#1 of 10: Spread in County Unemployment Rate Across the Market, in Points (Septe

1.2-point gap in Hill Country unemployment

Real County vs. Gillespie County, September 2026

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THE DATA

1.2

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

This is the difference between the highest and lowest unemployment rates among Texas Hill Country counties in a single month.

The 1.2-point spread between Real County (4.6%) and Gillespie County (3.4%) underscores a stark divergence in local labor market resilience. While Real County faces elevated joblessness, Gillespie County maintains one of the lowest rates in the region. This disparity is not a seasonal blip but a structural signal of uneven economic adaptation across the Hill Country's diverse counties.

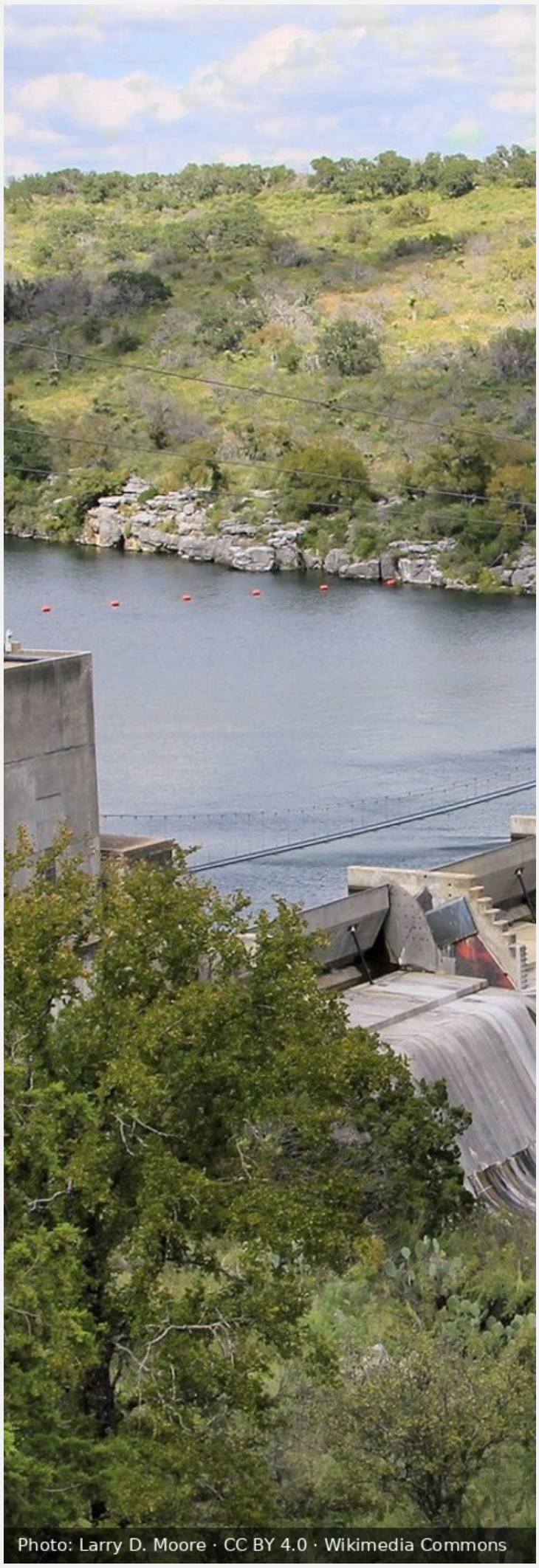


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Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, September 2026 (county, seasonally unadjusted) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-18-hill-country-tx-within-county-unemployment

01

Resilience is not uniform

The Hill Country’s economic narrative cannot be told with a single metric. Counties like Real and Kimble, both at 4.4%, face significantly higher unemployment than Gillespie, suggesting that regional economic policy must be hyper-localized. What works in one county may fail in another, especially where tourism, agriculture, and remote work intersect differently across the landscape.

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02

The real risk is in the middle

Counties with moderate unemployment—like Bandera, Blanco, and Burnet—are not immune to volatility. Their rates (3.9%–3.4%) appear stable, but they sit in a narrow band where small shifts could push them into higher joblessness. This 'middle ground' is where economic fragility hides: not in the extremes, but in the apparent stability of places that may be one downturn away from decline.

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