



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arkansas' unemployment rate increased to 3.9% in September

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Dec. 9, 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 3.8% in August to 3.9% in September. At 4.4%, the United States' jobless rate also increased one-tenth of a percentage point between August and September.

### Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- The civilian labor force in Arkansas increased by 3,437 in September, with 1,891 more unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work and 1,546 additional employed. The increase in the number of unemployed pushed the unemployment rate up to 3.9%, while growth in the size of the civilian labor force increased labor force participation up to 58.5% in September. Both the civilian labor force and employment remain at record high levels.
- Compared to September 2024, there are 9,049 more employed residents in the State. With 6,047 additional unemployed Arkansans seeking work, the unemployment rate is up four-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose by 16,000 in September to reach a new record high level of 1,393,300 jobs. Expansions were mostly seasonal, related to the start of the 2025/2026 school year. Government added 13,100 jobs, all in Local Government-Educational Services (+9,200) and State Government-Educational Services (+4,600). Private Education and Health Services rose by 2,400, with 1,700 more jobs in Private Educational Services.
- Compared to September 2024, there are 22,700 more jobs in the State. Private Education and Health Services posted the largest growth, up 8,800 jobs. Other notable gains occurred in Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+4,900), Leisure and Hospitality (+4,700), Professional and Business Services (+3,500), and in Manufacturing (+2,200).

### Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	September 2025*	August 2025	September 2024	Change from August 2025	Change from September 2024
Civilian Labor Force	1,430,617	1,427,180	1,415,521	3,437	15,096
Employment	1,374,867	1,373,321	1,365,818	1,546	9,049
Unemployment	55,750	53,859	49,703	1,891	6,047
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.8%	3.5%	0.1%	0.4%
Labor Force Participation Rate	58.5%	58.4%	58.4%	0.1%	0.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

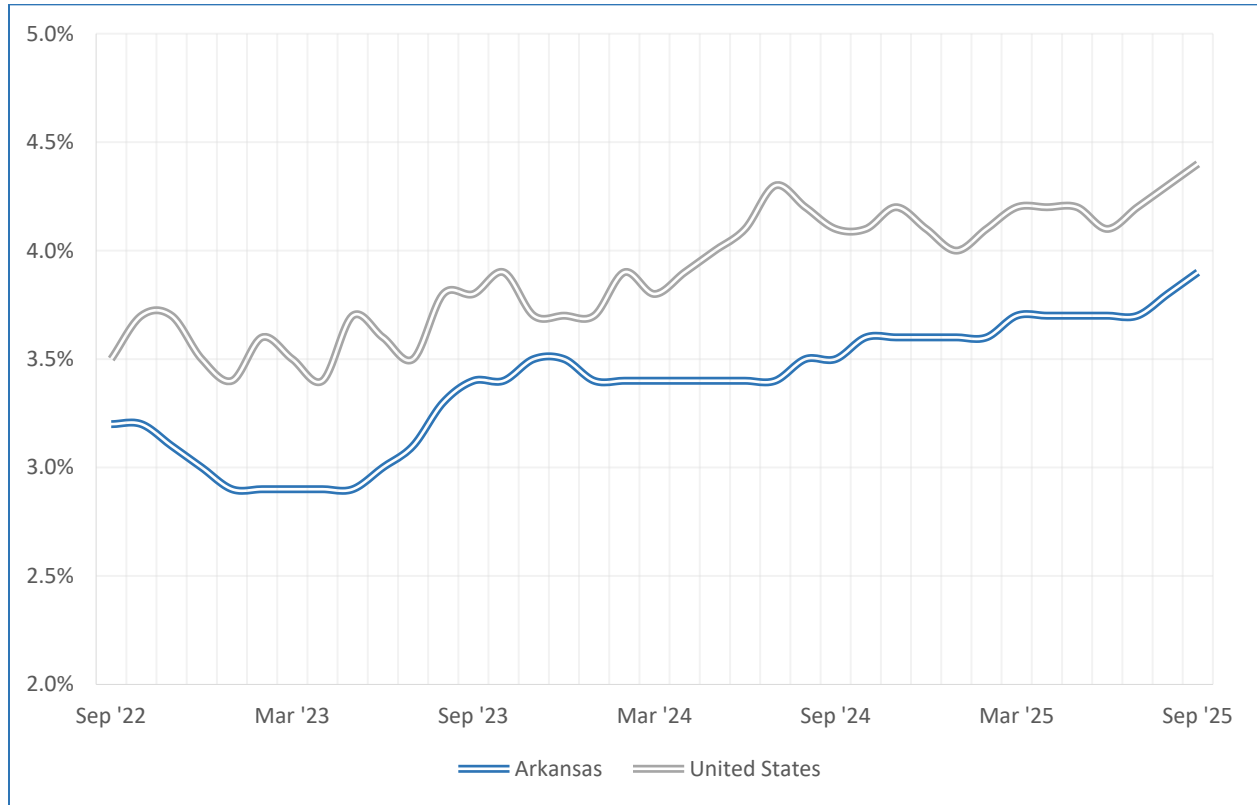
Note: \*Both September and August estimates are revised in this release (see Note on Page 4)

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

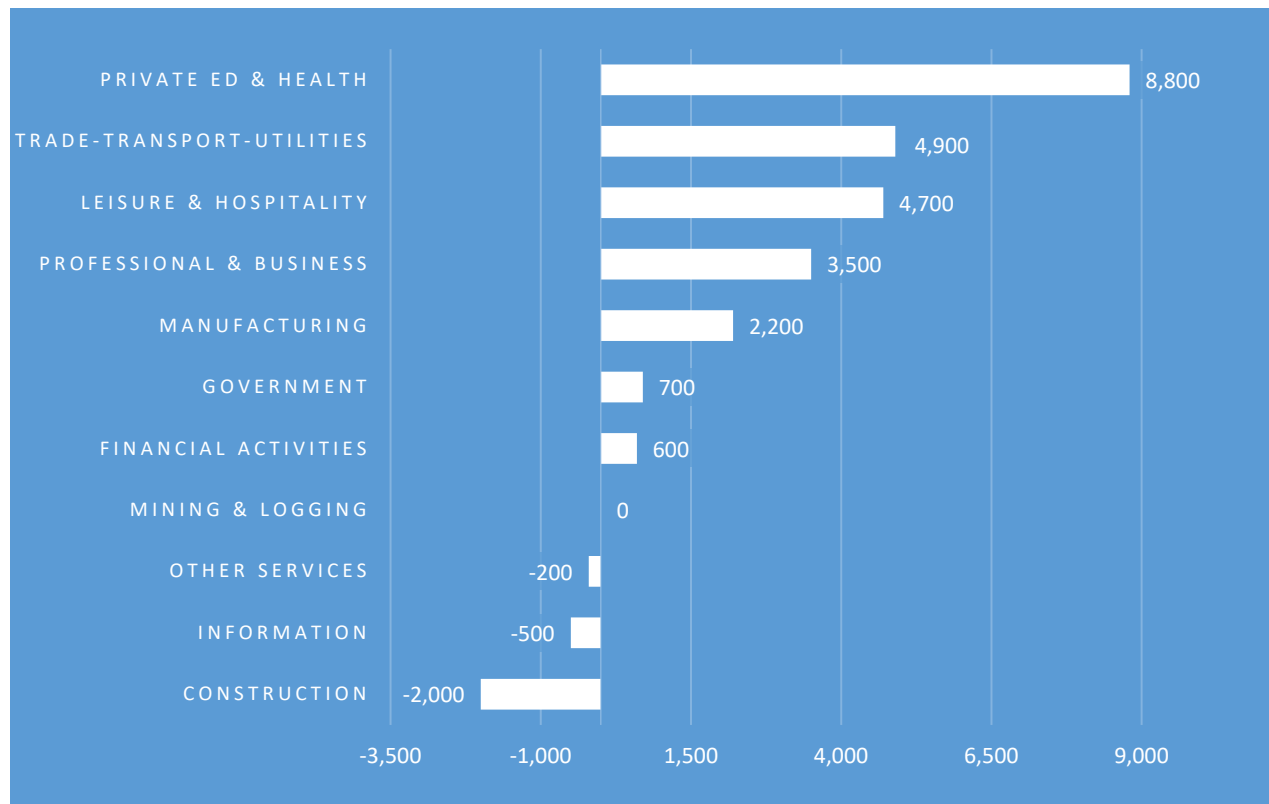
Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	September 2025*	August 2025	September 2024	Change from August 2025	Change from September 2024
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	<b>1393.3</b>	<b>1377.3</b>	<b>1370.6</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>22.7</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>235.9</b>	<b>235.9</b>	<b>235.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Mining, Logging, & Construction	70.9	70.9	72.9	0.0	-2.0
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>67.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-2.0</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	41.2	40.9	42.3	0.3	-1.1
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>165.0</b>	<b>165.0</b>	<b>162.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Durable Goods	79.0	78.6	77.0	0.4	2.0
Nondurable Goods	86.0	86.4	85.8	-0.4	0.2
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1157.4</b>	<b>1141.4</b>	<b>1134.9</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>22.5</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>274.0</b>	<b>273.4</b>	<b>269.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4.9</b>
Wholesale Trade	53.2	53.5	53.2	-0.3	0.0
Retail Trade	146.6	146.4	143.7	0.2	2.9
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	74.2	73.5	72.2	0.7	2.0
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>70.0</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>69.4</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Finance & Insurance	55.1	54.9	54.1	0.2	1.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.9	15.0	15.3	-0.1	-0.4
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>163.1</b>	<b>161.1</b>	<b>159.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>3.5</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	51.8	53.1	50.6	-1.3	1.2
Management of Companies	42.0	41.9	39.8	0.1	2.2
Administrative & Support Services	69.3	66.1	69.2	3.2	0.1
<b>Private Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>223.7</b>	<b>221.3</b>	<b>214.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Educational Services	19.4	17.7	19.7	1.7	-0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	204.3	203.6	195.2	0.7	9.1
Ambulatory Health Care	71.9	72.0	67.8	-0.1	4.1
Social Assistance	44.0	43.9	40.2	0.1	3.8
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>134.5</b>	<b>136.3</b>	<b>129.8</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	14.4	15.2	14.3	-0.8	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	120.1	121.1	115.5	-1.0	4.6
Accommodation Services	11.5	11.8	11.2	-0.3	0.3
Food Services	108.6	109.3	104.3	-0.7	4.3
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>65.5</b>	<b>65.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>215.1</b>	<b>202.0</b>	<b>214.4</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Federal Government	21.2	21.2	21.9	0.0	-0.7
State Government	77.8	73.2	77.8	4.6	0.0
State Government, Educational Services	31.8	27.2	31.7	4.6	0.1
State Government, Excluding Education	46.0	46.0	46.1	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	116.1	107.6	114.7	8.5	1.4
Local Government, Educational Services	70.2	61.0	69.7	9.2	0.5
Local Government, Excluding Education	45.9	46.6	45.0	-0.7	0.9

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2024 benchmark. **Note: \*Both September and August estimates are revised in this release (see Note on Page 4)**

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



### Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors September 2024 to September 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.

#### **Federal Government Shutdown**

Publication of September data was delayed by more than 6 weeks because of the lapse in federal appropriations. Collection of September data for the household survey (used to calculate civilian labor force estimates) had been completed in accordance with our normal schedule prior to the federal government shutdown. September estimates from the establishment survey (used to calculate nonfarm payroll jobs) include data collected on our normal schedule prior to the shutdown and also data that businesses self-reported electronically during the shutdown. As a result, the establishment survey collection rate (80.2 percent nationally) for this initial release of September 2025 data is higher than usual.

**BLS will not publish an October 2025 Employment Situation news release for the US, States, or substate areas.**

Establishment survey data for October 2025 (used to calculate nonfarm payroll jobs) will be published with the November 2025 data. Household survey data (used to calculate the civilian labor force estimates) were not collected for the October 2025 reference period, due to the lapse in appropriations and will not be collected retroactively. For the surveys, the collection period for November 2025 data will be extended and extra processing time will be needed. The US Employment Situation news release for November 2025 is scheduled to be published on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

**The November 2025 Press Release for Arkansas has been re-scheduled for Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.**