



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December



www.discover.arkansas.gov

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

Table of Contents

Monthly Spotlight.....	2
Arkansas Labor Force Summary.....	3
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs.....	4
Arkansas Production Workers.....	6
Metropolitan Statistical Areas.....	7
Micropolitan Statistical Areas/Cities.....	13
County Labor Force Statistics.....	14
Local Workforce Development Areas.....	17



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services



The *Arkansas Labor Market* is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month's estimates are preliminary, while previous month's data is subject to revision.

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work. Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). All estimates are based on a first quarter 2024 benchmark.

Explanation of Terms and Concepts

Monthly Business

Survey of Employers

A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail surveys and telephone interviews conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with Department of Workforce Services. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full- or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of the month. Approximately

Technical Notes

5,000 Arkansas business establishments are surveyed.

Metropolitan

Statistical Areas

A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

Current Population

Survey (CPS)

A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for BLS. The information is collected by trained interviewers from a sample of about 60,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. Approximately 1,200 Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

Civilian Labor Force

The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

Employment

An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time

for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

Unemployment

An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

Unemployment

Rate

The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force. Unemployment rates are calculated from unrounded data.

Seasonal

Adjustment

A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to seasonal events such as weather, major holidays, schedule shifts, harvest times, and the opening/closing of schools.

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

December Spotlight

A Comparative Look at Unemployment Rates

Between November and December, seasonally adjusted unemployment rates remained stable in 44 states and the District of Columbia. Six states posted a jobless rate increase. In December, unemployment rates ranged from a low of 2.2% in Hawaii and South Dakota to a high of 6.7% in the District of Columbia. Arkansas ranked 26th among states, with a jobless rate of 4.2%. Thirty-one states, including Arkansas, posted jobless rates at or below the national rate of 4.4%.

Compared to December 2024, unemployment rates have increased in 21 states and the District of Columbia. Eight states posted jobless rate declines, while 21 states were statistically unchanged over-the-year. Arkansas' unemployment rate is up six-tenths of a percentage point, from 3.6% in December 2024 to 4.2% in December 2025.

Unemployment Rates by State (Seasonally Adjusted)

December 2025

Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate
1	Hawaii	2.2	14	Utah	3.6	31	Texas	4.3
1	South Dakota	2.2	14	Virginia	3.6	36	Kentucky	4.5
3	North Dakota	2.6	20	Mississippi	3.7	36	Ohio	4.5
3	Vermont	2.6	21	Colorado	3.8	38	Illinois	4.6
5	Alabama	2.7	21	Kansas	3.8	38	New York	4.6
6	Nebraska	3.0	23	Missouri	3.9	38	West Virginia	4.6
7	New Hampshire	3.1	23	North Carolina	3.9	41	Washington	4.7
7	Wisconsin	3.1	25	Minnesota	4.1	42	Alaska	4.8
9	Maine	3.2	26	Arkansas	4.2	42	Massachusetts	4.8
10	Montana	3.4	26	Connecticut	4.2	42	South Carolina	4.8
10	Wyoming	3.4	26	Louisiana	4.2	45	Michigan	5.0
12	Indiana	3.5	26	Maryland	4.2	46	Delaware	5.2
12	Iowa	3.5	26	Pennsylvania	4.2	46	Nevada	5.2
14	Georgia	3.6	31	Arizona	4.3	46	Oregon	5.2
14	Idaho	3.6	31	Florida	4.3	49	New Jersey	5.4
14	Oklahoma	3.6	31	New Mexico	4.3	50	California	5.5
14	Tennessee	3.6	31	Rhode Island	4.3	51	District of Columbia	6.7

U.S. Unemployment Rate = 4.4%



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

State of Arkansas

Civilian Labor Force Summary

The Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.1% in November to 4.2% in December. At 4.4% in December, the United States' jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point since November.

The size of Arkansas' civilian labor force increased by 5,162 in December to reach a record high of 1,444,246. Employment rose by 3,541, also reaching record high levels. The number of unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work is up 1,621, pushing up the state's unemployment rate. Increased labor force activity caused growth in the labor force participation rate, which rose to 59.0% in December.

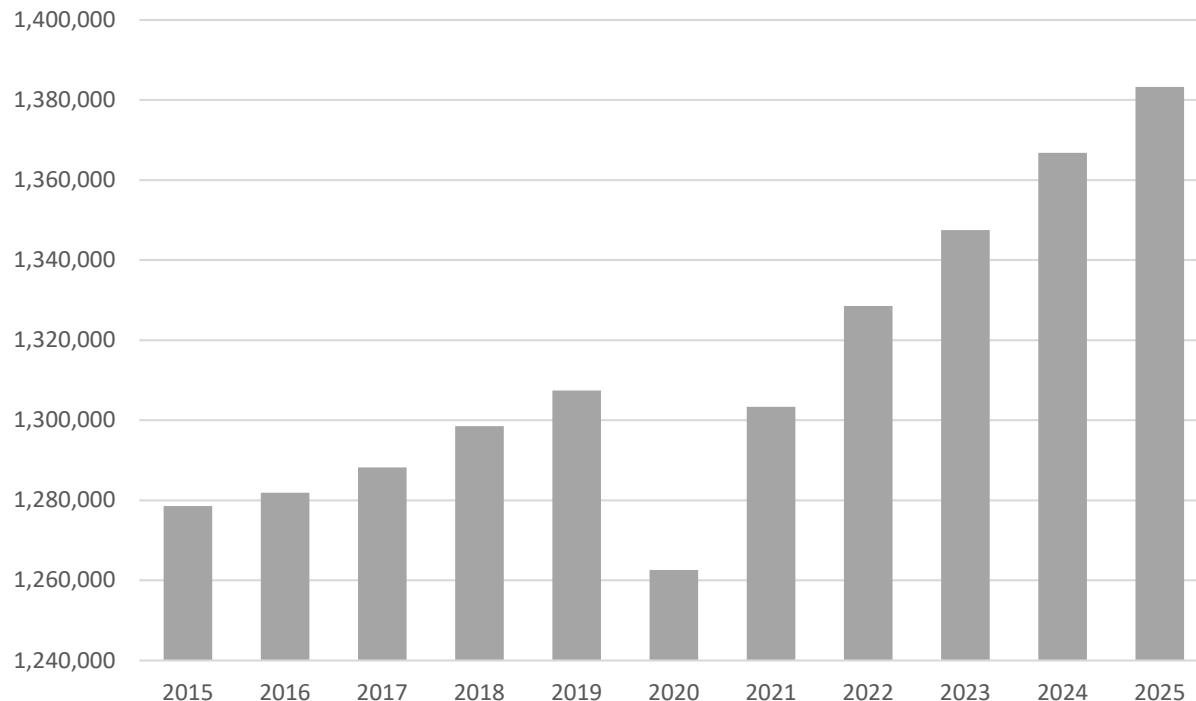
Compared to December 2024, there are 16,467 more employed and 10,537 more unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work. The unemployment rate is up six-tenths of a percentage point over the year, while the labor force participation rate is up seven-tenths of a percentage point.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24
Civilian Labor Force	1,444,246	1,439,084	1,417,242	Civilian Labor Force	1,442,628	1,443,765
Employment	1,383,259	1,379,718	1,366,792	Employment	1,382,591	1,383,821
Unemployment	60,987	59,366	50,450	Unemployment	60,037	59,944
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.1%	3.6%	Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.2%
LF Participation Rate	59.0%	58.8%	58.3%	LF Participation Rate	58.9%	59.0%
						57.9%

Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)

December: 2015 - 2025



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

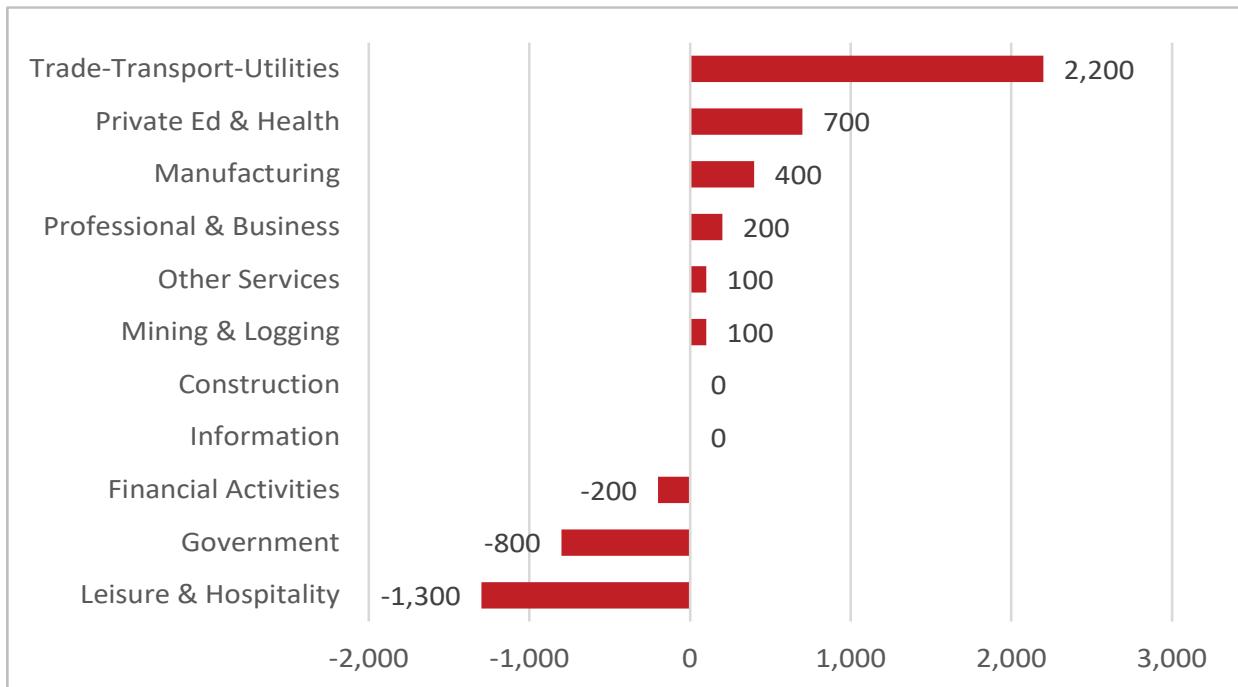
(NAICS)	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	1399.4	1398.0	1383.2	1.4	16.2
Goods Producing	235.9	235.4	236.1	0.5	-0.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	70.3	70.2	72.3	0.1	-2.0
Mining & Logging	5.3	5.2	5.1	0.1	0.2
Construction	65.0	65.0	67.2	0.0	-2.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	40.5	40.8	42.5	-0.3	-2.0
Manufacturing	165.6	165.2	163.8	0.4	1.8
Durable Goods	79.0	78.7	78.2	0.3	0.8
Nondurable Goods	86.6	86.5	85.6	0.1	1.0
Service Providing	1163.5	1162.6	1147.1	0.9	16.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	279.2	277.0	275.5	2.2	3.7
Wholesale Trade	53.7	53.5	54.8	0.2	-1.1
Retail Trade	150.0	148.4	145.4	1.6	4.6
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	75.5	75.1	75.3	0.4	0.2
Information	11.7	11.7	12.2	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	70.0	70.2	70.8	-0.2	-0.8
Finance & Insurance	54.8	55.1	55.3	-0.3	-0.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15.2	15.1	15.5	0.1	-0.3
Professional & Business Services	164.5	164.3	161.6	0.2	2.9
Professional, Scientific & Technical	53.5	53.4	51.8	0.1	1.7
Management of Companies	42.4	42.0	40.7	0.4	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	68.6	68.9	69.1	-0.3	-0.5
Private Education & Health Services	224.5	223.8	218.6	0.7	5.9
Private Educational Services	19.7	19.7	19.6	0.0	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	204.8	204.1	199.0	0.7	5.8
Ambulatory Health Care	71.9	71.7	68.7	0.2	3.2
Social Assistance	44.7	44.2	41.8	0.5	2.9
Leisure & Hospitality	133.0	134.3	126.5	-1.3	6.5
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	13.9	14.0	13.3	-0.1	0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	119.1	120.3	113.2	-1.2	5.9
Accommodation Services	11.3	11.5	10.7	-0.2	0.6
Food Services	107.8	108.8	102.5	-1.0	5.3
Other Services	65.2	65.1	65.9	0.1	-0.7
Government	215.4	216.2	216.0	-0.8	-0.6
Federal Government	20.5	20.4	22.1	0.1	-1.6
State Government	77.8	78.3	77.6	-0.5	0.2
State Gov, Educational Services	31.8	32.3	31.6	-0.5	0.2
State Gov, Excluding Education	46.0	46.0	46.0	0.0	0.0
Local Government	117.1	117.5	116.3	-0.4	0.8
Local Gov, Educational Services	71.5	71.6	71.1	-0.1	0.4
Local Gov, Excluding Education	45.6	45.9	45.2	-0.3	0.4

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

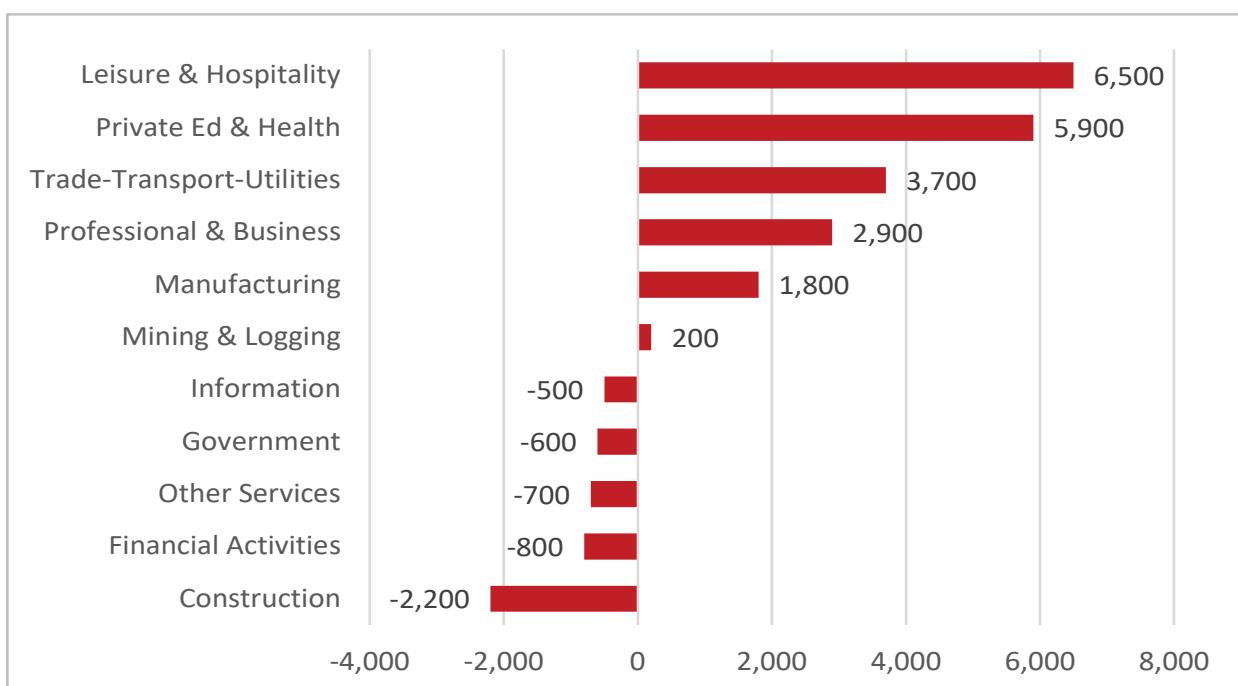
December

State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Monthly Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sector
November 2025 - December 2025 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Annual Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sector
December 2024 - December 2025 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

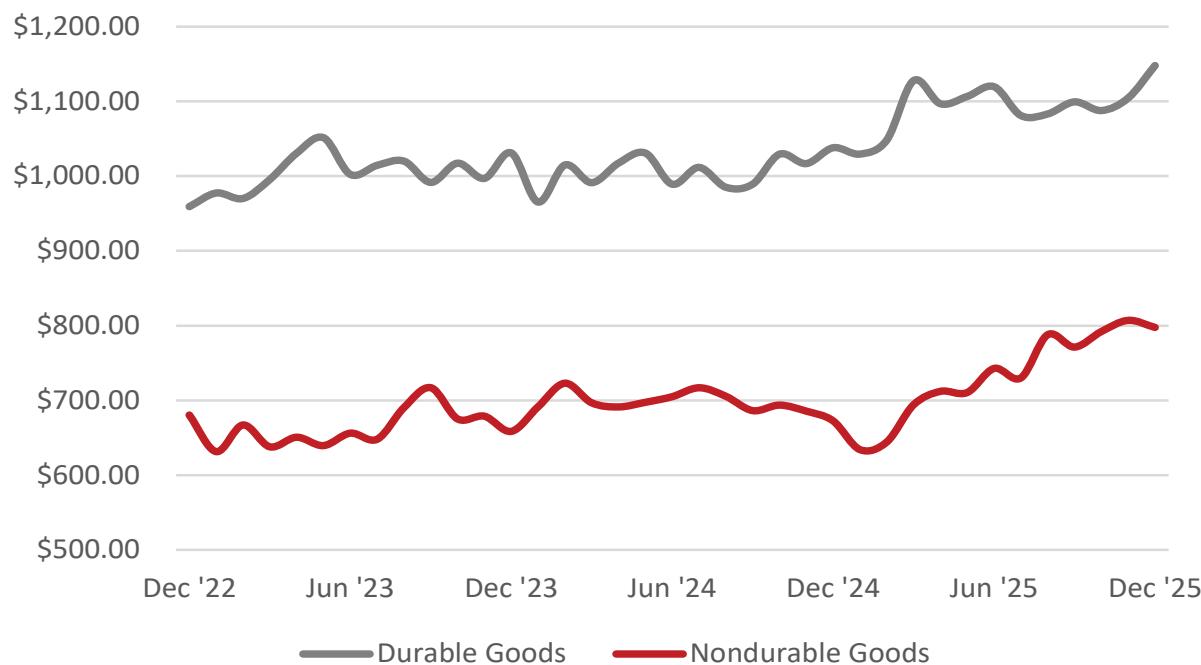
State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings Not Seasonally Adjusted Manufacturing

	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Dec 24</u>
Average Weekly Hours	39.9	39.6	35.7
Average Hourly Earnings	\$24.12	\$23.89	\$23.66
Average Weekly Earnings	\$962.39	\$946.04	\$844.66

Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

Durable Goods Manufacturing			Nondurable Goods Manufacturing				
	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Dec 24</u>		<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Dec 24</u>
Average Weekly Hours	43.7	42.6	41.0	Average Weekly Hours	36.5	37.0	31.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$26.27	\$25.93	\$25.32	Average Hourly Earnings	\$21.85	\$21.81	\$21.70
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,148.00	\$1,104.62	\$1,038.12	Average Weekly Earnings	\$797.53	\$806.97	\$672.70

Average Weekly Earnings for Production Workers- Durable Goods vs Nondurable Goods December 2022 - December 2025



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

The Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA = Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, & Saline counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	390,803	389,290	382,134	1,513	8,669
Employment	375,422	373,737	370,161	1,685	5,261
Unemployment	15,381	15,553	11,973	-172	3,408
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.0%	3.1%	-0.1%	0.8%

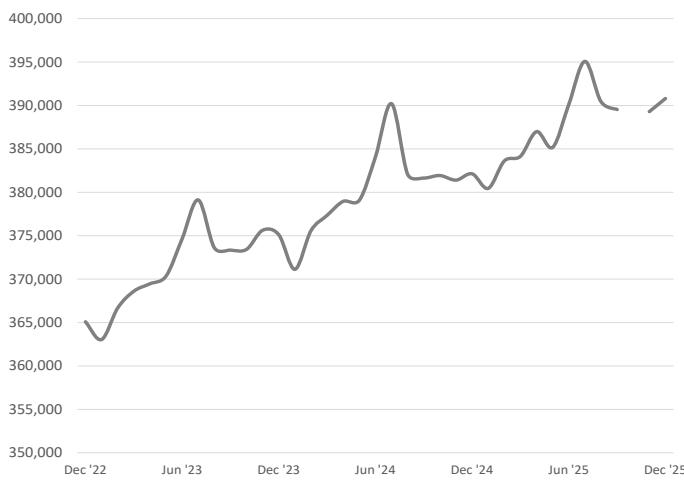
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	405.5	404.2	401.4	1.3	4.1
Goods Producing	42.9	42.9	43.2	0.0	-0.3
Mining, Logging & Construction	21.2	21.2	21.7	0.0	-0.5
Manufacturing	21.7	21.7	21.5	0.0	0.2
Service Providing	362.6	361.3	358.2	1.3	4.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	82.8	81.6	82.2	1.2	0.6
Wholesale Trade	17.7	17.6	18.3	0.1	-0.6
Retail Trade	41.0	40.1	40.0	0.9	1.0
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	24.1	23.9	23.9	0.2	0.2
Information	5.0	4.9	5.1	0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	28.4	28.5	28.3	-0.1	0.1
Professional & Business Services	48.4	48.3	49.8	0.1	-1.4
Private Education & Health Services	71.5	70.7	68.0	0.8	3.5
Leisure & Hospitality	35.9	36.6	34.2	-0.7	1.7
Other Services	18.8	18.8	19.1	0.0	-0.3
Government	71.8	71.9	71.5	-0.1	0.3
Federal Government	10.1	10.1	10.9	0.0	-0.8
State Government	34.3	34.4	34.2	-0.1	0.1
Local Government	27.4	27.4	26.4	0.0	1.0

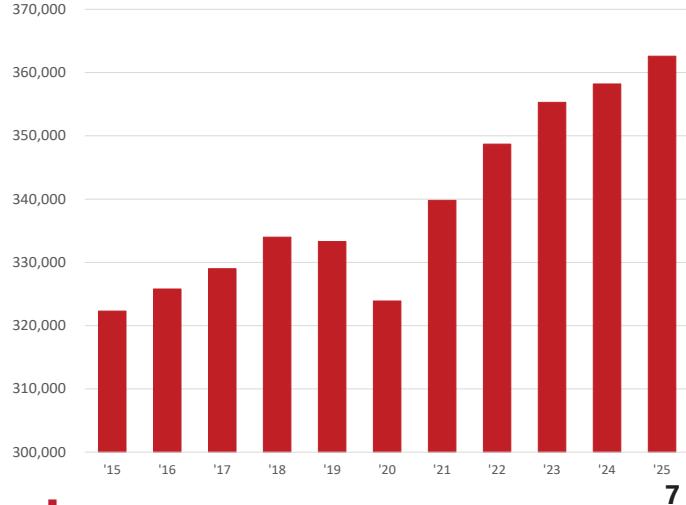
Civilian Labor Force

December 2022 - December 2025



Jobs in Service Providing Industries

December: 2015 - 2025



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA = Benton, Madison, & Washington counties

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

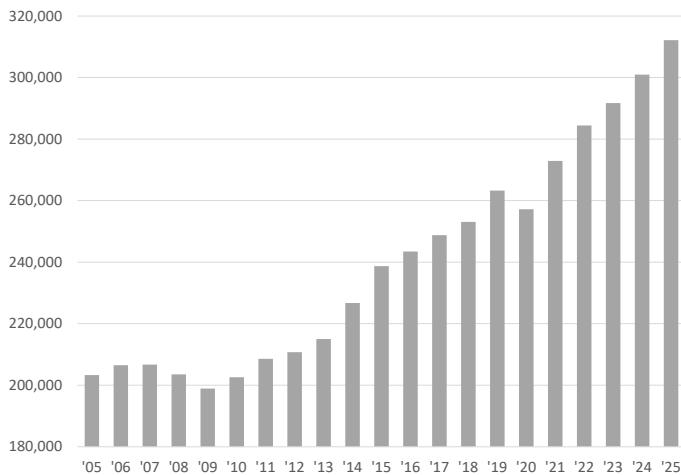
	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	322,200	322,609	309,121	-409	13,079
Employment	312,154	312,186	300,955	-32	11,199
Unemployment	10,046	10,423	8,166	-377	1,880
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.2%	2.6%	-0.1%	0.5%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	323.7	324.3	312.6	-0.6	11.1
Goods Producing	47.5	47.3	46.6	0.2	0.9
Mining, Logging & Construction	18.7	18.6	18.2	0.1	0.5
Manufacturing	28.8	28.7	28.4	0.1	0.4
Service Providing	276.2	277.0	266.0	-0.8	10.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	64.3	63.9	62.9	0.4	1.4
Wholesale Trade	14.4	14.3	14.5	0.1	-0.1
Retail Trade	30.7	30.3	29.5	0.4	1.2
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	19.2	19.3	18.9	-0.1	0.3
Information	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	12.2	12.3	12.4	-0.1	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	64.7	64.6	60.8	0.1	3.9
Private Education & Health Services	39.3	39.3	38.0	0.0	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality	33.2	33.4	30.9	-0.2	2.3
Other Services	13.7	13.8	13.7	-0.1	0.0
Government	46.6	47.5	45.0	-0.9	1.6
Federal Government	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
State Government	23.4	24.3	21.8	-0.9	1.6
Local Government	20.2	20.2	20.1	0.0	0.1

Employment
December: 2005 - 2025



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
December 2022 - December 2025



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

The Fort Smith MSA = Crawford & Sebastian counties in Arkansas and Sequoyah County in Oklahoma

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	103,879	103,537	101,906	342	1,973
Employment	99,350	99,188	98,552	162	798
Unemployment	4,529	4,349	3,354	180	1,175
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.2%	3.3%	0.2%	1.1%

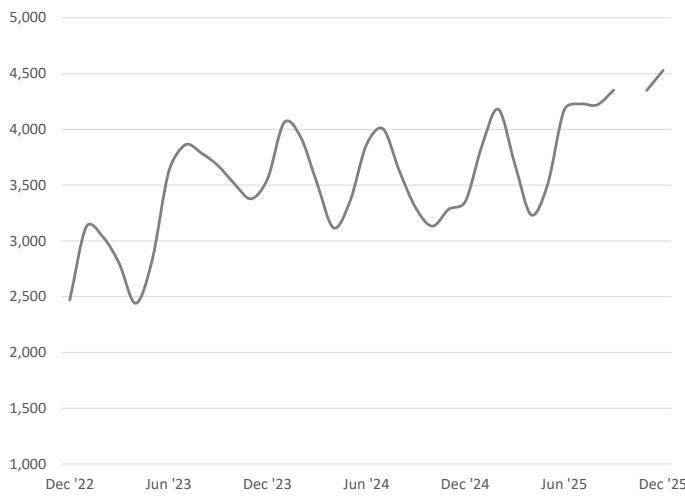
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	105.2	105.4	104.5	-0.2	0.7
Goods Producing	23.1	23.0	23.2	0.1	-0.1
Mining, Logging & Construction	5.0	5.0	5.1	0.0	-0.1
Manufacturing	18.1	18.0	18.1	0.1	0.0
Service Providing	82.1	82.4	81.3	-0.3	0.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	22.9	22.7	22.6	0.2	0.3
Wholesale Trade	4.4	4.4	4.6	0.0	-0.2
Retail Trade	12.4	12.2	11.8	0.2	0.6
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6.1	6.1	6.2	0.0	-0.1
Information	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	11.1	11.2	11.0	-0.1	0.1
Private Education & Health Services	17.8	17.8	17.6	0.0	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	9.4	9.6	8.9	-0.2	0.5
Other Services	2.8	2.9	2.9	-0.1	-0.1
Government	12.5	12.6	12.7	-0.1	-0.2
Federal Government	1.1	1.1	1.2	0.0	-0.1
State Government	1.6	1.7	1.7	-0.1	-0.1
Local Government	9.8	9.8	9.8	0.0	0.0

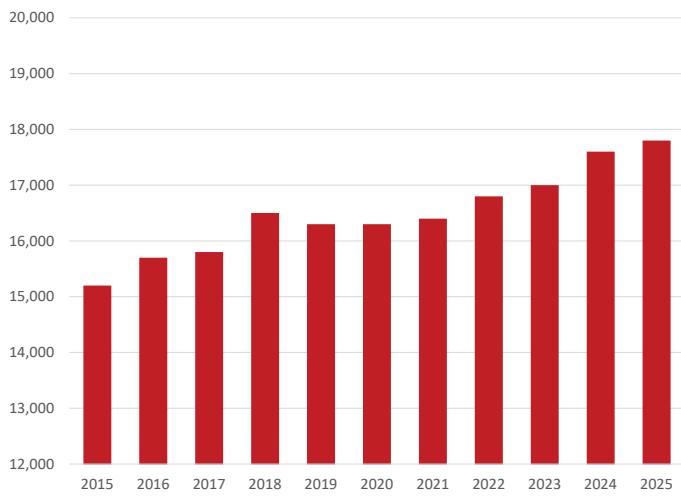
Unemployment

December 2022 - December 2025



Jobs in Private Education and Health Services

December: 2015 - 2025



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Dec 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	43,875	43,796	43,275	79	600
Employment	41,934	41,867	41,732	67	202
Unemployment	1,941	1,929	1,543	12	398
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.4%	3.6%	0.0%	0.8%

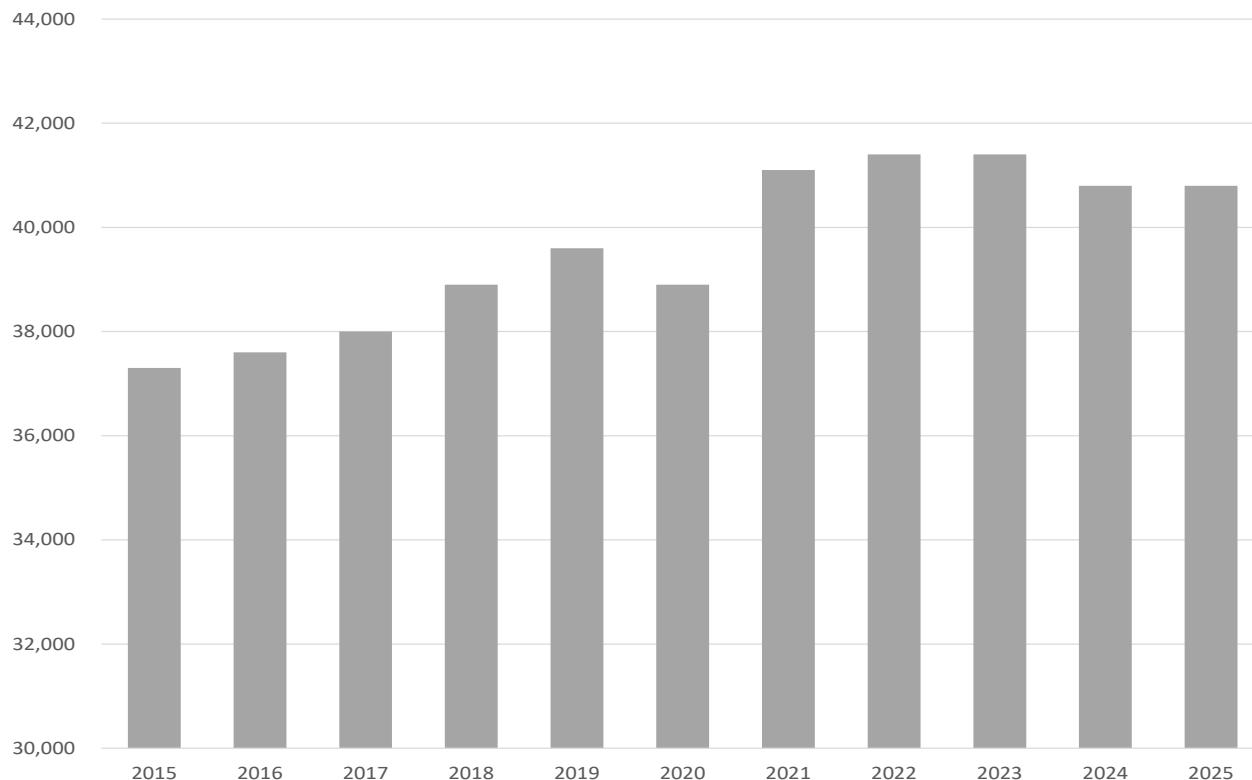
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Dec 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	40.8	40.8	40.8	0.0	0.0
Goods Producing	4.4	4.4	4.6	0.0	-0.2
Service Providing	36.4	36.4	36.2	0.0	0.2
Government	4.3	4.3	4.3	0.0	0.0

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

December: 2015 - 2025



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Dec 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	68,356	68,143	66,749	213	1,607
Employment	65,717	65,503	64,644	214	1,073
Unemployment	2,639	2,640	2,105	-1	534
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.9%	3.2%	0.0%	0.7%

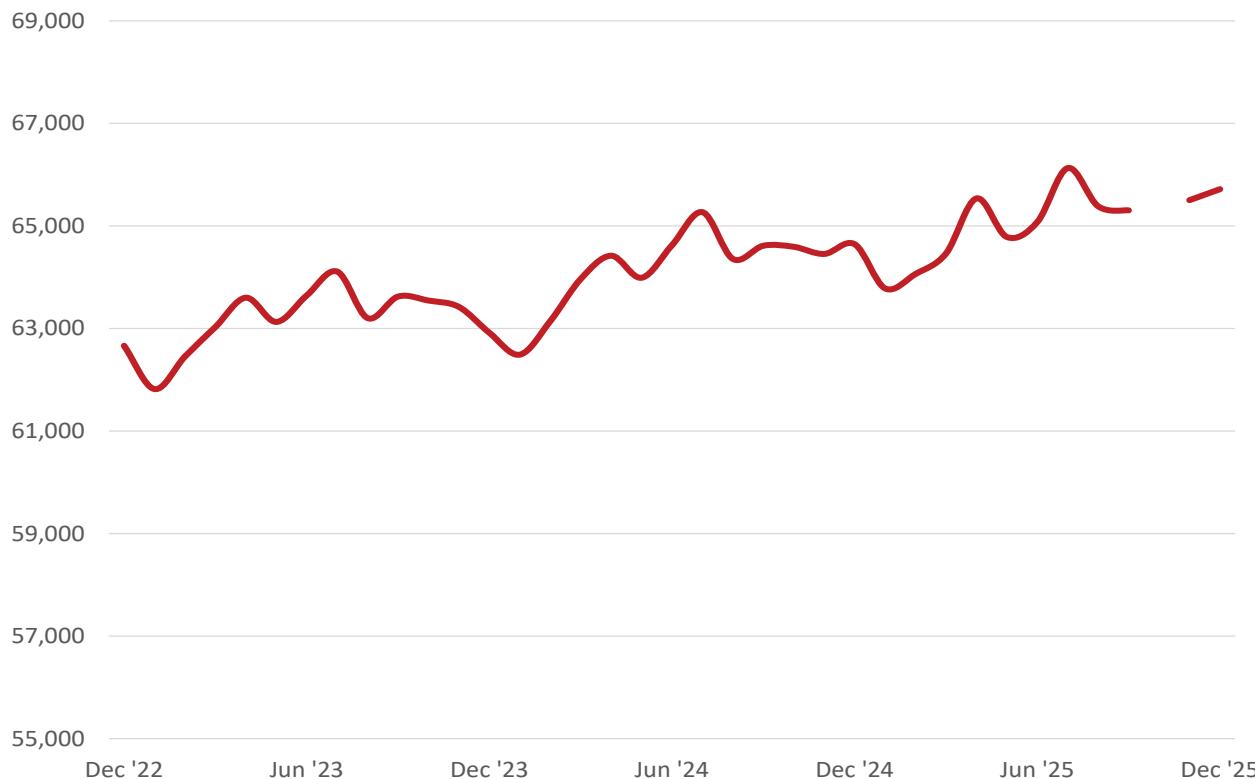
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Dec 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	66.9	66.6	66.0	0.3	0.9
Goods Producing	11.4	11.4	11.4	0.0	0.0
Service Providing	55.5	55.2	54.6	0.3	0.9
Government	9.1	9.1	9.1	0.0	0.0

Employment

December 2022 - December 2025



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Out-of-State MSA

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA

The Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA = Fayette, Shelby, & Tipton counties in Tennessee; Benton, Desoto, Marshall, Tate, & Tunica counties in Mississippi; & Crittenden County in Arkansas.

	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	635,819	632,773	628,044	3,046	7,775
Employment	610,233	604,860	601,445	5,373	8,788
Unemployment	25,586	27,913	26,599	-2,327	-1,013
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.4%	4.2%	-0.4%	-0.2%

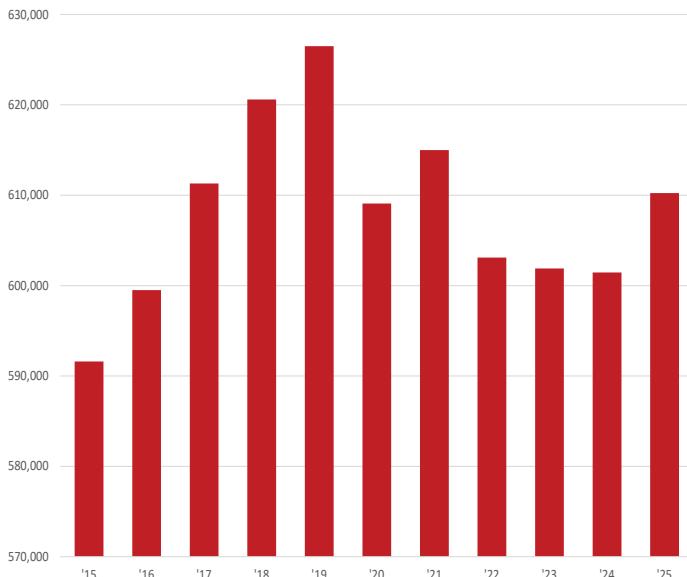
Texarkana MSA

The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	Dec 25	Nov 25	Dec 24	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	63,215	63,557	62,260	-342	955
Employment	60,570	60,764	59,870	-194	700
Unemployment	2,645	2,793	2,390	-148	255
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.4%	3.8%	-0.2%	0.4%

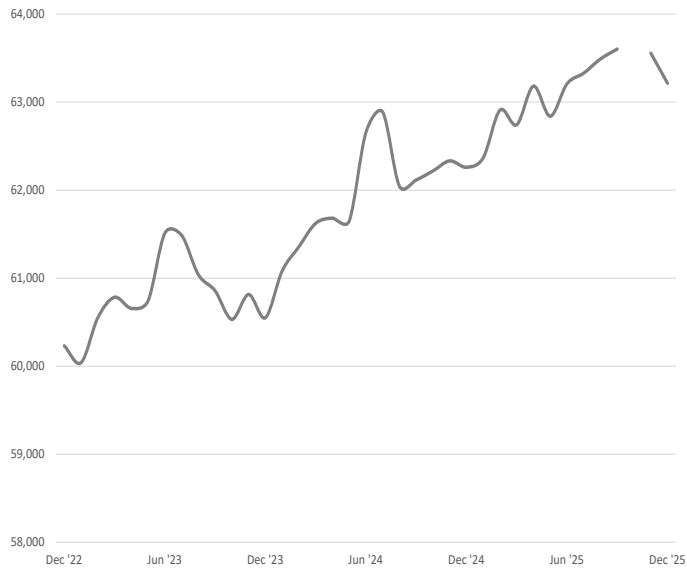
Memphis MSA - Employment

December: 2015 - 2025



Texarkana MSA - Civilian Labor Force

December 2022 - December 2025



2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	December 2025				November 2025				December 2024			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	10,000	9,549	451	4.5	10,195	9,716	479	4.7	9,348	8,978	370	4.0
Batesville Micro	18,106	17,465	641	3.5	18,171	17,504	667	3.7	17,858	17,328	530	3.0
Blytheville Micro	20,952	19,908	1,044	5.0	20,970	19,966	1,004	4.8	20,653	19,915	738	3.6
Camden Micro	11,233	10,671	562	5.0	11,237	10,669	568	5.1	11,159	10,716	443	4.0
El Dorado Micro	15,540	14,719	821	5.3	15,526	14,719	807	5.2	15,659	14,873	786	5.0
Forrest City Micro	7,641	7,165	476	6.2	7,652	7,196	456	6.0	7,547	7,155	392	5.2
Harrison Micro	19,186	18,396	790	4.1	19,280	18,467	813	4.2	19,061	18,420	641	3.4
Magnolia Micro	8,899	8,471	428	4.8	9,109	8,650	459	5.0	8,752	8,428	324	3.7
Malvern Micro	13,348	12,750	598	4.5	13,340	12,742	598	4.5	13,249	12,749	500	3.8
Mountain Home Micro	16,964	16,173	791	4.7	16,897	16,128	769	4.6	16,627	15,966	661	4.0
Paragould Micro	20,763	19,764	999	4.8	20,747	19,808	939	4.5	20,158	19,432	726	3.6
Pine Bluff Micro	27,802	26,040	1,762	6.3	27,833	26,116	1,717	6.2	27,471	26,193	1,278	4.7
Russellville Micro	37,835	36,049	1,786	4.7	38,122	36,396	1,726	4.5	37,222	35,794	1,428	3.8
Searcy Micro	35,603	34,139	1,464	4.1	35,669	34,180	1,489	4.2	34,651	33,441	1,210	3.5

Arkadelphia Micro = Clark County

Batesville Micro = Independence County

Blytheville Micro = Mississippi County

Camden Micro = Calhoun & Ouachita counties

El Dorado Micro = Union County

Forrest City Micro = St. Francis County

Harrison Micro = Boone & Newton counties

Magnolia Micro = Columbia County

Malvern Micro = Hot Spring County

Mountain Home Micro = Baxter County

Paragould Micro = Greene County

Pine Bluff Micro = Cleveland & Jefferson counties

Russellville Micro = Pope & Yell counties

Searcy Micro = White County

City Labor Force Statistics

Not Seasonally Adjusted

City	December 2025				November 2025				December 2024			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	15,326	14,741	585	3.8	15,330	14,738	592	3.9	14,723	14,211	512	3.5
Benton	20,614	19,964	650	3.2	20,549	19,884	665	3.2	20,198	19,676	522	2.6
Bentonville	35,319	34,363	956	2.7	35,328	34,356	972	2.8	33,958	33,127	831	2.4
Blytheville	7,114	6,707	407	5.7	7,102	6,726	376	5.3	6,970	6,709	261	3.7
Cabot	13,803	13,341	462	3.3	13,805	13,321	484	3.5	13,502	13,121	381	2.8
Conway	37,860	36,464	1,396	3.7	37,688	36,281	1,407	3.7	37,012	35,969	1,043	2.8
El Dorado	6,870	6,478	392	5.7	6,878	6,478	400	5.8	6,875	6,546	329	4.8
Fayetteville	58,539	56,765	1,774	3.0	58,702	56,765	1,937	3.3	56,286	54,734	1,552	2.8
Fort Smith	42,555	40,734	1,821	4.3	42,387	40,658	1,729	4.1	41,630	40,319	1,311	3.1
Hot Springs	17,185	16,367	818	4.8	17,093	16,341	752	4.4	16,917	16,288	629	3.7
Jacksonville	13,087	12,478	609	4.7	13,062	12,410	652	5.0	12,818	12,312	506	3.9
Jonesboro	40,540	38,939	1,601	3.9	40,399	38,779	1,620	4.0	39,609	38,327	1,282	3.2
Little Rock	107,153	102,692	4,461	4.2	106,707	102,138	4,569	4.3	104,820	101,326	3,494	3.3
North Little Rock	34,190	32,624	1,566	4.6	33,945	32,448	1,497	4.4	33,323	32,190	1,133	3.4
Paragould	13,502	12,864	638	4.7	13,503	12,892	611	4.5	13,147	12,648	499	3.8
Pine Bluff	15,161	14,133	1,028	6.8	15,197	14,160	1,037	6.8	14,984	14,235	749	5.0
Rogers	42,161	40,897	1,264	3.0	42,177	40,889	1,288	3.1	40,433	39,427	1,006	2.5
Russellville	13,636	13,059	577	4.2	13,770	13,189	581	4.2	13,431	12,933	498	3.7
Searcy	10,275	9,873	402	3.9	10,321	9,885	436	4.2	10,040	9,671	369	3.7
Sherwood	17,382	16,667	715	4.1	17,263	16,577	686	4.0	16,955	16,446	509	3.0
Springdale	46,337	44,752	1,585	3.4	46,388	44,752	1,636	3.5	44,288	43,150	1,138	2.6
Texarkana, AR	12,514	11,906	608	4.9	12,502	11,892	610	4.9	12,233	11,766	467	3.8
Van Buren	10,765	10,287	478	4.4	10,697	10,263	434	4.1	10,517	10,185	332	3.2
West Memphis	9,613	8,966	647	6.7	9,583	8,955	628	6.6	9,408	8,909	499	5.3

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

December 2025

November 2025

December 2024

County	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	7,355	6,987	368	5.0	7,412	7,054	358	4.8	7,364	7,077	287	3.9
Ashley	6,769	6,332	437	6.5	6,759	6,348	411	6.1	6,367	5,984	383	6.0
Baxter	16,964	16,173	791	4.7	16,897	16,128	769	4.6	16,627	15,966	661	4.0
Benton	171,206	165,945	5,261	3.1	171,311	165,910	5,401	3.2	164,276	159,977	4,299	2.6
Boone	16,490	15,831	659	4.0	16,562	15,881	681	4.1	16,452	15,913	539	3.3
Bradley	3,746	3,520	226	6.0	3,766	3,544	222	5.9	3,808	3,605	203	5.3
Calhoun	2,101	2,010	91	4.3	2,117	2,021	96	4.5	2,037	1,964	73	3.6
Carroll	11,613	11,107	506	4.4	11,854	11,370	484	4.1	11,515	11,080	435	3.8
Chicot	3,233	3,002	231	7.1	3,274	3,054	220	6.7	3,074	2,889	185	6.0
Clark	10,000	9,549	451	4.5	10,195	9,716	479	4.7	9,348	8,978	370	4.0
Clay	5,898	5,608	290	4.9	5,976	5,698	278	4.7	5,903	5,690	213	3.6
Cleburne	10,133	9,618	515	5.1	10,144	9,634	510	5.0	9,901	9,511	390	3.9
Cleveland	3,033	2,896	137	4.5	3,063	2,928	135	4.4	2,999	2,881	118	3.9
Columbia	8,899	8,471	428	4.8	9,109	8,650	459	5.0	8,752	8,428	324	3.7
Conway	9,210	8,789	421	4.6	9,275	8,851	424	4.6	9,068	8,741	327	3.6
Craighead	58,043	55,860	2,183	3.8	57,838	55,631	2,207	3.8	56,728	54,982	1,746	3.1
Crawford	26,482	25,305	1,177	4.4	26,373	25,245	1,128	4.3	25,948	25,054	894	3.4
Crittenden	21,026	19,835	1,191	5.7	20,966	19,812	1,154	5.5	20,611	19,710	901	4.4
Cross	7,409	7,081	328	4.4	7,451	7,120	331	4.4	7,355	7,076	279	3.8
Dallas	2,764	2,644	120	4.3	2,785	2,663	122	4.4	2,651	2,553	98	3.7
Desha	3,862	3,598	264	6.8	3,892	3,636	256	6.6	3,996	3,752	244	6.1
Drew	7,907	7,509	398	5.0	8,019	7,631	388	4.8	7,748	7,429	319	4.1
Faulkner	67,628	65,119	2,509	3.7	67,336	64,791	2,545	3.8	66,179	64,234	1,945	2.9
Franklin	7,397	7,083	314	4.2	7,425	7,113	312	4.2	7,239	6,993	246	3.4
Fulton	4,019	3,804	215	5.3	4,019	3,811	208	5.2	3,967	3,805	162	4.1
Garland	43,875	41,934	1,941	4.4	43,796	41,867	1,929	4.4	43,275	41,732	1,543	3.6
Grant	8,939	8,627	312	3.5	8,946	8,636	310	3.5	8,725	8,476	249	2.9
Greene	20,763	19,764	999	4.8	20,747	19,808	939	4.5	20,158	19,432	726	3.6
Hempstead	8,592	8,185	407	4.7	8,729	8,320	409	4.7	8,122	7,815	307	3.8
Hot Spring	13,348	12,750	598	4.5	13,340	12,742	598	4.5	13,249	12,749	500	3.8
Howard	4,658	4,404	254	5.5	4,715	4,469	246	5.2	4,816	4,651	165	3.4
Independence	18,106	17,465	641	3.5	18,171	17,504	667	3.7	17,858	17,328	530	3.0
Izard	4,308	4,016	292	6.8	4,314	4,041	273	6.3	4,130	3,864	266	6.4
Jackson	5,629	5,354	275	4.9	5,746	5,481	265	4.6	5,473	5,239	234	4.3
Jefferson	24,769	23,144	1,625	6.6	24,770	23,188	1,582	6.4	24,472	23,312	1,160	4.7
Johnson	9,911	9,344	567	5.7	10,038	9,505	533	5.3	9,931	9,476	455	4.6
Lafayette	2,241	2,116	125	5.6	2,283	2,160	123	5.4	2,269	2,161	108	4.8
Lawrence	6,834	6,550	284	4.2	7,021	6,731	290	4.1	6,543	6,308	235	3.6
Lee	2,252	2,101	151	6.7	2,314	2,170	144	6.2	2,275	2,157	118	5.2
Lincoln	3,192	3,013	179	5.6	3,245	3,071	174	5.4	3,255	3,087	168	5.2
Little River	5,284	5,033	251	4.8	5,284	5,042	242	4.6	5,155	4,958	197	3.8
Logan	8,890	8,469	421	4.7	8,915	8,520	395	4.4	8,728	8,378	350	4.0
Lonoke	37,558	36,214	1,344	3.6	37,537	36,159	1,378	3.7	36,654	35,616	1,038	2.8
Madison	8,580	8,305	275	3.2	8,656	8,371	285	3.3	8,245	8,008	237	2.9
Marion	5,240	4,898	342	6.5	5,238	4,901	337	6.4	5,278	5,021	257	4.9
Miller	17,479	16,614	865	4.9	17,463	16,595	868	5.0	17,111	16,419	692	4.0

(continued on Page 16)

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	December 2025				November 2025				December 2024			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	20,952	19,908	1,044	5.0	20,970	19,966	1,004	4.8	20,653	19,915	738	3.6
Monroe	2,582	2,417	165	6.4	2,597	2,440	157	6.0	2,587	2,470	117	4.5
Montgomery	3,018	2,828	190	6.3	3,052	2,871	181	5.9	2,896	2,760	136	4.7
Nevada	2,630	2,469	161	6.1	2,649	2,492	157	5.9	2,440	2,320	120	4.9
Newton	2,696	2,565	131	4.9	2,718	2,586	132	4.9	2,609	2,507	102	3.9
Ouachita	9,132	8,661	471	5.2	9,120	8,648	472	5.2	9,122	8,752	370	4.1
Perry	4,375	4,178	197	4.5	4,386	4,188	198	4.5	4,259	4,100	159	3.7
Phillips	4,654	4,301	353	7.6	4,696	4,359	337	7.2	4,834	4,551	283	5.9
Pike	4,091	3,891	200	4.9	4,118	3,914	204	5.0	4,187	4,043	144	3.4
Poinsett	10,313	9,857	456	4.4	10,305	9,872	433	4.2	10,021	9,662	359	3.6
Polk	7,258	6,910	348	4.8	7,349	7,003	346	4.7	7,291	7,002	289	4.0
Pope	28,451	27,057	1,394	4.9	28,667	27,326	1,341	4.7	27,919	26,797	1,122	4.0
Prairie	3,592	3,441	151	4.2	3,619	3,476	143	4.0	3,683	3,561	122	3.3
Pulaski	204,713	195,994	8,719	4.3	203,739	194,937	8,802	4.3	200,134	193,387	6,747	3.4
Randolph	8,052	7,746	306	3.8	8,142	7,829	313	3.8	7,690	7,425	265	3.4
St. Francis	7,641	7,165	476	6.2	7,652	7,196	456	6.0	7,547	7,155	392	5.2
Saline	67,590	65,290	2,300	3.4	67,346	65,026	2,320	3.4	66,183	64,348	1,835	2.8
Scott	4,069	3,900	169	4.2	4,079	3,912	167	4.1	4,098	3,977	121	3.0
Searcy	3,141	2,994	147	4.7	3,194	3,048	146	4.6	2,951	2,835	116	3.9
Sebastian	60,395	57,809	2,586	4.3	60,132	57,700	2,432	4.0	59,115	57,220	1,895	3.2
Sevier	7,183	6,941	242	3.4	7,241	6,982	259	3.6	7,009	6,808	201	2.9
Sharp	6,598	6,284	314	4.8	6,620	6,314	306	4.6	6,524	6,278	246	3.8
Stone	4,082	3,829	253	6.2	4,129	3,891	238	5.8	3,987	3,793	194	4.9
Union	15,540	14,719	821	5.3	15,526	14,719	807	5.2	15,659	14,873	786	5.0
Van Buren	5,870	5,575	295	5.0	5,879	5,586	293	5.0	5,840	5,584	256	4.4
Washington	142,414	137,904	4,510	3.2	142,642	137,905	4,737	3.3	136,600	132,970	3,630	2.7
White	35,603	34,139	1,464	4.1	35,669	34,180	1,489	4.2	34,651	33,441	1,210	3.5
Woodruff	2,975	2,850	125	4.2	2,979	2,861	118	4.0	2,867	2,760	107	3.7
Yell	9,384	8,992	392	4.2	9,455	9,070	385	4.1	9,303	8,997	306	3.3

County Labor Force Summary

Between November and December, unemployment rates increased in 45 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates declined in 15 counties, while remaining stable in 15 counties. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 3.1% in Benton County to a high of 7.6% in Phillips County.

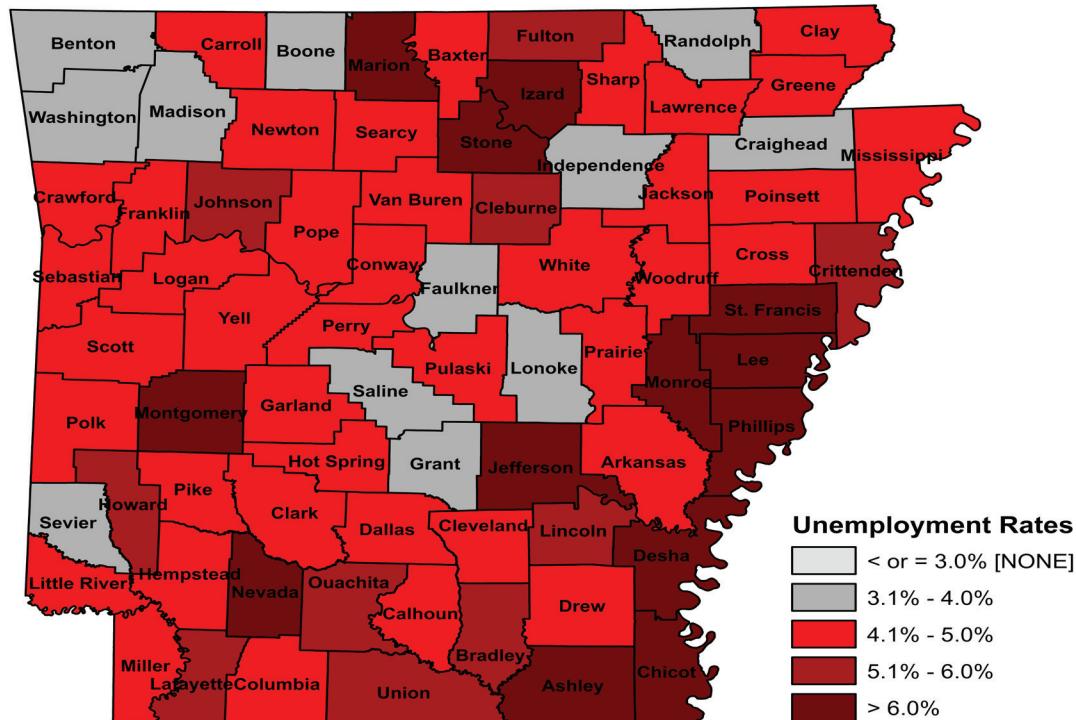
In December, no county in Arkansas had a jobless rate at or below three percent. Two counties- Chicot and Phillips- posted rates at or above seven percent. That is up from just one county above 7% in November.

Compared to December 2024, unemployment rates are up in all 75 Arkansas counties. Rate increases ranged from as little as a three-tenths of a percentage point gain in Madison and Union counties to as much as a two and one-tenth of a percentage point increase in Howard County. Twenty-nine counties reported annual jobless rate gains of one percentage point or more.

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

County Unemployment Rates



Ranked by Unemployment Rates

December 2025 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Benton	3.1	24	Cross	4.4	49	Mississippi	5.0
2	Madison	3.2	24	Garland	4.4	49	Van Buren	5.0
2	Washington	3.2	24	Poinsett	4.4	53	Cleburne	5.1
4	Saline	3.4	29	Clark	4.5	54	Ouachita	5.2
4	Sevier	3.4	29	Cleveland	4.5	55	Fulton	5.3
6	Grant	3.5	29	Hot Spring	4.5	55	Union	5.3
6	Independence	3.5	29	Perry	4.5	57	Howard	5.5
8	Lonoke	3.6	33	Conway	4.6	58	Lafayette	5.6
9	Faulkner	3.7	34	Baxter	4.7	58	Lincoln	5.6
10	Craighead	3.8	34	Hempstead	4.7	60	Crittenden	5.7
10	Randolph	3.8	34	Logan	4.7	60	Johnson	5.7
12	Boone	4.0	34	Searcy	4.7	62	Bradley	6.0
13	White	4.1	38	Columbia	4.8	63	Nevada	6.1
14	Franklin	4.2	38	Greene	4.8	64	St. Francis	6.2
14	Lawrence	4.2	38	Little River	4.8	64	Stone	6.2
14	Prairie	4.2	38	Polk	4.8	66	Montgomery	6.3
14	Scott	4.2	38	Sharp	4.8	67	Monroe	6.4
14	Woodruff	4.2	43	Clay	4.9	68	Ashley	6.5
14	Yell	4.2	43	Jackson	4.9	68	Marion	6.5
20	Calhoun	4.3	43	Miller	4.9	70	Jefferson	6.6
20	Dallas	4.3	43	Newton	4.9	71	Lee	6.7
20	Pulaski	4.3	43	Pike	4.9	72	Deshaw	6.8
20	Sebastian	4.3	43	Pope	4.9	72	Izard	6.8
24	Carroll	4.4	49	Arkansas	5.0	74	Chicot	7.1
24	Crawford	4.4	49	Drew	5.0	75	Phillips	7.6

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

December

Local Workforce Development Areas

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

December 2025				November 2025				December 2024				
LWDA	CLF	Emp	Unemp	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	
Central (minus LR)	276,510	265,783	10,727	3.9	275,467	264,691	10,776	3.9	270,600	262,290	8,310	3.1
City of Little Rock	107,153	102,692	4,461	4.2	106,707	102,138	4,569	4.3	104,820	101,326	3,494	3.3
Eastern	42,982	40,483	2,499	5.8	43,079	40,657	2,422	5.6	42,622	40,649	1,973	4.6
North Central	97,323	92,934	4,389	4.5	97,670	93,303	4,367	4.5	95,198	91,603	3,595	3.8
Northeast	130,855	125,293	5,562	4.3	130,999	125,535	5,464	4.2	127,696	123,414	4,282	3.4
Northwest	378,344	365,722	12,622	3.3	379,072	366,100	12,972	3.4	364,553	354,277	10,276	2.8
Southeast	72,805	68,628	4,177	5.7	73,146	69,090	4,056	5.5	71,808	68,492	3,316	4.6
Southwest	86,503	82,267	4,236	4.9	87,021	82,761	4,260	4.9	85,143	81,702	3,441	4.0
West Central	135,663	129,312	6,351	4.7	136,322	130,050	6,272	4.6	133,435	128,373	5,062	3.8
Western	114,491	109,476	5,015	4.4	114,273	109,493	4,780	4.2	112,419	108,624	3,795	3.4

