#1 of 3: Spread in County Unemployment Rate Across the Market, in Points (Septem

Denver’s Unemployment Spread: 0.4 Points

A record divergence across counties, per ALEX Intelligence data

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THE DATA

0.4

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

This is the largest gap between the highest and lowest unemployment rates among Denver’s core counties in a single month.

The 0.4-point spread between Denver County (4.4%) and Douglas County (4.0%) reflects a growing economic fragmentation within the metro. While Douglas remains near the state’s lowest unemployment, Denver County’s rate signals deeper labor market stress, particularly in its urban core. This divergence is not a statistical blip—it is a structural signal of uneven recovery and access to opportunity.



Photo: Colorado Senate GOP · CC BY 2.0 · Wikimedia Commons

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, September 2026 (county, seasonally unadjusted) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-23-denver-within-county-unemployment

01

The City is the Laggard, Not the Leader

Despite being the regional economic hub, Denver County now has the highest unemployment rate among the five core counties in the metro. This challenges the assumption that central cities are always the most resilient. The data suggests that while Denver’s downtown and innovation corridors attract investment, the urban core faces persistent challenges in workforce integration, especially for lower-income residents and service-sector workers. The gap is not just about jobs—it’s about access to stable employment across neighborhoods.

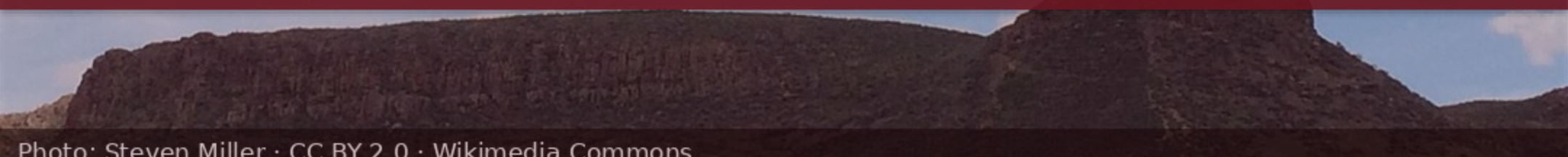


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02

Douglas Leads, But the Gap Is the Real Story

Douglas County's 4.0% unemployment rate is not merely a benchmark—it is a sign of deep economic insulation. With higher median incomes and a concentration of high-wage industries, it functions as a labor market island. The 0.4-point spread underscores that Denver's prosperity is not evenly distributed. This divergence may fuel future policy challenges around housing affordability, public transit equity, and workforce development, especially as remote work and talent mobility amplify geographic inequality.

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