Lexington County — #1 of 6: county unemployment rate (September 2026)

Lexington County leads SC in labor market resilience

3.2% unemployment rate, September 2026

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THE DATA

3.2%

county unemployment rate (September 2026)

Lexington County posted the lowest unemployment rate among all South Carolina counties in September 2026.

This reflects a labor market that is not only tight but also stable, with minimal churn and strong job retention. The data suggest that local employers are maintaining staffing levels despite broader economic pressures. This stability supports sustained consumer spending and housing demand in the region.



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-columbia-sc-lab-bls-unemp-rate-county

01

Resilience drives home demand

A low unemployment rate is not just a headline number—it translates into sustained home affordability and rising buyer confidence. With fewer job losses and higher income stability, residents are more likely to pursue homeownership, especially in neighborhoods with strong job access. This creates a self-reinforcing cycle where stable employment fuels housing demand, which in turn attracts more businesses and jobs.

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02

The Midlands' competitive edge

Lexington County’s performance suggests a structural advantage over other SC counties. Its mix of mid-sized employers, strong educational institutions, and proximity to state capital infrastructure may be creating a uniquely resilient employment ecosystem. Unlike regions dependent on single industries, the Midlands appears to be diversifying its labor base, making it less vulnerable to sector-specific downturns. This positions Columbia as a long-term real estate growth hub.

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