

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Arkansas’ unemployment rate increases to 3.4% in December

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Jan. 28, 2025)** Today, the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Workforce Policy and Innovation, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas’ seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.3% in November to 3.4% in December. At 4.1%, the United States’ jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point in December.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

* Arkansas’ civilian labor force rose by 2,544 in December, with 1,487 additional employed and 1,057 more unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work. This movement was enough to push up the unemployment rate to 3.4%. Both the civilian labor force and employment continue to be at record highs.
* Compared to December 2023, there are 34,626 more employed in the State. The unemployment rate is down three-tenths of a percentage point, while labor force participation is up seven-tenths of a percentage point over-the-year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

* In December, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 1,100. Trade-Transportation-Utilities added 2,800 jobs, related to seasonal hiring for the holidays. Jobs in Professional and Business Services increased by 1,300. Four industry sectors reported typical seasonal losses.
* Compared to December 2023, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 23,200. Nine major industry sectors reported annual growth. The largest gains were in Private Education and Health Services (+11,000), Professional and Business Services (+4,800), Manufacturing (+3,600), and Leisure and Hospitality (+2,200).

## Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | December2024 | November2024 | December2023 | Change from November 2024 | Change from December 2023 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,416,352 | 1,413,808 | 1,384,754 | 2,544 | 31,598 |
| Employment | 1,368,644 | 1,367,157 | 1,334,018 | 1,487 | 34,626 |
| Unemployment | 47,708 | 46,651 | 50,736 | 1,057 | -3,028 |
| Unemployment Rate | 3.4% | 3.3% | 3.7% | 0.1% | -0.3% |
| Labor Force Participation Rate | 58.2% | 58.2% | 57.5% | 0.0% | 0.7% |

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) | December2024 | November2024 | December2023 | Changefrom November2024 | Changefrom December2023 |
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1386.7 | 1385.6 | 1363.5 | 1.1 | 23.2 |
| Goods Producing | 236.0 | 236.2 | 231.7 | -0.2 | 4.3 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 71.8 | 72.2 | 71.1 | -0.4 | 0.7 |
| **Mining & Logging** | **5.3** | **5.3** | **5.2** | **0.0** | **0.1** |
| **Construction** | **66.5** | **66.9** | **65.9** | **-0.4** | **0.6** |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 42.8 | 42.7 | 41.8 | 0.1 | 1.0 |
| **Manufacturing** | **164.2** | **164.0** | **160.6** | **0.2** | **3.6** |
| Durable Goods | 78.6 | 78.6 | 77.2 | 0.0 | 1.4 |
| Nondurable Goods | 85.6 | 85.4 | 83.4 | 0.2 | 2.2 |
| Service Providing | 1150.7 | 1149.4 | 1131.8 | 1.3 | 18.9 |
| **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities** | **273.9** | **271.1** | **273.2** | **2.8** | **0.7** |
| Wholesale Trade | 52.4 | 51.8 | 52.3 | 0.6 | 0.1 |
| Retail Trade | 147.2 | 146.5 | 147.2 | 0.7 | 0.0 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 74.3 | 72.8 | 73.7 | 1.5 | 0.6 |
| **Information** | **12.5** | **12.3** | **12.8** | **0.2** | **-0.3** |
| **Financial Activities** | **71.6** | **71.4** | **71.3** | **0.2** | **0.3** |
| Finance & Insurance | 56.3 | 56.1 | 55.9 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing | 15.3 | 15.3 | 15.4 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| **Professional & Business Services** | **161.0** | **159.7** | **156.2** | **1.3** | **4.8** |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 50.1 | 49.8 | 50.6 | 0.3 | -0.5 |
| Management of Companies | 38.5 | 37.8 | 37.7 | 0.7 | 0.8 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 72.4 | 72.1 | 67.9 | 0.3 | 4.5 |
| **Private Education & Health Services** | **223.5** | **224.5** | **212.5** | **-1.0** | **11.0** |
| Educational Services | 19.5 | 20.3 | 19.4 | -0.8 | 0.1 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 204.0 | 204.2 | 193.1 | -0.2 | 10.9 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 71.9 | 72.2 | 67.1 | -0.3 | 4.8 |
| Social Assistance | 42.2 | 42.7 | 39.1 | -0.5 | 3.1 |
| **Leisure & Hospitality** | **124.6** | **126.3** | **122.4** | **-1.7** | **2.2** |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 13.1 | 13.1 | 12.4 | 0.0 | 0.7 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 111.5 | 113.2 | 110.0 | -1.7 | 1.5 |
| Accommodation Services | 11.0 | 11.2 | 10.9 | -0.2 | 0.1 |
| Food Services | 100.5 | 102.0 | 99.1 | -1.5 | 1.4 |
| **Other Services** | **66.6** | **66.4** | **67.9** | **0.2** | **-1.3** |
| **Government** | **217.0** | **217.7** | **215.5** | **-0.7** | **1.5** |
| Federal Government | 22.0 | 21.8 | 22.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| State Government | 77.6 | 78.1 | 77.6 | -0.5 | 0.0 |
| State Government, Educational Services | 31.6 | 32.1 | 31.5 | -0.5 | 0.1 |
| State Government, Excluding Education | 46.0 | 46.0 | 46.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Local Government | 117.4 | 117.8 | 115.9 | -0.4 | 1.5 |
| Local Government, Educational Services | 72.5 | 72.6 | 71.4 | -0.1 | 1.1 |
| Local Government, Excluding Education | 44.9 | 45.2 | 44.5 | -0.3 | 0.4 |

Source**:** Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2023 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)

4.5%

4.0%

3.5%

3.0%

2.5%

2.0%

Dec '21

Jun '22

Dec '22

Jun '23

Dec '23

Jun '24

Dec '24

Arkansas

United States

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors December 2023 to December 2024 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

Private Ed & Health

11,000

Professional & Business

4,800

Manufacturing

3,600

Leisure & Hospitality

2,200

Government

1,500

Trade-Transport-Utilities

700

Construction

600

Financial Activities

300

Mining & Logging

100

Information

-300

Other Services -1,300

-3,500 -1,000

1,500

4,000

6,500

9,000

11,500 14,000

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

# 2025 Arkansas Publication Schedule

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference Month** | **State Press Release** | **MSA’s & Counties\*** |
| January | 03/17/25 | 03/21/25 |
| February | 03/28/25 | 04/09/25 |
| March | 04/18/25 | 04/29/25 |
| April | 05/21/25 | 05/28/25 |
| May | 06/24/25 | 07/02/25 |
| June | 07/18/25 | 07/30/25 |
| July | 08/19/25 | 08/27/25 |
| August | 09/19/25 | 10/01/25 |
| September | 10/21/25 | 10/29/25 |
| October | 11/21/25 | 12/03/25 |
| November | 12/19/25 | 12/31/25 |
| December | 01/27/26 | 02/04/26 |

\*Date when Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and county labor force statistics will be available on the Discover Arkansas website.

### Logo  Description automatically generated 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.

### About the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

The Division of Workforce Services has been reorganized into three new divisions within the Department of Commerce: Reemployment, Workforce Policy and Innovation, and Arkansas Workforce Connections. Reemployment administers the unemployment compensation program. Workforce Policy and Innovation administers the Arkansas Workforce Development Board, the Labor Market Information and Bureau of Labor Statistics programs. Arkansas Workforce Connections houses the Office of Skills Development, Employment and Training, Adult Education, Rehabilitation Services, and Services for the Blind.

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### 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.