

Panama unemployment falls to 8.5%; Chiriqui gains formal jobs

When	No date given
Where	Panama / Chiriqui
Source	casasolution
Published	2026-10-02 17:34-05:00
Discovered	2026-10-04 17:23-05:00
Link	https://casasolution.com/panama-unemployment-falls-to-8-5-as-77231-more-people-find-work/

Summary

INEC's August 2026 labour survey shows national unemployment down to 8.5% from 10.4%, with Chiriqui taking 28% of new formal non-agricultural jobs.

Details (summary of the article)

Panama's statistics institute INEC reported that unemployment fell to 8.5% in August 2026, down from 10.4% in September 2025, with 77,231 more people employed for a total of about 2.05 million. Informal employment eased from 47.1% to 45.8%, and female unemployment dropped to 10.4%. Of roughly 49,101 new formal jobs outside agriculture, Chiriqui captured about 28%, second only to Panama Oeste, which matters locally for housing and mortgage demand. Agriculture, administrative services, construction, hotels and restaurants and logistics drove most of the gains. Economists quoted by the Casa Solution report, which draws on La Estrella de Panama and other outlets, warned about job quality: invisible underemployment rose, farm work is seasonal and roughly half of workers still lack social security coverage. Youth unemployment remains very high at 26.3% for ages 15-19. President Mulino said the figures reflect an orderly economy; analysts say it is still unclear whether wages or formality are really improving.