



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report

April

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# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

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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 2025 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 busi-

ness 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

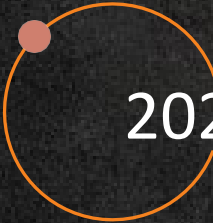
#### Rate

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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## April 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 1,200 Arkansas households are in the survey each month.

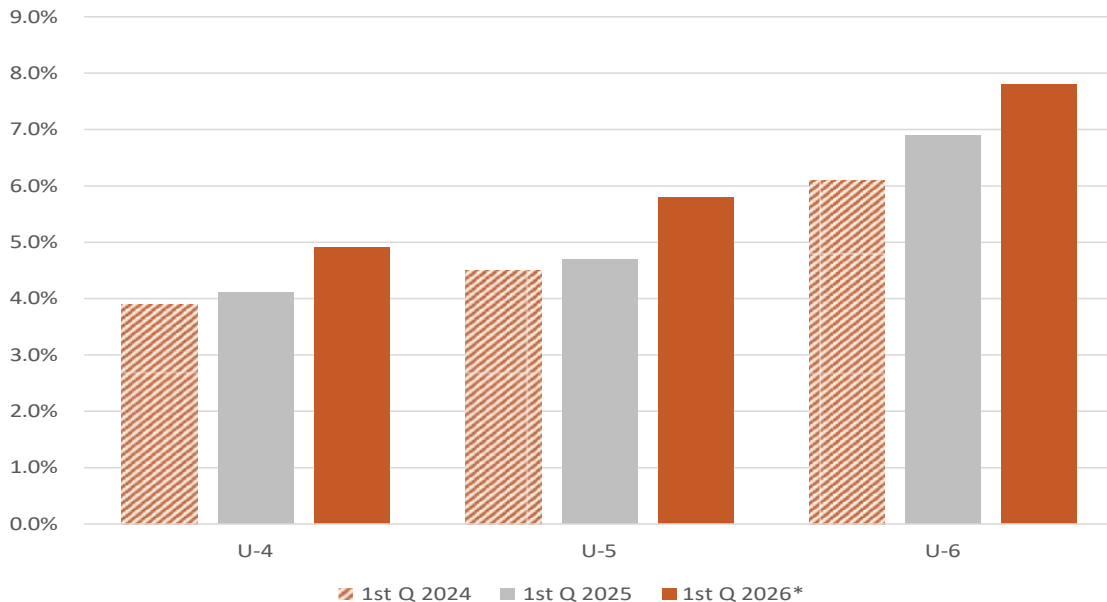
Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization are available at the statewide level and are produced quarterly. Estimates are calculated using a four quarter moving average. The most recent data available is the average of 2nd Quarter 2025-1st Quarter 2026\*.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization State of Arkansas 2nd Quarter 2025 - 1st Quarter 2026 Average*					
U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
1.6%	2.0%	4.6%	4.9%	5.8%	7.8%

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

- 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  
Comparison of 1st Q Ending Averages



\*Due to lapse in appropriations, no October 2025 Current Population Survey was conducted. The 2nd Q 2025-1st Q 2026 Average is an 11-month average, since no October 2025 data is available.

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## State of Arkansas

### Civilian Labor Force Summary

The Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained stable at 4.3% between March and April. The United States' jobless rate also remained unchanged at 4.3% over the month.

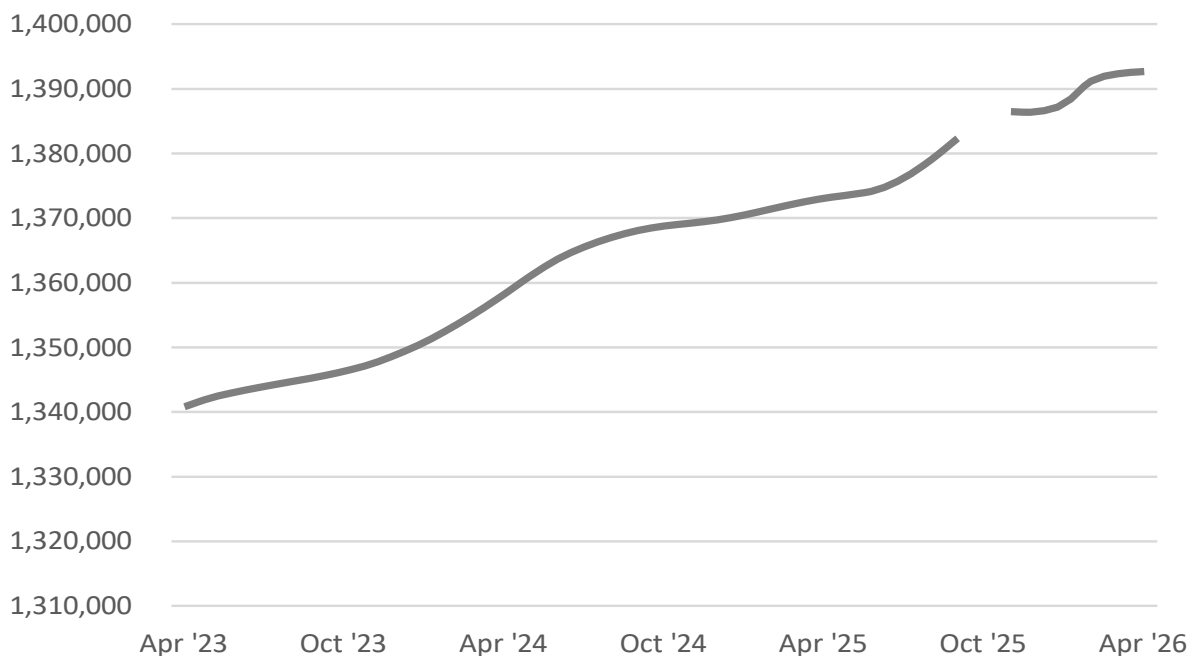
Arkansas' civilian labor force declined by 853 in April, a result of 1,212 fewer unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work and an increase of 359 employed. Employment remained at a record high level for a fourth consecutive month. The labor force participation rate declined slightly, from 59.2% in March to 59.1% in April.

Compared to April 2025, there are 19,615 more employed Arkansans. The unemployment rate is up four-tenths of a percentage point over the year, with 5,870 additional unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work. The labor force participation rate is up six-tenths of a percentage point, from 58.5% last April.

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Apr 26	Mar 26	Apr 25	Apr 26	Mar 26	Apr 25
Civilian Labor Force	1,454,535	1,455,388	1,429,050	Civilian Labor Force	1,453,431	1,437,295
Employment	1,392,700	1,392,341	1,373,085	Employment	1,402,109	1,387,036
Unemployment	61,835	63,047	55,965	Unemployment	51,322	50,259
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.3%	3.9%	Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.5%
LF Participation Rate	59.1%	59.2%	58.5%	LF Participation Rate	59.1%	58.8%

Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)  
April 2023 - April 2026



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## State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

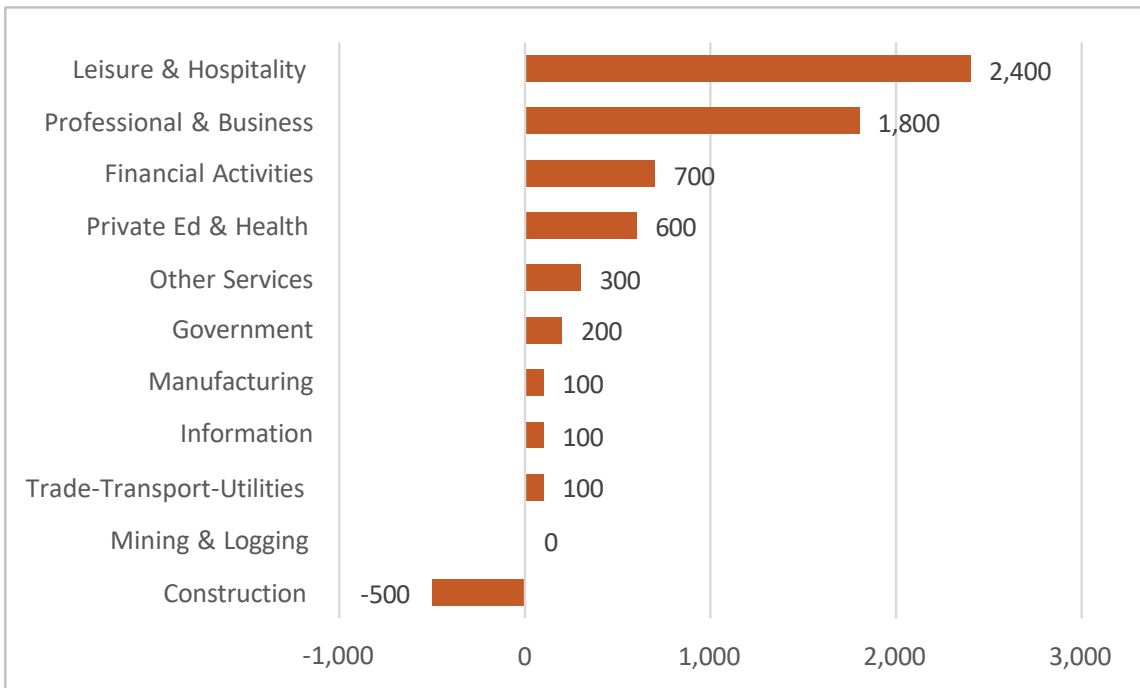
Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

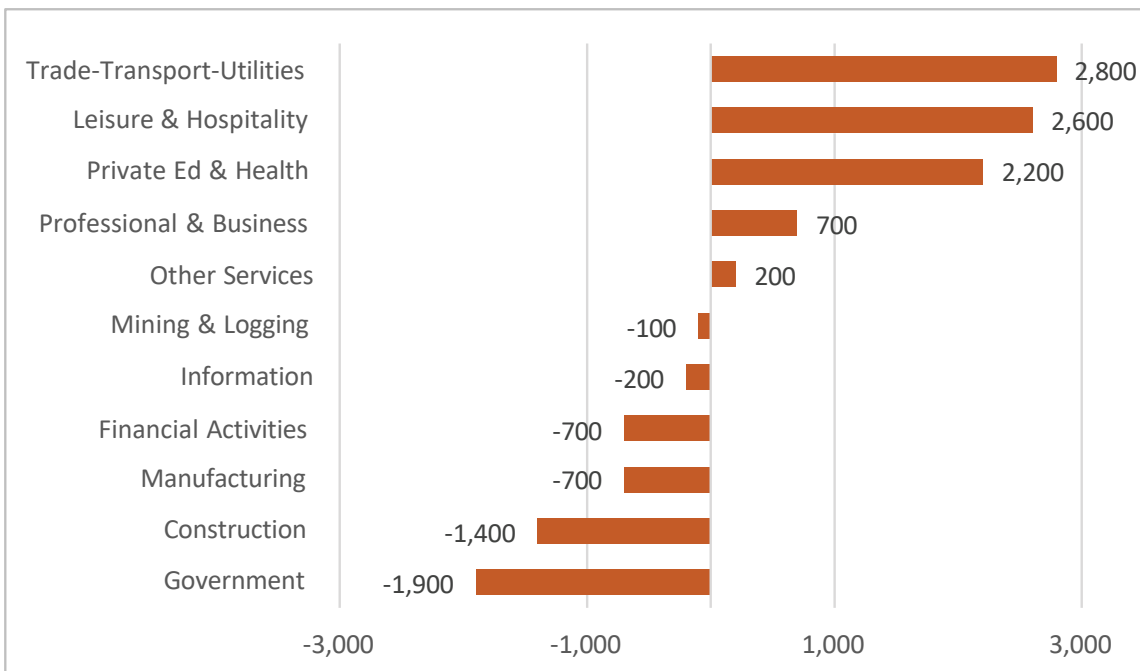
(NAICS)	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1347.4	1341.6	1343.9	5.8	3.5
Goods Producing	228.5	228.9	230.7	-0.4	-2.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	69.9	70.4	71.4	-0.5	-1.5
Mining & Logging	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Construction	<b>65.2</b>	<b>65.7</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	40.9	41.0	41.9	-0.1	-1.0
Manufacturing	<b>158.6</b>	<b>158.5</b>	<b>159.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Durable Goods	74.1	74.3	75.1	-0.2	-1.0
Nondurable Goods	84.5	84.2	84.2	0.3	0.3
Service Providing	1118.9	1112.7	1113.2	6.2	5.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>271.9</b>	<b>271.8</b>	<b>269.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Wholesale Trade	54.2	53.9	53.8	0.3	0.4
Retail Trade	143.9	143.7	142.4	0.2	1.5
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	73.8	74.2	72.9	-0.4	0.9
Information	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Financial Activities	<b>59.2</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>59.9</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Finance & Insurance	43.7	43.4	44.4	0.3	-0.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15.5	15.1	15.5	0.4	0.0
Professional & Business Services	<b>167.0</b>	<b>165.2</b>	<b>166.3</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Professional, Scientific & Technical	53.9	53.6	53.2	0.3	0.7
Management of Companies	43.1	43.0	41.8	0.1	1.3
Administrative & Support Services	70.0	68.6	71.3	1.4	-1.3
Private Education & Health Services	<b>212.9</b>	<b>212.3</b>	<b>210.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Private Educational Services	21.1	21.1	20.6	0.0	0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	191.8	191.2	190.1	0.6	1.7
Ambulatory Health Care	70.1	69.7	69.0	0.4	1.1
Social Assistance	40.6	40.7	41.0	-0.1	-0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>135.5</b>	<b>133.1</b>	<b>132.9</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	15.4	14.3	14.9	1.1	0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	120.1	118.8	118.0	1.3	2.1
Accommodation Services	10.8	10.8	10.8	0.0	0.0
Food Services	109.3	108.0	107.2	1.3	2.1
Other Services	<b>52.9</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Government	<b>207.7</b>	<b>207.5</b>	<b>209.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
Federal Government	20.2	20.3	21.6	-0.1	-1.4
State Government	71.2	71.5	72.4	-0.3	-1.2
State Gov, Educational Services	27.0	27.3	27.5	-0.3	-0.5
State Gov, Excluding Education	44.2	44.2	44.9	0.0	-0.7
Local Government	116.3	115.7	115.6	0.6	0.7
Local Gov, Educational Services	70.4	70.3	70.4	0.1	0.0
Local Gov, Excluding Education	45.9	45.4	45.2	0.5	0.7

## State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Monthly Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sector  
March 2026 - April 2026 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Annual Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sector  
April 2025 - April 2026 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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## State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

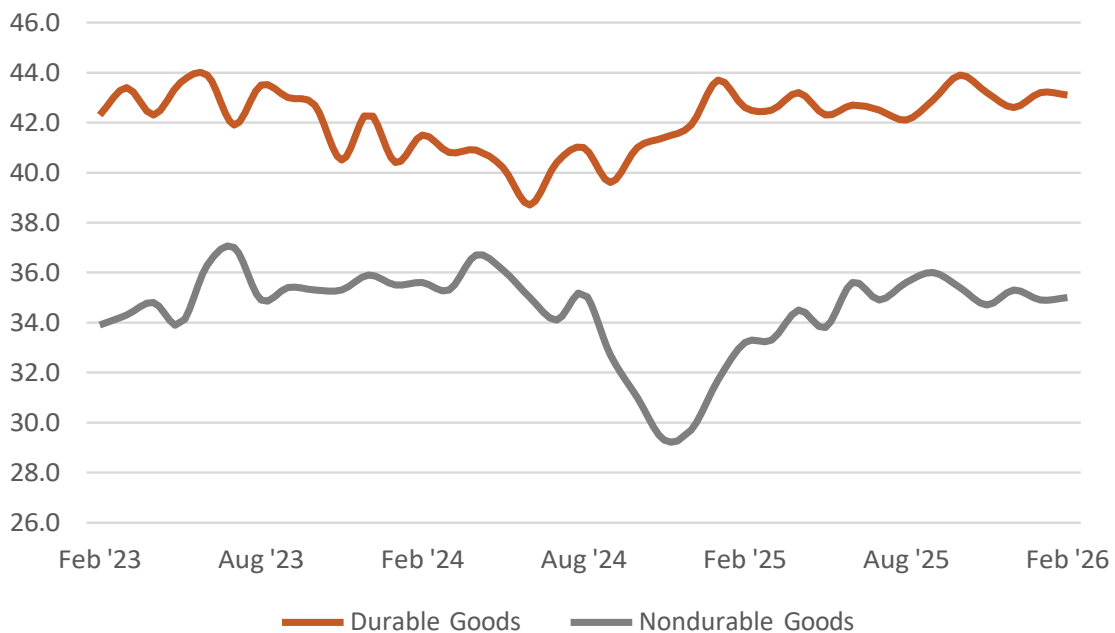
### Manufacturing

	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>
Average Weekly Hours	38.8	38.8	37.6
Average Hourly Earnings	\$24.12	\$24.36	\$23.71
Average Weekly Earnings	\$935.86	\$945.17	\$891.50

### Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

	Durable Goods Manufacturing			Nondurable Goods Manufacturing		
	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>
Average Weekly Hours	43.1	43.2	42.6	35.0	34.9	33.2
Average Hourly Earnings	\$25.92	\$26.23	\$25.75	\$22.19	\$22.32	\$21.45
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,117.15	\$1,133.14	\$1,096.95	\$776.65	\$778.97	\$712.14

Average Weekly Hours Worked - Durable Goods vs Nondurable Goods  
April 2023 - April 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## 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>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	394,022	394,984	390,426	-962	3,596
Employment	380,185	379,013	377,535	1,172	2,650
Unemployment	13,837	15,971	12,891	-2,134	946
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	4.0%	3.3%	-0.5%	0.2%

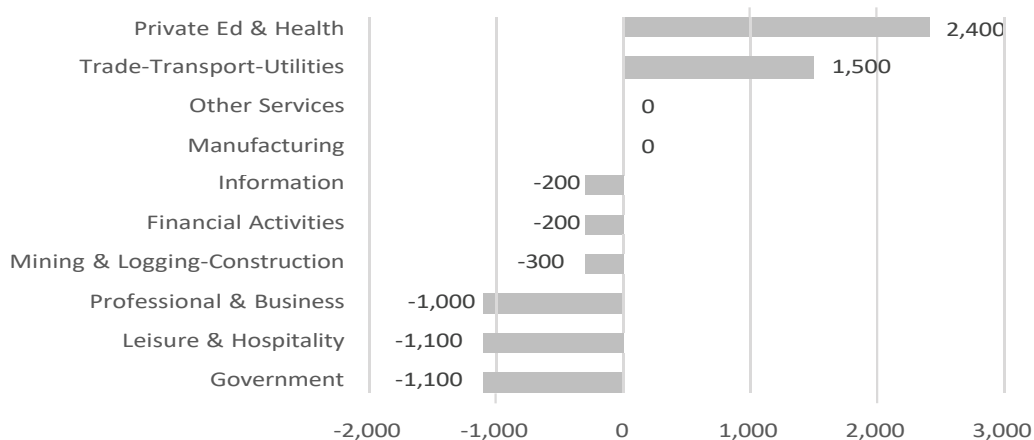
#### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	395.3	393.8	395.3	1.5	0.0
Goods Producing	42.0	41.9	42.3	0.1	-0.3
Mining, Logging & Construction	<b>21.2</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Manufacturing	<b>20.8</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Service Providing	353.3	351.9	353.0	1.4	0.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>81.3</b>	<b>81.3</b>	<b>79.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Wholesale Trade	18.2	18.1	18.1	0.1	0.1
Retail Trade	39.7	39.7	39.2	0.0	0.5
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	23.4	23.5	22.5	-0.1	0.9
Information	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Financial Activities	<b>25.1</b>	<b>24.9</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Professional & Business Services	<b>50.7</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Private Education & Health Services	<b>68.6</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>35.4</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Other Services	<b>18.8</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>18.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Government	<b>68.7</b>	<b>68.7</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Federal Government	9.9	9.9	10.7	0.0	-0.8
State Government	32.2	32.3	32.8	-0.1	-0.6
Local Government	26.6	26.5	26.3	0.1	0.3

#### Over-the-Year Job Change by Major Industry Sector

April 2025 vs April 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

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

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

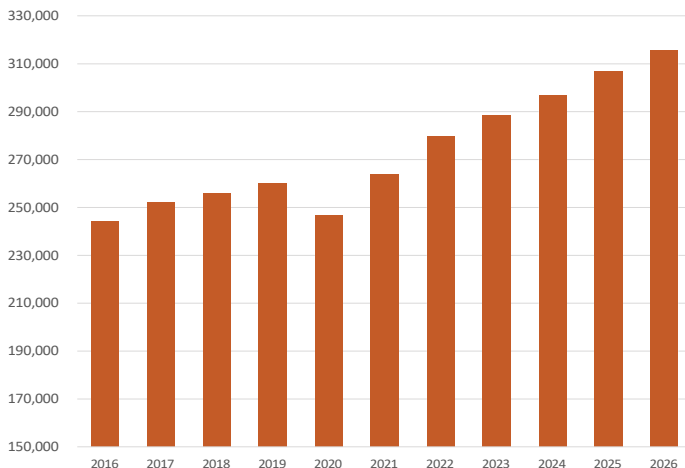
	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	324,691	323,389	315,625	1,302	9,066
Employment	315,832	312,786	306,770	3,046	9,062
Unemployment	8,859	10,603	8,855	-1,744	4
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	3.3%	2.8%	-0.6%	-0.1%

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

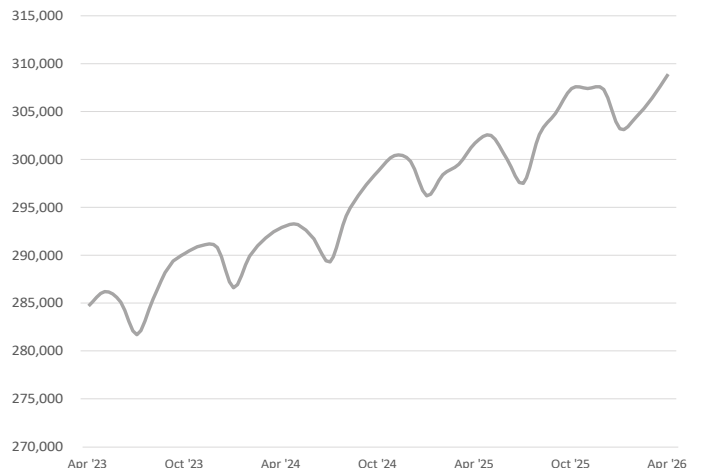
(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	308.9	306.4	301.7	2.5	7.2
Goods Producing	46.1	45.9	45.9	0.2	0.2
Mining, Logging & Construction	<b>18.8</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Manufacturing	<b>27.3</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Service Providing	262.8	260.5	255.8	2.3	7.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>61.8</b>	<b>61.8</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Wholesale Trade	14.0	14.0	14.0	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	29.8	29.8	28.5	0.0	1.3
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	18.0	18.0	18.3	0.0	-0.3
Information	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Financial Activities	<b>10.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Professional & Business Services	<b>66.7</b>	<b>66.3</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Private Education & Health Services	<b>37.7</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>35.8</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>33.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Other Services	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Government	<b>35.9</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Federal Government	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
State Government	12.5	12.4	12.0	0.1	0.5
Local Government	20.4	20.4	20.0	0.0	0.4

Employment  
April: 2016 - 2026



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs  
April 2023 - April 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## 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>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	102,327	102,704	102,610	-377	-283
Employment	98,584	98,411	99,117	173	-533
Unemployment	3,743	4,293	3,493	-550	250
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	4.2%	3.4%	-0.5%	0.3%

#### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

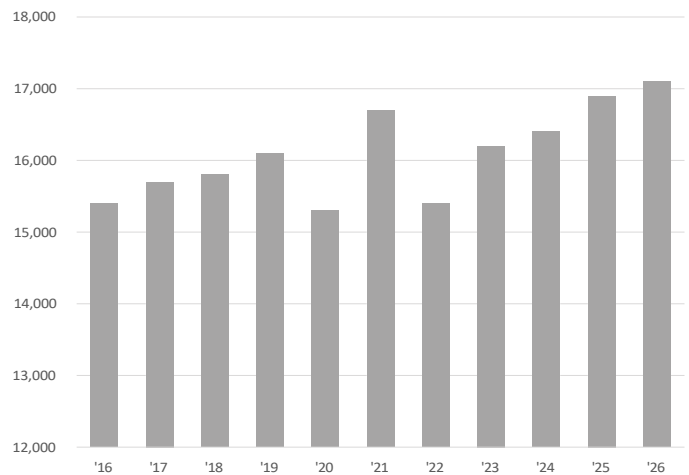
(In Thousands)

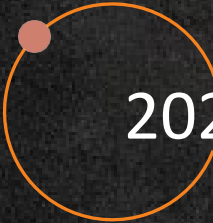
<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	101.8	101.3	102.4	0.5	-0.6
Goods Producing	22.7	22.5	22.6	0.2	0.1
Mining, Logging & Construction	<b>4.9</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Manufacturing	<b>17.8</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Service Providing	79.1	78.8	79.8	0.3	-0.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>20.4</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Wholesale Trade	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-0.1
Retail Trade	11.5	11.6	11.4	-0.1	0.1
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	4.5	4.5	4.7	0.0	-0.2
Information	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Financial Activities	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Professional & Business Services	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.3</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Private Education & Health Services	<b>17.1</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>9.5</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Other Services	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Government	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Federal Government	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
State Government	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	9.7	9.7	9.8	0.0	-0.1

Employment  
April 2023 - April 2026



Jobs in Private Education & Health Services  
April: 2016 - 2026





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

#### Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

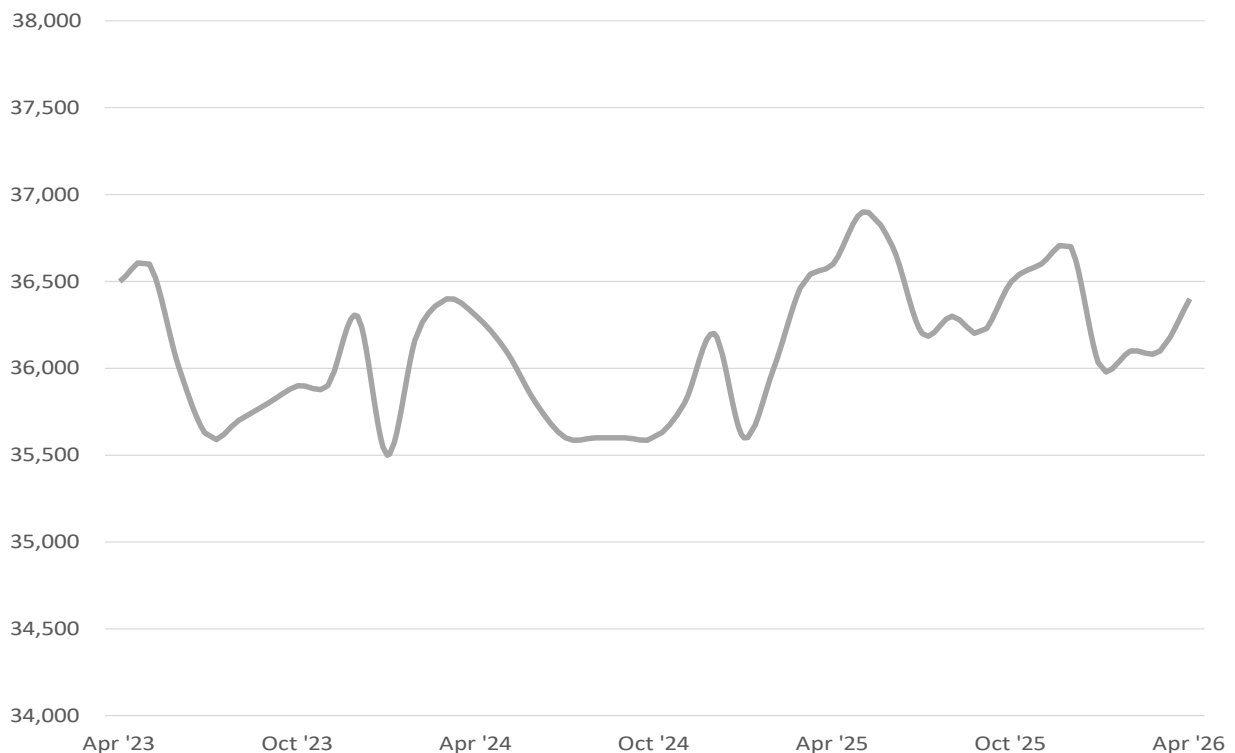
	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	44,844	44,724	44,665	120	179
Employment	43,215	42,759	43,030	456	185
Unemployment	1,629	1,965	1,635	-336	-6
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	4.4%	3.7%	-0.8%	-0.1%

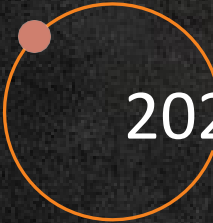
#### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	41.0	40.6	41.1	0.4	-0.1
Goods Producing	4.6	4.5	4.5	0.1	0.1
Service Providing	36.4	36.1	36.6	0.3	-0.2
Government	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-0.1

Jobs in Service Providing Industries  
April 2023 - April 2026





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

#### Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

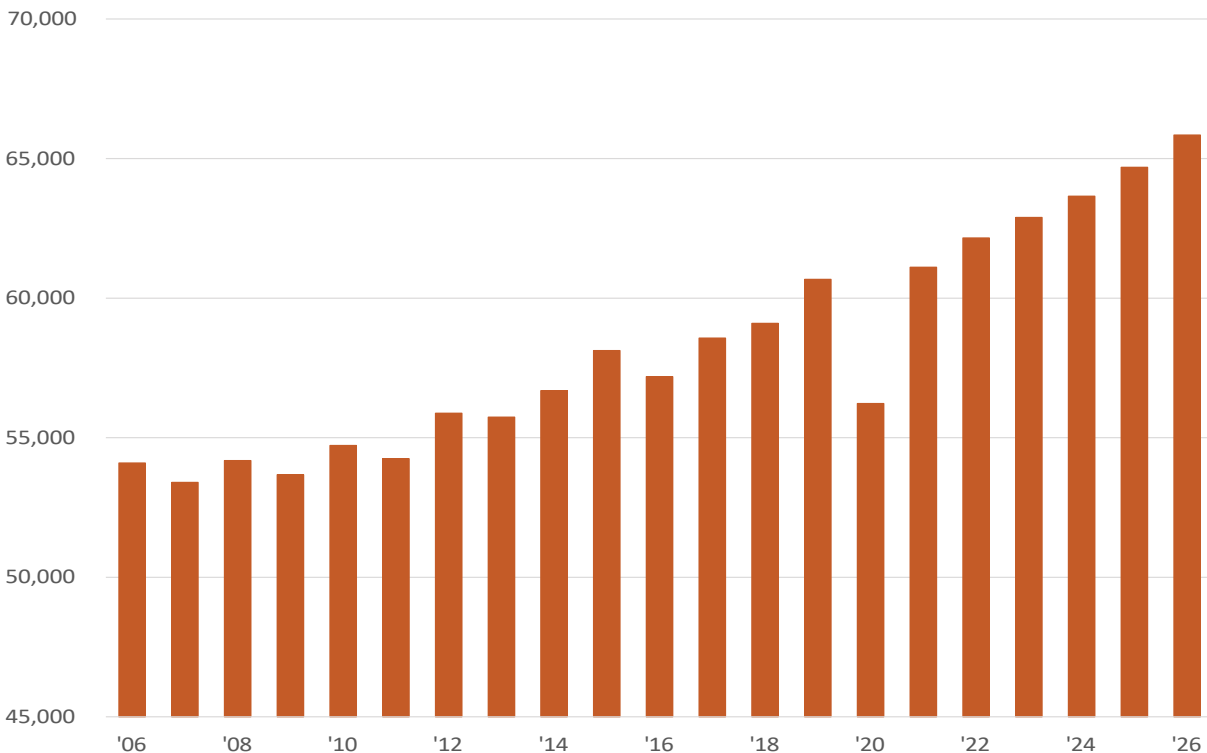
	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	68,098	67,996	67,009	102	1,089
Employment	65,844	65,367	64,688	477	1,156
Unemployment	2,254	2,629	2,321	-375	-67
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.9%	3.5%	-0.6%	-0.2%

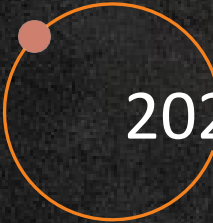
#### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	65.0	64.6	64.3	0.4	0.7
Goods Producing	11.1	11.2	11.1	-0.1	0.0
Service Providing	53.9	53.4	53.2	0.5	0.7
Government	9.2	9.1	9.3	0.1	-0.1

Employment  
April: 2006 - 2026





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## 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.

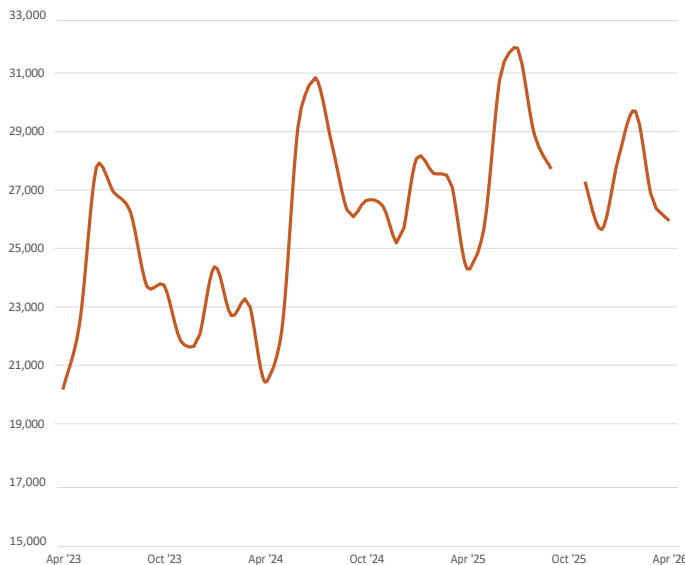
	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	630,451	628,352	638,058	2,099	-7,607
Employment	604,505	601,714	613,761	2,791	-9,256
Unemployment	25,946	26,638	24,297	-692	1,649
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.2%	3.8%	-0.1%	0.3%

#### Texarkana MSA

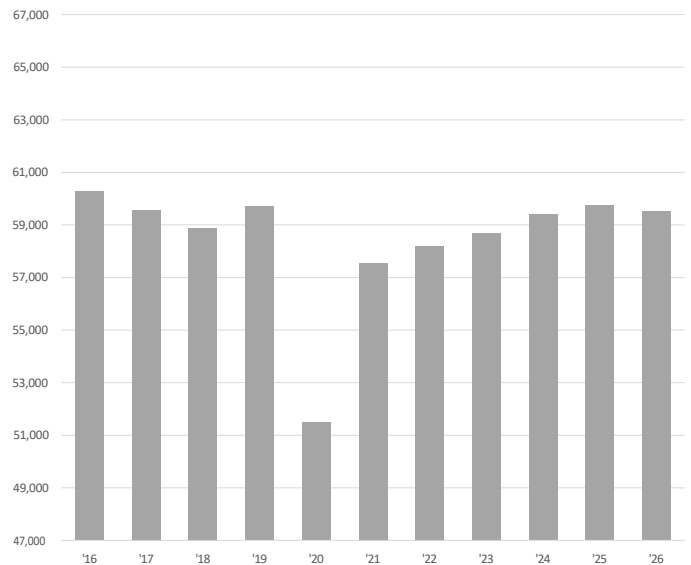
The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	<u>Apr 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	61,961	62,024	62,083	-63	-122
Employment	59,509	59,348	59,740	161	-231
Unemployment	2,452	2,676	2,343	-224	109
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.3%	3.8%	-0.3%	0.2%

Memphis MSA - Unemployment  
April 2023 - April 2026



Texarkana MSA - Employment  
April: 2016 - 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## Micropolitan Statistical Areas

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	April 2026				March 2026				April 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	9,893	9,539	354	3.6	9,963	9,546	417	4.2	9,874	9,508	366	3.7
Batesville Micro	18,899	18,346	553	2.9	18,959	18,299	660	3.5	18,181	17,625	556	3.1
Blytheville Micro	20,546	19,677	869	4.2	20,722	19,744	978	4.7	20,739	19,900	839	4.0
Camden Micro	11,340	10,896	444	3.9	11,411	10,875	536	4.7	11,238	10,759	479	4.3
El Dorado Micro	15,765	15,053	712	4.5	15,872	15,063	809	5.1	15,889	15,123	766	4.8
Forrest City Micro	7,784	7,402	382	4.9	7,817	7,377	440	5.6	7,711	7,321	390	5.1
Harrison Micro	19,412	18,775	637	3.3	19,469	18,680	789	4.1	19,563	18,858	705	3.6
Magnolia Micro	9,122	8,754	368	4.0	9,141	8,714	427	4.7	9,181	8,843	338	3.7
Malvern Micro	13,280	12,769	511	3.8	13,378	12,767	611	4.6	13,341	12,830	511	3.8
Mountain Home Micro	17,478	16,815	663	3.8	17,498	16,702	796	4.5	17,007	16,359	648	3.8
Paragould Micro	20,126	19,312	814	4.0	20,152	19,218	934	4.6	20,609	19,881	728	3.5
Pine Bluff Micro	27,565	26,083	1,482	5.4	27,738	26,025	1,713	6.2	27,761	26,444	1,317	4.7
Russellville Micro	37,970	36,526	1,444	3.8	38,058	36,370	1,688	4.4	37,972	36,555	1,417	3.7
Searcy Micro	35,913	34,706	1,207	3.4	36,053	34,591	1,462	4.1	35,965	34,722	1,243	3.5

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	April 2026				March 2026				April 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	15,473	14,930	543	3.5	15,514	14,792	722	4.7	15,056	14,503	553	3.7
Benton	20,963	20,368	595	2.8	21,011	20,307	704	3.4	20,814	20,221	593	2.8
Bentonville	36,088	35,176	912	2.5	35,909	34,852	1,057	2.9	35,078	34,170	908	2.6
Blytheville	6,922	6,602	320	4.6	6,996	6,624	372	5.3	6,997	6,677	320	4.6
Cabot	14,091	13,640	451	3.2	14,135	13,598	537	3.8	13,899	13,522	377	2.7
Centerton	15,373	15,050	323	2.1	15,296	14,911	385	2.5	14,985	14,620	365	2.4
Conway	38,501	37,251	1,250	3.2	38,578	37,139	1,439	3.7	38,154	37,003	1,151	3.0
El Dorado	6,919	6,611	308	4.5	6,954	6,615	339	4.9	7,035	6,642	393	5.6
Fayetteville	58,338	56,778	1,560	2.7	58,102	56,227	1,875	3.2	56,879	55,151	1,728	3.0
Fort Smith	42,203	40,730	1,473	3.5	42,244	40,531	1,713	4.1	42,078	40,669	1,409	3.3
Hot Springs	17,526	16,837	689	3.9	17,450	16,659	791	4.5	17,438	16,765	673	3.9
Jacksonville	13,100	12,556	544	4.2	13,137	12,518	619	4.7	13,040	12,475	565	4.3
Jonesboro	40,692	39,296	1,396	3.4	40,614	39,017	1,597	3.9	40,052	38,622	1,430	3.6
Little Rock	107,854	103,678	4,176	3.9	108,184	103,363	4,821	4.5	106,750	103,007	3,743	3.5
North Little Rock	34,184	32,770	1,414	4.1	34,219	32,671	1,548	4.5	33,821	32,558	1,263	3.7
Paragould	13,134	12,586	548	4.2	13,168	12,524	644	4.9	13,430	12,956	474	3.5
Pine Bluff	14,940	14,039	901	6.0	15,017	14,003	1,014	6.8	15,039	14,257	782	5.2
Rogers	42,284	41,167	1,117	2.6	42,123	40,787	1,336	3.2	41,039	39,990	1,049	2.6
Russellville	13,704	13,223	481	3.5	13,766	13,176	590	4.3	13,686	13,192	494	3.6
Searcy	10,399	10,033	366	3.5	10,428	10,000	428	4.1	10,403	10,038	365	3.5
Sherwood	17,434	16,832	602	3.5	17,464	16,781	683	3.9	17,272	16,724	548	3.2
Springdale	45,943	44,697	1,246	2.7	45,700	44,267	1,433	3.1	44,544	43,417	1,127	2.5
Texarkana, AR	12,214	11,733	481	3.9	12,300	11,723	577	4.7	12,179	11,691	488	4.0
Van Buren	10,693	10,304	389	3.6	10,699	10,255	444	4.1	10,652	10,292	360	3.4
West Memphis	9,529	8,922	607	6.4	9,511	8,882	629	6.6	9,444	8,857	587	6.2

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## County Labor Force Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	April 2026				March 2026				April 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	7,161	6,848	313	4.4	7,219	6,841	378	5.2	7,386	7,070	316	4.3
Ashley	7,146	6,794	352	4.9	7,112	6,698	414	5.8	6,936	6,551	385	5.6
Baxter	17,478	16,815	663	3.8	17,498	16,702	796	4.5	17,007	16,359	648	3.8
Benton	173,792	169,044	4,748	2.7	173,153	167,487	5,666	3.3	168,904	164,211	4,693	2.8
Boone	16,652	16,122	530	3.2	16,715	16,062	653	3.9	16,837	16,248	589	3.5
Bradley	3,719	3,538	181	4.9	3,743	3,535	208	5.6	3,824	3,594	230	6.0
Calhoun	2,182	2,111	71	3.3	2,202	2,112	90	4.1	2,095	2,015	80	3.8
Carroll	12,283	11,872	411	3.3	12,129	11,622	507	4.2	12,083	11,661	422	3.5
Chicot	3,253	3,058	195	6.0	3,288	3,052	236	7.2	3,222	3,054	168	5.2
Clark	9,893	9,539	354	3.6	9,963	9,546	417	4.2	9,874	9,508	366	3.7
Clay	5,996	5,778	218	3.6	5,957	5,698	259	4.3	5,982	5,769	213	3.6
Cleburne	10,407	9,975	432	4.2	10,345	9,839	506	4.9	10,297	9,877	420	4.1
Cleveland	3,008	2,887	121	4.0	3,032	2,888	144	4.7	3,009	2,887	122	4.1
Columbia	9,122	8,754	368	4.0	9,141	8,714	427	4.7	9,181	8,843	338	3.7
Conway	9,374	9,030	344	3.7	9,361	8,941	420	4.5	9,220	8,876	344	3.7
Craighead	57,957	56,085	1,872	3.2	57,879	55,688	2,191	3.8	57,058	55,124	1,934	3.4
Crawford	26,164	25,228	936	3.6	26,236	25,108	1,128	4.3	26,146	25,197	949	3.6
Crittenden	20,775	19,763	1,012	4.9	20,819	19,675	1,144	5.5	20,615	19,619	996	4.8
Cross	7,573	7,288	285	3.8	7,552	7,229	323	4.3	7,457	7,182	275	3.7
Dallas	2,792	2,678	114	4.1	2,828	2,697	131	4.6	2,763	2,666	97	3.5
Desha	3,881	3,637	244	6.3	3,924	3,630	294	7.5	3,985	3,716	269	6.8
Drew	7,950	7,610	340	4.3	7,963	7,581	382	4.8	7,944	7,601	343	4.3
Faulkner	68,517	66,296	2,221	3.2	68,669	66,097	2,572	3.7	67,943	65,855	2,088	3.1
Franklin	7,430	7,157	273	3.7	7,422	7,100	322	4.3	7,392	7,116	276	3.7
Fulton	4,139	3,961	178	4.3	4,138	3,921	217	5.2	4,028	3,856	172	4.3
Garland	44,844	43,215	1,629	3.6	44,724	42,759	1,965	4.4	44,665	43,030	1,635	3.7
Grant	9,080	8,807	273	3.0	9,092	8,767	325	3.6	8,988	8,718	270	3.0
Greene	20,126	19,312	814	4.0	20,152	19,218	934	4.6	20,609	19,881	728	3.5
Hempstead	8,715	8,387	328	3.8	8,714	8,325	389	4.5	8,629	8,330	299	3.5
Hot Spring	13,280	12,769	511	3.8	13,378	12,767	611	4.6	13,341	12,830	511	3.8
Howard	4,720	4,511	209	4.4	4,759	4,513	246	5.2	4,852	4,654	198	4.1
Independence	18,899	18,346	553	2.9	18,959	18,299	660	3.5	18,181	17,625	556	3.1
Izard	4,372	4,153	219	5.0	4,354	4,100	254	5.8	4,205	3,980	225	5.4
Jackson	5,719	5,526	193	3.4	5,728	5,488	240	4.2	5,664	5,424	240	4.2
Jefferson	24,557	23,196	1,361	5.5	24,706	23,137	1,569	6.4	24,752	23,557	1,195	4.8
Johnson	10,193	9,747	446	4.4	10,215	9,685	530	5.2	10,082	9,653	429	4.3
Lafayette	2,332	2,237	95	4.1	2,330	2,215	115	4.9	2,328	2,198	130	5.6
Lawrence	7,155	6,913	242	3.4	7,149	6,868	281	3.9	7,010	6,767	243	3.5
Lee	2,363	2,237	126	5.3	2,359	2,213	146	6.2	2,348	2,215	133	5.7
Lincoln	3,184	3,025	159	5.0	3,206	3,029	177	5.5	3,230	3,067	163	5.0
Little River	5,143	4,946	197	3.8	5,187	4,947	240	4.6	5,095	4,920	175	3.4
Logan	9,039	8,723	316	3.5	9,069	8,683	386	4.3	8,991	8,636	355	3.9
Lonoke	37,905	36,720	1,185	3.1	38,035	36,607	1,428	3.8	37,528	36,404	1,124	3.0
Madison	8,617	8,387	230	2.7	8,528	8,241	287	3.4	8,378	8,123	255	3.0
Marion	5,461	5,190	271	5.0	5,441	5,111	330	6.1	5,304	5,026	278	5.2
Miller	17,099	16,379	720	4.2	17,216	16,366	850	4.9	17,027	16,321	706	4.1

(continued on Page 16)

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## County Labor Force Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	April 2026				March 2026				April 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	20,546	19,677	869	4.2	20,722	19,744	978	4.7	20,739	19,900	839	4.0
Monroe	2,630	2,500	130	4.9	2,628	2,470	158	6.0	2,667	2,542	125	4.7
Montgomery	3,154	3,016	138	4.4	3,140	2,971	169	5.4	3,096	2,968	128	4.1
Nevada	2,662	2,527	135	5.1	2,677	2,516	161	6.0	2,643	2,522	121	4.6
Newton	2,760	2,653	107	3.9	2,754	2,618	136	4.9	2,726	2,610	116	4.3
Ouachita	9,158	8,785	373	4.1	9,209	8,763	446	4.8	9,143	8,744	399	4.4
Perry	4,433	4,262	171	3.9	4,443	4,241	202	4.5	4,392	4,215	177	4.0
Phillips	4,699	4,374	325	6.9	4,736	4,388	348	7.3	4,791	4,501	290	6.1
Pike	4,215	4,063	152	3.6	4,219	4,032	187	4.4	4,218	4,061	157	3.7
Poinsett	10,141	9,759	382	3.8	10,117	9,679	438	4.3	9,951	9,564	387	3.9
Polk	7,463	7,162	301	4.0	7,434	7,081	353	4.7	7,459	7,186	273	3.7
Pope	28,522	27,399	1,123	3.9	28,612	27,302	1,310	4.6	28,447	27,335	1,112	3.9
Prairie	3,577	3,444	133	3.7	3,603	3,445	158	4.4	3,506	3,382	124	3.5
Pulaski	205,528	197,567	7,961	3.9	205,982	196,966	9,016	4.4	203,527	196,288	7,239	3.6
Randolph	8,185	7,910	275	3.4	8,166	7,844	322	3.9	8,030	7,767	263	3.3
St. Francis	7,784	7,402	382	4.9	7,817	7,377	440	5.6	7,711	7,321	390	5.1
Saline	68,559	66,533	2,026	3.0	68,763	66,335	2,428	3.5	68,048	66,055	1,993	2.9
Scott	4,134	3,989	145	3.5	4,156	3,980	176	4.2	4,091	3,960	131	3.2
Searcy	3,350	3,246	104	3.1	3,185	3,042	143	4.5	3,377	3,252	125	3.7
Sebastian	59,860	57,749	2,111	3.5	59,949	57,466	2,483	4.1	59,697	57,663	2,034	3.4
Sevier	7,178	6,978	200	2.8	7,212	6,969	243	3.4	7,144	6,934	210	2.9
Sharp	6,793	6,539	254	3.7	6,770	6,463	307	4.5	6,596	6,344	252	3.8
Stone	4,163	3,976	187	4.5	4,125	3,885	240	5.8	4,128	3,929	199	4.8
Union	15,765	15,053	712	4.5	15,872	15,063	809	5.1	15,889	15,123	766	4.8
Van Buren	6,012	5,739	273	4.5	6,021	5,703	318	5.3	5,978	5,703	275	4.6
Washington	142,282	138,401	3,881	2.7	141,708	137,058	4,650	3.3	138,343	134,436	3,907	2.8
White	35,913	34,706	1,207	3.4	36,053	34,591	1,462	4.1	35,965	34,722	1,243	3.5
Woodruff	3,071	2,976	95	3.1	3,100	2,982	118	3.8	3,070	2,975	95	3.1
Yell	9,448	9,127	321	3.4	9,446	9,068	378	4.0	9,525	9,220	305	3.2

## County Labor Force Summary

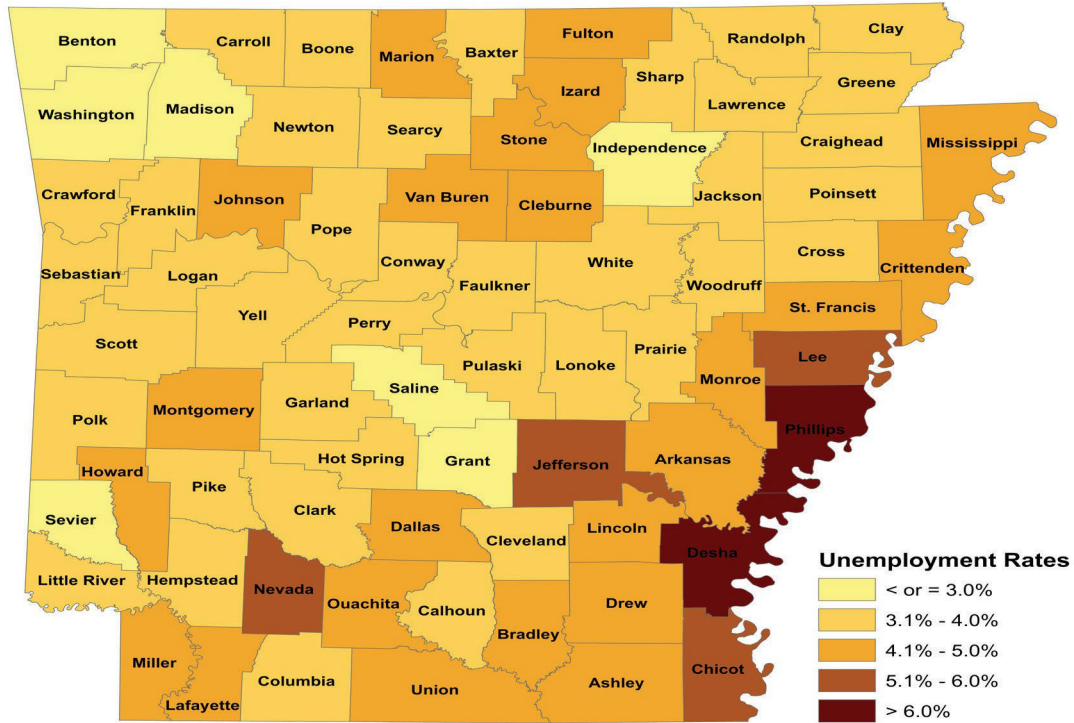
Between March and April, unemployment rates declined in all 75 Arkansas counties. Rates ranged from a low of 2.7% in Benton and Madison counties to a high of 6.9% in Phillips County.

In April, seven counties posted jobless rates at or below 3%. No county had a rate at or above seven percent, compared to three counties above 7% last month.

Compared to April 2025, unemployment rates are down in 34 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates increased in 29 counties, while twelve counties were unchanged over the year. Lafayette (-1.5%) and Bradley (-1.1%) counties had the largest annual rate declines. The average rate decline was a three-tenths of a percentage point drop. Chicot and Phillips counties posted the largest annual rate increase, both up eight-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## County Unemployment Rates



## Ranked by Unemployment Rates

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Benton	2.7	24	Crawford	3.6	50	Miller	4.2
1	Madison	2.7	24	Garland	3.6	50	Mississippi	4.2
1	Washington	2.7	24	Pike	3.6	53	Drew	4.3
4	Sevier	2.8	29	Conway	3.7	53	Fulton	4.3
5	Independence	2.9	29	Franklin	3.7	55	Arkansas	4.4
6	Grant	3.0	29	Prairie	3.7	55	Howard	4.4
6	Saline	3.0	29	Sharp	3.7	55	Johnson	4.4
8	Lonoke	3.1	33	Baxter	3.8	55	Montgomery	4.4
8	Searcy	3.1	33	Cross	3.8	59	Stone	4.5
8	Woodruff	3.1	33	Hempstead	3.8	59	Union	4.5
11	Boone	3.2	33	Hot Spring	3.8	59	Van Buren	4.5
11	Craighead	3.2	33	Little River	3.8	62	Ashley	4.9
11	Faulkner	3.2	33	Poinsett	3.8	62	Bradley	4.9
14	Calhoun	3.3	39	Newton	3.9	62	Crittenden	4.9
14	Carroll	3.3	39	Perry	3.9	62	Monroe	4.9
16	Jackson	3.4	39	Pope	3.9	62	St. Francis	4.9
16	Lawrence	3.4	39	Pulaski	3.9	67	Izard	5.0
16	Randolph	3.4	43	Cleveland	4.0	67	Lincoln	5.0
16	White	3.4	43	Columbia	4.0	67	Marion	5.0
16	Yell	3.4	43	Greene	4.0	70	Nevada	5.1
21	Logan	3.5	43	Polk	4.0	71	Lee	5.3
21	Scott	3.5	47	Dallas	4.1	72	Jefferson	5.5
21	Sebastian	3.5	47	Lafayette	4.1	73	Chicot	6.0
24	Clark	3.6	47	Ouachita	4.1	74	Desha	6.3
24	Clay	3.6	50	Cleburne	4.2	75	Phillips	6.9

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | April

## Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	April 2026				March 2026				April 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	278,862	269,382	9,480	3.4	279,496	268,557	10,939	3.9	276,469	267,519	8,950	3.2
City of Little Rock	107,854	103,678	4,176	3.9	108,184	103,363	4,821	4.5	106,750	103,007	3,743	3.5
Eastern	43,194	41,064	2,130	4.9	43,283	40,882	2,401	5.5	42,922	40,838	2,084	4.9
North Central	99,488	95,897	3,591	3.6	99,593	95,271	4,322	4.3	98,112	94,435	3,677	3.7
Northeast	130,106	125,434	4,672	3.6	130,142	124,739	5,403	4.2	129,379	124,772	4,607	3.6
Northwest	382,675	371,730	10,945	2.9	381,111	367,943	13,168	3.5	372,959	361,926	11,033	3.0
Southeast	72,939	69,400	3,539	4.9	73,285	69,158	4,127	5.6	73,276	69,815	3,461	4.7
Southwest	86,868	83,346	3,522	4.1	87,347	83,200	4,147	4.7	86,789	83,270	3,519	4.1
West Central	137,356	132,167	5,189	3.8	137,501	131,312	6,189	4.5	136,860	131,696	5,164	3.8
Western	114,090	110,008	4,082	3.6	114,266	109,418	4,848	4.2	113,776	109,758	4,018	3.5

