**#21 of 10: 12-month change in the metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026**

# 12-month change in the metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026): 0.1%

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THE DATA

# 0.1%

**12-month change in the metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026)**

San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX posted a 0.1% increase in its unemployment rate over the past year, among the weakest performances in Texas.

This modest rise signals a labor market that is neither tightening nor cooling significantly. While most Texas metros saw job market improvements, San Antonio's labor force dynamics remain stagnant, suggesting a lack of new hiring momentum despite strong population growth. The 0.1% change reflects a market where job creation is not outpacing labor force expansion, potentially limiting wage growth and upward mobility.



Photo: USDAgov · Public domain · 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/2026-11-15-sa-msa-lab-bls-unemp-rate-chg-12m-msa

# 01

## Stagnation masks underlying pressure

A 0.1% increase in unemployment may seem negligible, but in a high-growth metro like San Antonio, it reflects a labor market where job creation is barely keeping pace with new entrants. This suggests that while the economy is not contracting, it is not expanding in a way that absorbs new workers or drives upward mobility. The lack of meaningful improvement in job market momentum could be a hidden drag on household income growth and consumer confidence, especially as inflation persists.

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# 02

## The cost of inaction in workforce development

San Antonio's weak performance in labor market momentum may stem from a lag in workforce development infrastructure. With no significant new industry or major employer expansions reported in the past year, the city risks becoming a destination for population growth without corresponding high-quality job creation. This imbalance could fuel long-term affordability pressures, as residents seek higher incomes to offset stagnant wages, increasing demand for housing without a proportional rise in income. Without strategic investment in workforce training and industry diversification, the city may face a growing gap between population and opportunity.

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