

2024

ARKANSAS

LABOR

MARKET

REPORT

FEBRUARY



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Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

2024 ARKANSAS LABOR MARKET REPORT

FEBRUARY

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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 2023 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 1,000 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.



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services



February Spotlight

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

In addition to the unemployment rate, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) also calculates five additional estimates based on various definitions of 'unemployment'. These are known as Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization and are referred to as U1-U6, with U-3 as the official unemployment rate. These measures are calculated using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Approximately 1,000 Arkansas households are in the survey each month.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization are available at the statewide level and are produced quarterly. Estimates are calculated using a four quarter moving average. The most recent data available is the 2023 Annual Average.

The following definitions are used to calculate each measure of Labor Underutilization:

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization					
State of Arkansas					
2023 Annual Average					
U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
1.1%	1.3%	3.5%	3.7%	4.3%	6.2%

U-1 Measure: Persons unemployed for 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force.

U-2 Measure: Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force.

U-3 Measure: Total number of unemployed persons, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate).

U-4 Measure: Total number of unemployed and discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.

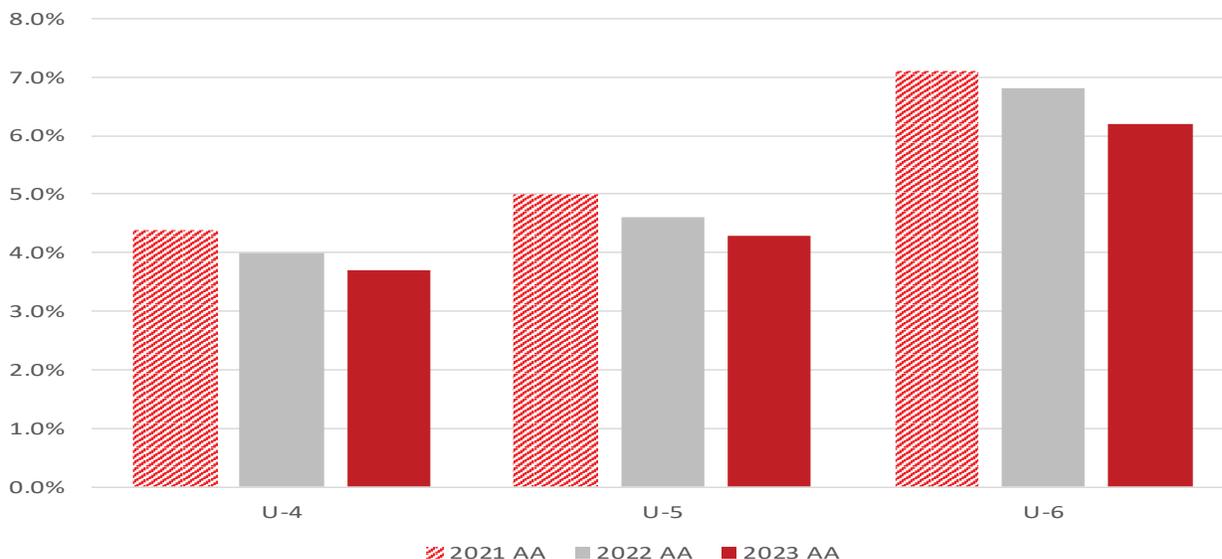
U-5 Measure: Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, and all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

U-6 Measure: Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, marginally attached workers, and those employed part-time for economic reasons (not by choice), as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

State of Arkansas

Three-Year Comparison of Annual Averages



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State of Arkansas

Civilian Labor Force Summary

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.7% in January to 3.6% in February. At 3.9%, the United States' jobless rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point between January and February.

The civilian labor force in Arkansas declined by 260 in February. The number of unemployed in the State decreased by 1,365, while 1,105 more Arkansans are employed compared to January. The labor force participation rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point to 57.4%.

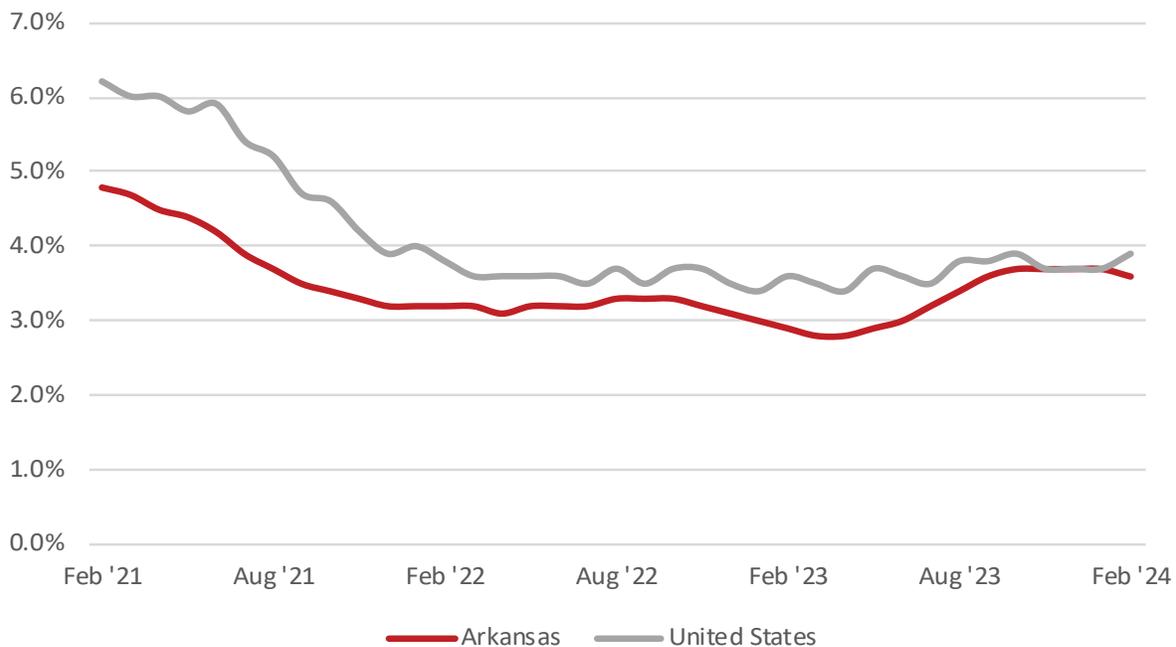
Compared to February 2023, there are 6,481 additional employed Arkansans. There are now 9,746 more unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work and the unemployment rate is up seven-tenths of a percentage point. The labor force participation rate is the same as last February.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23
Civilian Labor Force	1,385,107	1,385,367	1,368,880	Civilian Labor Force	1,379,044	1,365,522
Employment	1,335,661	1,334,556	1,329,180	Employment	1,330,829	1,312,339
Unemployment	49,446	50,811	39,700	Unemployment	48,215	53,183
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.7%	2.9%	Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.9%
LF Participation Rate	57.4%	57.5%	57.4%	LF Participation Rate	57.2%	56.7%

Unemployment Rates (United States vs Arkansas)

February 2021 - February 2024 (Seasonally Adjusted)



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State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

(NAICS)	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1355.1	1347.1	1341.7	8.0	13.4
Goods Producing	231.1	231.6	228.7	-0.5	2.4
Mining, Logging, & Construction	72.0	71.5	65.3	0.5	6.7
Mining & Logging	5.2	5.1	5.2	0.1	0.0
Construction	66.8	66.4	60.1	0.4	6.7
Specialty Trade Contractors	42.3	42.0	37.8	0.3	4.5
Manufacturing	159.1	160.1	163.4	-1.0	-4.3
Durable Goods	76.4	76.3	79.7	0.1	-3.3
Nondurable Goods	82.7	83.8	83.7	-1.1	-1.0
Service Providing	1124.0	1115.5	1113.0	8.5	11.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	266.5	268.5	265.3	-2.0	1.2
Wholesale Trade	51.1	52.2	52.0	-1.1	-0.9
Retail Trade	143.4	144.4	140.6	-1.0	2.8
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	72.0	71.9	72.7	0.1	-0.7
Information	12.2	12.5	13.0	-0.3	-0.8
Financial Activities	70.3	70.3	70.1	0.0	0.2
Finance & Insurance	55.2	55.3	55.2	-0.1	0.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15.1	15.0	14.9	0.1	0.2
Professional & Business Services	156.7	154.2	157.0	2.5	-0.3
Professional, Scientific & Technical	50.0	50.4	50.5	-0.4	-0.5
Management of Companies	38.1	37.6	37.4	0.5	0.7
Administrative & Support Services	68.6	66.2	69.1	2.4	-0.5
Private Education & Health Services	213.2	210.4	205.4	2.8	7.8
Private Educational Services	19.9	19.0	19.1	0.9	0.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	193.3	191.4	186.3	1.9	7.0
Ambulatory Health Care	67.3	66.5	64.4	0.8	2.9
Social Assistance	39.7	39.5	38.5	0.2	1.2
Leisure & Hospitality	122.8	120.5	123.0	2.3	-0.2
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12.6	12.4	12.2	0.2	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	110.2	108.1	110.8	2.1	-0.6
Accommodation Services	10.9	10.6	11.1	0.3	-0.2
Food Services	99.3	97.5	99.7	1.8	-0.4
Other Services	67.5	66.7	67.0	0.8	0.5
Government	214.8	212.4	212.2	2.4	2.6
Federal Government	21.8	21.8	20.9	0.0	0.9
State Government	77.8	75.7	77.9	2.1	-0.1
State Gov, Educational Services	31.7	29.6	31.7	2.1	0.0
State Gov, Excluding Education	46.1	46.1	46.2	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	115.2	114.9	113.4	0.3	1.8
Local Gov, Educational Services	71.2	70.9	70.2	0.3	1.0
Local Gov, Excluding Education	44.0	44.0	43.2	0.0	0.8

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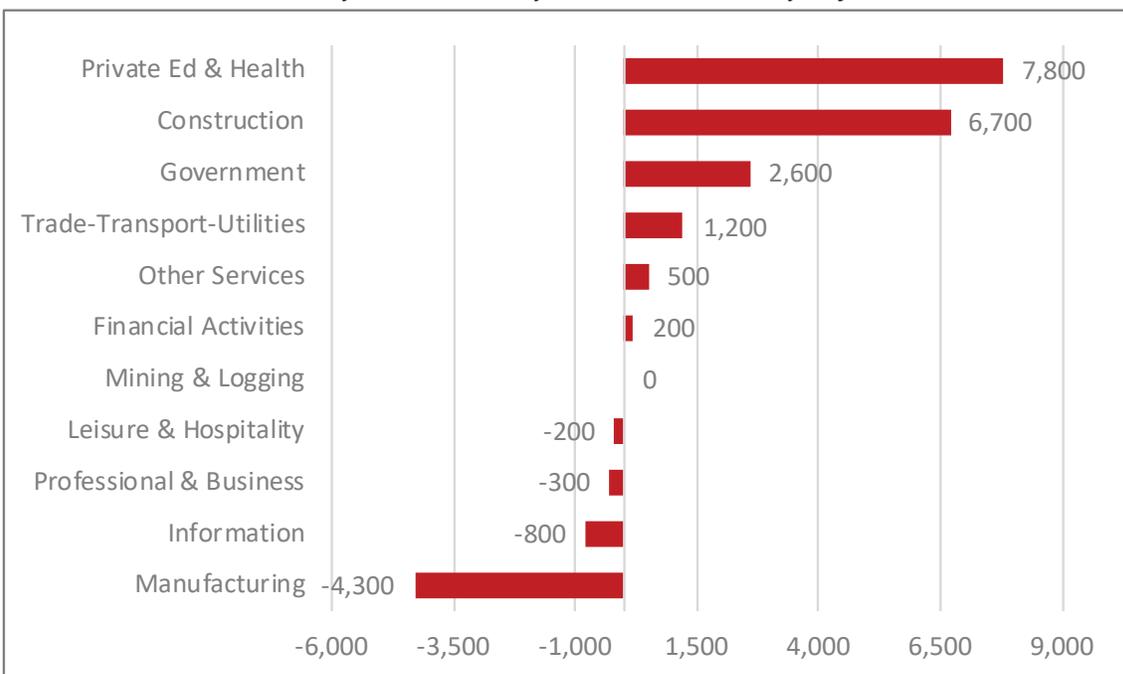
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State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

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



Annual Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sector
February 2023 - February 2024 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

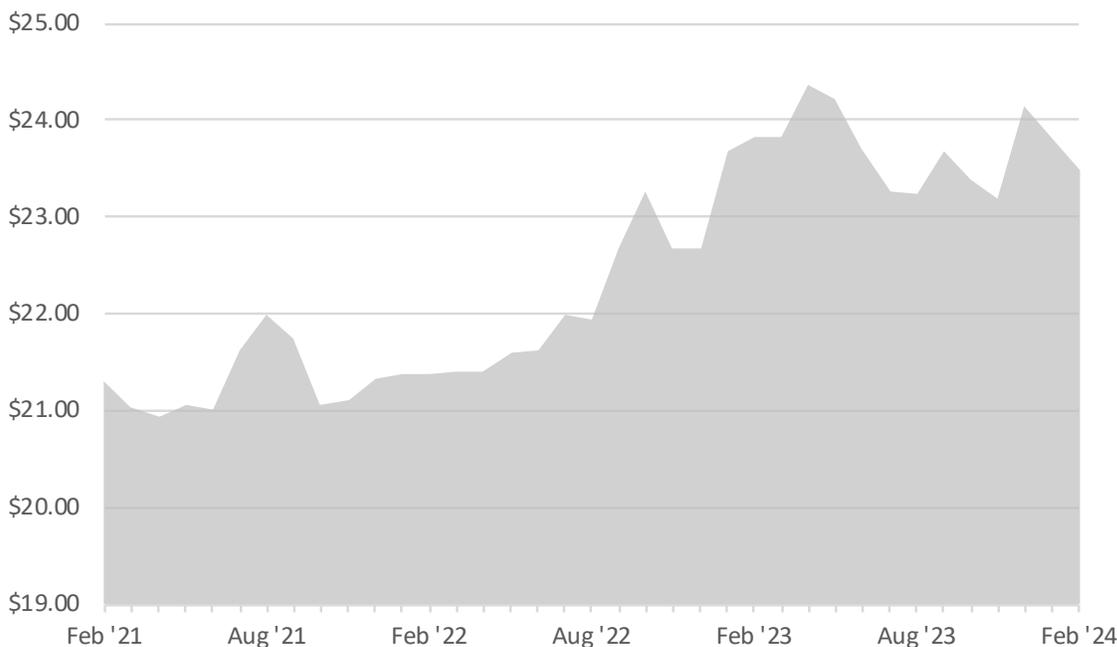
Manufacturing

	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23
Average Weekly Hours	39.3	37.8	37.8
Average Hourly Earnings	\$21.83	\$21.75	\$21.48
Average Weekly Earnings	\$857.92	\$822.15	\$811.94

Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

Durable Goods Manufacturing				Nondurable Goods Manufacturing			
	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23		Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23
Average Weekly Hours	42.4	40.5	40.7	Average Weekly Hours	36.3	35.3	35.1
Average Hourly Earnings	\$23.48	\$23.84	\$23.84	Average Hourly Earnings	\$20.08	\$19.59	\$19.01
Average Weekly Earnings	\$995.55	\$965.52	\$970.29	Average Weekly Earnings	\$728.90	\$691.53	\$667.25

Average Hourly Earnings - Durable Goods Manufacturing (Production Workers)
February 2021 - February 2024



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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)

	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	369,912	366,626	362,045	3,286	7,867
Employment	357,886	353,396	350,997	4,490	6,889
Unemployment	12,026	13,230	11,048	-1,204	978
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.6%	3.1%	-0.3%	0.2%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	392.4	391.2	386.0	1.2	6.4
Goods Producing	41.8	41.8	40.2	0.0	1.6
Mining, Logging & Construction	21.8	21.6	20.2	0.2	1.6
Manufacturing	20.0	20.2	20.0	-0.2	0.0
Service Providing	350.6	349.4	345.8	1.2	4.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	77.7	78.2	77.3	-0.5	0.4
Wholesale Trade	17.6	17.7	17.7	-0.1	-0.1
Retail Trade	38.4	38.9	38.0	-0.5	0.4
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	21.7	21.6	21.6	0.1	0.1
Information	5.3	5.3	5.8	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	27.9	27.9	28.1	0.0	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	49.3	48.9	48.8	0.4	0.5
Private Education & Health Services	65.7	65.6	62.9	0.1	2.8
Leisure & Hospitality	33.2	32.9	34.0	0.3	-0.8
Other Services	19.7	19.4	19.2	0.3	0.5
Government	71.8	71.2	69.7	0.6	2.1
Federal Government	10.8	10.7	10.2	0.1	0.6
State Government	34.2	33.7	34.1	0.5	0.1
Local Government	26.8	26.8	25.4	0.0	1.4

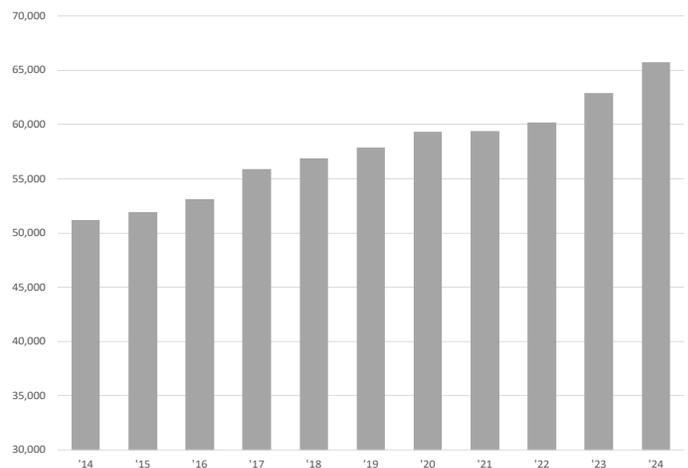
Unemployment

February 2021 - February 2024



Jobs in Private Education & Health Services

February: 2014 - 2024



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA = Benton, Madison, & Washington counties in Arkansas and McDonald county in Missouri.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	314,284	308,247	307,133	6,037	7,151
Employment	306,100	299,452	299,836	6,648	6,264
Unemployment	8,184	8,795	7,297	-611	887
Unemployment Rate	2.6%	2.9%	2.4%	-0.3%	0.2%

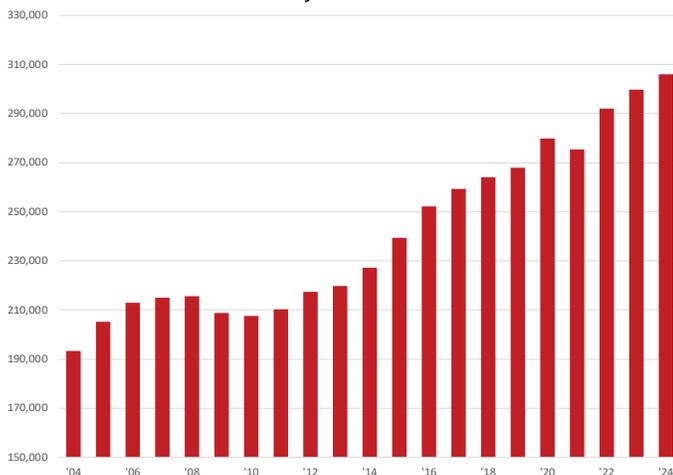
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	309.7	305.2	303.5	4.5	6.2
Goods Producing	47.7	47.5	46.1	0.2	1.6
Mining, Logging & Construction	17.3	17.1	15.8	0.2	1.5
Manufacturing	30.4	30.4	30.3	0.0	0.1
Service Providing	262.0	257.7	257.4	4.3	4.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	62.4	63.2	62.3	-0.8	0.1
Wholesale Trade	14.0	14.1	13.9	-0.1	0.1
Retail Trade	29.4	29.7	28.5	-0.3	0.9
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	19.0	19.4	19.9	-0.4	-0.9
Information	2.3	2.3	2.4	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	12.5	12.5	12.4	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	59.3	58.3	59.6	1.0	-0.3
Private Education & Health Services	37.2	36.7	35.1	0.5	2.1
Leisure & Hospitality	29.9	29.1	29.7	0.8	0.2
Other Services	13.8	13.5	13.5	0.3	0.3
Government	44.6	42.1	42.4	2.5	2.2
Federal Government	3.3	3.3	3.1	0.0	0.2
State Government	20.9	18.5	19.5	2.4	1.4
Local Government	20.4	20.3	19.8	0.1	0.6

Employment

February: 2004 - 2024



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

February 2021 - February 2024



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

The Fort Smith MSA = Crawford & Sebastian counties in Arkansas & LeFlore & Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	120,928	119,908	117,747	1,020	3,181
Employment	116,165	114,828	113,843	1,337	2,322
Unemployment	4,763	5,080	3,904	-317	859
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.2%	3.3%	-0.3%	0.6%

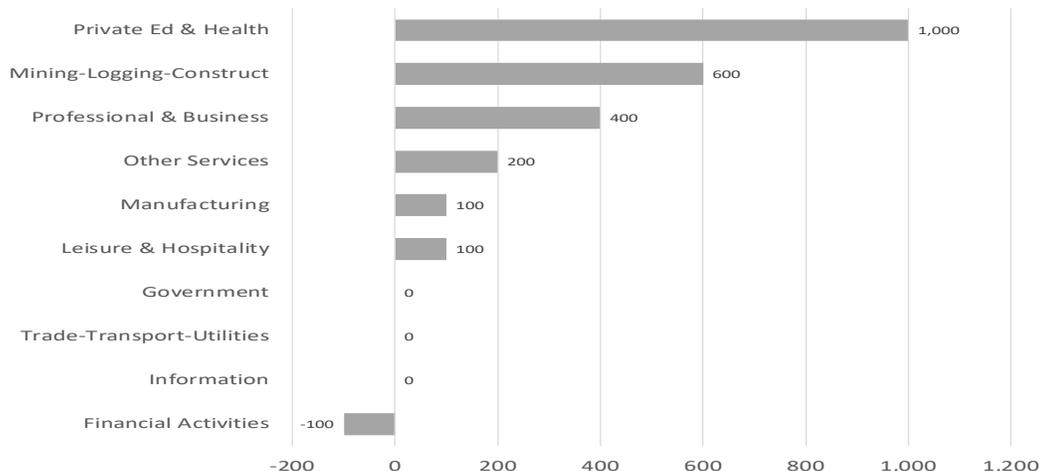
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	117.0	116.2	114.7	0.8	2.3
Goods Producing	25.0	25.1	24.3	-0.1	0.7
Mining, Logging & Construction	6.1	6.0	5.5	0.1	0.6
Manufacturing	18.9	19.1	18.8	-0.2	0.1
Service Providing	92.0	91.1	90.4	0.9	1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24.0	24.2	24.0	-0.2	0.0
Wholesale Trade	4.5	4.6	4.5	-0.1	0.0
Retail Trade	13.0	13.1	12.8	-0.1	0.2
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6.5	6.5	6.7	0.0	-0.2
Information	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	4.8	4.8	4.9	0.0	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	12.0	11.7	11.6	0.3	0.4
Private Education & Health Services	19.1	19.0	18.1	0.1	1.0
Leisure & Hospitality	9.7	9.6	9.6	0.1	0.1
Other Services	4.0	3.9	3.8	0.1	0.2
Government	17.0	16.5	17.0	0.5	0.0
Federal Government	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	0.1
State Government	2.3	1.9	2.4	0.4	-0.1
Local Government	13.3	13.2	13.3	0.1	0.0

Over-the-Year Job Change by Industry Sector

February 2023 vs February 2024



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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 24</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	41,189	40,948	41,181	241	8
Employment	39,618	39,170	39,599	448	19
Unemployment	1,571	1,778	1,582	-207	-11
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.3%	3.8%	-0.5%	0.0%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	40.8	40.6	40.8	0.2	0.0
Goods Producing	4.2	4.3	4.4	-0.1	-0.2
Service Providing	36.6	36.3	36.4	0.3	0.2
Government	4.6	4.5	4.4	0.1	0.2

Unemployment Rates

February 2021 - February 2024



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	66,838	66,487	66,632	351	206
Employment	64,753	64,197	64,787	556	-34
Unemployment	2,085	2,290	1,845	-205	240
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.4%	2.8%	-0.3%	0.3%

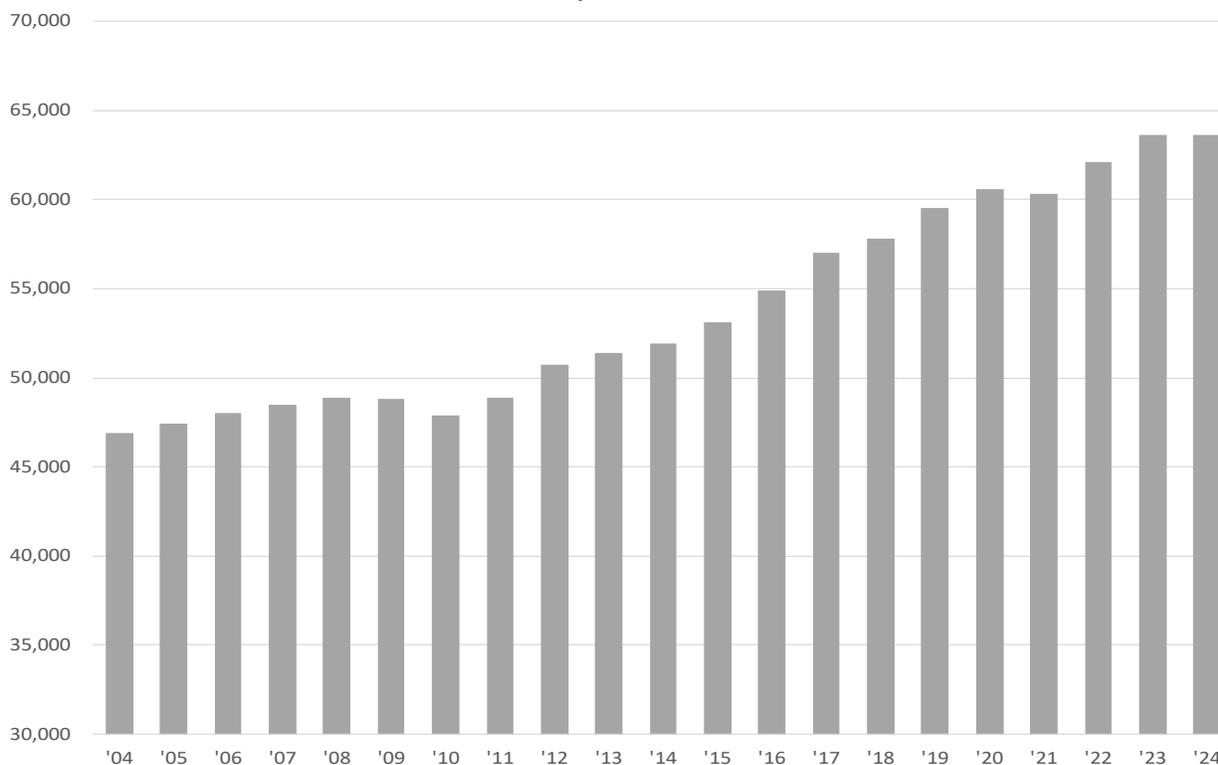
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	63.6	63.6	63.6	0.0	0.0
Goods Producing	11.1	11.2	11.8	-0.1	-0.7
Service Providing	52.5	52.4	51.8	0.1	0.7
Government	9.1	9.0	8.9	0.1	0.2

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

February: 2004 - 2024



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Pine Bluff MSA

The Pine Bluff MSA = Cleveland, Jefferson, & Lincoln counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	31,593	31,415	31,984	178	-391
Employment	30,126	29,813	30,510	313	-384
Unemployment	1,467	1,602	1,474	-135	-7
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	5.1%	4.6%	-0.5%	0.0%

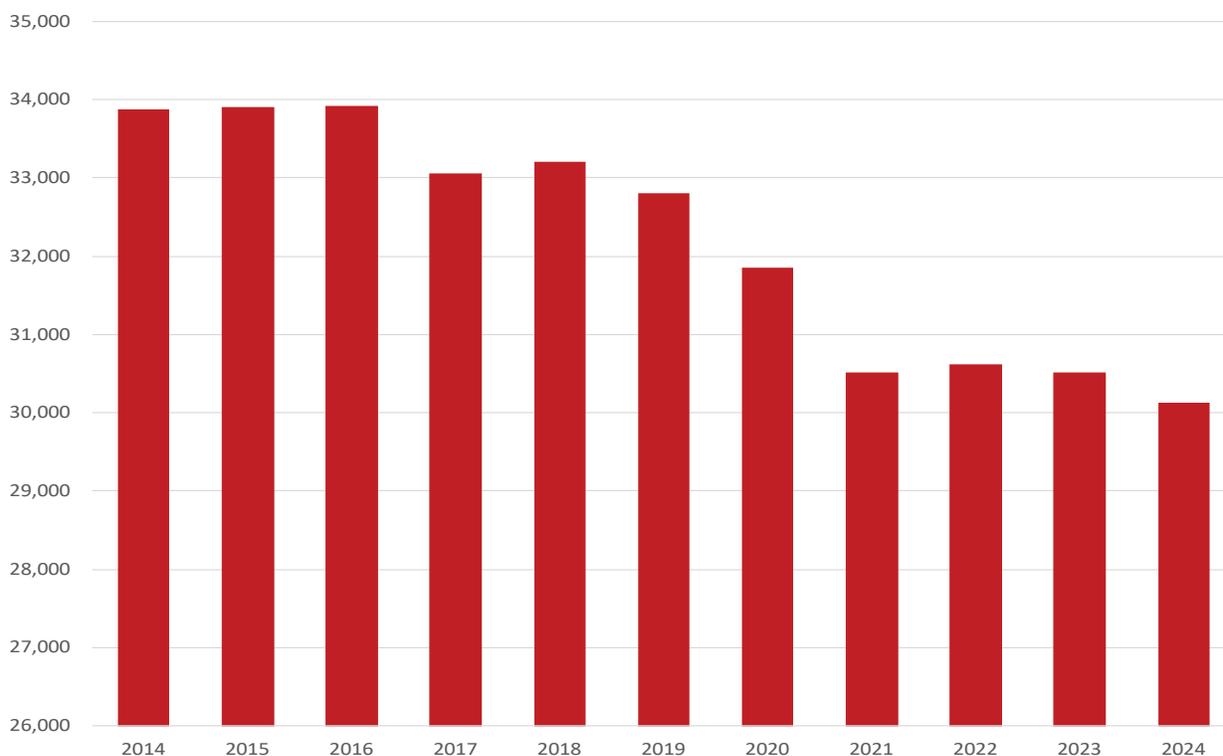
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 24</u>	<u>Jan 24</u>	<u>Feb 23</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	31.0	31.0	31.4	0.0	-0.4
Goods Producing	5.2	5.3	5.5	-0.1	-0.3
Service Providing	25.8	25.7	25.9	0.1	-0.1
Government	8.5	8.4	8.7	0.1	-0.2

Employment

February: 2014 - 2024



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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.

	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	619,653	614,328	623,987	5,325	-4,334
Employment	598,182	587,950	598,157	10,232	25
Unemployment	21,471	26,378	25,830	-4,907	-4,359
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	4.3%	4.1%	-0.8%	-0.6%

Texarkana MSA

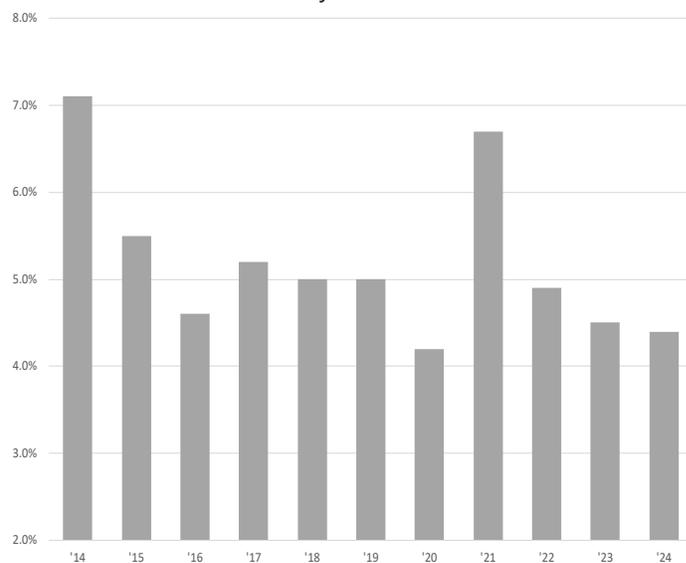
The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	Feb 24	Jan 24	Feb 23	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	62,540	61,910	62,172	630	368
Employment	59,785	59,241	59,395	544	390
Unemployment	2,755	2,669	2,777	86	-22
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.3%	4.5%	0.1%	-0.1%

Memphis MSA - Employment
February 2021 - February 2024



Texarkana MSA - Unemployment Rates
February: 2014 - 2024



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Micropolitan Statistical Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	February 2024				January 2024				February 2023			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	8,416	8,017	399	4.7	8,245	7,804	441	5.3	8,466	8,090	376	4.4
Batesville Micro	16,725	16,191	534	3.2	16,643	16,047	596	3.6	16,752	16,206	546	3.3
Blytheville Micro	16,823	16,005	818	4.9	16,728	15,825	903	5.4	16,378	15,627	751	4.6
Camden Micro	12,028	11,541	487	4.0	11,949	11,430	519	4.3	11,920	11,451	469	3.9
El Dorado Micro	14,700	13,956	744	5.1	14,631	13,816	815	5.6	14,733	14,064	669	4.5
Forrest City Micro	7,356	6,953	403	5.5	7,320	6,894	426	5.8	7,377	6,993	384	5.2
Harrison Micro	19,120	18,413	707	3.7	18,950	18,171	779	4.1	18,921	18,298	623	3.3
Helena-West Helena Micro	5,066	4,740	326	6.4	5,065	4,709	356	7.0	5,331	4,929	402	7.5
Hope Micro	12,256	11,806	450	3.7	12,189	11,702	487	4.0	12,578	12,167	411	3.3
Magnolia Micro	8,835	8,470	365	4.1	8,762	8,368	394	4.5	8,767	8,386	381	4.3
Malvern Micro	13,573	13,052	521	3.8	13,462	12,864	598	4.4	13,594	13,133	461	3.4
Mountain Home Micro	16,723	16,043	680	4.1	16,628	15,853	775	4.7	16,610	16,006	604	3.6
Paragould Micro	19,646	18,892	754	3.8	19,472	18,662	810	4.2	19,605	18,969	636	3.2
Russellville Micro	36,249	34,796	1,453	4.0	35,969	34,291	1,678	4.7	36,519	35,178	1,341	3.7
Searcy Micro	33,868	32,576	1,292	3.8	33,551	32,194	1,357	4.0	33,736	32,533	1,203	3.6

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

Helena-West Helena Micro = Phillips County

Hope Micro = Hempstead & Nevada counties

Magnolia Micro = Columbia County

Malvern Micro = Hot Spring County

Mountain Home Micro = Baxter County

Paragould Micro = Greene County

Russellville Micro = Pope & Yell counties

Searcy Micro = White County

City Labor Force Statistics

Not Seasonally Adjusted

City	February 2024				January 2024				February 2023			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	13,478	13,072	406	3.0	13,275	12,782	493	3.7	13,228	12,795	433	3.3
Benton	18,381	17,886	495	2.7	18,230	17,660	570	3.1	17,965	17,528	437	2.4
Bentonville	32,716	31,967	749	2.3	32,099	31,257	842	2.6	32,049	31,291	758	2.4
Blytheville	5,629	5,357	272	4.8	5,624	5,297	327	5.8	5,499	5,231	268	4.9
Cabot	12,337	11,999	338	2.7	12,217	11,857	360	2.9	12,139	11,819	320	2.6
Conway	35,792	34,649	1,143	3.2	35,397	34,221	1,176	3.3	35,059	34,003	1,056	3.0
El Dorado	6,379	6,006	373	5.8	6,354	5,945	409	6.4	6,357	6,052	305	4.8
Fayetteville	53,470	52,117	1,353	2.5	52,381	50,970	1,411	2.7	52,288	51,029	1,259	2.4
Fort Smith	39,054	37,687	1,367	3.5	38,691	37,118	1,573	4.1	38,123	36,927	1,196	3.1
Hot Springs	15,292	14,661	631	4.1	15,209	14,495	714	4.7	15,280	14,654	626	4.1
Jacksonville	12,020	11,542	478	4.0	11,929	11,395	534	4.5	11,761	11,308	453	3.9
Jonesboro	40,302	39,079	1,223	3.0	40,081	38,735	1,346	3.4	40,172	39,047	1,125	2.8
Little Rock	100,384	96,871	3,513	3.5	99,505	95,635	3,870	3.9	98,027	94,907	3,120	3.2
North Little Rock	30,982	29,788	1,194	3.9	30,715	29,408	1,307	4.3	30,285	29,184	1,101	3.6
Paragould	12,490	12,007	483	3.9	12,382	11,860	522	4.2	12,479	12,056	423	3.4
Pine Bluff	14,832	14,039	793	5.3	14,730	13,883	847	5.8	14,986	14,180	806	5.4
Rogers	40,246	39,218	1,028	2.6	39,405	38,347	1,058	2.7	39,272	38,388	884	2.3
Russellville	13,049	12,571	478	3.7	12,920	12,383	537	4.2	13,131	12,679	452	3.4
Searcy	10,189	9,837	352	3.5	10,085	9,722	363	3.6	10,137	9,824	313	3.1
Sherwood	16,802	16,257	545	3.2	16,643	16,049	594	3.6	16,434	15,927	507	3.1
Springdale	42,636	41,622	1,014	2.4	41,777	40,706	1,071	2.6	41,648	40,751	897	2.2
Texarkana, AR	12,759	12,221	538	4.2	12,623	12,066	557	4.4	12,627	12,141	486	3.8
Van Buren	10,421	10,051	370	3.6	10,300	9,903	397	3.9	10,162	9,870	292	2.9
West Memphis	9,854	9,394	460	4.7	9,707	9,211	496	5.1	10,005	9,506	499	5.0

2024 ARKANSAS LABOR MARKET REPORT

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County Labor Force Statistics Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	February 2024				January 2024				February 2023			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	8,945	8,681	264	3.0	8,938	8,637	301	3.4	8,954	8,695	259	2.9
Ashley	6,349	5,967	382	6.0	6,316	5,895	421	6.7	6,407	6,020	387	6.0
Baxter	16,723	16,043	680	4.1	16,628	15,853	775	4.7	16,610	16,006	604	3.6
Benton	156,604	152,514	4,090	2.6	153,599	149,126	4,473	2.9	153,024	149,285	3,739	2.4
Boone	15,919	15,357	562	3.5	15,771	15,148	623	4.0	15,752	15,236	516	3.3
Bradley	4,017	3,844	173	4.3	4,007	3,805	202	5.0	4,022	3,808	214	5.3
Calhoun	2,344	2,263	81	3.5	2,333	2,245	88	3.8	2,342	2,266	76	3.2
Carroll	11,859	11,394	465	3.9	11,798	11,276	522	4.4	11,959	11,553	406	3.4
Chicot	2,765	2,593	172	6.2	2,789	2,582	207	7.4	2,839	2,677	162	5.7
Clark	8,416	8,017	399	4.7	8,245	7,804	441	5.3	8,466	8,090	376	4.4
Clay	5,252	4,966	286	5.4	5,262	4,941	321	6.1	5,370	5,129	241	4.5
Cleburne	8,883	8,491	392	4.4	8,821	8,394	427	4.8	8,864	8,473	391	4.4
Cleveland	2,981	2,873	108	3.6	2,971	2,848	123	4.1	3,049	2,934	115	3.8
Columbia	8,835	8,470	365	4.1	8,762	8,368	394	4.5	8,767	8,386	381	4.3
Conway	8,255	7,916	339	4.1	8,225	7,866	359	4.4	8,254	7,933	321	3.9
Craighead	57,032	55,337	1,695	3.0	56,699	54,850	1,849	3.3	56,818	55,291	1,527	2.7
Crawford	26,677	25,724	953	3.6	26,431	25,344	1,087	4.1	26,071	25,261	810	3.1
Crittenden	20,108	19,251	857	4.3	19,822	18,876	946	4.8	20,350	19,479	871	4.3
Cross	6,712	6,437	275	4.1	6,690	6,393	297	4.4	6,730	6,482	248	3.7
Dallas	2,614	2,508	106	4.1	2,622	2,499	123	4.7	2,632	2,517	115	4.4
Desha	4,847	4,582	265	5.5	4,850	4,557	293	6.0	4,801	4,569	232	4.8
Drew	7,287	6,952	335	4.6	7,248	6,875	373	5.1	7,506	7,182	324	4.3
Faulkner	64,942	62,935	2,007	3.1	64,321	62,159	2,162	3.4	63,687	61,763	1,924	3.0
Franklin	7,429	7,178	251	3.4	7,390	7,110	280	3.8	7,355	7,110	245	3.3
Fulton	4,481	4,297	184	4.1	4,511	4,301	210	4.7	4,496	4,326	170	3.8
Garland	41,189	39,618	1,571	3.8	40,948	39,170	1,778	4.3	41,181	39,599	1,582	3.8
Grant	8,643	8,389	254	2.9	8,565	8,285	280	3.3	8,500	8,255	245	2.9
Greene	19,646	18,892	754	3.8	19,472	18,662	810	4.2	19,605	18,969	636	3.2
Hempstead	8,948	8,631	317	3.5	8,898	8,557	341	3.8	9,205	8,906	299	3.2
Hot Spring	13,573	13,052	521	3.8	13,462	12,864	598	4.4	13,594	13,133	461	3.4
Howard	5,176	4,998	178	3.4	5,131	4,936	195	3.8	5,173	4,998	175	3.4
Independence	16,725	16,191	534	3.2	16,643	16,047	596	3.6	16,752	16,206	546	3.3
Izard	4,378	4,155	223	5.1	4,354	4,101	253	5.8	4,463	4,249	214	4.8
Jackson	5,262	5,003	259	4.9	5,271	4,948	323	6.1	5,316	5,036	280	5.3
Jefferson	25,031	23,842	1,189	4.8	24,879	23,577	1,302	5.2	25,284	24,081	1,203	4.8
Johnson	9,792	9,243	549	5.6	9,749	9,166	583	6.0	9,973	9,561	412	4.1
Lafayette	2,143	2,028	115	5.4	2,132	2,014	118	5.5	2,267	2,148	119	5.2
Lawrence	6,751	6,492	259	3.8	6,731	6,443	288	4.3	6,823	6,606	217	3.2
Lee	2,476	2,346	130	5.3	2,485	2,336	149	6.0	2,549	2,411	138	5.4
Lincoln	3,581	3,411	170	4.7	3,565	3,388	177	5.0	3,651	3,495	156	4.3
Little River	5,193	4,967	226	4.4	5,141	4,897	244	4.7	5,118	4,925	193	3.8
Logan	8,162	7,825	337	4.1	8,121	7,740	381	4.7	8,175	7,851	324	4.0
Lonoke	35,038	34,014	1,024	2.9	34,739	33,613	1,126	3.2	34,444	33,506	938	2.7
Madison	7,885	7,663	222	2.8	7,767	7,523	244	3.1	7,828	7,624	204	2.6
Marion	5,869	5,580	289	4.9	5,880	5,545	335	5.7	6,140	5,884	256	4.2
Miller	18,600	17,864	736	4.0	18,423	17,638	785	4.3	18,444	17,747	697	3.8

(continued on Page 16)

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County Labor Force Statistics Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	February 2024				January 2024				February 2023			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	16,823	16,005	818	4.9	16,728	15,825	903	5.4	16,378	15,627	751	4.6
Monroe	2,372	2,277	95	4.0	2,364	2,265	99	4.2	2,449	2,336	113	4.6
Montgomery	2,825	2,678	147	5.2	2,838	2,666	172	6.1	2,749	2,605	144	5.2
Nevada	3,308	3,175	133	4.0	3,291	3,145	146	4.4	3,373	3,261	112	3.3
Newton	3,201	3,056	145	4.5	3,179	3,023	156	4.9	3,169	3,062	107	3.4
Ouachita	9,684	9,278	406	4.2	9,616	9,185	431	4.5	9,578	9,185	393	4.1
Perry	4,316	4,149	167	3.9	4,292	4,103	189	4.4	4,244	4,097	147	3.5
Phillips	5,066	4,740	326	6.4	5,065	4,709	356	7.0	5,331	4,929	402	7.5
Pike	3,943	3,801	142	3.6	3,954	3,790	164	4.1	3,969	3,832	137	3.5
Poinsett	9,806	9,416	390	4.0	9,788	9,347	441	4.5	9,814	9,496	318	3.2
Polk	7,642	7,282	360	4.7	7,558	7,220	338	4.5	7,814	7,525	289	3.7
Pope	28,296	27,143	1,153	4.1	28,063	26,736	1,327	4.7	28,413	27,375	1,038	3.7
Prairie	3,438	3,313	125	3.6	3,448	3,311	137	4.0	3,464	3,357	107	3.1
Pulaski	195,175	188,342	6,833	3.5	193,461	185,938	7,523	3.9	190,649	184,522	6,127	3.2
Randolph	7,051	6,779	272	3.9	7,017	6,697	320	4.6	7,185	6,901	284	4.0
St. Francis	7,356	6,953	403	5.5	7,320	6,894	426	5.8	7,377	6,993	384	5.2
Saline	61,798	60,057	1,741	2.8	61,248	59,298	1,950	3.2	60,521	58,854	1,667	2.8
Scott	4,363	4,213	150	3.4	4,365	4,191	174	4.0	4,285	4,169	116	2.7
Searcy	2,812	2,676	136	4.8	2,794	2,645	149	5.3	2,732	2,591	141	5.2
Sebastian	56,309	54,290	2,019	3.6	55,748	53,470	2,278	4.1	54,886	53,195	1,691	3.1
Sevier	5,421	5,192	229	4.2	5,367	5,123	244	4.5	5,375	5,174	201	3.7
Sharp	5,945	5,692	253	4.3	5,944	5,666	278	4.7	5,899	5,666	233	3.9
Stone	4,422	4,208	214	4.8	4,456	4,201	255	5.7	4,430	4,225	205	4.6
Union	14,700	13,956	744	5.1	14,631	13,816	815	5.6	14,733	14,064	669	4.5
Van Buren	5,875	5,619	256	4.4	5,905	5,587	318	5.4	5,915	5,656	259	4.4
Washington	138,123	134,818	3,305	2.4	135,403	131,851	3,552	2.6	135,048	132,002	3,046	2.3
White	33,868	32,576	1,292	3.8	33,551	32,194	1,357	4.0	33,736	32,533	1,203	3.6
Woodruff	2,820	2,698	122	4.3	2,820	2,687	133	4.7	2,855	2,740	115	4.0
Yell	7,953	7,653	300	3.8	7,906	7,555	351	4.4	8,106	7,803	303	3.7

County Labor Force Summary

Between January and February, unemployment rates declined in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties. One county- Polk County- posted a jobless rate increase over-the-month. Rates ranged from a low of 2.4% in Washington County to a high of 6.4% in Phillips County.

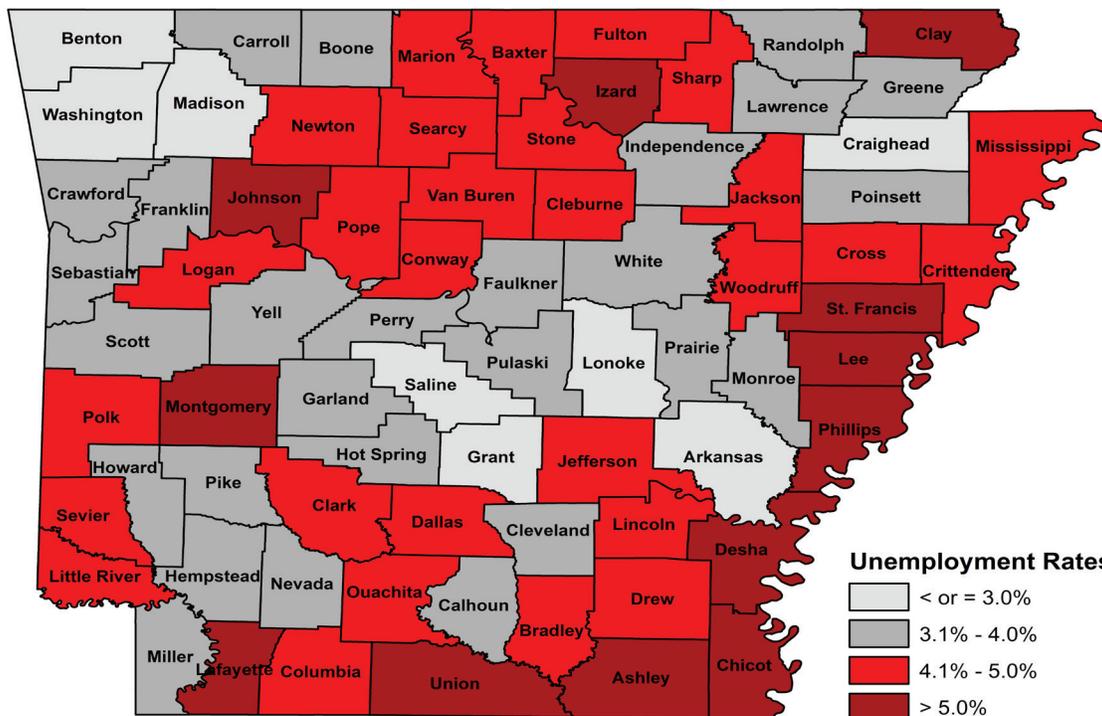
In February, eight counties in Arkansas reported an unemployment rate at or below 3%. That is up from two counties at or below three percent last month. No county posted a jobless rate above 7%, down from two counties above seven percent in January.

Compared to February 2023, jobless rates are up in 54 Arkansas counties. Rates were down in 11 counties while rates in ten counties remained stable. Johnson County posted the largest rate increase, up one and five-tenths of a percentage point over-the-year. The greatest decline was in Phillips County, down one and one-tenth of a percentage point compared to February 2023.

2024 ARKANSAS LABOR MARKET REPORT

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County Unemployment Rates



Ranked by Unemployment Rates

February 2024 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Washington	2.4	23	Lawrence	3.8	50	Little River	4.4
2	Benton	2.6	23	White	3.8	50	Van Buren	4.4
3	Madison	2.8	23	Yell	3.8	53	Newton	4.5
3	Saline	2.8	29	Carroll	3.9	54	Drew	4.6
5	Grant	2.9	29	Perry	3.9	55	Clark	4.7
5	Lonoke	2.9	29	Randolph	3.9	55	Lincoln	4.7
7	Arkansas	3.0	32	Miller	4.0	55	Polk	4.7
7	Craighead	3.0	32	Monroe	4.0	58	Jefferson	4.8
9	Faulkner	3.1	32	Nevada	4.0	58	Searcy	4.8
10	Independence	3.2	32	Poinsett	4.0	58	Stone	4.8
11	Franklin	3.4	36	Baxter	4.1	61	Jackson	4.9
11	Howard	3.4	36	Columbia	4.1	61	Marion	4.9
11	Scott	3.4	36	Conway	4.1	61	Mississippi	4.9
14	Boone	3.5	36	Cross	4.1	64	Izard	5.1
14	Calhoun	3.5	36	Dallas	4.1	64	Union	5.1
14	Hempstead	3.5	36	Fulton	4.1	66	Montgomery	5.2
14	Pulaski	3.5	36	Logan	4.1	67	Lee	5.3
18	Cleveland	3.6	36	Pope	4.1	68	Clay	5.4
18	Crawford	3.6	44	Ouachita	4.2	68	Lafayette	5.4
18	Pike	3.6	44	Sevier	4.2	70	Desha	5.5
18	Prairie	3.6	46	Bradley	4.3	70	St. Francis	5.5
18	Sebastian	3.6	46	Crittenden	4.3	72	Johnson	5.6
23	Garland	3.8	46	Sharp	4.3	73	Ashley	6.0
23	Greene	3.8	46	Woodruff	4.3	74	Chicot	6.2
23	Hot Spring	3.8	50	Cleburne	4.4	75	Phillips	6.4

2024 ARKANSAS LABOR MARKET REPORT

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Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	February 2024				January 2024				February 2023			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	262,379	254,067	8,312	3.2	260,076	250,949	9,127	3.5	257,187	249,431	7,756	3.0
City of Little Rock	100,384	96,871	3,513	3.5	99,505	95,635	3,870	3.9	98,027	94,907	3,120	3.2
Eastern	41,718	39,727	1,991	4.8	41,382	39,208	2,174	5.3	42,337	40,294	2,043	4.8
North Central	92,659	88,930	3,729	4.0	92,276	88,126	4,150	4.5	92,726	89,110	3,616	3.9
Northeast	122,361	117,887	4,474	3.7	121,697	116,765	4,932	4.1	121,993	118,019	3,974	3.3
Northwest	358,995	349,101	9,894	2.8	352,819	341,990	10,829	3.1	352,262	343,243	9,019	2.6
Southeast	74,446	71,134	3,312	4.4	74,128	70,449	3,679	5.0	75,013	71,716	3,297	4.4
Southwest	86,966	83,330	3,636	4.2	86,347	82,423	3,924	4.5	87,007	83,577	3,430	3.9
West Central	128,558	123,270	5,288	4.1	127,682	121,720	5,962	4.7	128,949	124,028	4,921	3.8
Western	110,582	106,512	4,070	3.7	109,613	105,075	4,538	4.1	108,586	105,111	3,475	3.2

