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

Grand County leads the High Country in labor force growth

12-month increase of 0.6% in September 2026

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THE DATA

0.6%

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

Grand County is the only mountain resort county in the Colorado High Country to record positive labor force growth over the past year.

While surrounding counties like Eagle, Summit, and Pitkin experienced labor force contractions—ranging from -2.1% to -4.5% —Grand County posted a modest but significant 0.6% increase. This divergence signals a unique labor market resilience in Grand County, potentially tied to its distinct mix of tourism, remote work, and seasonal employment patterns. The data reflects a real-time shift in workforce dynamics, suggesting that Grand County may be attracting or retaining workers where others are not.



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Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, September 2026 (county, seasonally unadjusted) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-07-high-country-lab-bls-labor-force-growth-12m-county

01

Growth amid contraction

Grand County’s labor force expansion in a region of declining employment challenges the assumption that mountain resort economies are uniformly vulnerable to seasonal volatility. This growth suggests that Grand County may be developing a more stable, diversified workforce—possibly due to remote work adoption, infrastructure investment, or targeted recruitment in high-demand sectors like hospitality, outdoor recreation, and digital services. The resilience is not just about tourism volume but about workforce retention and local economic integration.

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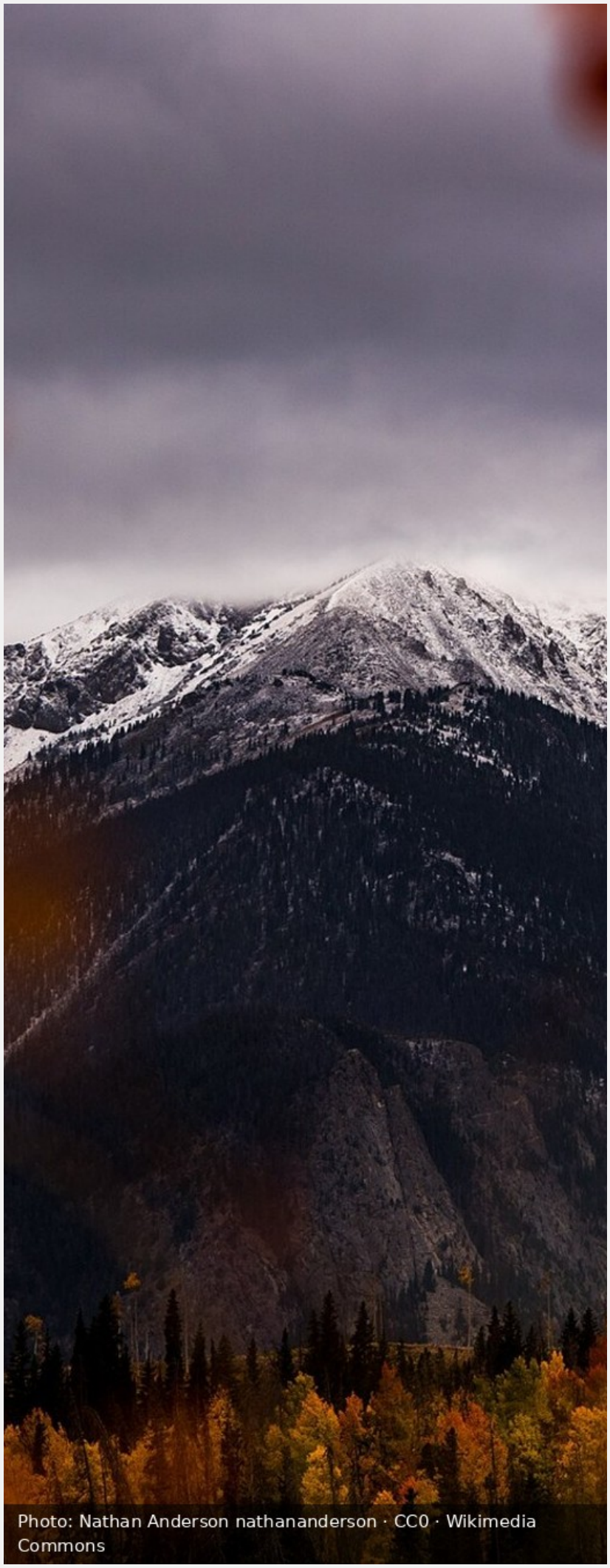


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02

The cost of being left behind

The sharp labor force declines in Eagle, Summit, and Pitkin counties highlight a growing structural challenge: even as property values and tourism revenues remain high, these communities face a shrinking local workforce. This could accelerate labor shortages, drive up wages in essential services, and reduce the availability of local housing for workers—undermining long-term affordability and sustainability. Grand County's positive trend may not be sustainable unless it addresses rising costs and infrastructure strain, but it currently stands as a rare counterpoint to the broader regional trend.

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