#1 of 7: 12-month change in the county unemployment rate (September 2026)

Bibb County Leads Alabama in Job Market Recovery

Where unemployment fell most — source: ALEX Intelligence, November 17, 2026

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THE DATA

0.6%

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

Bibb County recorded the sharpest drop in unemployment across the Birmingham metro in the past year.

This 0.6% decline in Bibb County's unemployment rate marks the strongest improvement among the region's eight core counties. While still modest in absolute terms, the rate of improvement signals a targeted rebound in local labor market dynamics. The data reflects a narrowing gap between Bibb and larger employment hubs like Jefferson and Shelby, which also saw 0.6% declines but from higher starting points.



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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/2026-11-17-birmingham-lab-bls-unemp-rate-chg-12m-county

01

Recovery is not uniform — it's selective

This dynamic reveals a deeper structural shift — places with higher baseline unemployment are now catching up, not expanding. The labor market is stabilizing, but not yet growing faster in the most vulnerable areas. The real story isn’t growth; it’s convergence.

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02

The next phase: where does it stop?

This shift from falling unemployment to rising job creation is critical. If the pace of hiring slows, even a stable unemployment rate could signal stagnation. The real test for Birmingham's job market is not whether unemployment keeps falling, but whether it stays low while new jobs are created.

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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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