#1 of 6: Spread in County Unemployment Rate Across the Market, in Points (Septem

Routt County leads High Country in unemployment

By 0.6 percentage points, per ALEX Intelligence, 2026

Swipe for insights →

Photo: Nathan Anderson nathananderson · CC0 · Wikimedia Commons

THE DATA

0.6

Spread in County Unemployment Rate Across the Market, in Points (September 2026)

The gap between Routt and San Miguel counties reflects deep disparities in labor market resilience across the Colorado High Country.

This 0.6-point spread—between Routt County's 3.9% and San Miguel County's 3.3%—reveals a market where economic stability is not evenly distributed. While both counties remain below the national average, the variance suggests differing exposure to seasonal labor volatility, infrastructure investment, and workforce housing pressures.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, September 2026 (county, seasonally unadjusted) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-18-high-country-within-county-unemployment



Photo: Jeff Gunn from Atlanta, USA · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

01

Labor fragility in resort economies

The data suggests that economic resilience in the High Country is less about job quantity and more about job stability and affordability—two factors that are currently misaligned.

Photo: Xnatedawgx · CC BY-SA 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

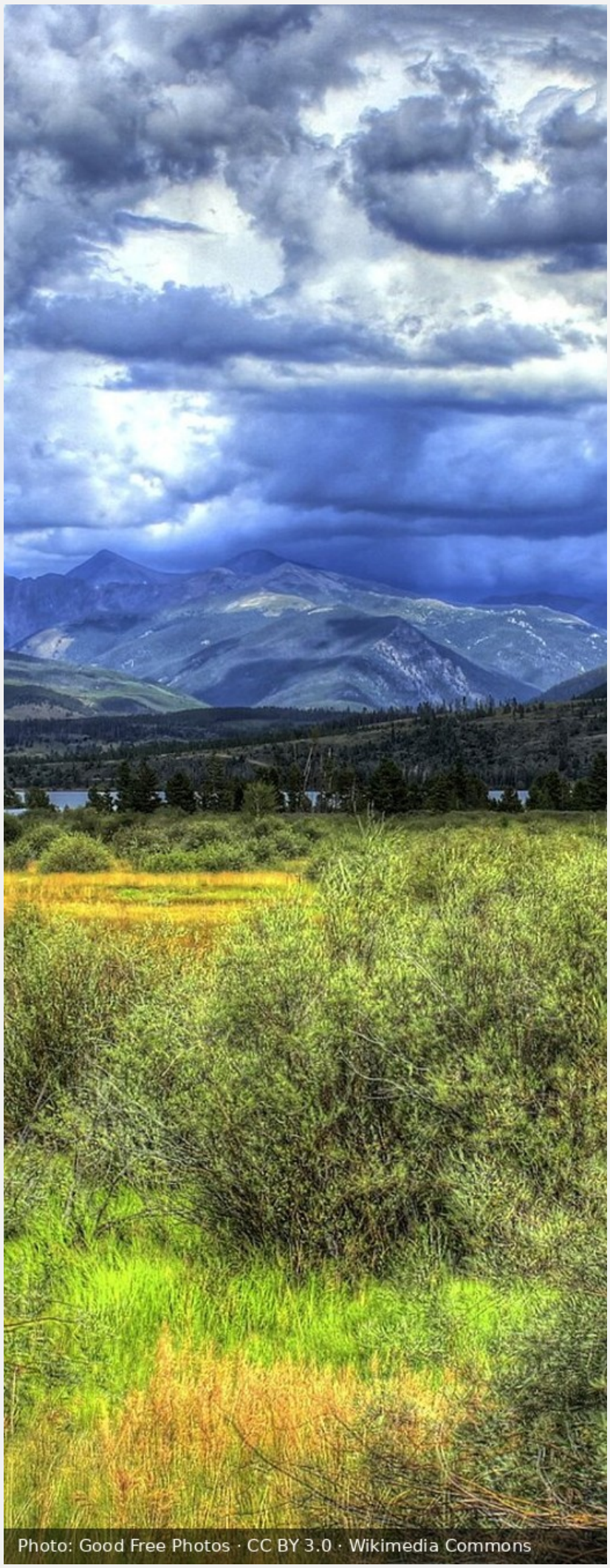


Photo: Good Free Photos · CC BY 3.0 · Wikimedia Commons

02

The hidden cost of tourism concentration

This divergence reveals a critical truth: not all mountain economies are equally resilient. The most sustainable models are those that reduce dependency on single-sector employment, even within a tourism-rich environment.

Real Estate Strategy & Intelligence Leader. Democratized Blue Ocean Strategist & Operator.

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

ALEX

ALEX Intelligence
deep intelligence

ALEX Real Estate
genius real estate

ALEX Advisory
uncontested strategy

ALEX Cares
purposeful philanthropy