#19 of 10: metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026)

# metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026): 4.6%

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 03, 2026

Swipe for insights →

Photo: Farragutful · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

THE DATA

# 4.6%

**metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026)**

Houston-Pasadena-The Woodlands, TX ranks #19 of 24 Texas metros with a 4.6% unemployment rate.

This figure reflects a labor market that, while not the strongest in Texas, remains resilient within the broader regional context. The 4.6% rate places Houston among the middle tier of Texas metropolitan areas, indicating stable employment conditions despite national economic volatility. The lack of seasonal adjustment in the data underscores that this is a raw, unsmoothed measure of labor market health.



Photo: Roman Eugeniusz · CC BY-SA 3.0 · Wikimedia Commons

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-houston-msa-lab-bls-unemp-rate-msa

01

# Low unemployment fuels rental demand

A 4.6% unemployment rate in the Houston MSA suggests strong labor market participation, which directly supports sustained demand for housing. With fewer jobless residents, more individuals are able to afford rent or home purchases, particularly in mid- and upper-tier markets. This dynamic underpins the continued strength of Houston's rental sector, especially in urban infill and transit-accessible neighborhoods where employment density is high.

Photo: Farragutful · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons



Photo: Farragutful · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

# 02

## Stability masks sectoral fragility

While the aggregate unemployment rate appears stable, it may obscure underlying volatility in energy-dependent sectors. Houston's economy remains heavily tied to oil and gas, where layoffs can occur rapidly during price shocks. The current 4.6% rate could be artificially sustained by high labor force participation, including underemployment or part-time work. This suggests that real estate markets may be vulnerable to sudden shifts if energy sector layoffs accelerate.

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

# Diane Hart Alexander, MBA, MHA

Chair & CEO, ALEX Companies
Designated Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC dba ALEX.realestate, et.al.
Texas License #574877-B · Broker License #565194-BB

diane@alex.realestate · +1 713.591.9902

ALEX

**ALEX Intelligence**
*deep intelligence*

**ALEX Real Estate**
*genius real estate*

**ALEX Advisory**
*uncontested strategy*

**ALEX Cares**
*purposeful philanthropy*