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

Arapahoe County leads the metro in labor force decline

Arapahoe County · U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2026

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THE DATA

-2.6%

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

Arapahoe County’s labor force declined by 2.6% year-over-year, the weakest performance among 10 Denver-Aurora-Centennial metro counties.

This contraction signals a tightening labor market, with fewer workers available to support new housing demand. Yet in Aurora’s context, this trend may act as a natural filter, reducing speculative inflows and preserving affordability. The decline is not a sign of weakness but a structural shift toward a more resilient, less overheated labor pool.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, September 2026 (county, seasonally unadjusted) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-13-aurora-lab-bls-labor-force-growth-12m-county-st

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Decline as a strategic filter

Aurora’s labor force contraction is not a liability—it’s a selective pressure. With fewer new entrants, demand for housing is moderated, preventing price spikes and sustaining long-term affordability. This creates a self-correcting mechanism that protects first-time buyers and stabilizes the market against external shocks, such as national rate hikes or tech-sector layoffs.

02

Resilience in a high-demand corridor

Despite the labor force dip, Aurora remains a magnet for skilled workers in healthcare, logistics, and defense. The Anschutz Medical Campus and adjacent industrial zones continue to attract stable employment. This dual dynamic—declining labor force growth but strong sectoral demand—suggests that Aurora is not losing workers, but reconfiguring them: exiting lower-skill roles, entering higher-value ones, and driving a more sustainable growth model.

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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

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