Provo-Orem-Lehi, UT — #5 of 5: metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026)



Provo-Orem-Lehi Has Highest Unemployment in Utah

Provo-Orem-Lehi, UT · U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2026

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THE DATA

3.3%

metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026)

Provo-Orem-Lehi, UT ranks #5 of 5 Utah metros on this metric.

This figure places the Provo-Orem-Lehi metro as the least resilient in Utah in terms of labor market stability. A 3.3% unemployment rate—just above the national average—suggests tight labor conditions, particularly for entry-level and service-sector roles. Yet it remains below the threshold of crisis, indicating sustained demand for labor despite elevated rates.



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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/2026-11-22-provo-orem-lehi-lab-bls-unemp-rate-msa

01

High Unemployment, Low Volatility

The fact that Provo-Orem-Lehi ranks last in unemployment among Utah's metros does not signal economic weakness—it reflects a labor market in transition. With strong tech and education sector growth, higher-than-average job churn is expected. This churn is not a sign of distress, but of a dynamic economy where workers are shifting between high-growth roles, particularly in biotech and software development. The market's housing resilience is therefore not undermined by unemployment, but shaped by it.

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02

Labor Market Fluidity Fuels Demand

A 3.3% unemployment rate in a high-velocity job market means more people are moving in, out, and between jobs. This mobility drives demand for housing, especially rental units and starter homes, as new residents settle and workers relocate. The lack of a major construction downturn suggests that even with elevated unemployment, housing demand remains structurally supported. This fluidity is a hidden strength, not a weakness, and it underpins Provo-Orem-Lehi's position as a top-tier real estate market in Utah.

George Arnold Alexander III, MPA

Partner, ALEX Companies
Associate Broker, Alexander Tiffany Southwest, LLC
Licensed Broker in TX, CO, NC, AL

george@alex-companies.com · +1 713.918.9951

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