



# PRESS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Zoe Dell, [zoe.dell@arkansas.gov](mailto:zoe.dell@arkansas.gov)

## Arkansas' unemployment rate increases to 3.7% in March

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (April 18, 2025)** Today, 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 3.6% in February to 3.7% in March. The United States' jobless rate also increased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month, up to 4.2% in March.

### Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- Arkansas' civilian labor force increased by 260 in March, a result of 502 more unemployed job seekers and 242 fewer employed Arkansans. The unemployment rate increased by one-tenth of a percentage point, while the labor force participation rate remained stable over the month.
- Compared to March 2024, there are 15,686 more employed in the State. There are 4,739 more unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work, as the unemployment rate is up from 3.4%. Arkansas' labor force participation rate is up four-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 5,200 in March to total 1,378,100. The greatest gains were posted in Leisure and Hospitality (+3,200), Manufacturing (+1,200), Construction (+1,100), and Private Education and Health Services (+1,100). The largest loss occurred in Professional and Business Services (-2,100), mostly due to declines in administrative and support services (-1,900).
- Compared to March 2024, there are 13,000 more jobs in the State. The largest annual growth was in Private Education and Health Services (+7,500), with health care and social assistance adding 7,100 jobs. Other notable gains were posted in Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+4,700) and in Manufacturing (+2,100).

### Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	Change from February 2025	Change from March 2024
Civilian Labor Force	1,421,038	1,420,778	1,400,613	260	20,425
Employment	1,368,961	1,369,203	1,353,275	-242	15,686
Unemployment	52,077	51,575	47,338	502	4,739
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.6%	3.4%	0.1%	0.3%
Labor Force Participation Rate	58.4%	58.4%	58.0%	0.0%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. More information about the data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm>

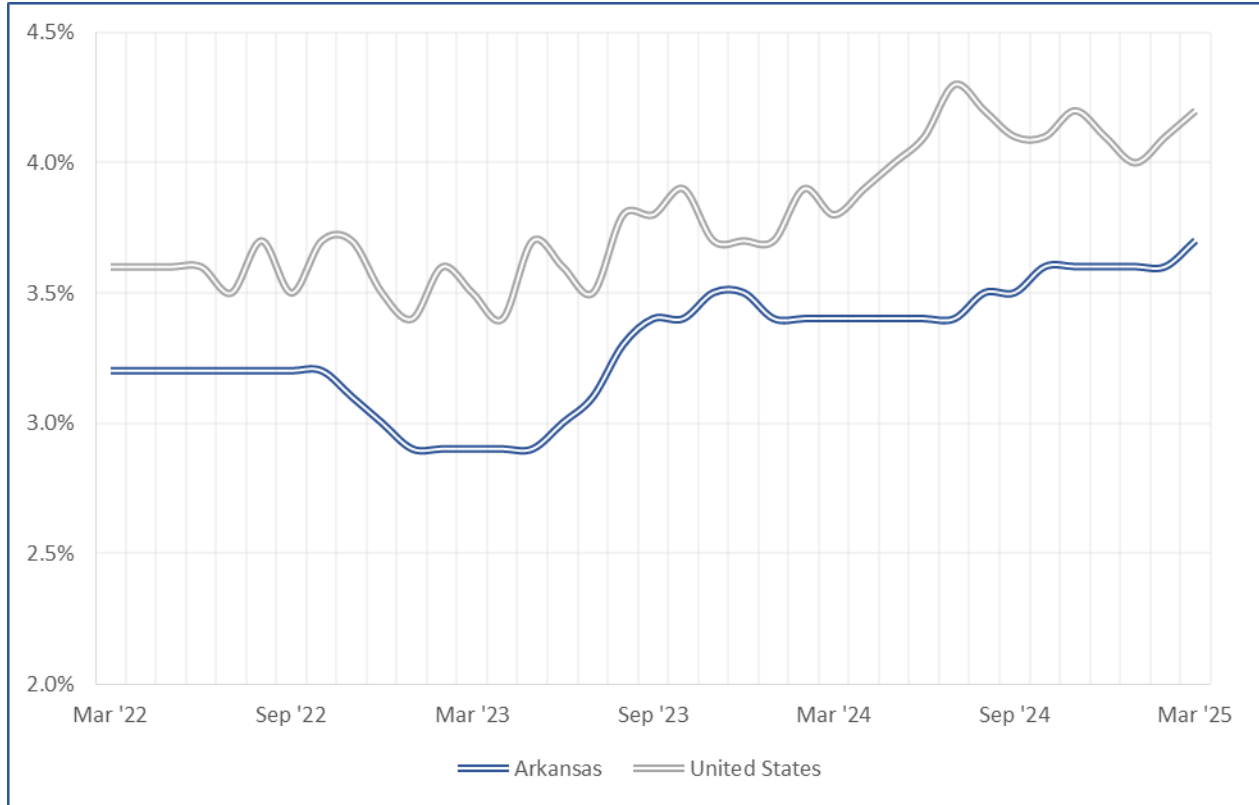
### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	March 2025	February 2025	March 2024	Change from February 2025	Change from March 2024
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	1378.1	1372.9	1365.1	5.2	13.0
<b>Goods Producing</b>	234.8	232.5	234.0	2.3	0.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	70.2	69.1	71.5	1.1	-1.3
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>64.0</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	41.0	40.3	41.3	0.7	-0.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>164.6</b>	<b>163.4</b>	<b>162.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Durable Goods	78.9	78.0	77.6	0.9	1.3
Nondurable Goods	85.7	85.4	84.9	0.3	0.8
<b>Service Providing</b>	1143.3	1140.4	1131.1	2.9	12.2
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>271.6</b>	<b>270.7</b>	<b>266.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Wholesale Trade	53.7	53.9	53.0	-0.2	0.7
Retail Trade	145.2	144.6	143.0	0.6	2.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	72.7	72.2	70.9	0.5	1.8
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>70.2</b>	<b>69.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Finance & Insurance	54.9	55.2	54.0	-0.3	0.9
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.9	15.0	15.3	-0.1	-0.4
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>160.6</b>	<b>162.7</b>	<b>160.2</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	54.4	54.7	51.6	-0.3	2.8
Management of Companies	40.8	40.7	39.0	0.1	1.8
Administrative & Support Services	65.4	67.3	69.6	-1.9	-4.2
<b>Private Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>220.2</b>	<b>219.1</b>	<b>212.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>7.5</b>
Educational Services	20.2	19.8	19.8	0.4	0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	200.0	199.3	192.9	0.7	7.1
Ambulatory Health Care	69.3	69.4	66.8	-0.1	2.5
Social Assistance	42.5	42.1	40.2	0.4	2.3
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>128.1</b>	<b>124.9</b>	<b>128.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	13.4	13.0	13.4	0.4	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	114.7	111.9	114.7	2.8	0.0
Accommodation Services	10.9	10.5	11.0	0.4	-0.1
Food Services	103.8	101.4	103.7	2.4	0.1
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>215.9</b>	<b>215.3</b>	<b>215.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Federal Government	21.8	21.8	21.9	0.0	-0.1
State Government	78.2	77.9	78.2	0.3	0.0
State Government, Educational Services	32.2	31.9	32.1	0.3	0.1
State Government, Excluding Education	46.0	46.0	46.1	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	115.9	115.6	115.6	0.3	0.3
Local Government, Educational Services	70.9	70.9	70.3	0.0	0.6
Local Government, Excluding Education	45.0	44.7	45.3	0.3	-0.3

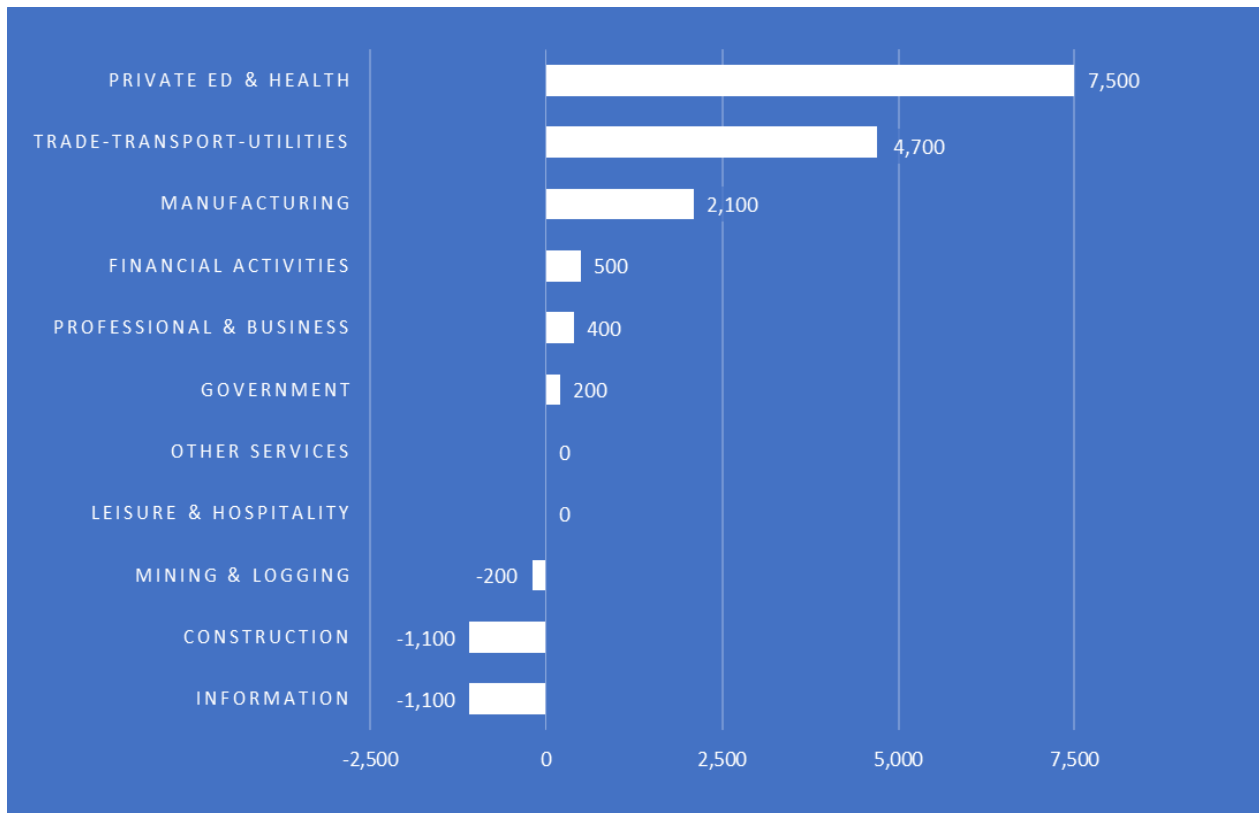
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024 benchmark.

Notes: Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Arkansas vs. United States (3-Year Comparison)



### Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors March 2024 to March 2025 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov)



### **About the Arkansas Department of Commerce**

The Arkansas Department of Commerce is the umbrella department for workforce and economic development drivers. Its divisions and regulatory boards include the Division of Aeronautics, Waterways Commission, Wine Producers Council, Workforce Services, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, Economic Development Commission, and Development Finance Authority.



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

### **About Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making.

### **About Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)**

The LAUS program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, States, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence.

### **About Current Employment Statistics (CES)**

The CES program produces detailed industry estimates of employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. CES State and Metro Area produces data for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.