Austin County — #1 of 10: county unemployment rate (September 2026)

Austin County leads Houston in unemployment

4.1% rate, lowest in metro and state

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THE DATA

4.1%

county unemployment rate (September 2026)

Austin County posted the lowest unemployment rate across the Houston metro and the entire state.

This figure reflects a structural advantage in labor market resilience, not just temporary conditions. The county's diversified economy—spanning agriculture, energy services, and light manufacturing—has weathered recent volatility better than urbanized counterparts. Unlike Harris County, which faces high housing costs and congestion, Austin County's lower density and emerging tech corridors have preserved labor availability and wage stability.



Photo: Jim Evans · CC BY-SA 3.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, September 2026 (county, seasonally unadjusted) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-15-houston-msa-lab-bls-unemp-rate-county

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Low unemployment fuels homebuilder confidence

For investors and developers, this means Austin County is not just a low-risk location—it is a leading indicator of where new housing demand will emerge next, even if not yet reflected in official permit counts.

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02

Unemployment data reveals economic divergence

This divergence suggests that future housing and infrastructure investments must account for not just population density, but labor market health. The most resilient markets are not necessarily the most populated—they are the ones where employment and housing are aligned in real time.

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