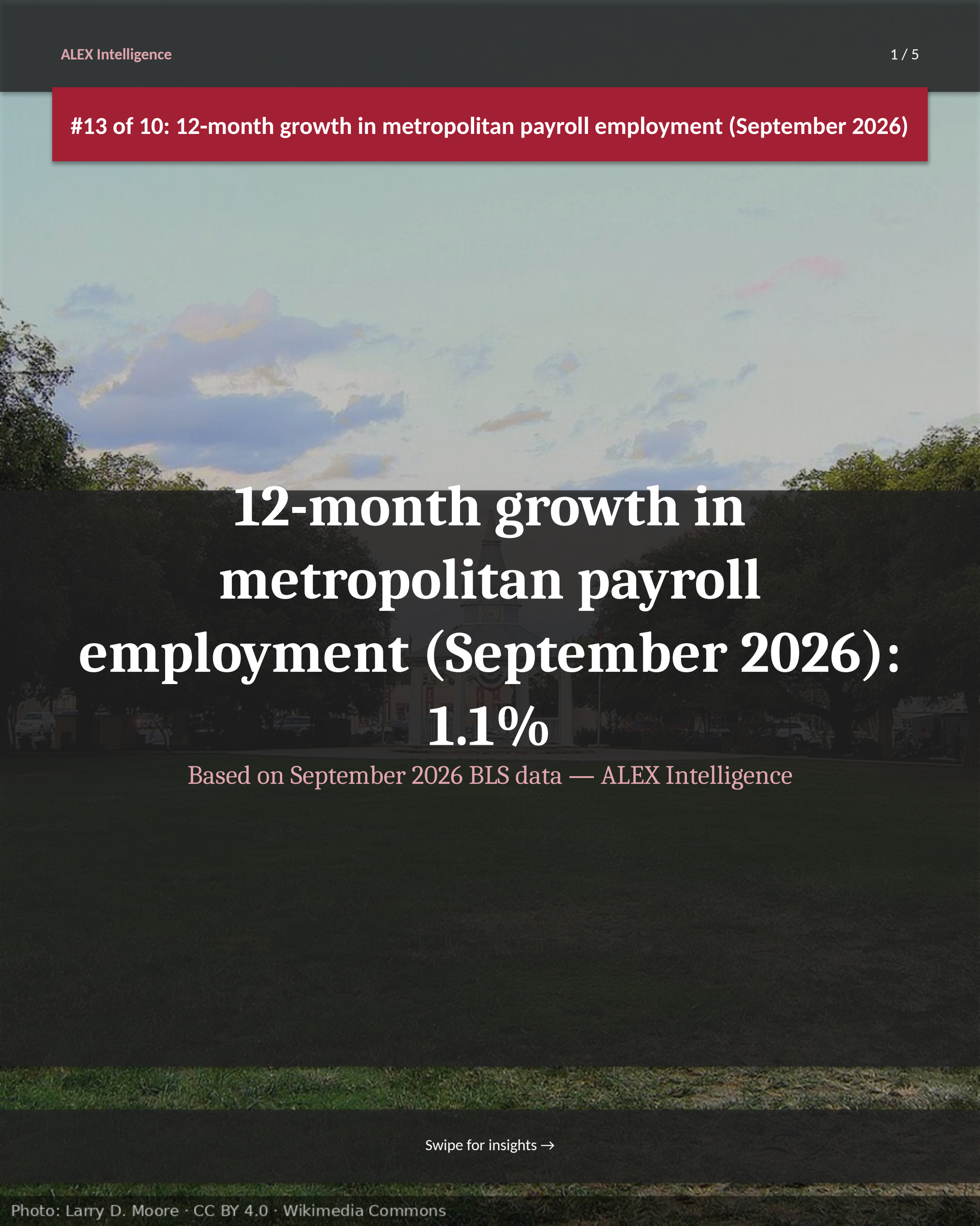
#13 of 10: 12-month growth in metropolitan payroll employment (September 2026)



12-month growth in metropolitan payroll employment (September 2026): 1.1%

Based on September 2026 BLS data — ALEX Intelligence

Swipe for insights →

Photo: Larry D. Moore · CC BY 4.0 · Wikimedia Commons

THE DATA

1.1%

12-month growth in metropolitan payroll employment (September 2026)

San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX recorded 1.1% growth in metropolitan payroll employment over the past 12 months, placing it 13th among 24 Texas metros.

This modest growth rate reflects a market where employment expansion is occurring but not at the pace of top-performing Texas metros like Midland or Beaumont-Port Arthur. Yet, it remains a positive signal in a region with rising mortgage rates and constrained housing inventory. The figure underscores that job creation in the San Antonio MSA is steady, not explosive — a sign of sustainable, not overheated, momentum.



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

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/2026-11-24-sa-msa-lab-bls-payroll-growth-12m-msa

01

Resilience, not momentum

San Antonio’s 1.1% payroll growth may not look impressive on a national scale, but it is a critical indicator of market stability. In a state where top-tier growth is concentrated in energy hubs, San Antonio’s performance suggests a diversified economy that is not reliant on a single sector. This stability supports home prices, even amid high mortgage rates, as job security underpins buyer confidence. The city is not chasing growth at all costs — it is maintaining it through resilience.



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02

The hidden cost of being 'just okay'

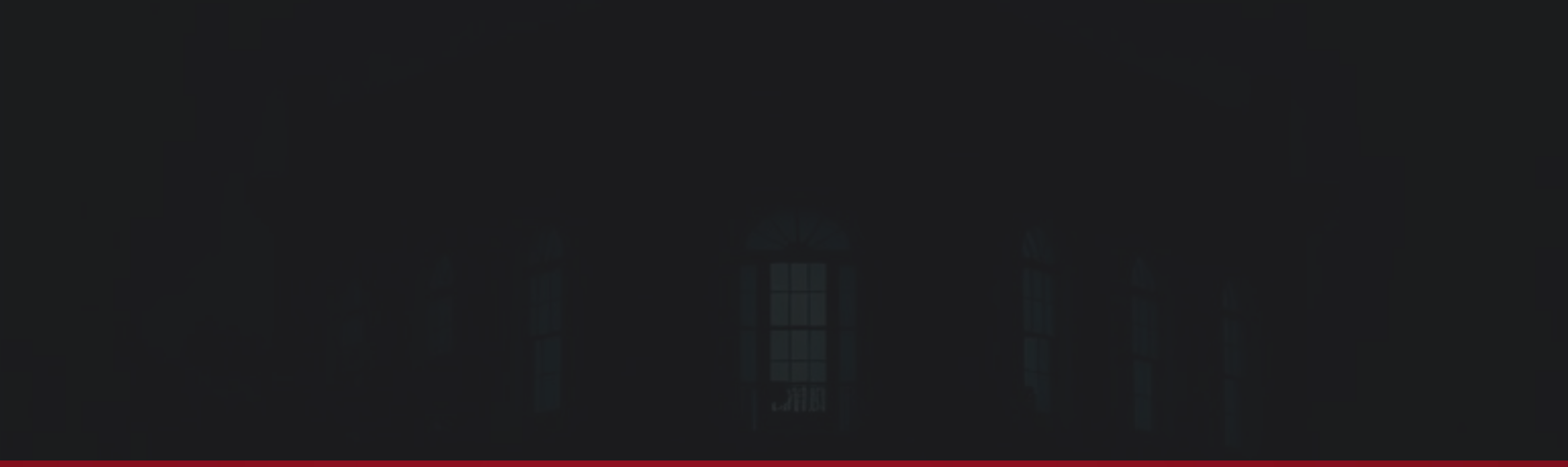
A ranking of #13 in Texas may seem unremarkable, but it reflects a deeper structural tension: the San Antonio MSA is not attracting new high-growth industries at the rate of Austin or Dallas. This lag may be due to a lack of venture capital density, limited access to global talent pipelines, or slower infrastructure scaling. As a result, the city's economic engine is stable but not accelerating. The real risk is not stagnation — it's becoming a regional backwater in a state where innovation clusters dominate.

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