Wilmington, NC — #6 of 10: metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026)

metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026): 3.1%

Based on BLS data, September 2026

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THE DATA

3.1%

metropolitan unemployment rate (September 2026)

Wilmington's unemployment rate remains among the lowest in North Carolina.

At 3.1%, Wilmington's metropolitan unemployment rate is the sixth lowest of 15 North Carolina metros. This reflects a resilient labor market with sustained job growth in healthcare, logistics, and coastal tourism. The low rate signals strong demand for labor, which supports housing demand and underpins real estate stability in the Cape Fear region.

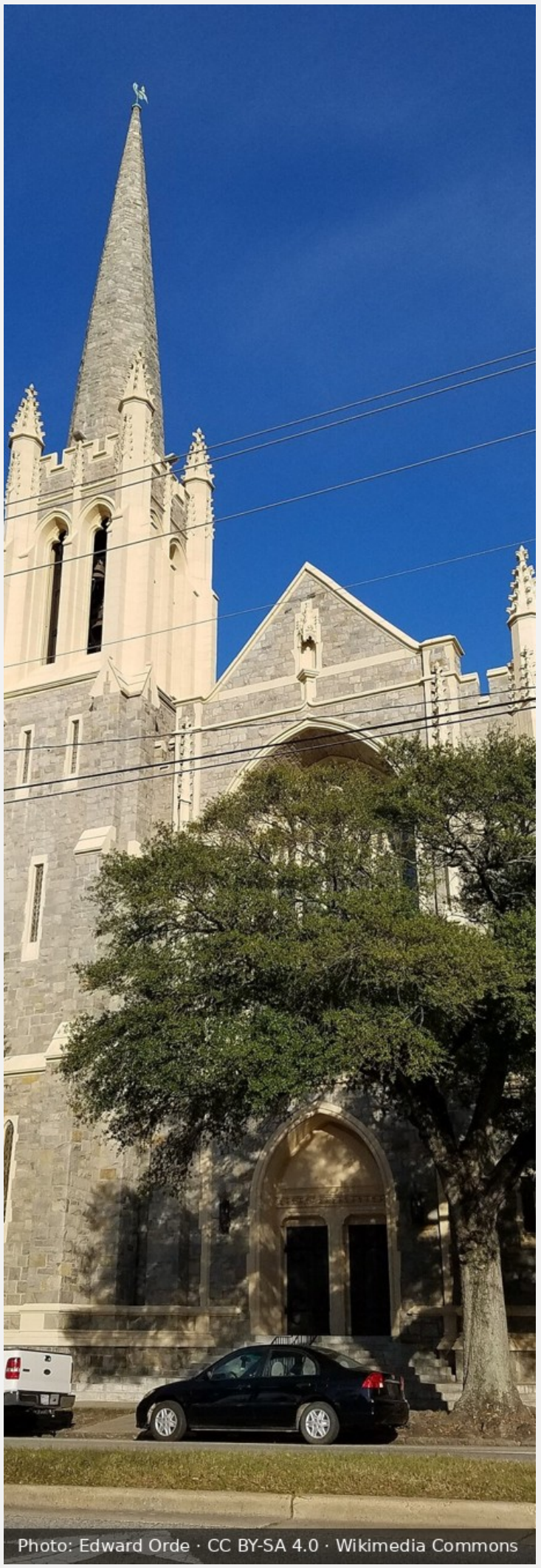


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Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and Current Employment Statistics, September 2026 (seasonally unadjusted, metropolitan) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-25-wilmington-lab-bls-unemp-rate-msa

01

Low unemployment drives housing resilience

Wilmington’s 3.1% unemployment rate is a key pillar of real estate strength. With jobs in demand, local residents and new migrants have the income to sustain homeownership and rental demand. This is especially evident in mid-tier and entry-level housing, where affordability and job access are increasingly intertwined. The market is not just stable — it’s self-reinforcing.



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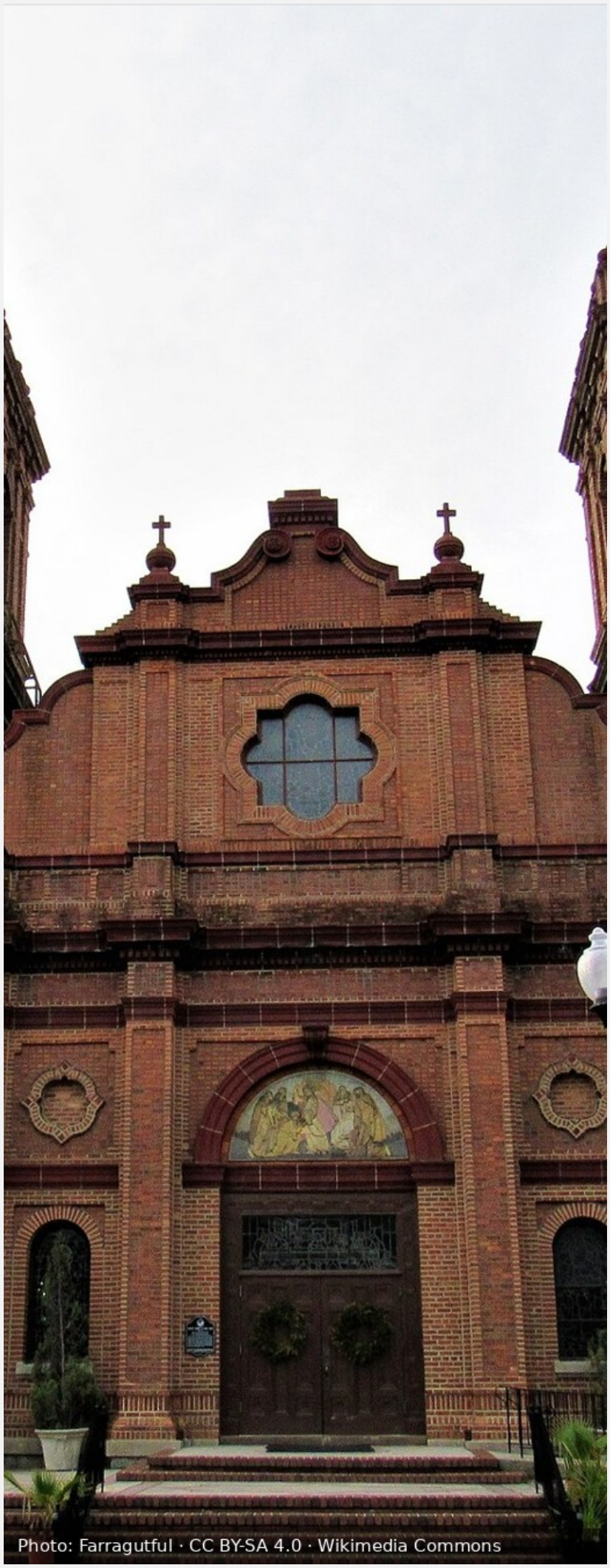


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02

Labor market strength defies national trends

While national mortgage rates remain elevated, Wilmington's labor market is holding firm. The 3.1% unemployment rate is not a temporary dip but a structural feature of a diversified economy with strong local employment anchors. This resilience suggests that even with higher borrowing costs, the region's real estate fundamentals remain robust — a counterintuitive edge in a cooling national market.

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