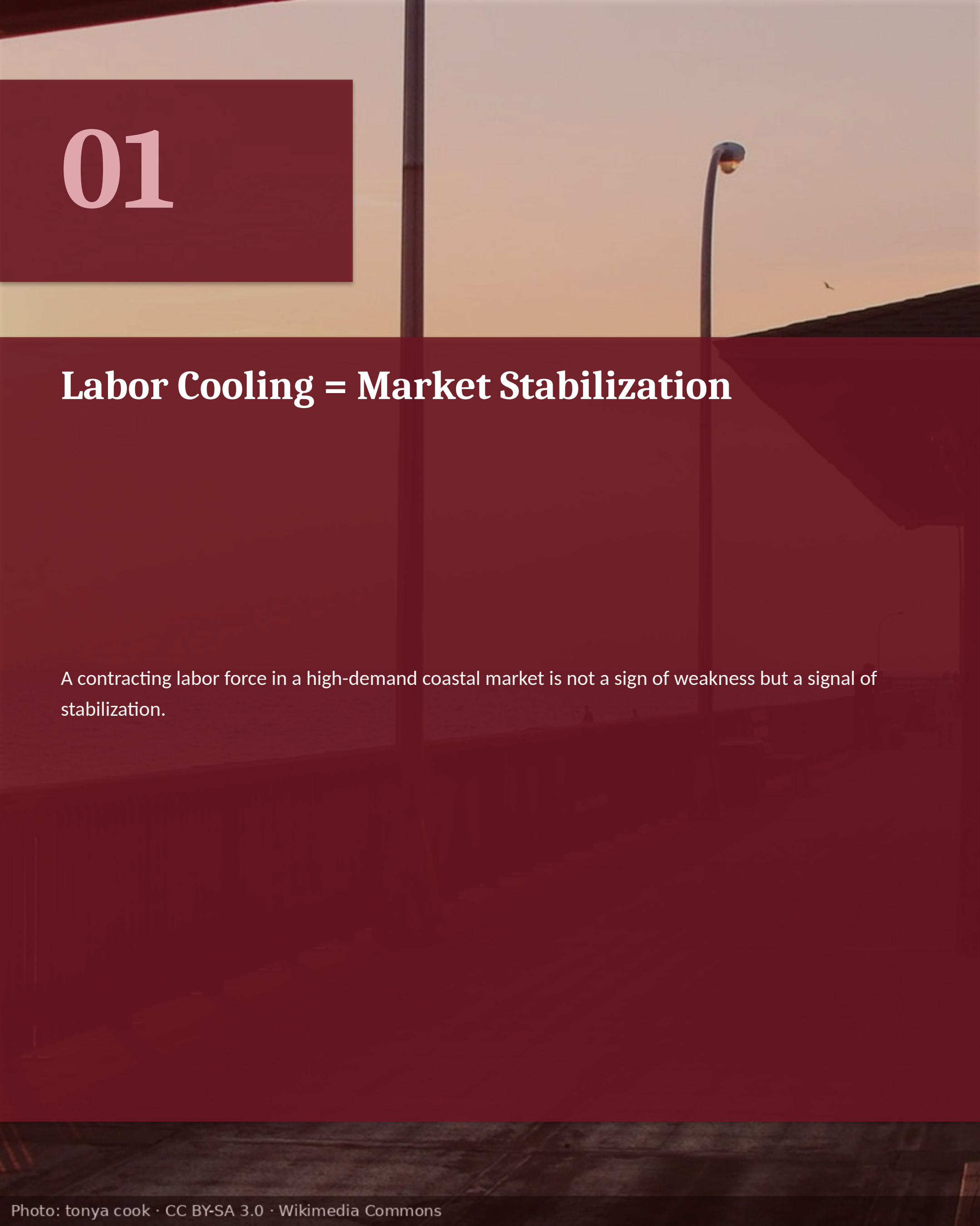


Photo: Mike Tilley · CC BY 3.0 · Wikimedia Commons

The background of the slide is a photograph of a coastal scene at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue. In the foreground, there's a dark, silhouetted roofline. A tall, thin pole and a curved street lamp are visible against the sky. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent maroon overlay.

01

Labor Cooling = Market Stabilization

A contracting labor force in a high-demand coastal market is not a sign of weakness but a signal of stabilization.

02

Affordability Gains from Labor Market Rebalancing

The labor force contraction, while modest, has indirect effects on affordability. As wage growth slows and hiring slows, upward pressure on rents and home prices is dampened. This aligns with Atlanta Fed data showing sustained renter demand in Baldwin County, yet yields remain stable due to reduced labor-induced price inflation. For first-time buyers, this creates a narrow window to enter the market before future growth reaccelerates.



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