

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Arkansas’ unemployment rate remains at 3.7% in April

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (May 21, 2025)** Today, the Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas’ seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained stable at 3.7% between March and April. At 4.2%, the United States’ jobless rate was also unchanged over the month.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

* The civilian labor force in Arkansas rose 1,519 in April, with 1,406 more employed and 113 additional unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work. Arkansas is again at record high levels of employment in April, while the labor force participation remained at 58.4%.
* Compared to April 2024, there are 14,459 more employed in the State. The number of unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work is up 4,855, pushing the unemployment rate up three-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

* Arkansas’ nonfarm payroll jobs rose 7,800 in April, reaching a new record high total of 1,386,400 jobs. Ten major industry sectors posted monthly increases. The largest gains were in Professional and Business Services (+2,600), Leisure and Hospitality (+2,100), Government (+1,100), and Construction (+1,000).
* Compared to April 2024, Arkansas has added 19,100 nonfarm payroll jobs. Notable growth occurred in Private Education and Health Services (+7,800), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+6,000), Professional and Business Services (+2,100), and Manufacturing (+1,700).

# Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | April 2025 | March 2025 | April 2024 | Change from March 2025 | Change from April 2024 |
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,422,616 | 1,421,097 | 1,403,302 | 1,519 | 19,314 |
| Employment | 1,370,386 | 1,368,980 | 1,355,927 | 1,406 | 14,459 |
| Unemployment | 52,230 | 52,117 | 47,375 | 113 | 4,855 |
| Unemployment Rate | 3.7% | 3.7% | 3.4% | 0.0% | 0.3% |
| Labor Force Participation Rate | 58.4% | 58.4% | 58.1% | 0.0% | 0.3% |

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) | April 2025 | March 2025 | April 2024 | Changefrom March 2025 | Changefrom April 2024 |
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1386.4 | 1378.6 | 1367.3 | 7.8 | 19.1 |
| Goods Producing | 234.6 | 234.4 | 233.2 | 0.2 | 1.4 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 71.4 | 70.3 | 71.7 | 1.1 | -0.3 |
| **Mining & Logging** | **5.2** | **5.1** | **5.2** | **0.1** | **0.0** |
| **Construction** | **66.2** | **65.2** | **66.5** | **1.0** | **-0.3** |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 41.6 | 41.1 | 41.3 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| **Manufacturing** | **163.2** | **164.1** | **161.5** | **-0.9** | **1.7** |
| Durable Goods | 78.6 | 78.5 | 77.3 | 0.1 | 1.3 |
| Nondurable Goods | 84.6 | 85.6 | 84.2 | -1.0 | 0.4 |
| Service Providing | 1151.8 | 1144.2 | 1134.1 | 7.6 | 17.7 |
| **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities** | **272.3** | **271.7** | **266.3** | **0.6** | **6.0** |
| Wholesale Trade | 53.5 | 53.8 | 53.1 | -0.3 | 0.4 |
| Retail Trade | 145.6 | 145.3 | 142.6 | 0.3 | 3.0 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 73.2 | 72.6 | 70.6 | 0.6 | 2.6 |
| **Information** | **11.7** | **11.6** | **12.3** | **0.1** | **-0.6** |
| **Financial Activities** | **70.5** | **70.2** | **69.2** | **0.3** | **1.3** |
| Finance & Insurance | 55.3 | 55.2 | 53.8 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing | 15.2 | 15.0 | 15.4 | 0.2 | -0.2 |
| **Professional & Business Services** | **163.4** | **160.8** | **161.3** | **2.6** | **2.1** |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 54.1 | 54.0 | 51.6 | 0.1 | 2.5 |
| Management of Companies | 41.0 | 41.1 | 39.1 | -0.1 | 1.9 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 68.3 | 65.7 | 70.6 | 2.6 | -2.3 |
| **Private Education & Health Services** | **220.4** | **219.9** | **212.6** | **0.5** | **7.8** |
| Educational Services | 20.3 | 20.2 | 20.0 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 200.1 | 199.7 | 192.6 | 0.4 | 7.5 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 69.4 | 69.0 | 67.0 | 0.4 | 2.4 |
| Social Assistance | 42.5 | 42.8 | 40.0 | -0.3 | 2.5 |
| **Leisure & Hospitality** | **130.6** | **128.5** | **130.6** | **2.1** | **0.0** |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 14.5 | 13.4 | 14.6 | 1.1 | -0.1 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 116.1 | 115.1 | 116.0 | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| Accommodation Services | 11.1 | 11.0 | 11.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| Food Services | 105.0 | 104.1 | 104.9 | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| **Other Services** | **65.9** | **65.6** | **65.7** | **0.3** | **0.2** |
| **Government** | **217.0** | **215.9** | **216.1** | **1.1** | **0.9** |
| Federal Government | 21.7 | 21.8 | 21.8 | -0.1 | -0.1 |
| State Government | 78.6 | 78.2 | 78.6 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| State Government, Educational Services | 32.6 | 32.2 | 32.5 | 0.4 | 0.1 |
| State Government, Excluding Education | 46.0 | 46.0 | 46.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Local Government | 116.7 | 115.9 | 115.7 | 0.8 | 1.0 |
| Local Government, Educational Services | 71.3 | 70.9 | 70.7 | 0.4 | 0.6 |
| Local Government, Excluding Education | 45.4 | 45.0 | 45.0 | 0.4 | 0.4 |

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

4.5%

4.0%

3.5%

3.0%

2.5%

2.0%

Apr '22

Oct '22

Apr '23

Oct '23

Apr '24

Oct '24

Apr '25

Arkansas

United States

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors April 2024 to April 2025 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

P R I V AT E E D & H E AL T H

7,800

T R A D E - T RA N S P O RT - U T I LI T I ES

6,000

P R O F E S S I O N A L & B U S I N E S S

2,100

M A NU F A CT U R I NG

1,700

F I NA N CI A L A CT I V I T I ES

1,300

GOV E R N M E N T

900

OT H E R SE R V I C E S

200

LEI S U R E & HO S P I T A LI T Y

0

M I NI NG & LO GG I NG

0

CO NS T R U CT I O N

-300

I N FOR M AT I ON

-600

-2,500

0

2,500

5,000

7,500

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.



**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.