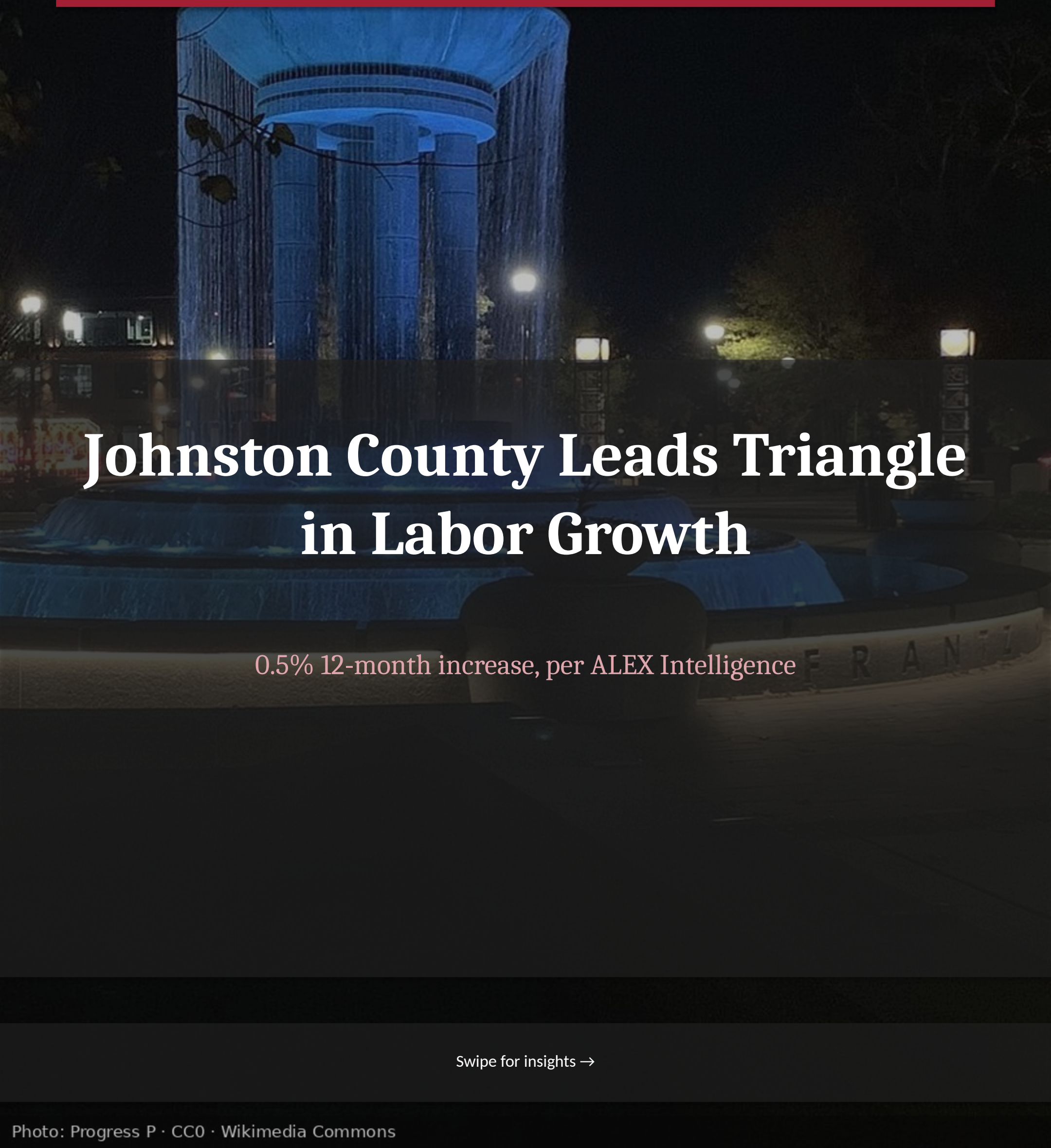
#1 of 8: 12-month growth in the county labour force (September 2026)



Johnston County Leads Triangle in Labor Growth

0.5% 12-month increase, per ALEX Intelligence

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THE DATA

0.5%

12-month growth in the county labour force (September 2026)

Johnston County recorded the highest 12-month labor force growth in the Triangle, matching Franklin and Wake counties.

This 0.5% growth marks a rare moment of synchronized expansion across multiple Triangle counties, signaling a robust regional labor market. The data, drawn from unadjusted BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics, reflects sustained hiring momentum in manufacturing, healthcare, and tech sectors. While not seasonally adjusted, the consistency across Wake, Franklin, and Johnston suggests broad-based demand for workers.



Photo: James Willamor · CC BY-SA 3.0 · 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/2026-11-25-triangle-lab-bls-labor-force-growth-12m-county

01

Labor Growth Drives Demand for New Housing

The surge in labor force participation in Johnston County is not just a headline—it's a leading indicator of rising housing demand. As new jobs in advanced manufacturing and logistics fill, so do rental and ownership markets. This is especially true in areas with underdeveloped housing stock and limited supply, where job growth can outpace construction. The Triangle’s housing market is no longer just reacting to job growth—it’s being shaped by it.

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02

The Hidden Inequality in Growth

While Johnston County leads in labor force growth, the same data shows Durham and Orange counties in decline. This divergence reveals a growing tension: growth is not distributed equally. As the most competitive counties attract talent, others face labor shortages and declining economic momentum. This imbalance may accelerate housing segregation, with high-demand areas seeing price escalation while less competitive counties struggle with vacancy and underinvestment.

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