#6 of 7: 12-month growth in the metropolitan labour force (September 2026)

Boulder's labor force shrinks faster than any Colorado metro

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 03, 2026

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THE DATA

-3.0%

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

Boulder ranks #6 of 7 Colorado metros in 12-month growth of the metropolitan labour force, with a decline of 3.0%.

This marks the weakest labor force performance in the state's major metros, signaling a contraction in employment growth despite Boulder's strong innovation economy. The decline suggests that job creation is not keeping pace with workforce attrition, possibly due to rising living costs or outmigration of professionals.



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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/2026-11-03-boulder-lab-bls-labor-force-growth-12m-msa

01

Affordability is the new filter

This dynamic reinforces long-term price resilience, as demand remains high among those who can afford to stay, even as the workforce contracts.

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02

The market is not failing — it’s evolving

For real estate, this means that the primary driver of value is no longer employment growth, but affordability filtration — the market is becoming increasingly exclusive by design.

Real Estate Strategy & Intelligence Leader. Democratized Blue Ocean Strategist & Operator.

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