



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas’ unemployment rate remains stable at 3.6% in January

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Mar. 17, 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 remained stable at 3.6% between December 2024 and January 2025. The unemployment rate for December 2024 was originally estimated at 3.4% but was later revised up to 3.6%. The United States’ jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.1% in December 2024 to 4.0% in January 2025.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary: See Annual Data Revisions note on Page 4 of this release

- Arkansas’ civilian labor force rose 2,068 in January, due largely to the addition of 1,956 more employed Arkansans. This marks the 36th consecutive month of record high employment. Arkansas’ labor force participation rate continues upward growth, reaching 58.4% in January.
- Compared to January 2024, there are 19,791 more employed in the State. The unemployment rate is up two-tenths of a percentage point, while the labor force participation rate is up four-tenths of a percentage point over-the-year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary: See Annual Data Revisions note on Page 4 of this release

- In January, Arkansas’ nonfarm payroll jobs declined 16,500. Declines were mostly seasonal. Jobs in Trade-Transportation-Utilities dropped by 5,200, due mostly to the end of temporary holiday hiring. Losses in Government (-3,200) and Leisure and Hospitality (-3,200) were both largely related to winter break at schools and universities.
- Compared to January 2024, nonfarm payroll jobs in the State are up 21,600. Nine major industry sectors posted annual growth, with Private Education and Health Services adding 8,300 jobs. Notable expansions were also seen in Professional and Business Services (+4,500), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+3,800), and in Manufacturing (+1,500).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	Change from December 2024	Change from January 2024
Civilian Labor Force	1,419,310	1,417,242	1,396,858	2,068	22,452
Employment	1,368,748	1,366,792	1,348,957	1,956	19,791
Unemployment	50,562	50,450	47,901	112	2,661
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	3.4%	0.0%	0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	58.4%	58.3%	58.0%	0.1%	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>

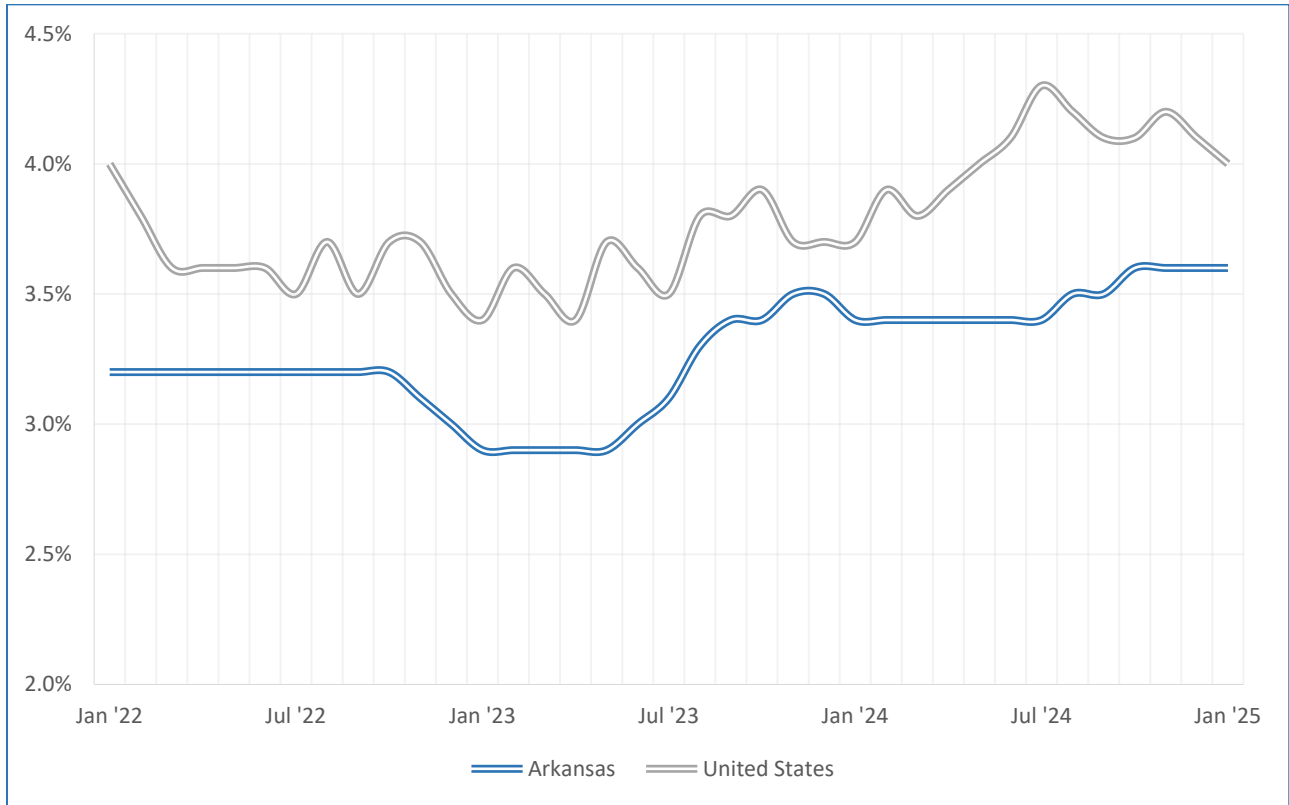
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	Change from December 2024	Change from January 2025
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1366.7	1383.2	1345.1	-16.5	21.6
Goods Producing	232.8	236.1	230.4	-3.3	2.4
Mining, Logging, & Construction	70.0	72.3	69.1	-2.3	0.9
Mining & Logging	5.1	5.1	5.3	0.0	-0.2
Construction	64.9	67.2	63.8	-2.3	1.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	40.8	42.5	39.9	-1.7	0.9
Manufacturing	162.8	163.8	161.3	-1.0	1.5
Durable Goods	77.6	78.2	77.0	-0.6	0.6
Nondurable Goods	85.2	85.6	84.3	-0.4	0.9
Service Providing	1133.9	1147.1	1114.7	-13.2	19.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	270.3	275.5	266.5	-5.2	3.8
Wholesale Trade	54.2	54.8	52.6	-0.6	1.6
Retail Trade	144.0	145.4	142.1	-1.4	1.9
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	72.1	75.3	71.8	-3.2	0.3
Information	12.0	12.2	12.6	-0.2	-0.6
Financial Activities	70.4	70.8	69.2	-0.4	1.2
Finance & Insurance	55.1	55.3	54.0	-0.2	1.1
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.3	15.5	15.2	-0.2	0.1
Professional & Business Services	161.4	161.6	156.9	-0.2	4.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	53.6	51.8	51.1	1.8	2.5
Management of Companies	40.5	40.7	38.5	-0.2	2.0
Administrative & Support Services	67.3	69.1	67.3	-1.8	0.0
Private Education & Health Services	218.0	218.6	209.7	-0.6	8.3
Educational Services	19.2	19.6	18.7	-0.4	0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	198.8	199.0	191.0	-0.2	7.8
Ambulatory Health Care	68.6	68.7	66.4	-0.1	2.2
Social Assistance	42.3	41.8	39.2	0.5	3.1
Leisure & Hospitality	123.3	126.5	122.6	-3.2	0.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.7	13.3	12.2	-0.6	0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	110.6	113.2	110.4	-2.6	0.2
Accommodation Services	10.4	10.7	10.4	-0.3	0.0
Food Services	100.2	102.5	100.0	-2.3	0.2
Other Services	65.7	65.9	65.2	-0.2	0.5
Government	212.8	216.0	212.0	-3.2	0.8
Federal Government	21.8	22.1	21.8	-0.3	0.0
State Government	75.7	77.6	75.7	-1.9	0.0
State Government, Educational Services	29.7	31.6	29.6	-1.9	0.1
State Government, Excluding Education	46.0	46.0	46.1	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	115.3	116.3	114.5	-1.0	0.8
Local Government, Educational Services	70.7	71.1	70.1	-0.4	0.6
Local Government, Excluding Education	44.6	45.2	44.4	-0.6	0.2

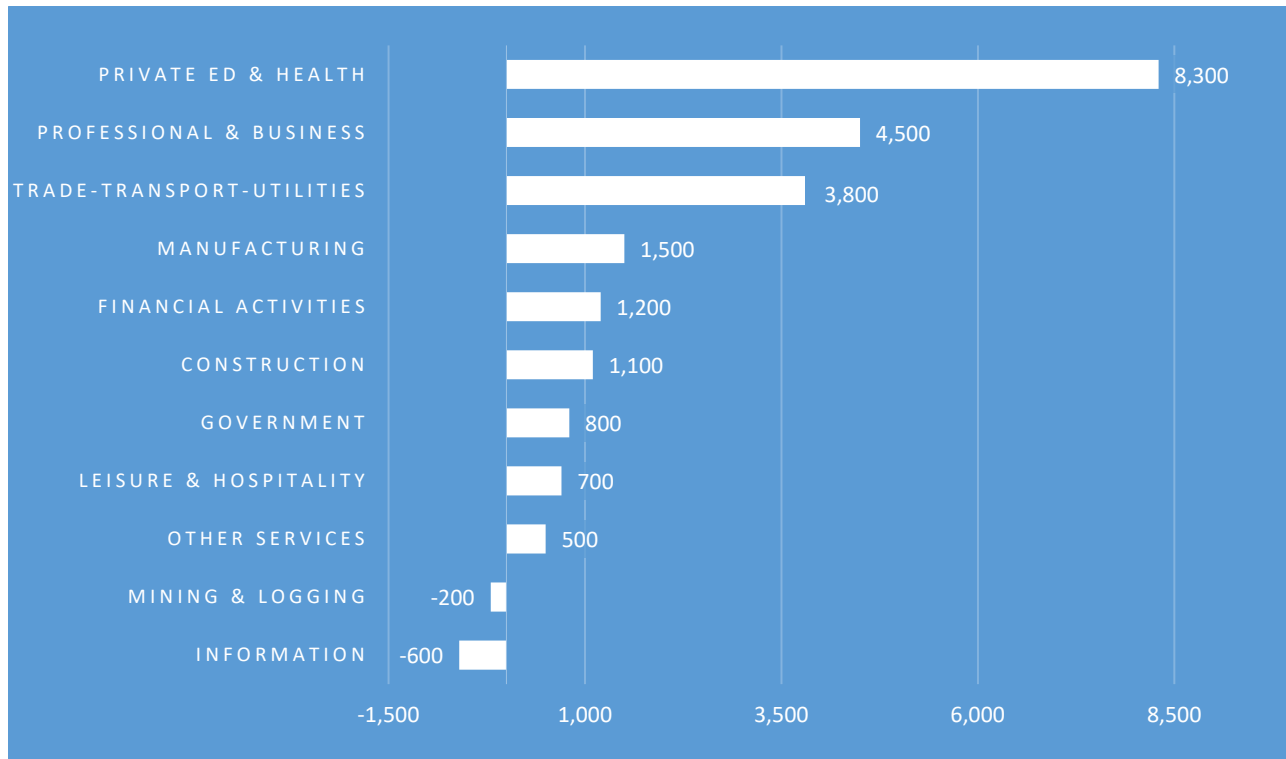
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2024 benchmark.

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

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



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



For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at www.discover.arkansas.gov

Annual Data Revisions

Civilian Labor Force:

In accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arkansas' Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates are undergoing annual processing. The purpose of annual processing is to incorporate more complete and accurate information into the estimation process, including updated population data from the US Census Bureau. In addition to these geographic changes, the 2024 annual processing cycle will incorporate synthetic intercensal population controls for model-based areas and updated American Community Survey and decennial census inputs into substate estimation.

Each decade, new federal statistical area delineations are issued by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) following the decennial census. Arkansas had geographic changes impacting 3 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs):

- Pine Bluff MSA (consisting of Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln counties) no longer meets the population threshold for an MSA and the series has been discontinued
- Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA (consisting of Benton, Madison, and Washington counties in Arkansas and McDonald County in Missouri) will no longer include McDonald County in Missouri
- Fort Smith MSA (consisting of Crawford and Sebastian counties in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma) will no longer include LeFlore County in Oklahoma

All levels of data—State, counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Local Workforce Development Areas, and cities—are being revised. The Statewide CLF data was revised back to January 1976 and is now available at <https://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Data-Search-Tool/LAUS>. Updated sub-state CLF estimates are still being produced and are scheduled for publication on April 18, 2025 on the Discover Arkansas website and at www.bls.gov. All sub-state CLF data for Arkansas will be revised back to January 1990. More information concerning annual processing is available [here](#).

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs:

In accordance with the same guidelines, the Current Employment Statistics program also re-estimated the Nonfarm Payroll Job series to include more comprehensive and precise information into the calculations. Statewide estimates were revised back to April 2023. The same OMB standards for Metropolitan Statistical Areas applies to both CLF data and Nonfarm Payroll Job data. MSA revisions are as follows:

- Pine Bluff MSA has been discontinued
- Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA is revised back to January 1990
- Fort Smith MSA is revised back to January 1990
- All other MSAs without geographical changes were revised back to April 2023

All revised Nonfarm Payroll Jobs data have been updated on the Discover Arkansas website.



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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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.