

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

February



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2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

February

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Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services



Technical Notes

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

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.

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February Spotlight

Business Employment Dynamics (BED)

Business Employment Dynamics, also known as BED, tracks employment gains and losses at individual business locations. BED statistics are calculated from quarterly reports provided by employers to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program. Like QCEW data, BED statistics are produced and published on a quarterly basis. At this time, BED data is only available at the national and statewide levels.

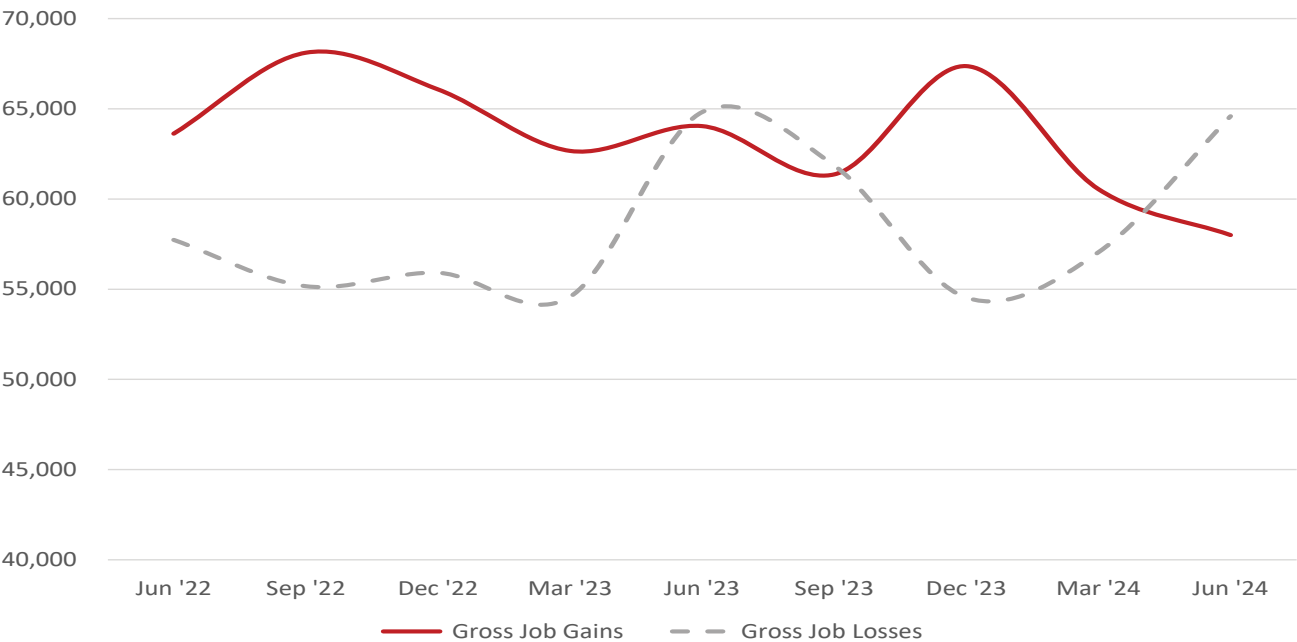
Gross Job Gains and Losses by Quarter (Private Sector)
State of Arkansas
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Category	Quarter Ending				
	Jun 23	Sep 23	Dec 23	Mar 24	Jun 24*
Employment Levels					
Gross job gains.....	64,041	61,366	67,364	60,550	58,006
Gross job losses....	64,817	61,852	54,535	57,049	64,586
Net Change.....	-776	-486	12,829	3,501	-6,580

*Most recent BED data available is for 2nd Quarter 2024

The information produced from BED statistics includes gross job gains and losses at establishments with changes in employment. These employment changes occur when establishments open/expand or close/contract. Gross job gains are a combination of jobs created from both openings of new businesses and expansions at existing businesses. Gross job losses are a combination of jobs lost from both existing businesses that close and those that reduce their number of employees. The net change is the difference between gross job gains and gross job losses.

Arkansas' Gross Job Gains vs. Gross Job Losses (Private Sector/Seasonally Adjusted)
2nd Quarter 2022 - 2nd Quarter 2024



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State of Arkansas

Civilian Labor Force Summary

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Workforce Policy and Innovation, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas’ seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remains unchanged at 3.6% between January and February. The United States’ jobless rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.0% in January to 4.1% in February.

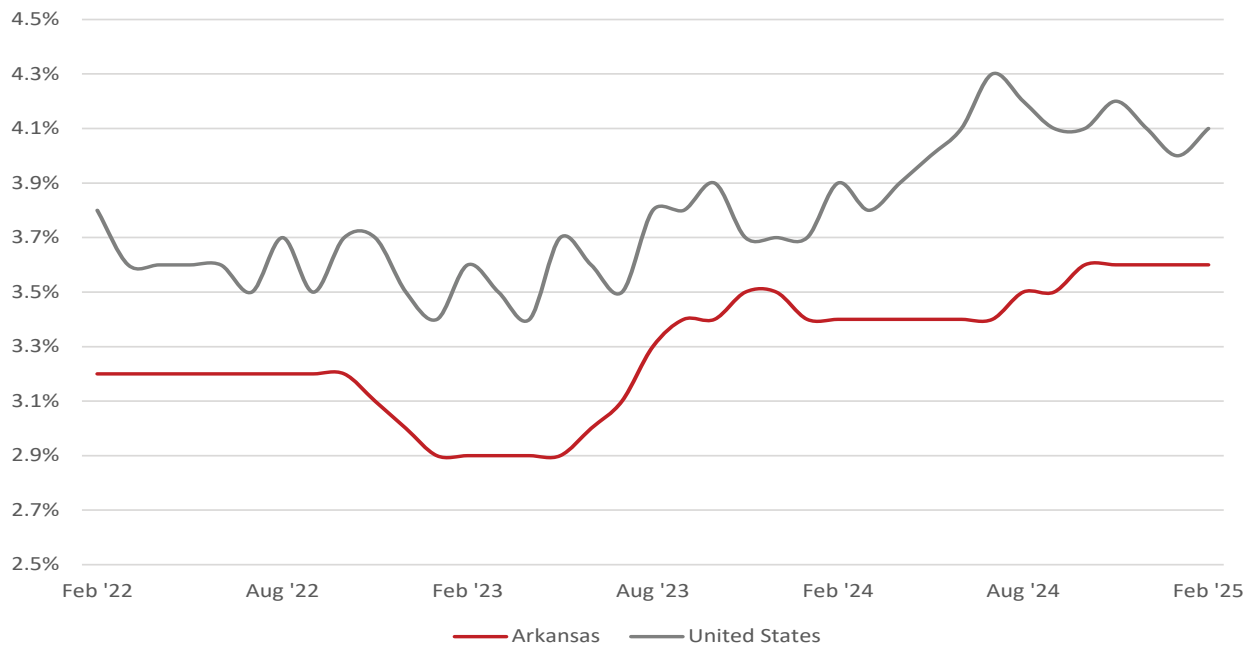
The civilian labor force in Arkansas increased by 1,345 in February, as unemployment (+960) and employment (+385) rose slightly. Civilian labor force and employment both reached new record high levels in February. The changes were not enough to impact the unemployment rate or the labor force participation rate, which both remained stable over-the-month.

Compared to February 2024, there are 18,205 additional employed in the State. The unemployment rate is up two-tenths of a percentage point, with 4,059 more unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work. The labor force participation is up four-tenths of a percentage point compared to last February.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted				Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Feb 25	Jan 25	Feb 24		Feb 25	Jan 25	Feb 24
Civilian Labor Force	1,420,665	1,419,320	1,398,401	Civilian Labor Force	1,416,582	1,402,484	1,393,593
Employment	1,369,117	1,368,732	1,350,912	Employment	1,357,483	1,347,829	1,341,308
Unemployment	51,548	50,588	47,489	Unemployment	59,099	54,655	52,285
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	3.4%	Unemployment Rate	4.2%	3.9%	3.8%
LF Participation Rate	58.4%	58.4%	58.0%	LF Participation Rate	58.2%	57.7%	57.8%

Unemployment Rates- Arkansas vs United States (Seasonally Adjusted)
February 2022 - February 2025



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State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

(NAICS)	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1370.0	1366.4	1356.4	3.6	13.6
Goods Producing	232.4	232.6	231.9	-0.2	0.5
Mining, Logging, & Construction	69.3	69.9	70.2	-0.6	-0.9
Mining & Logging	5.1	5.1	5.3	0.0	-0.2
Construction	64.2	64.8	64.9	-0.6	-0.7
Specialty Trade Contractors	40.2	40.7	40.6	-0.5	-0.4
Manufacturing	163.1	162.7	161.7	0.4	1.4
Durable Goods	77.5	77.6	77.2	-0.1	0.3
Nondurable Goods	85.6	85.1	84.5	0.5	1.1
Service Providing	1137.6	1133.8	1124.5	3.8	13.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	270.4	270.6	266.0	-0.2	4.4
Wholesale Trade	53.9	54.2	52.8	-0.3	1.1
Retail Trade	144.3	143.9	141.8	0.4	2.5
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	72.2	72.5	71.4	-0.3	0.8
Information	11.5	12.0	12.7	-0.5	-1.2
Financial Activities	70.2	70.5	69.2	-0.3	1.0
Finance & Insurance	55.2	55.2	54.0	0.0	1.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15.0	15.3	15.2	-0.3	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	161.8	161.5	159.2	0.3	2.6
Professional, Scientific & Technical	54.5	53.6	51.8	0.9	2.7
Management of Companies	40.4	40.5	38.7	-0.1	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	66.9	67.4	68.7	-0.5	-1.8
Private Education & Health Services	218.7	217.3	212.1	1.4	6.6
Private Educational Services	19.6	18.9	19.5	0.7	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	199.1	198.4	192.6	0.7	6.5
Ambulatory Health Care	69.2	68.3	66.9	0.9	2.3
Social Assistance	41.9	42.3	40.0	-0.4	1.9
Leisure & Hospitality	124.2	123.4	125.2	0.8	-1.0
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12.9	12.7	12.9	0.2	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	111.3	110.7	112.3	0.6	-1.0
Accommodation Services	10.5	10.3	10.6	0.2	-0.1
Food Services	100.8	100.4	101.7	0.4	-0.9
Other Services	65.5	65.7	65.5	-0.2	0.0
Government	215.3	212.8	214.6	2.5	0.7
Federal Government	21.8	21.8	21.8	0.0	0.0
State Government	77.9	75.7	77.8	2.2	0.1
State Gov, Educational Services	31.9	29.7	31.7	2.2	0.2
State Gov, Excluding Education	46.0	46.0	46.1	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	115.6	115.3	115.0	0.3	0.6
Local Gov, Educational Services	70.9	70.7	70.3	0.2	0.6
Local Gov, Excluding Education	44.7	44.6	44.7	0.1	0.0

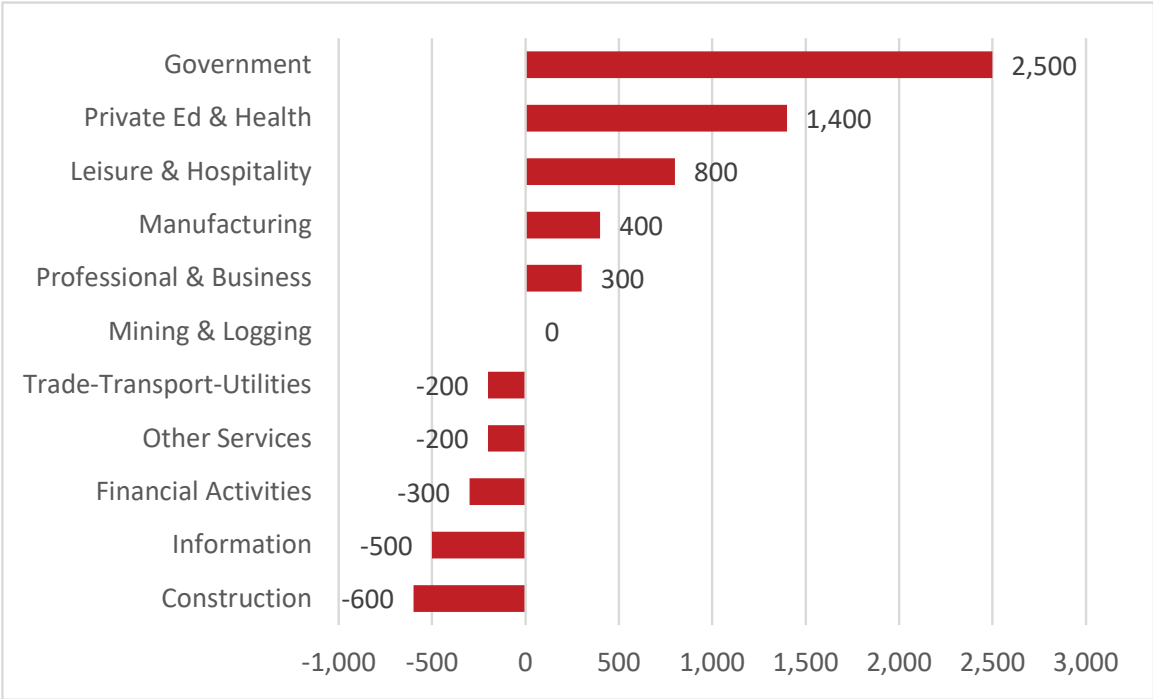
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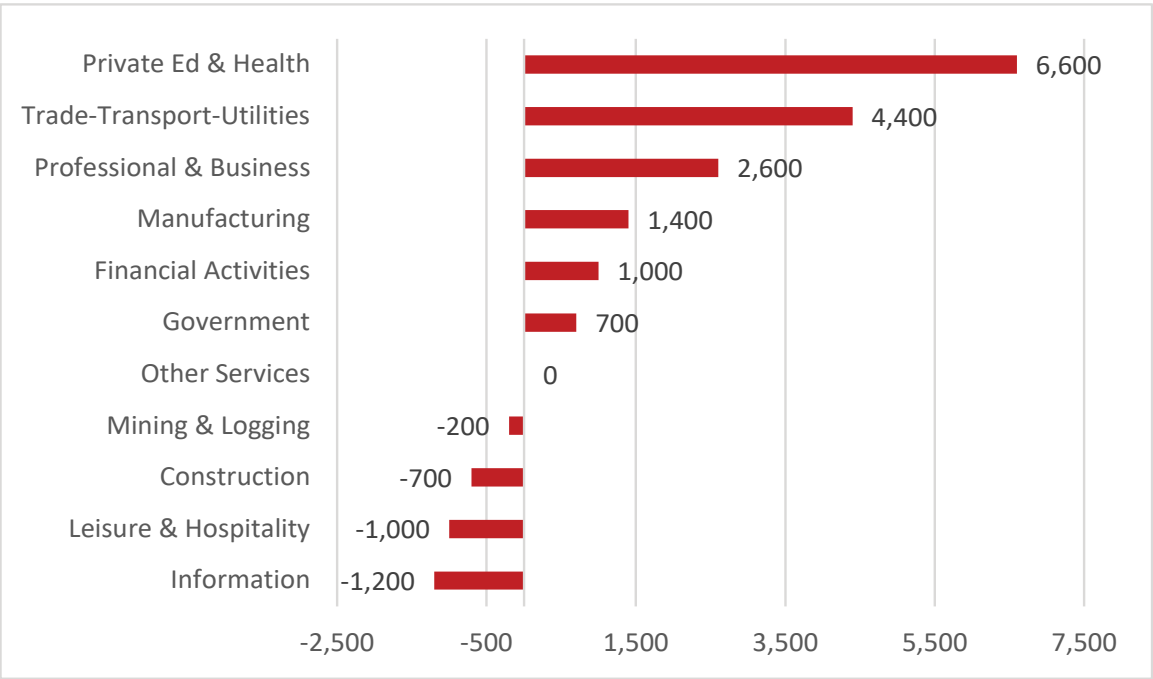
State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

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



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



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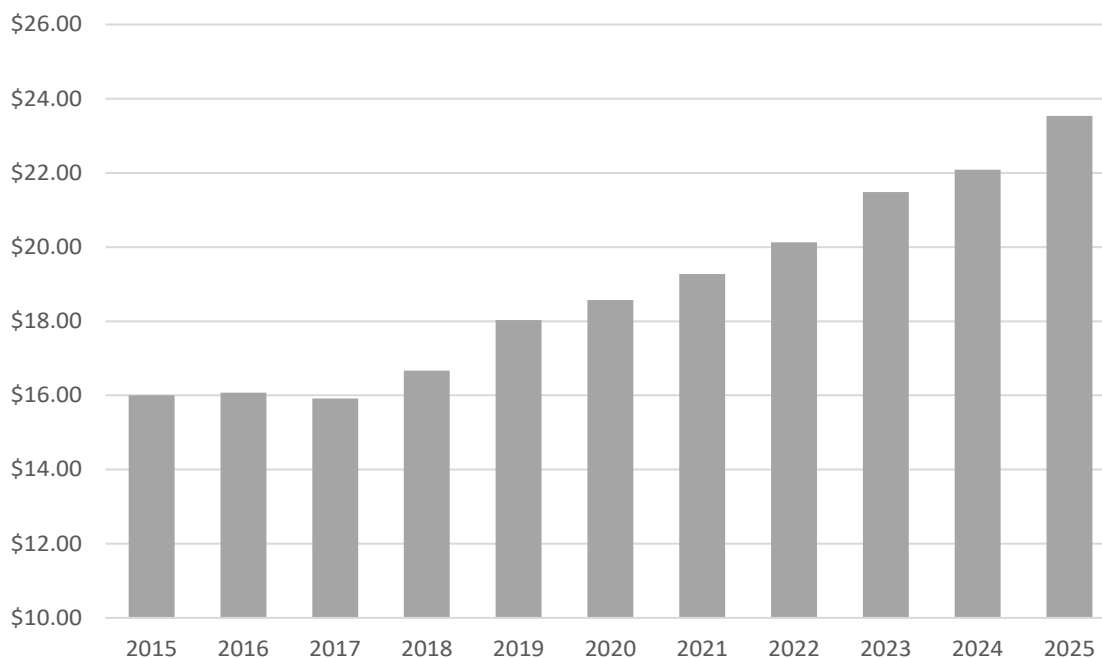
State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings Not Seasonally Adjusted Manufacturing

	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>
Average Weekly Hours	35.4	34.9	39.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$22.81	\$23.43	\$22.09
Average Weekly Earnings	\$807.47	\$817.71	\$861.51

Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

Durable Goods Manufacturing				Nondurable Goods Manufacturing			
	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>		<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>
Average Weekly Hours	42.1	41.4	42.4	Average Weekly Hours	29.5	29.3	35.9
Average Hourly Earnings	\$23.97	\$24.87	\$23.94	Average Hourly Earnings	\$21.38	\$21.65	\$20.14
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,009.14	\$1,029.62	\$1,015.06	Average Weekly Earnings	\$630.71	\$634.35	\$723.03

Average Hourly Earnings in Manufacturing February: 2015 - 2025



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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)

	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	383,396	380,456	375,591	2,940	7,805
Employment	368,553	366,800	362,381	1,753	6,172
Unemployment	14,843	13,656	13,210	1,187	1,633
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%	0.3%	0.4%

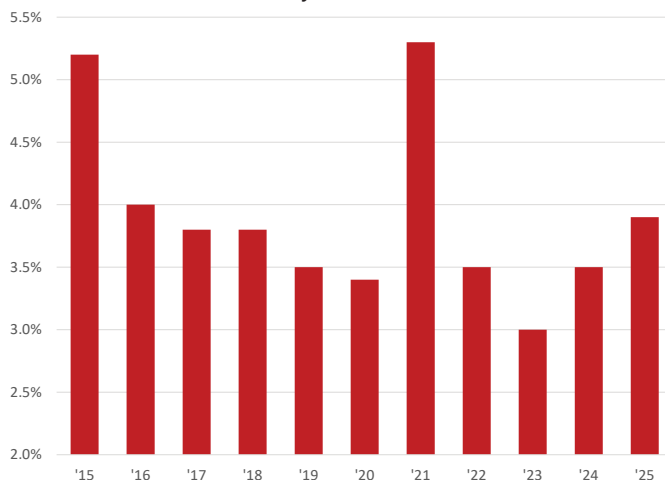
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	397.3	396.6	392.2	0.7	5.1
Goods Producing	42.6	42.7	41.6	-0.1	1.0
Mining, Logging & Construction	21.2	21.3	21.0	-0.1	0.2
Manufacturing	21.4	21.4	20.6	0.0	0.8
Service Providing	354.7	353.9	350.6	0.8	4.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	80.1	80.1	77.8	0.0	2.3
Wholesale Trade	17.9	18.1	17.8	-0.2	0.1
Retail Trade	39.5	39.2	38.4	0.3	1.1
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	22.7	22.8	21.6	-0.1	1.1
Information	5.0	5.1	5.3	-0.1	-0.3
Financial Activities	28.2	28.3	27.9	-0.1	0.3
Professional & Business Services	49.9	49.6	49.7	0.3	0.2
Private Education & Health Services	67.9	68.0	65.3	-0.1	2.6
Leisure & Hospitality	33.1	33.0	34.8	0.1	-1.7
Other Services	19.0	19.0	19.0	0.0	0.0
Government	71.5	70.8	70.8	0.7	0.7
Federal Government	10.8	10.7	10.7	0.1	0.1
State Government	34.3	33.8	34.2	0.5	0.1
Local Government	26.4	26.3	25.9	0.1	0.5

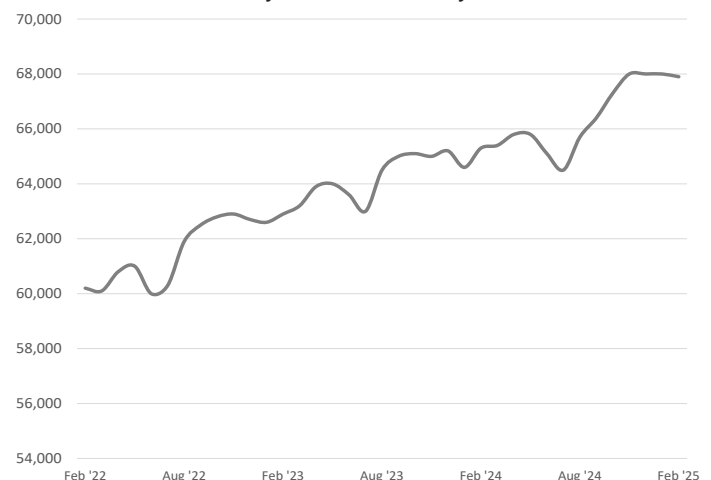
Unemployment Rates

February: 2015 - 2025



Jobs in Private Education & Health Services

February 2022 - February 2025



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Feb 25	Jan 25	Feb 24	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	311,853	306,737	302,247	5,116	9,606
Employment	301,480	297,421	293,614	4,059	7,866
Unemployment	10,373	9,316	8,633	1,057	1,740
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.0%	2.9%	0.3%	0.4%

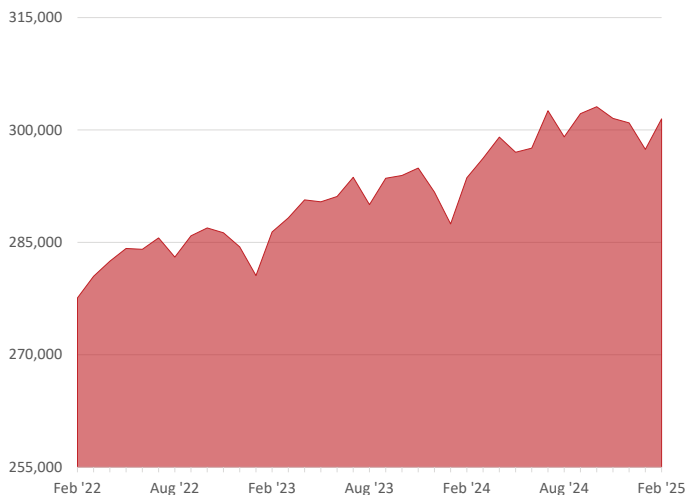
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Feb 25	Jan 25	Feb 24	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	311.5	307.5	304.0	4.0	7.5
Goods Producing	46.5	46.0	44.8	0.5	1.7
Mining, Logging & Construction	18.0	17.8	17.1	0.2	0.9
Manufacturing	28.5	28.2	27.7	0.3	0.8
Service Providing	265.0	261.5	259.2	3.5	5.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	61.9	62.1	61.1	-0.2	0.8
Wholesale Trade	14.3	14.4	14.1	-0.1	0.2
Retail Trade	29.1	29.2	28.3	-0.1	0.8
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	18.5	18.5	18.7	0.0	-0.2
Information	2.3	2.3	2.4	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	12.2	12.3	12.1	-0.1	0.1
Professional & Business Services	61.1	61.2	59.6	-0.1	1.5
Private Education & Health Services	38.3	37.7	36.7	0.6	1.6
Leisure & Hospitality	30.2	29.6	30.1	0.6	0.1
Other Services	13.6	13.6	13.5	0.0	0.1
Government	45.4	42.7	43.7	2.7	1.7
Federal Government	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-0.1
State Government	22.4	19.8	20.9	2.6	1.5
Local Government	19.9	19.8	19.6	0.1	0.3

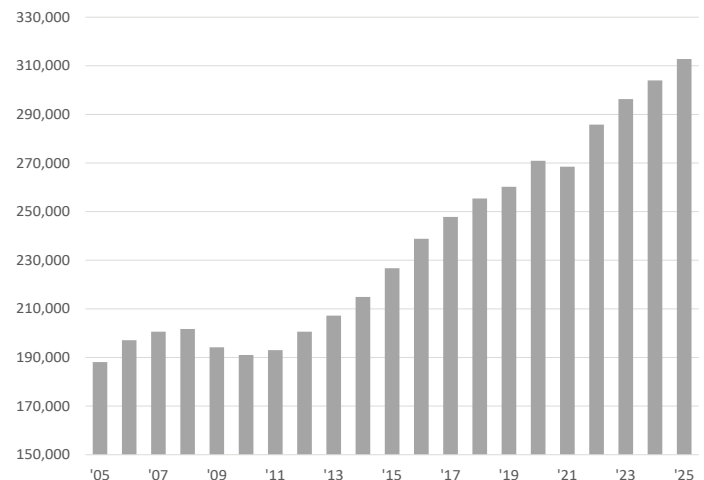
Employment

February 2022 - February 2025



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

February: 2005 - 2025



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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)

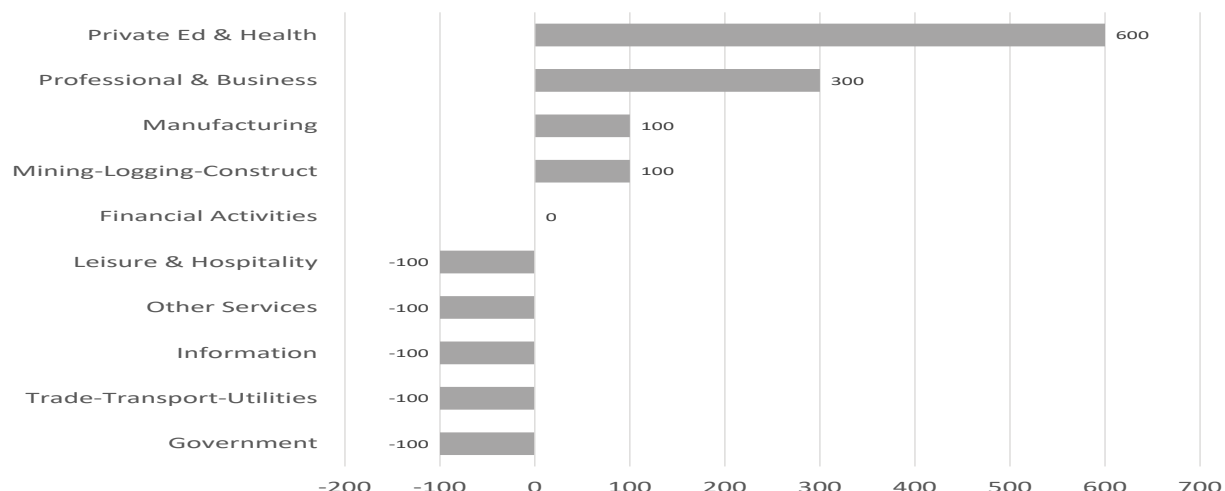
	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	102,000	101,016	100,909	984	1,091
Employment	97,822	97,166	96,976	656	846
Unemployment	4,178	3,850	3,933	328	245
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	3.8%	3.9%	0.3%	0.2%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	103.3	102.5	102.7	0.8	0.6
Goods Producing	22.9	22.7	22.7	0.2	0.2
Mining, Logging & Construction	5.0	4.9	4.9	0.1	0.1
Manufacturing	17.9	17.8	17.8	0.1	0.1
Service Providing	80.4	79.8	80.0	0.6	0.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	21.9	21.9	22.0	0.0	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	0.1
Retail Trade	11.5	11.5	11.4	0.0	0.1
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	5.9	5.9	6.2	0.0	-0.3
Information	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	10.9	10.9	10.6	0.0	0.3
Private Education & Health Services	17.6	17.5	17.0	0.1	0.6
Leisure & Hospitality	8.8	8.7	8.9	0.1	-0.1
Other Services	2.9	2.9	3.0	0.0	-0.1
Government	12.7	12.3	12.8	0.4	-0.1
Federal Government	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
State Government	1.7	1.4	1.8	0.3	-0.1
Local Government	9.8	9.7	9.8	0.1	0.0

Over-the-Year Job Change by Industry Sector February 2024 vs February 2025



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	43,401	43,083	43,862	318	-461
Employment	41,508	41,350	42,161	158	-653
Unemployment	1,893	1,733	1,701	160	192
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.0%	3.9%	0.4%	0.5%

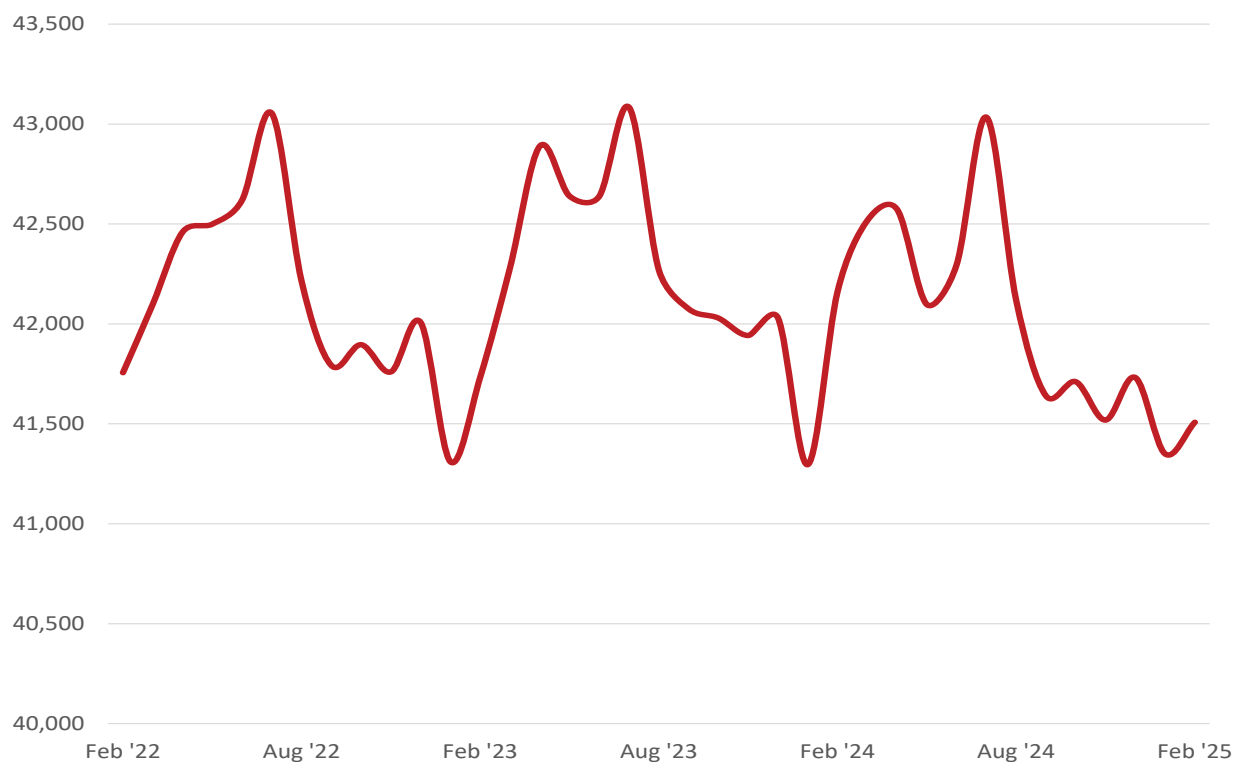
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	40.4	40.2	41.2	0.2	-0.8
Goods Producing	4.6	4.5	4.4	0.1	0.2
Service Providing	35.8	35.7	36.8	0.1	-1.0
Government	4.3	4.2	4.4	0.1	-0.1

Employment

February 2022 - February 2025



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	66,764	66,279	65,392	485	1,372
Employment	64,088	63,783	63,145	305	943
Unemployment	2,676	2,496	2,247	180	429
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	3.8%	3.4%	0.2%	0.6%

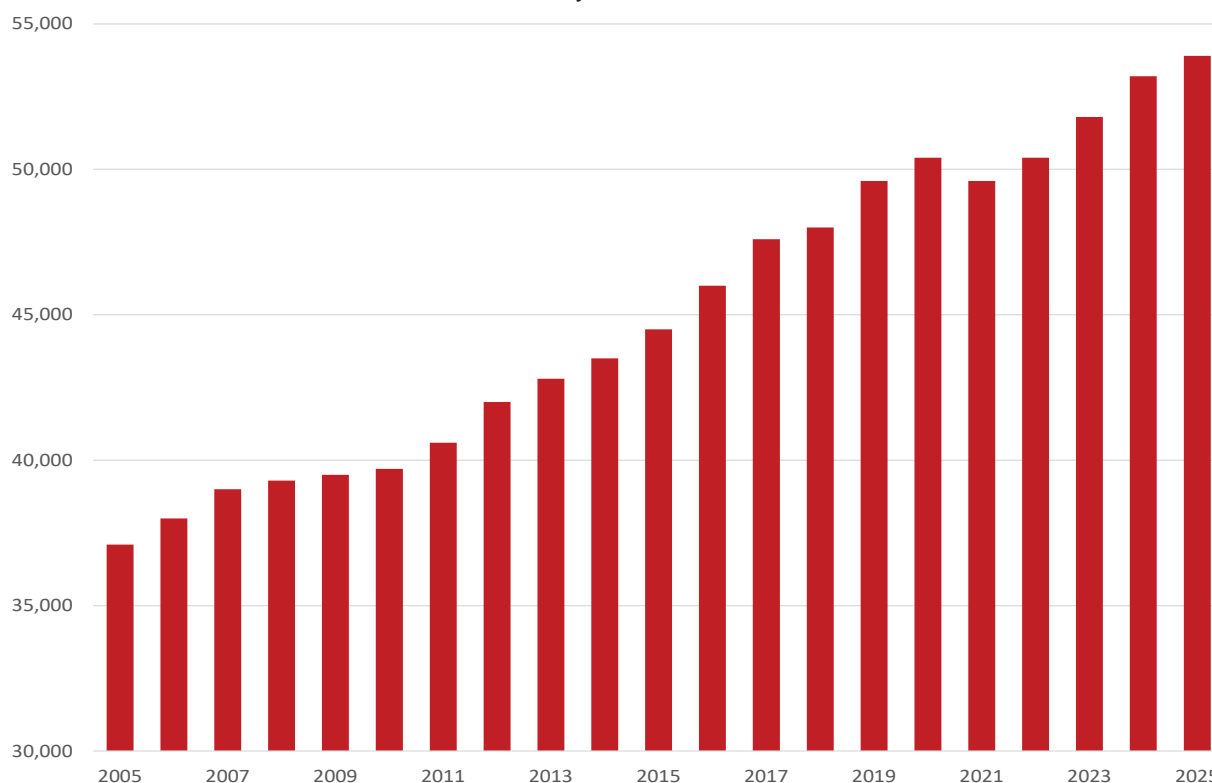
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	65.0	64.7	64.3	0.3	0.7
Goods Producing	11.2	11.2	11.1	0.0	0.1
Service Providing	53.8	53.5	53.2	0.3	0.6
Government	9.0	8.8	9.0	0.2	0.0

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

February: 2005 - 2025



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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.

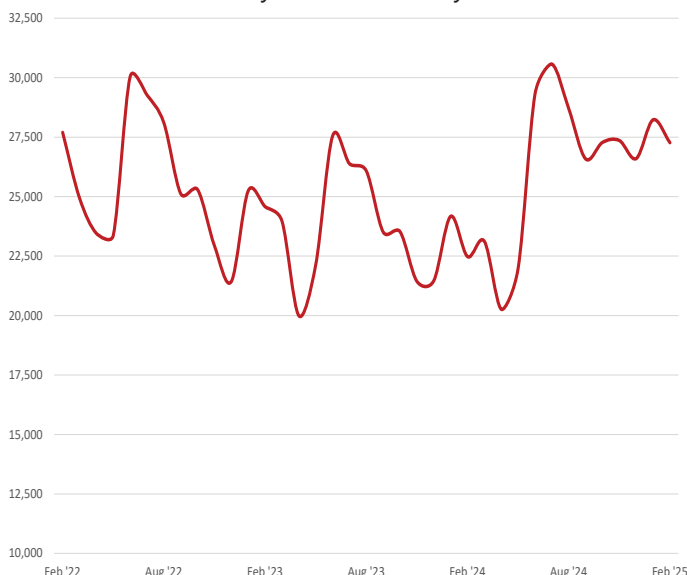
	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	625,647	623,057	621,799	2,590	3,848
Employment	598,383	594,832	599,321	3,551	-938
Unemployment	27,264	28,225	22,478	-961	4,786
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.5%	3.6%	-0.1%	0.8%

Texarkana MSA

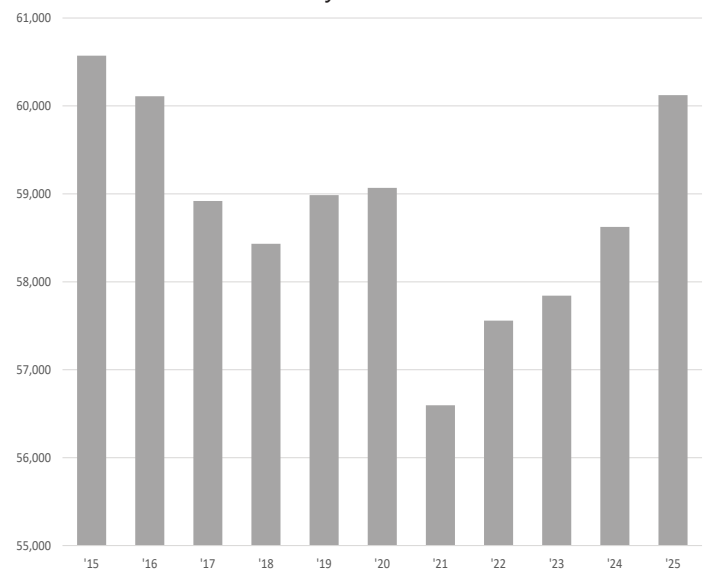
The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	62,909	62,368	61,357	541	1,552
Employment	60,123	59,721	58,624	402	1,499
Unemployment	2,786	2,647	2,733	139	53
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.2%	4.5%	0.2%	-0.1%

Memphis MSA - Unemployment
February 2022 - February 2025



Texarkana MSA - Employment
February: 2015 - 2025



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Micropolitan Statistical Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	February 2025				January 2025				February 2024			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	9,450	8,975	475	5.0	9,225	8,804	421	4.6	9,533	9,112	421	4.4
Batesville Micro	18,105	17,372	733	4.0	17,894	17,275	619	3.5	17,569	16,984	585	3.3
Blytheville Micro	20,777	19,863	914	4.4	20,589	19,702	887	4.3	20,156	19,293	863	4.3
Camden Micro	11,175	10,628	547	4.9	11,103	10,601	502	4.5	11,097	10,577	520	4.7
El Dorado Micro	15,726	14,836	890	5.7	15,648	14,769	879	5.6	15,968	15,171	797	5.0
Forrest City Micro	7,597	7,141	456	6.0	7,562	7,114	448	5.9	7,564	7,145	419	5.5
Harrison Micro	19,216	18,372	844	4.4	18,917	18,157	760	4.0	19,192	18,436	756	3.9
Magnolia Micro	8,935	8,511	424	4.7	8,816	8,444	372	4.2	8,942	8,562	380	4.2
Malvern Micro	13,348	12,758	590	4.4	13,246	12,697	549	4.1	13,492	12,941	551	4.1
Mountain Home Micro	16,723	15,956	767	4.6	16,601	15,878	723	4.4	16,425	15,689	736	4.5
Paragould Micro	20,355	19,451	904	4.4	20,178	19,334	844	4.2	19,999	19,187	812	4.1
Pine Bluff Micro	27,482	25,931	1,551	5.6	27,217	25,749	1,468	5.4	27,449	26,079	1,370	5.0
Russellville Micro	37,439	35,728	1,711	4.6	37,019	35,356	1,663	4.5	37,148	35,613	1,535	4.1
Searcy Micro	34,885	33,376	1,509	4.3	34,579	33,168	1,411	4.1	34,669	33,293	1,376	4.0

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	February 2025				January 2025				February 2024			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	14,807	14,237	570	3.8	14,579	14,039	540	3.7	14,322	13,863	459	3.2
Benton	20,269	19,597	672	3.3	20,102	19,504	598	3.0	19,815	19,261	554	2.8
Bentonville	34,221	33,187	1,034	3.0	33,713	32,726	987	2.9	33,139	32,315	824	2.5
Blytheville	7,020	6,691	329	4.7	6,964	6,637	327	4.7	6,784	6,499	285	4.2
Cabot	13,515	13,089	426	3.2	13,414	13,033	381	2.8	13,211	12,840	371	2.8
Conway	37,172	35,802	1,370	3.7	36,856	35,626	1,230	3.3	36,471	35,214	1,257	3.4
El Dorado	6,928	6,530	398	5.7	6,900	6,500	400	5.8	7,083	6,677	406	5.7
Fayetteville	56,907	54,825	2,082	3.7	55,852	54,088	1,764	3.2	55,028	53,401	1,627	3.0
Fort Smith	41,696	40,044	1,652	4.0	41,190	39,689	1,501	3.6	41,162	39,644	1,518	3.7
Hot Springs	16,956	16,201	755	4.5	16,850	16,139	711	4.2	17,117	16,456	661	3.9
Jacksonville	12,929	12,252	677	5.2	12,810	12,191	619	4.8	12,576	12,054	522	4.2
Jonesboro	39,597	37,978	1,619	4.1	39,328	37,789	1,539	3.9	38,768	37,440	1,328	3.4
Little Rock	105,022	100,831	4,191	4.0	104,284	100,333	3,951	3.8	103,118	99,207	3,911	3.8
North Little Rock	33,463	32,033	1,430	4.3	33,241	31,875	1,366	4.1	32,789	31,517	1,272	3.9
Paragould	13,223	12,660	563	4.3	13,126	12,584	542	4.1	13,016	12,488	528	4.1
Pine Bluff	15,041	14,108	933	6.2	14,887	13,988	899	6.0	15,057	14,196	861	5.7
Rogers	40,747	39,497	1,250	3.1	40,068	38,949	1,119	2.8	39,591	38,460	1,131	2.9
Russellville	13,487	12,892	595	4.4	13,311	12,743	568	4.3	13,362	12,854	508	3.8
Searcy	10,117	9,653	464	4.6	10,004	9,592	412	4.1	10,005	9,629	376	3.8
Sherwood	17,004	16,365	639	3.8	16,862	16,284	578	3.4	16,683	16,102	581	3.5
Springdale	44,570	43,222	1,348	3.0	43,936	42,639	1,297	3.0	43,267	42,098	1,169	2.7
Texarkana, AR	12,301	11,757	544	4.4	12,164	11,649	515	4.2	12,091	11,515	576	4.8
Van Buren	10,571	10,113	458	4.3	10,423	10,022	401	3.8	10,427	10,015	412	4.0
West Memphis	9,394	8,802	592	6.3	9,325	8,741	584	6.3	9,329	8,846	483	5.2

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

February

County Labor Force Statistics Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	February 2025				January 2025				February 2024			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	7,373	7,000	373	5.1	7,343	6,995	348	4.7	7,264	6,991	273	3.8
Ashley	6,453	6,006	447	6.9	6,379	5,942	437	6.9	6,591	6,193	398	6.0
Baxter	16,723	15,956	767	4.6	16,601	15,878	723	4.4	16,425	15,689	736	4.5
Benton	165,677	160,264	5,413	3.3	162,950	158,039	4,911	3.0	160,651	156,053	4,598	2.9
Boone	16,578	15,891	687	4.1	16,300	15,688	612	3.8	16,565	15,955	610	3.7
Bradley	3,888	3,631	257	6.6	3,867	3,615	252	6.5	3,816	3,634	182	4.8
Calhoun	2,066	1,972	94	4.5	2,053	1,967	86	4.2	2,008	1,924	84	4.2
Carroll	11,507	10,952	555	4.8	11,486	10,960	526	4.6	11,455	10,937	518	4.5
Chicot	3,080	2,882	198	6.4	3,103	2,894	209	6.7	3,111	2,929	182	5.9
Clark	9,450	8,975	475	5.0	9,225	8,804	421	4.6	9,533	9,112	421	4.4
Clay	5,973	5,690	283	4.7	5,956	5,686	270	4.5	5,912	5,613	299	5.1
Cleburne	9,871	9,387	484	4.9	9,781	9,330	451	4.6	9,812	9,393	419	4.3
Cleveland	2,962	2,828	134	4.5	2,969	2,842	127	4.3	2,939	2,831	108	3.7
Columbia	8,935	8,511	424	4.7	8,816	8,444	372	4.2	8,942	8,562	380	4.2
Conway	9,113	8,712	401	4.4	9,112	8,729	383	4.2	9,196	8,831	365	4.0
Craighead	56,715	54,482	2,233	3.9	56,287	54,210	2,077	3.7	55,546	53,710	1,836	3.3
Crawford	26,002	24,877	1,125	4.3	25,660	24,652	1,008	3.9	25,656	24,635	1,021	4.0
Crittenden	20,613	19,473	1,140	5.5	20,436	19,337	1,099	5.4	20,484	19,570	914	4.5
Cross	7,428	7,073	355	4.8	7,430	7,086	344	4.6	7,350	7,051	299	4.1
Dallas	2,688	2,565	123	4.6	2,677	2,560	117	4.4	2,736	2,626	110	4.0
Desha	3,969	3,671	298	7.5	3,991	3,691	300	7.5	3,979	3,703	276	6.9
Drew	7,959	7,552	407	5.1	7,850	7,470	380	4.8	7,671	7,324	347	4.5
Faulkner	66,406	63,936	2,470	3.7	65,852	63,622	2,230	3.4	65,086	62,887	2,199	3.4
Franklin	7,336	7,015	321	4.4	7,286	6,987	299	4.1	7,150	6,884	266	3.7
Fulton	3,965	3,758	207	5.2	3,955	3,767	188	4.8	3,909	3,718	191	4.9
Garland	43,401	41,508	1,893	4.4	43,083	41,350	1,733	4.0	43,862	42,161	1,701	3.9
Grant	8,779	8,461	318	3.6	8,708	8,437	271	3.1	8,573	8,295	278	3.2
Greene	20,355	19,451	904	4.4	20,178	19,334	844	4.2	19,999	19,187	812	4.1
Hempstead	8,217	7,867	350	4.3	8,213	7,870	343	4.2	8,209	7,879	330	4.0
Hot Spring	13,348	12,758	590	4.4	13,246	12,697	549	4.1	13,492	12,941	551	4.1
Howard	4,912	4,703	209	4.3	4,862	4,667	195	4.0	4,867	4,685	182	3.7
Independence	18,105	17,372	733	4.0	17,894	17,275	619	3.5	17,569	16,984	585	3.3
Izard	4,142	3,882	260	6.3	4,051	3,793	258	6.4	4,346	4,103	243	5.6
Jackson	5,588	5,301	287	5.1	5,566	5,293	273	4.9	5,520	5,244	276	5.0
Jefferson	24,520	23,103	1,417	5.8	24,248	22,907	1,341	5.5	24,510	23,248	1,262	5.1
Johnson	10,085	9,524	561	5.6	10,042	9,524	518	5.2	10,332	9,750	582	5.6
Lafayette	2,334	2,186	148	6.3	2,297	2,175	122	5.3	2,186	2,068	118	5.4
Lawrence	6,680	6,383	297	4.4	6,654	6,365	289	4.3	6,625	6,347	278	4.2
Lee	2,317	2,169	148	6.4	2,327	2,182	145	6.2	2,285	2,150	135	5.9
Lincoln	3,316	3,116	200	6.0	3,301	3,109	192	5.8	3,289	3,110	179	5.4
Little River	5,190	4,966	224	4.3	5,138	4,920	218	4.2	5,086	4,848	238	4.7
Logan	8,780	8,353	427	4.9	8,754	8,337	417	4.8	8,863	8,511	352	4.0
Lonoke	36,821	35,528	1,293	3.5	36,546	35,377	1,169	3.2	35,970	34,852	1,118	3.1
Madison	8,319	8,025	294	3.5	8,248	7,982	266	3.2	8,079	7,829	250	3.1
Marion	5,328	4,971	357	6.7	5,285	4,970	315	6.0	5,421	5,102	319	5.9
Miller	17,217	16,407	810	4.7	16,987	16,256	731	4.3	16,850	16,069	781	4.6

(continued on Page 16)

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

February

County Labor Force Statistics Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	February 2025				January 2025				February 2024			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	20,777	19,863	914	4.4	20,589	19,702	887	4.3	20,156	19,293	863	4.3
Monroe	2,586	2,445	141	5.5	2,592	2,451	141	5.4	2,580	2,476	104	4.0
Montgomery	2,935	2,777	158	5.4	2,895	2,741	154	5.3	2,978	2,820	158	5.3
Nevada	2,475	2,334	141	5.7	2,464	2,329	135	5.5	2,510	2,367	143	5.7
Newton	2,638	2,481	157	6.0	2,617	2,469	148	5.7	2,627	2,481	146	5.6
Ouachita	9,109	8,656	453	5.0	9,050	8,634	416	4.6	9,089	8,653	436	4.8
Perry	4,300	4,096	204	4.7	4,272	4,088	184	4.3	4,189	4,013	176	4.2
Phillips	4,915	4,571	344	7.0	4,892	4,557	335	6.8	4,842	4,518	324	6.7
Pike	4,239	4,058	181	4.3	4,213	4,054	159	3.8	4,295	4,147	148	3.4
Poinsett	10,049	9,606	443	4.4	9,992	9,573	419	4.2	9,846	9,435	411	4.2
Polk	7,340	7,003	337	4.6	7,331	7,021	310	4.2	7,278	6,897	381	5.2
Pope	28,053	26,711	1,342	4.8	27,708	26,402	1,306	4.7	27,858	26,632	1,226	4.4
Prairie	3,651	3,505	146	4.0	3,657	3,517	140	3.8	3,606	3,475	131	3.6
Pulaski	200,713	192,443	8,270	4.1	199,214	191,492	7,722	3.9	196,837	189,344	7,493	3.8
Randolph	7,777	7,450	327	4.2	7,704	7,407	297	3.9	7,529	7,235	294	3.9
St. Francis	7,597	7,141	456	6.0	7,562	7,114	448	5.9	7,564	7,145	419	5.5
Saline	66,377	64,089	2,288	3.4	65,864	63,784	2,080	3.2	64,936	62,990	1,946	3.0
Scott	4,150	3,990	160	3.9	4,123	3,980	143	3.5	4,183	4,029	154	3.7
Searcy	2,967	2,816	151	5.1	2,926	2,790	136	4.6	2,925	2,784	141	4.8
Sebastian	59,204	56,829	2,375	4.0	58,494	56,326	2,168	3.7	58,468	56,261	2,207	3.8
Sevier	7,034	6,782	252	3.6	6,962	6,746	216	3.1	7,040	6,810	230	3.3
Sharp	6,578	6,251	327	5.0	6,534	6,243	291	4.5	6,378	6,105	273	4.3
Stone	3,968	3,730	238	6.0	3,990	3,763	227	5.7	3,965	3,743	222	5.6
Union	15,726	14,836	890	5.7	15,648	14,769	879	5.6	15,968	15,171	797	5.0
Van Buren	5,914	5,577	337	5.7	5,880	5,575	305	5.2	5,839	5,571	268	4.6
Washington	137,857	133,191	4,666	3.4	135,539	131,400	4,139	3.1	133,517	129,732	3,785	2.8
White	34,885	33,376	1,509	4.3	34,579	33,168	1,411	4.1	34,669	33,293	1,376	4.0
Woodruff	2,891	2,762	129	4.5	2,894	2,769	125	4.3	2,914	2,789	125	4.3
Yell	9,386	9,017	369	3.9	9,311	8,954	357	3.8	9,290	8,981	309	3.3

County Labor Force Summary

Between January and February, unemployment rates increased in 71 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates in two counties declined, while two counties were unchanged over the month. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 3.3% in Benton County to a high of 7.5% in Desha County.

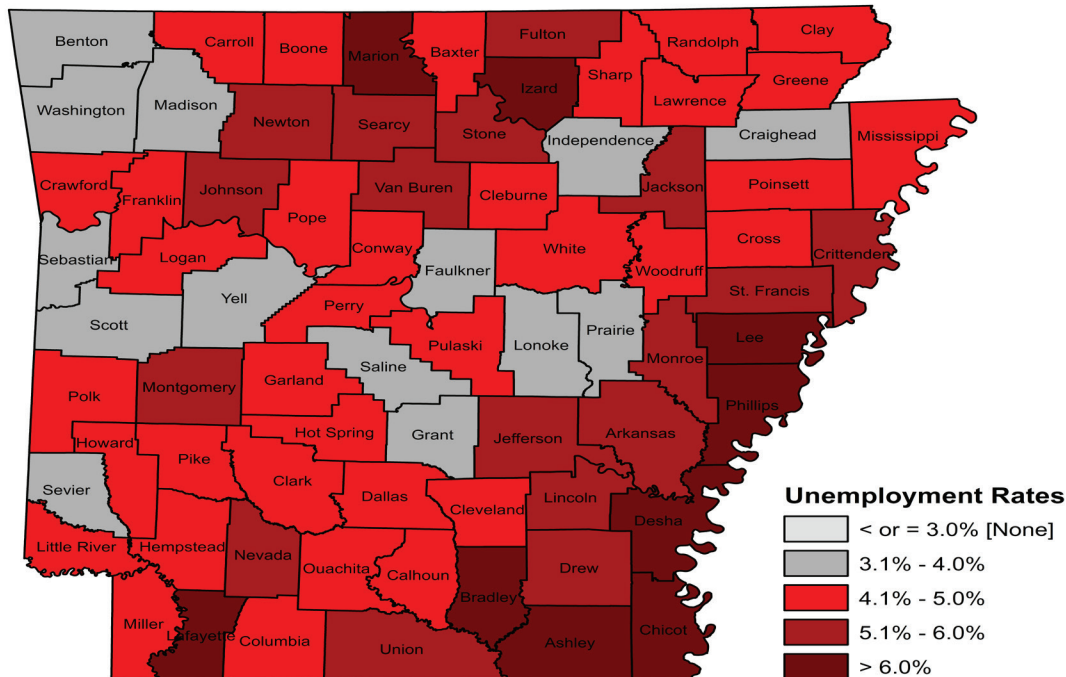
In February, no county posted an unemployment rate below three percent. Two counties had rates at or above seven percent, up from one county above 7% last month.

Compared to February 2024, jobless rates are up in 70 counties in Arkansas. Three counties were down over the year, while two counties remained stable. The largest increase occurred in Bradley County, up one and eight-tenths of a percentage point. Polk County posted the greatest decline, down six-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

February

County Unemployment Rates



Ranked by Unemployment Rates

February 2025 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Benton	3.3	24	Garland	4.4	50	Drew	5.1
2	Saline	3.4	24	Greene	4.4	50	Jackson	5.1
2	Washington	3.4	24	Hot Spring	4.4	50	Searcy	5.1
4	Lonoke	3.5	24	Lawrence	4.4	54	Fulton	5.2
4	Madison	3.5	24	Mississippi	4.4	55	Montgomery	5.4
6	Grant	3.6	24	Poinsett	4.4	56	Crittenden	5.5
6	Sevier	3.6	32	Calhoun	4.5	56	Monroe	5.5
8	Faulkner	3.7	32	Cleveland	4.5	58	Johnson	5.6
9	Craighead	3.9	32	Woodruff	4.5	59	Nevada	5.7
9	Scott	3.9	35	Baxter	4.6	59	Union	5.7
9	Yell	3.9	35	Dallas	4.6	59	Van Buren	5.7
12	Independence	4.0	35	Polk	4.6	62	Jefferson	5.8
12	Prairie	4.0	38	Clay	4.7	63	Lincoln	6.0
12	Sebastian	4.0	38	Columbia	4.7	63	Newton	6.0
15	Boone	4.1	38	Miller	4.7	63	St. Francis	6.0
15	Pulaski	4.1	38	Perry	4.7	63	Stone	6.0
17	Randolph	4.2	42	Carroll	4.8	67	Izard	6.3
18	Crawford	4.3	42	Cross	4.8	67	Lafayette	6.3
18	Hempstead	4.3	42	Pope	4.8	69	Chicot	6.4
18	Howard	4.3	45	Cleburne	4.9	69	Lee	6.4
18	Little River	4.3	45	Logan	4.9	71	Bradley	6.6
18	Pike	4.3	47	Clark	5.0	72	Marion	6.7
18	White	4.3	47	Ouachita	5.0	73	Ashley	6.9
24	Conway	4.4	47	Sharp	5.0	74	Phillips	7.0
24	Franklin	4.4	50	Arkansas	5.1	75	Desha	7.5

2025 Arkansas Labor Market Report

February

Local Workforce Development Areas

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	February 2025				January 2025				February 2024			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	271,532	261,115	10,417	3.8	269,441	259,910	9,531	3.5	265,897	256,817	9,080	3.4
City of Little Rock	105,022	100,831	4,191	4.0	104,284	100,333	3,951	3.8	103,118	99,207	3,911	3.8
Eastern	42,870	40,427	2,443	5.7	42,647	40,276	2,371	5.6	42,525	40,434	2,091	4.9
North Central	95,907	91,396	4,511	4.7	95,124	90,976	4,148	4.4	94,921	90,943	3,978	4.2
Northeast	128,326	122,925	5,401	4.2	127,360	122,277	5,083	4.0	125,613	120,820	4,793	3.8
Northwest	367,594	354,547	13,047	3.5	361,952	350,176	11,776	3.3	357,665	346,562	11,103	3.1
Southeast	72,299	68,250	4,049	5.6	71,759	67,902	3,857	5.4	71,743	68,258	3,485	4.9
Southwest	85,903	81,785	4,118	4.8	85,167	81,337	3,830	4.5	85,491	81,662	3,829	4.5
West Central	134,310	128,136	6,174	4.6	133,107	127,343	5,764	4.3	135,025	129,388	5,637	4.2
Western	112,812	108,067	4,745	4.2	111,648	107,303	4,345	3.9	111,598	107,217	4,381	3.9

