

2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report

August



www.discover.arkansas.gov

2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | August

Table of Contents

Monthly Spotlight 2

Arkansas Labor Force Summary 3

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs 4

Arkansas Production Workers 6

Metropolitan Statistical Areas 7

Micropolitan Statistical Areas/Cities 13

County Labor Force Statistics 14

Local Workforce Development Areas 17

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 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 1,200 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.

August 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.

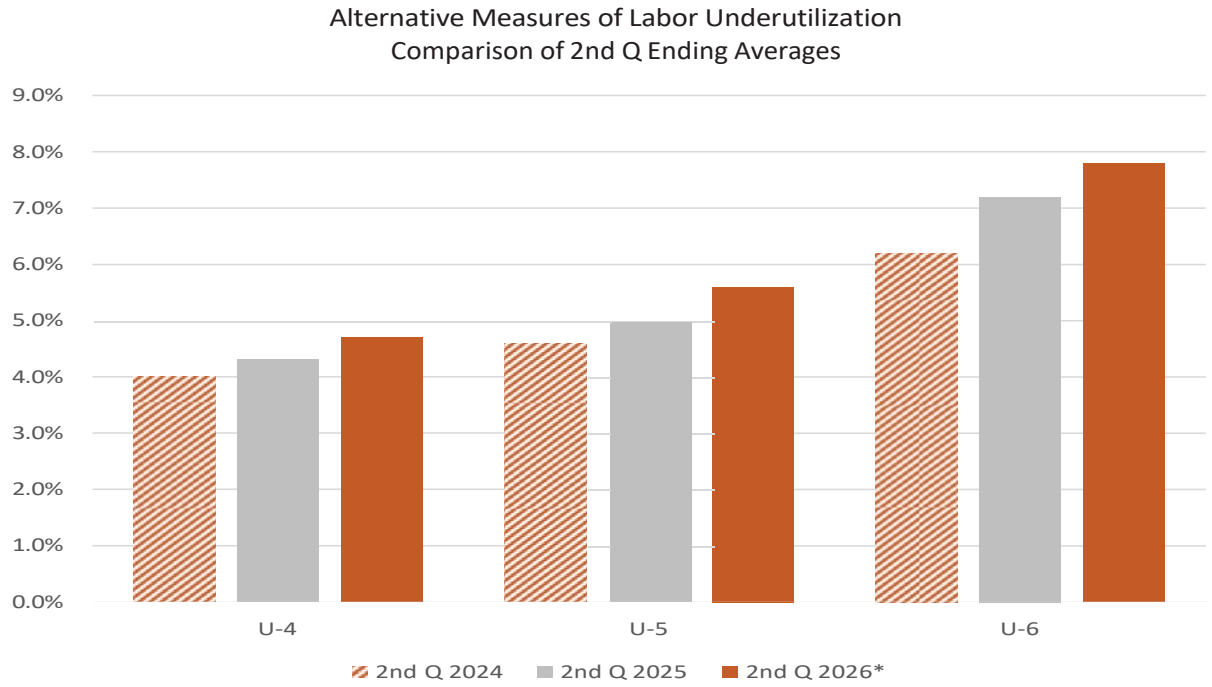
Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization
State of Arkansas
3rd Quarter 2025 - 2nd Quarter 2026 Average*

U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
1.6%	1.8%	4.5%	4.7%	5.6%	7.8%

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 3rd Quarter 2025-2nd Quarter 2026*.

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.



*Due to lapse in appropriations, no October 2025 Current Population Survey was conducted. The 3rd Q 2025-2nd Q 2026 Average is an 11-month average, since no October 2025 data is available.

State of Arkansas

Civilian Labor Force Summary

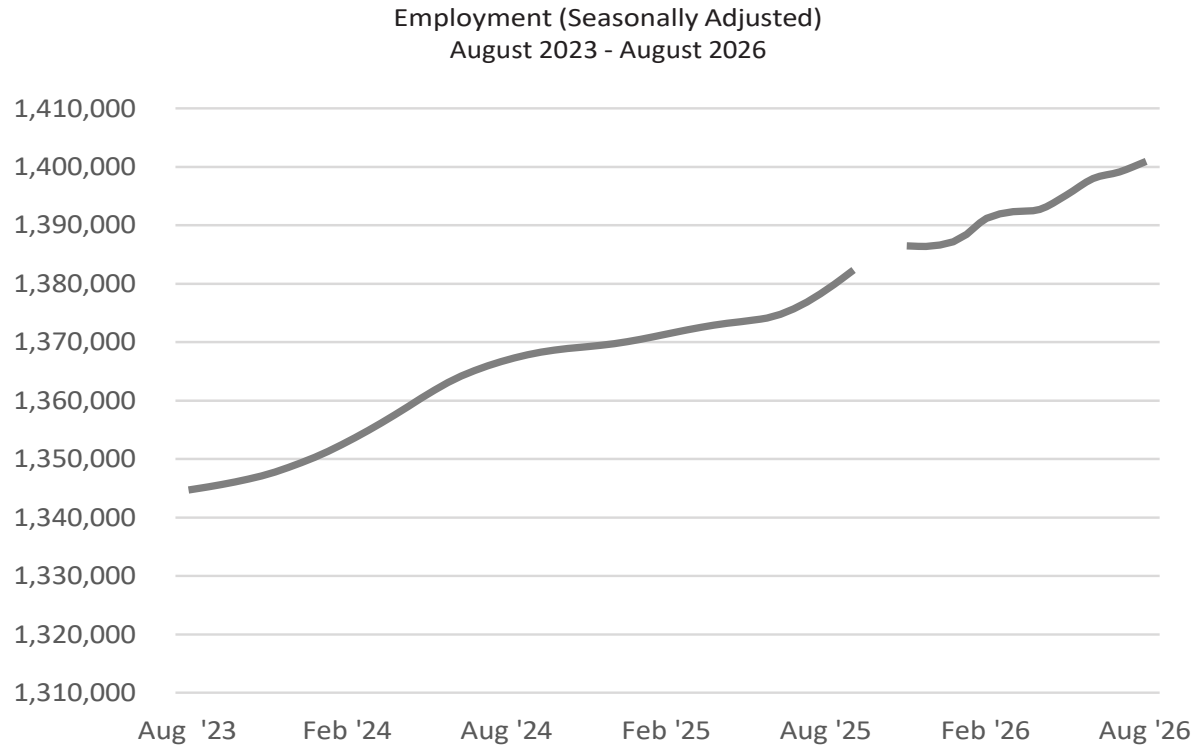
The Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point, down from 4.0% in July to 3.9% in August. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 4.1% between July and August.

Arkansas' civilian labor force rose by 192 in August, a result of 1,972 more employed and 1,780 fewer unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work. The civilian labor force and employment both remain at record high levels. The number of unemployed actively seeking work has steadily declined throughout 2026, pushing the unemployment rate down for a 4th consecutive month.

Compared to August 2025, there are 22,140 more employed Arkansans. An increase in the size of the civilian labor force and population increases caused the labor force participation rate to rise four-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted				Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25		Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25
Civilian Labor Force	1,458,078	1,457,886	1,438,959	Civilian Labor Force	1,456,593	1,469,397	1,439,616
Employment	1,401,154	1,399,182	1,379,014	Employment	1,403,151	1,404,929	1,377,660
Unemployment	56,924	58,704	59,945	Unemployment	53,442	64,468	61,956
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.0%	4.2%	Unemployment Rate	3.7%	4.4%	4.3%
LF Participation Rate	59.1%	59.2%	58.7%	LF Participation Rate	59.1%	59.6%	58.8%



State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

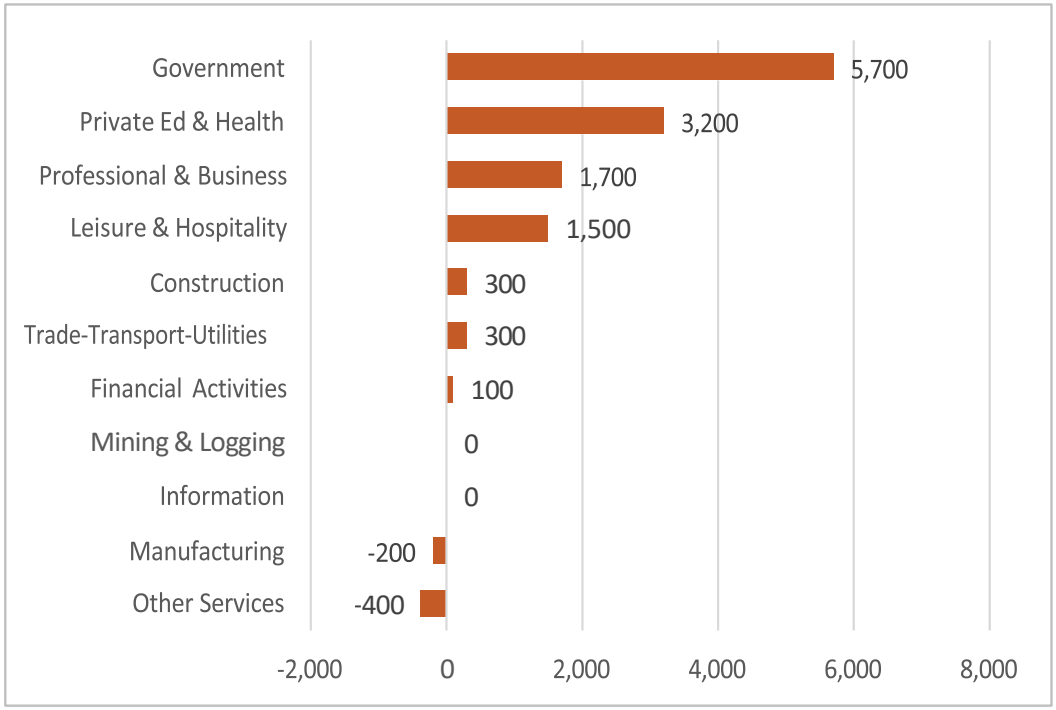
(In Thousands)

(NAICS)	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	1343.2	1331.0	1331.9	12.2	11.3
Goods Producing	232.0	231.9	230.3	0.1	1.7
Mining, Logging, & Construction	73.1	72.8	71.6	0.3	1.5
Mining & Logging	**4.8**	**4.8**	**4.8**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Construction	**68.3**	**68.0**	**66.8**	**0.3**	**1.5**
Specialty Trade Contractors	42.5	42.3	41.9	0.2	0.6
Manufacturing	**158.9**	**159.1**	**158.7**	**-0.2**	**0.2**
Durable Goods	75.6	75.4	74.6	0.2	1.0
Nondurable Goods	83.3	83.7	84.1	-0.4	-0.8
Service Providing	1111.2	1099.1	1101.6	12.1	9.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	**274.2**	**273.9**	**271.4**	**0.3**	**2.8**
Wholesale Trade	54.4	54.9	54.0	-0.5	0.4
Retail Trade	144.7	144.3	142.9	0.4	1.8
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	75.1	74.7	74.5	0.4	0.6
Information	**12.3**	**12.3**	**12.0**	**0.0**	**0.3**
Financial Activities	**59.1**	**59.0**	**60.3**	**0.1**	**-1.2**
Finance & Insurance	43.7	43.6	44.6	0.1	-0.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15.4	15.4	15.7	0.0	-0.3
Professional & Business Services	**166.7**	**165.0**	**163.3**	**1.7**	**3.4**
Professional, Scientific & Technical	54.6	54.8	52.8	-0.2	1.8
Management of Companies	43.2	43.0	43.4	0.2	-0.2
Administrative & Support Services	68.9	67.2	67.1	1.7	1.8
Private Education & Health Services	**210.2**	**207.0**	**209.7**	**3.2**	**0.5**
Private Educational Services	18.6	15.9	18.3	2.7	0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	191.6	191.1	191.4	0.5	0.2
Ambulatory Health Care	69.7	69.9	69.7	-0.2	0.0
Social Assistance	41.0	40.0	40.3	1.0	0.7
Leisure & Hospitality	**140.0**	**138.5**	**133.8**	**1.5**	**6.2**
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	16.8	17.3	15.0	-0.5	1.8
Accommodation & Food Services	123.2	121.2	118.8	2.0	4.4
Accommodation Services	11.4	11.4	11.1	0.0	0.3
Food Services	111.8	109.8	107.7	2.0	4.1
Other Services	**52.2**	**52.6**	**53.3**	**-0.4**	**-1.1**
Government	**196.5**	**190.8**	**197.8**	**5.7**	**-1.3**
Federal Government	20.3	20.3	21.3	0.0	-1.0
State Government	68.8	65.2	69.7	3.6	-0.9
State Gov, Educational Services	24.6	21.0	25.2	3.6	-0.6
State Gov, Excluding Education	44.2	44.2	44.5	0.0	-0.3
Local Government	107.4	105.3	106.8	2.1	0.6
Local Gov, Educational Services	60.3	57.4	60.4	2.9	-0.1
Local Gov, Excluding Education	47.1	47.9	46.4	-0.8	0.7

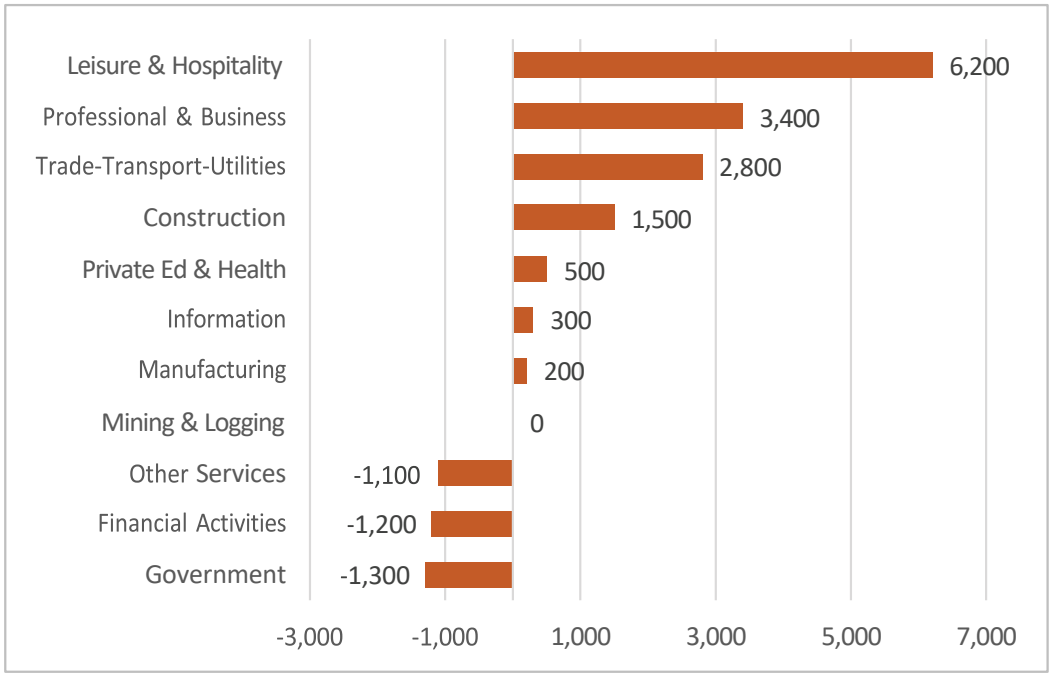
State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

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



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



State of Arkansas

Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

Manufacturing

	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25
Average Weekly Hours	40.0	39.7	38.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$25.19	$24.99	$23.77
Average Weekly Earnings	$1,007.60	$992.10	$924.65

Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

Durable Goods Manufacturing

	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25
Average Weekly Hours	44.8	44.1	42.7
Average Hourly Earnings	$27.58	$27.26	$25.37
Average Weekly Earnings	$1,235.58	$1,202.17	$1,083.30

Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25
Average Weekly Hours	35.6	35.7	35.6
Average Hourly Earnings	$22.46	$22.45	$22.13
Average Weekly Earnings	$799.58	$801.47	$787.83



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)

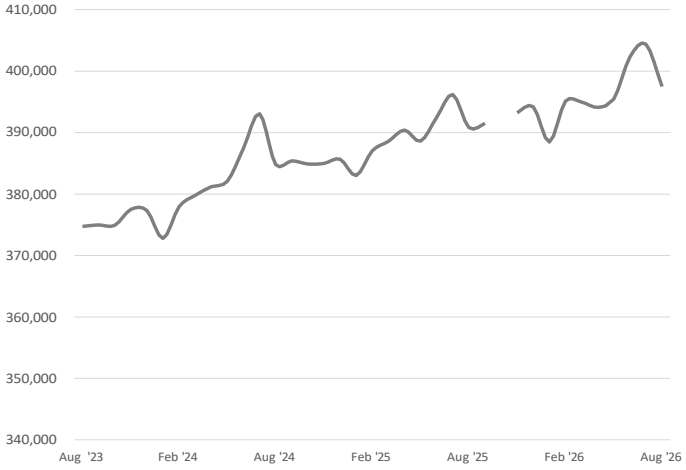
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	397,515	404,297	390,837	-6,782	6,678
Employment	383,152	387,401	374,773	-4,249	8,379
Unemployment	14,363	16,896	16,064	-2,533	-1,701
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	4.2%	4.1%	-0.6%	-0.5%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

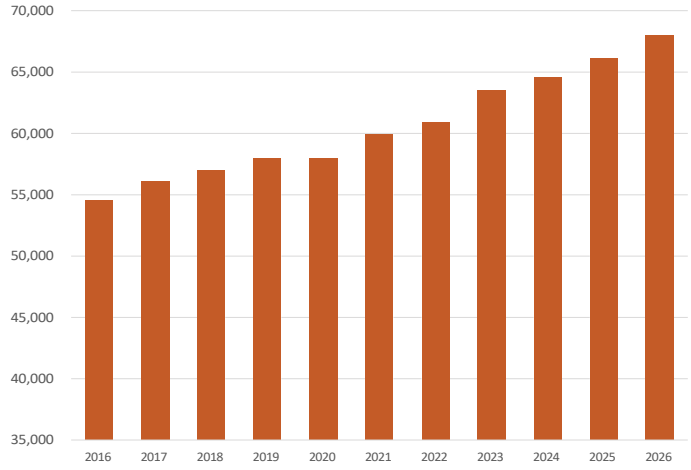
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	395.5	393.1	391.2	2.4	4.3
Goods Producing	42.9	42.7	42.4	0.2	0.5
Mining, Logging & Construction	**22.0**	**21.9**	**21.6**	**0.1**	**0.4**
Manufacturing	**20.9**	**20.8**	**20.8**	**0.1**	**0.1**
Service Providing	352.6	350.4	348.8	2.2	3.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	**82.6**	**82.5**	**80.9**	**0.1**	**1.7**
Wholesale Trade	18.3	18.5	18.3	-0.2	0.0
Retail Trade	40.3	40.1	39.4	0.2	0.9
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	24.0	23.9	23.2	0.1	0.8
Information	**4.9**	**4.9**	**4.8**	**0.0**	**0.1**
Financial Activities	**25.0**	**24.9**	**25.5**	**0.1**	**-0.5**
Professional & Business Services	**50.9**	**50.5**	**49.0**	**0.4**	**1.9**
Private Education & Health Services	**68.0**	**66.8**	**66.1**	**1.2**	**1.9**
Leisure & Hospitality	**36.2**	**36.4**	**36.1**	**-0.2**	**0.1**
Other Services	**18.6**	**18.8**	**19.0**	**-0.2**	**-0.4**
Government	**66.4**	**65.6**	**67.4**	**0.8**	**-1.0**
Federal Government	9.9	9.9	10.5	0.0	-0.6
State Government	31.4	30.9	31.7	0.5	-0.3
Local Government	25.1	24.8	25.2	0.3	-0.1

Civilian Labor Force (Employment + Unemployment)
August 2023 - August 2026



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



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

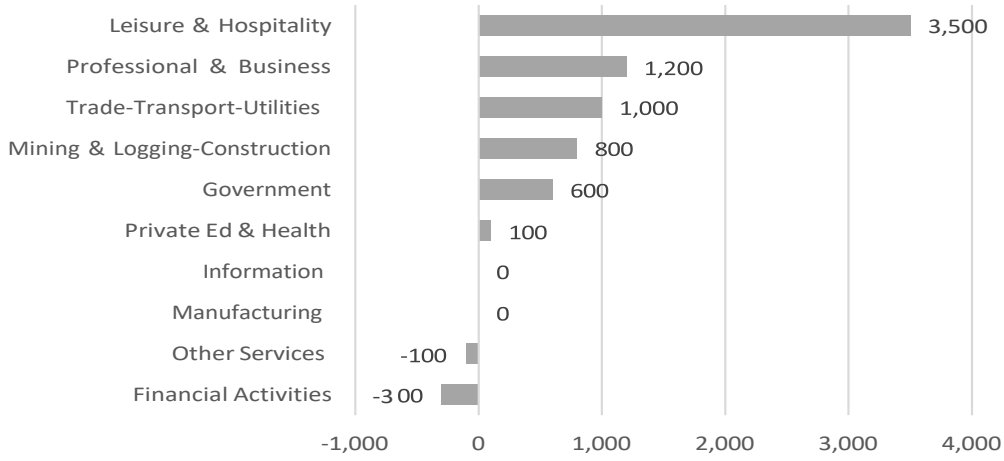
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	327,409	330,411	318,114	-3,002	9,295
Employment	317,895	318,690	307,296	-795	10,599
Unemployment	9,514	11,721	10,818	-2,207	-1,304
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	3.5%	3.4%	-0.6%	-0.5%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	309.4	304.3	302.6	5.1	6.8
Goods Producing	46.7	46.5	45.9	0.2	0.8
Mining, Logging & Construction	**19.4**	**19.2**	**18.6**	**0.2**	**0.8**
Manufacturing	**27.3**	**27.3**	**27.3**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Service Providing	262.7	257.8	256.7	4.9	6.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	**62.1**	**62.2**	**61.1**	**-0.1**	**1.0**
Wholesale Trade	14.0	14.2	14.0	-0.2	0.0
Retail Trade	29.9	29.8	28.6	0.1	1.3
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	18.2	18.2	18.5	0.0	-0.3
Information	**2.6**	**2.6**	**2.6**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Financial Activities	**10.7**	**10.7**	**11.0**	**0.0**	**-0.3**
Professional & Business Services	**67.2**	**66.5**	**66.0**	**0.7**	**1.2**
Private Education & Health Services	**37.0**	**36.5**	**36.9**	**0.5**	**0.1**
Leisure & Hospitality	**36.8**	**36.2**	**33.3**	**0.6**	**3.5**
Other Services	**11.5**	**11.5**	**11.6**	**0.0**	**-0.1**
Government	**34.8**	**31.6**	**34.2**	**3.2**	**0.6**
Federal Government	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
State Government	12.5	9.6	12.1	2.9	0.4
Local Government	19.3	19.0	19.0	0.3	0.3

Over-the-Year Job Change by Industry Sector
August 2025 vs August 2026



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)

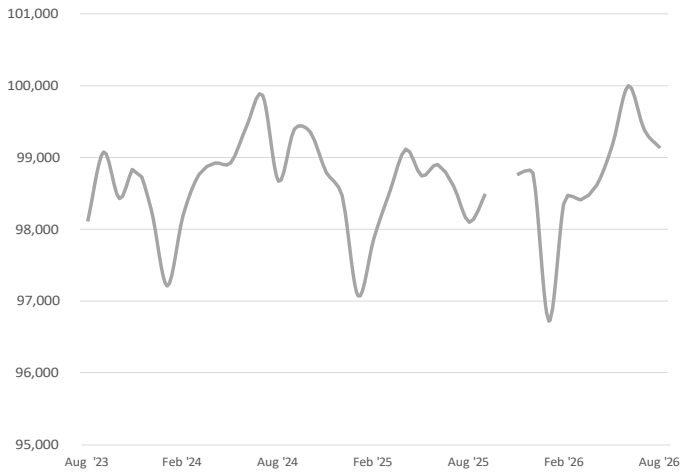
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	103,044	104,034	102,484	-990	560
Employment	99,133	99,386	98,098	-253	1,035
Unemployment	3,911	4,648	4,386	-737	-475
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.5%	4.3%	-0.7%	-0.5%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

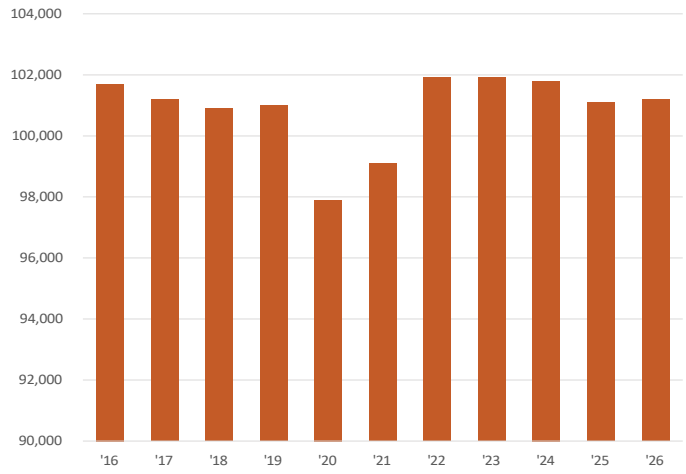
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	101.2	99.9	101.1	1.3	0.1
Goods Producing	23.0	22.9	22.7	0.1	0.3
Mining, Logging & Construction	**5.1**	**5.0**	**5.0**	**0.1**	**0.1**
Manufacturing	**17.9**	**17.9**	**17.7**	**0.0**	**0.2**
Service Providing	78.2	77.0	78.4	1.2	-0.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	**20.5**	**20.7**	**20.6**	**-0.2**	**-0.1**
Wholesale Trade	4.4	4.5	4.5	-0.1	-0.1
Retail Trade	11.5	11.6	11.4	-0.1	0.1
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	4.6	4.6	4.7	0.0	-0.1
Information	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Financial Activities	**3.8**	**3.8**	**3.9**	**0.0**	**-0.1**
Professional & Business Services	**10.1**	**10.1**	**10.3**	**0.0**	**-0.2**
Private Education & Health Services	**17.0**	**16.9**	**17.1**	**0.1**	**-0.1**
Leisure & Hospitality	**10.1**	**10.0**	**9.6**	**0.1**	**0.5**
Other Services	**3.6**	**3.6**	**3.6**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Government	**11.9**	**10.7**	**12.1**	**1.2**	**-0.2**
Federal Government	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
State Government	2.0	1.9	2.1	0.1	-0.1
Local Government	8.7	7.6	8.8	1.1	-0.1

Employment
August 2023 - August 2026



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
August: 2016 - 2026



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	44,528	45,718	44,586	-1,190	-58
Employment	42,907	43,689	42,647	-782	260
Unemployment	1,621	2,029	1,939	-408	-318
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	4.4%	4.3%	-0.8%	-0.7%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	40.5	40.4	40.8	0.1	-0.3
Goods Producing	4.6	4.6	4.5	0.0	0.1
Service Providing	35.9	35.8	36.3	0.1	-0.4
Government	4.1	3.9	4.2	0.2	-0.1

Jobs in Service Providing Industries
August 2023 - August 2026



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

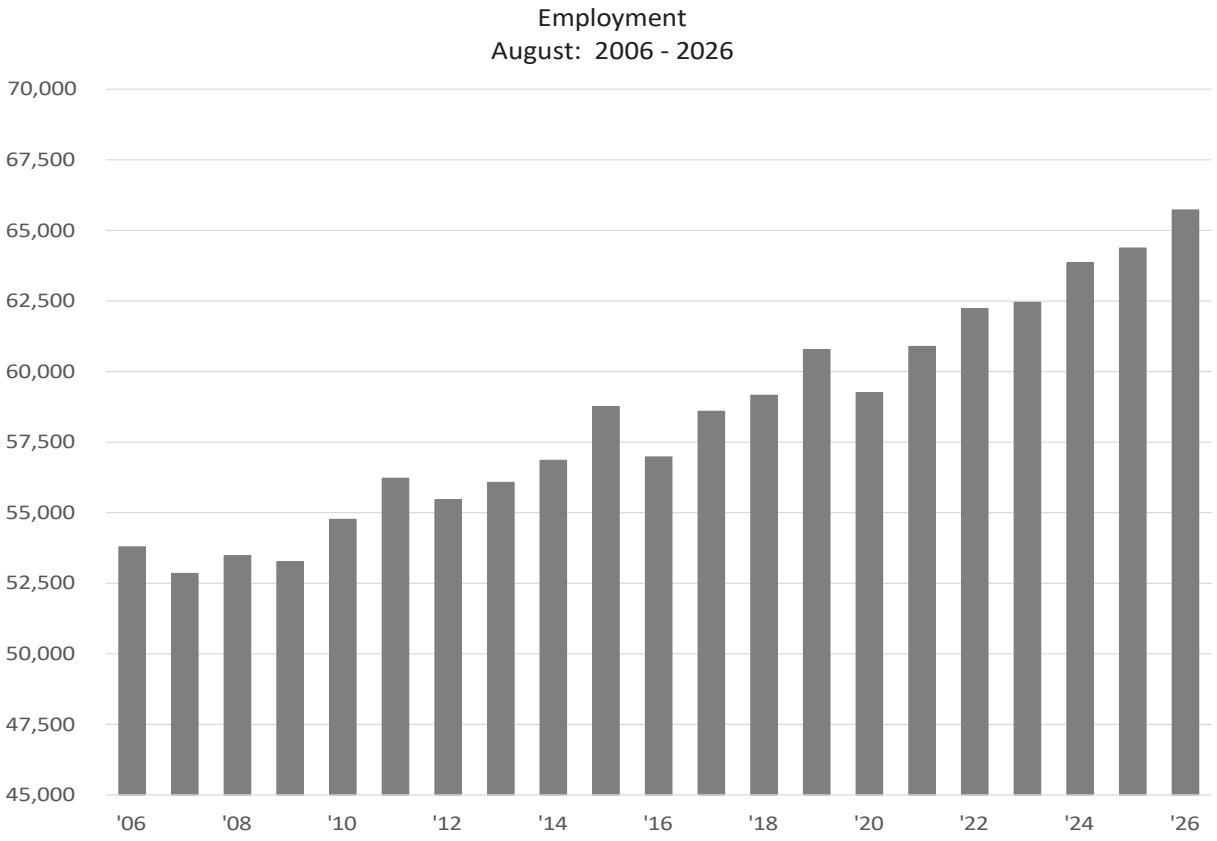
Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	68,113	69,472	67,161	-1,359	952
Employment	65,724	66,549	64,375	-825	1,349
Unemployment	2,389	2,923	2,786	-534	-397
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	4.2%	4.1%	-0.7%	-0.6%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	64.5	64.0	63.9	0.5	0.6
Goods Producing	11.2	11.2	11.3	0.0	-0.1
Service Providing	53.3	52.8	52.6	0.5	0.7
Government	8.6	8.5	8.6	0.1	0.0



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.

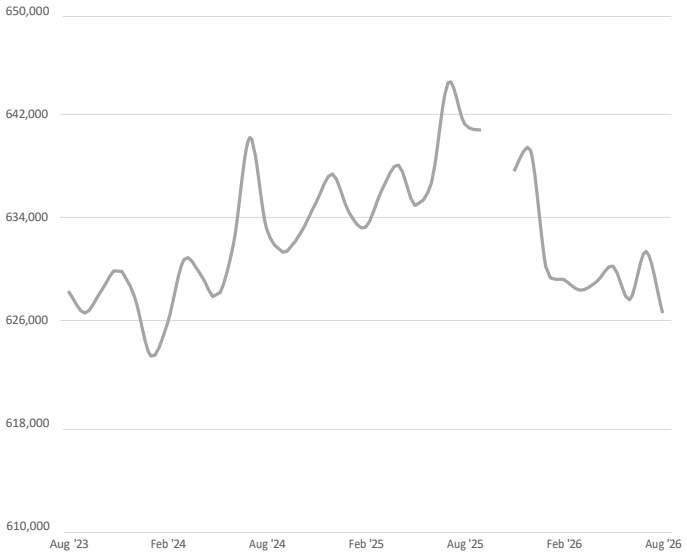
	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	626,572	631,360	641,261	-4,788	-14,689
Employment	597,971	601,708	612,376	-3,737	-14,405
Unemployment	28,601	29,652	28,885	-1,051	-284
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.7%	4.5%	-0.1%	0.1%

Texarkana MSA

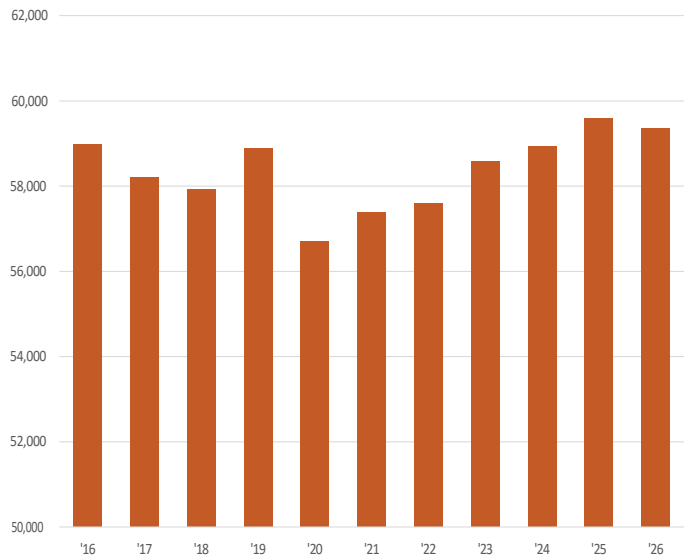
The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	Aug 26	Jul 26	Aug 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	62,139	62,607	62,549	-468	-410
Employment	59,348	59,594	59,580	-246	-232
Unemployment	2,791	3,013	2,969	-222	-178
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.8%	4.7%	-0.3%	-0.2%

Memphis MSA - Civilian Labor Force
August 2023 - August 2026



Texarkana MSA - Employment
August: 2016 - 2026



Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	August 2026				July 2026				August 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	9,851	9,442	409	4.2	9,637	9,119	518	5.4	9,831	9,308	523	5.3
Batesville Micro	18,731	18,161	570	3.0	18,838	18,115	723	3.8	18,470	17,758	712	3.9
Blytheville Micro	20,612	19,798	814	3.9	20,716	19,683	1,033	5.0	20,709	19,620	1,089	5.3
Camden Micro	11,192	10,710	482	4.3	11,211	10,661	550	4.9	11,109	10,525	584	5.3
El Dorado Micro	15,723	15,003	720	4.6	15,628	14,792	836	5.3	16,030	15,132	898	5.6
Forrest City Micro	7,741	7,349	392	5.1	7,791	7,344	447	5.7	7,704	7,224	480	6.2
Harrison Micro	18,787	18,072	715	3.8	18,826	17,956	870	4.6	19,032	18,199	833	4.4
Magnolia Micro	8,901	8,506	395	4.4	8,608	8,131	477	5.5	9,195	8,710	485	5.3
Malvern Micro	13,308	12,805	503	3.8	13,493	12,860	633	4.7	13,366	12,735	631	4.7
Mountain Home Micro	17,499	16,842	657	3.8	17,689	16,870	819	4.6	17,245	16,455	790	4.6
Paragould Micro	19,436	18,669	767	3.9	19,770	18,835	935	4.7	19,900	18,966	934	4.7
Pine Bluff Micro	27,436	25,967	1,469	5.4	27,689	25,940	1,749	6.3	27,874	26,114	1,760	6.3
Russellville Micro	37,542	35,858	1,684	4.5	37,174	35,170	2,004	5.4	37,588	35,729	1,859	4.9
Searcy Micro	35,533	34,268	1,265	3.6	35,106	33,522	1,584	4.5	35,411	33,917	1,494	4.2

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	August 2026				July 2026				August 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	15,577	15,033	544	3.5	15,740	15,067	673	4.3	15,150	14,533	617	4.1
Benton	21,149	20,533	616	2.9	21,493	20,757	736	3.4	20,820	20,080	740	3.6
Bentonville	36,309	35,421	888	2.4	36,602	35,499	1,103	3.0	35,329	34,242	1,087	3.1
Blytheville	6,963	6,642	321	4.6	7,029	6,604	425	6.0	7,027	6,583	444	6.3
Cabot	14,204	13,762	442	3.1	14,434	13,906	528	3.7	13,936	13,445	491	3.5
Centerton	15,546	15,155	391	2.5	15,698	15,188	510	3.2	15,043	14,651	392	2.6
Conway	38,838	37,537	1,301	3.3	39,510	37,956	1,554	3.9	38,165	36,725	1,440	3.8
El Dorado	6,918	6,589	329	4.8	6,890	6,496	394	5.7	7,123	6,646	477	6.7
Fayetteville	58,983	57,143	1,840	3.1	59,615	57,289	2,326	3.9	57,368	55,240	2,128	3.7
Fort Smith	42,327	40,811	1,516	3.6	42,767	40,971	1,796	4.2	41,952	40,162	1,790	4.3
Hot Springs	17,363	16,717	646	3.7	17,811	17,022	789	4.4	17,434	16,616	818	4.7
Jacksonville	13,237	12,650	587	4.4	13,465	12,793	672	5.0	13,085	12,378	707	5.4
Jonesboro	40,701	39,217	1,484	3.6	41,524	39,712	1,812	4.4	40,163	38,427	1,736	4.3
Little Rock	108,824	104,456	4,368	4.0	110,503	105,630	4,873	4.4	106,919	102,210	4,709	4.4
North Little Rock	34,404	33,016	1,388	4.0	35,008	33,387	1,621	4.6	33,868	32,306	1,562	4.6
Paragould	12,658	12,167	491	3.9	12,885	12,275	610	4.7	12,975	12,360	615	4.7
Pine Bluff	14,907	14,003	904	6.1	15,091	14,029	1,062	7.0	15,164	14,066	1,098	7.2
Rogers	42,594	41,453	1,141	2.7	42,896	41,545	1,351	3.1	41,399	40,074	1,325	3.2
Russellville	13,614	13,016	598	4.4	13,457	12,749	708	5.3	13,585	12,918	667	4.9
Searcy	10,310	9,907	403	3.9	10,178	9,691	487	4.8	10,283	9,805	478	4.6
Sherwood	17,586	16,959	627	3.6	17,900	17,149	751	4.2	17,289	16,594	695	4.0
Springdale	46,248	44,988	1,260	2.7	46,696	45,100	1,596	3.4	45,008	43,490	1,518	3.4
Texarkana, AR	12,339	11,799	540	4.4	12,602	11,987	615	4.9	12,377	11,713	664	5.4
Van Buren	10,685	10,324	361	3.4	10,820	10,365	455	4.2	10,623	10,163	460	4.3
West Memphis	9,534	8,976	558	5.9	9,771	9,079	692	7.1	9,568	8,885	683	7.1

County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	August 2026				July 2026				August 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	7,395	7,097	298	4.0	7,437	7,094	343	4.6	7,411	7,068	343	4.6
Ashley	6,999	6,646	353	5.0	6,781	6,364	417	6.1	7,209	6,789	420	5.8
Baxter	17,499	16,842	657	3.8	17,689	16,870	819	4.6	17,245	16,455	790	4.6
Benton	175,262	170,220	5,042	2.9	176,706	170,597	6,109	3.5	170,176	164,557	5,619	3.3
Boone	16,158	15,559	599	3.7	16,188	15,458	730	4.5	16,395	15,689	706	4.3
Bradley	3,697	3,521	176	4.8	3,639	3,431	208	5.7	3,768	3,539	229	6.1
Calhoun	2,216	2,135	81	3.7	2,214	2,125	89	4.0	2,148	2,046	102	4.7
Carroll	12,543	12,113	430	3.4	12,472	11,939	533	4.3	12,277	11,780	497	4.0
Chicot	3,207	3,022	185	5.8	3,246	3,022	224	6.9	3,340	3,123	217	6.5
Clark	9,851	9,442	409	4.2	9,637	9,119	518	5.4	9,831	9,308	523	5.3
Clay	6,043	5,814	229	3.8	5,994	5,718	276	4.6	6,011	5,755	256	4.3
Cleburne	10,498	10,084	414	3.9	10,645	10,130	515	4.8	10,424	9,909	515	4.9
Cleveland	2,950	2,831	119	4.0	2,906	2,761	145	5.0	3,021	2,873	148	4.9
Columbia	8,901	8,506	395	4.4	8,608	8,131	477	5.5	9,195	8,710	485	5.3
Conway	9,593	9,247	346	3.6	9,587	9,171	416	4.3	9,364	8,941	423	4.5
Craighead	57,991	55,973	2,018	3.5	59,138	56,680	2,458	4.2	57,201	54,845	2,356	4.1
Crawford	26,234	25,277	957	3.6	26,564	25,376	1,188	4.5	26,046	24,882	1,164	4.5
Crittenden	20,899	19,884	1,015	4.9	21,374	20,112	1,262	5.9	20,907	19,681	1,226	5.9
Cross	7,552	7,268	284	3.8	7,591	7,260	331	4.4	7,459	7,135	324	4.3
Dallas	2,796	2,686	110	3.9	2,810	2,679	131	4.7	2,795	2,674	121	4.3
Desha	3,878	3,623	255	6.6	3,918	3,614	304	7.8	3,981	3,684	297	7.5
Drew	7,897	7,575	322	4.1	7,648	7,268	380	5.0	7,940	7,535	405	5.1
Faulkner	69,093	66,805	2,288	3.3	70,327	67,550	2,777	3.9	67,980	65,359	2,621	3.9
Franklin	7,468	7,176	292	3.9	7,356	6,999	357	4.9	7,469	7,135	334	4.5
Fulton	4,070	3,883	187	4.6	4,105	3,878	227	5.5	3,967	3,742	225	5.7
Garland	44,528	42,907	1,621	3.6	45,718	43,689	2,029	4.4	44,586	42,647	1,939	4.3
Grant	9,164	8,879	285	3.1	9,329	8,977	352	3.8	8,999	8,666	333	3.7
Greene	19,436	18,669	767	3.9	19,770	18,835	935	4.7	19,900	18,966	934	4.7
Hempstead	8,629	8,241	388	4.5	8,640	8,224	416	4.8	8,571	8,162	409	4.8
Hot Spring	13,308	12,805	503	3.8	13,493	12,860	633	4.7	13,366	12,735	631	4.7
Howard	4,673	4,454	219	4.7	4,734	4,469	265	5.6	4,737	4,478	259	5.5
Independence	18,731	18,161	570	3.0	18,838	18,115	723	3.8	18,470	17,758	712	3.9
Izard	4,266	4,039	227	5.3	4,090	3,829	261	6.4	4,405	4,116	289	6.6
Jackson	5,701	5,480	221	3.9	5,637	5,379	258	4.6	5,679	5,412	267	4.7
Jefferson	24,486	23,136	1,350	5.5	24,783	23,179	1,604	6.5	24,853	23,241	1,612	6.5
Johnson	9,695	9,202	493	5.1	9,778	9,162	616	6.3	9,752	9,196	556	5.7
Lafayette	2,259	2,157	102	4.5	2,191	2,077	114	5.2	2,322	2,190	132	5.7
Lawrence	6,896	6,643	253	3.7	6,733	6,420	313	4.6	6,935	6,631	304	4.4
Lee	2,347	2,226	121	5.2	2,385	2,236	149	6.2	2,330	2,182	148	6.4
Lincoln	3,242	3,079	163	5.0	3,219	3,022	197	6.1	3,228	3,045	183	5.7
Little River	5,191	4,986	205	3.9	5,290	5,058	232	4.4	5,165	4,943	222	4.3
Logan	9,220	8,864	356	3.9	9,057	8,634	423	4.7	9,057	8,654	403	4.4
Lonoke	38,268	37,050	1,218	3.2	38,929	37,438	1,491	3.8	37,592	36,195	1,397	3.7
Madison	8,624	8,384	240	2.8	8,750	8,447	303	3.5	8,380	8,088	292	3.5
Marion	5,386	5,110	276	5.1	5,453	5,111	342	6.3	5,312	4,976	336	6.3
Miller	17,209	16,471	738	4.3	17,609	16,734	875	5.0	17,263	16,352	911	5.3

(continued on Page 16)

County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	August 2026				July 2026				August 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	20,612	19,798	814	3.9	20,716	19,683	1,033	5.0	20,709	19,620	1,089	5.3
Monroe	2,652	2,528	124	4.7	2,644	2,495	149	5.6	2,693	2,539	154	5.7
Montgomery	3,172	3,040	132	4.2	3,201	3,040	161	5.0	3,110	2,951	159	5.1
Nevada	2,642	2,484	158	6.0	2,620	2,441	179	6.8	2,664	2,514	150	5.6
Newton	2,629	2,513	116	4.4	2,638	2,498	140	5.3	2,637	2,510	127	4.8
Ouachita	8,976	8,575	401	4.5	8,997	8,536	461	5.1	8,961	8,479	482	5.4
Perry	4,482	4,298	184	4.1	4,557	4,345	212	4.7	4,405	4,191	214	4.9
Phillips	4,556	4,226	330	7.2	4,480	4,099	381	8.5	4,759	4,411	348	7.3
Pike	4,154	3,988	166	4.0	4,078	3,875	203	5.0	4,128	3,948	180	4.4
Poinsett	10,122	9,751	371	3.7	10,334	9,869	465	4.5	9,960	9,530	430	4.3
Polk	7,452	7,136	316	4.2	7,322	6,938	384	5.2	7,424	7,090	334	4.5
Pope	28,306	26,970	1,336	4.7	27,987	26,418	1,569	5.6	28,209	26,768	1,441	5.1
Prairie	3,645	3,516	129	3.5	3,583	3,419	164	4.6	3,562	3,417	145	4.1
Pulaski	207,304	199,048	8,256	4.0	210,767	201,286	9,481	4.5	203,863	194,769	9,094	4.5
Randolph	8,228	7,965	263	3.2	8,193	7,856	337	4.1	8,120	7,786	334	4.1
St. Francis	7,741	7,349	392	5.1	7,791	7,344	447	5.7	7,704	7,224	480	6.2
Saline	69,204	67,072	2,132	3.1	70,388	67,805	2,583	3.7	67,998	65,593	2,405	3.5
Scott	4,163	4,015	148	3.6	4,145	3,964	181	4.4	4,208	4,039	169	4.0
Searcy	3,296	3,170	126	3.8	3,203	3,051	152	4.7	3,364	3,223	141	4.2
Sebastian	60,030	57,863	2,167	3.6	60,658	58,090	2,568	4.2	59,445	56,944	2,501	4.2
Sevier	7,371	7,150	221	3.0	7,349	7,073	276	3.8	7,230	6,980	250	3.5
Sharp	6,631	6,370	261	3.9	6,716	6,395	321	4.8	6,452	6,131	321	5.0
Stone	4,231	4,046	185	4.4	4,166	3,934	232	5.6	4,254	3,999	255	6.0
Union	15,723	15,003	720	4.6	15,628	14,792	836	5.3	16,030	15,132	898	5.6
Van Buren	5,888	5,614	274	4.7	5,947	5,617	330	5.5	5,786	5,479	307	5.3
Washington	143,523	139,291	4,232	2.9	144,955	139,646	5,309	3.7	139,558	134,651	4,907	3.5
White	35,533	34,268	1,265	3.6	35,106	33,522	1,584	4.5	35,411	33,917	1,494	4.2
Woodruff	3,139	3,042	97	3.1	3,031	2,907	124	4.1	3,132	3,018	114	3.6
Yell	9,236	8,888	348	3.8	9,187	8,752	435	4.7	9,379	8,961	418	4.5

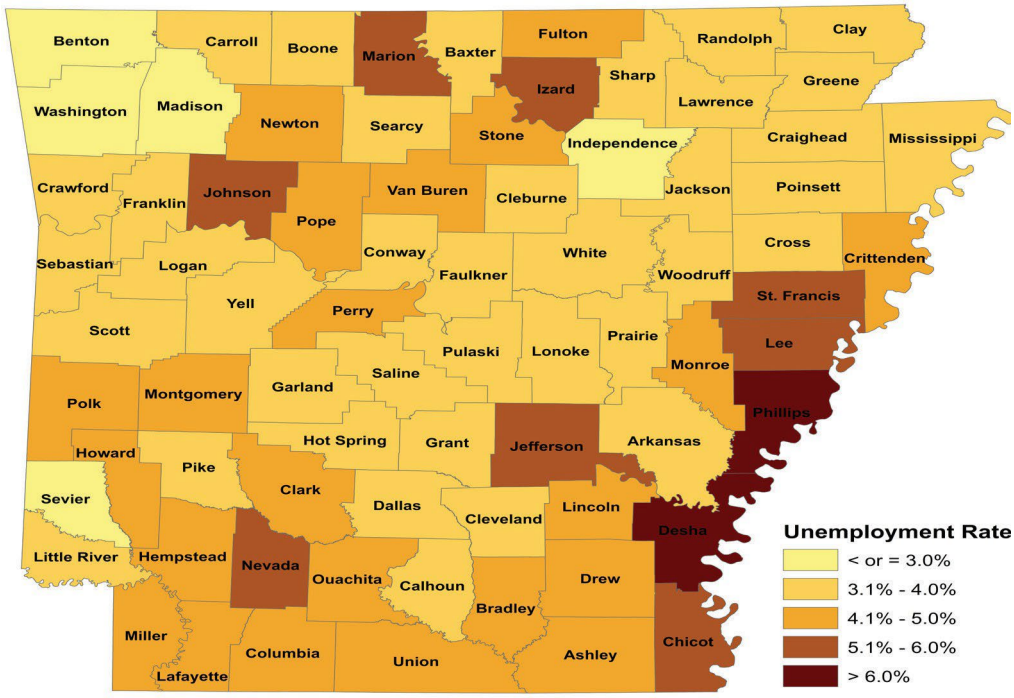
County Labor Force Summary

Between July and August, unemployment rates declined in all 75 Arkansas counties. Rates ranged from a low of 2.8% in Madison County to a high of 7.2% in Phillips County. Jobless rate decreases were largely seasonal, with 12 counties showing rate declines of more than one full percentage point.

In August, five counties posted jobless rates at or below 3%. No counties had a rate lower than 3% last month. Only one county had a rate above 7%, down from two counties the previous two month.

Compared to August 2025, unemployment rates dropped in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Only Nevada County had a rate increase over the year, up 0.4%. Nineteen counties posted annual rate declines of over one full percentage point.

County Unemployment Rates



Ranked by Unemployment Rates

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Madison	2.8	25	Clay	3.8	50	Newton	4.4
2	Benton	2.9	25	Cross	3.8	50	Stone	4.4
2	Washington	2.9	25	Hot Spring	3.8	53	Hempstead	4.5
4	Independence	3.0	25	Searcy	3.8	53	Lafayette	4.5
4	Sevier	3.0	25	Yell	3.8	53	Ouachita	4.5
6	Grant	3.1	31	Cleburne	3.9	56	Fulton	4.6
6	Saline	3.1	31	Dallas	3.9	56	Union	4.6
6	Woodruff	3.1	31	Franklin	3.9	58	Howard	4.7
9	Lonoke	3.2	31	Greene	3.9	58	Monroe	4.7
9	Randolph	3.2	31	Jackson	3.9	58	Pope	4.7
11	Faulkner	3.3	31	Little River	3.9	58	Van Buren	4.7
12	Carroll	3.4	31	Logan	3.9	62	Bradley	4.8
13	Craighead	3.5	31	Mississippi	3.9	63	Crittenden	4.9
13	Prairie	3.5	31	Sharp	3.9	64	Ashley	5.0
15	Conway	3.6	40	Arkansas	4.0	64	Lincoln	5.0
15	Crawford	3.6	40	Cleveland	4.0	66	Johnson	5.1
15	Garland	3.6	40	Pike	4.0	66	Marion	5.1
15	Scott	3.6	40	Pulaski	4.0	66	St. Francis	5.1
15	Sebastian	3.6	44	Drew	4.1	69	Lee	5.2
15	White	3.6	44	Perry	4.1	70	Izard	5.3
21	Boone	3.7	46	Clark	4.2	71	Jefferson	5.5
21	Calhoun	3.7	46	Montgomery	4.2	72	Chicot	5.8
21	Lawrence	3.7	46	Polk	4.2	73	Nevada	6.0
21	Poinsett	3.7	49	Miller	4.3	74	Desha	6.6
25	Baxter	3.8	50	Columbia	4.4	75	Phillips	7.2

Local Workforce Development Areas

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	August 2026 CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	July 2026 CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	August 2025 CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	281,342	271,563	9,779	3.5	286,135	274,363	11,772	4.1	276,769	265,662	11,107	4.0
City of Little Rock	108,824	104,456	4,368	4.0	110,503	105,630	4,873	4.4	106,919	102,210	4,709	4.4
Eastern	43,095	40,953	2,142	5.0	43,621	41,051	2,570	5.9	43,159	40,633	2,526	5.9
North Central	98,688	94,987	3,701	3.8	98,281	93,706	4,575	4.7	97,980	93,481	4,499	4.6
Northeast	129,328	124,613	4,715	3.6	130,878	125,061	5,817	4.4	128,836	123,133	5,703	4.4
Northwest	384,920	373,202	11,718	3.0	388,054	373,617	14,437	3.7	375,344	361,929	13,415	3.6
Southeast	72,915	69,409	3,506	4.8	72,906	68,732	4,174	5.7	73,750	69,563	4,187	5.7
Southwest	86,586	82,848	3,738	4.3	86,690	82,339	4,351	5.0	87,081	82,660	4,421	5.1
West Central	136,325	130,787	5,538	4.1	137,223	130,431	6,792	4.9	136,130	129,646	6,484	4.8
Western	114,567	110,331	4,236	3.7	115,102	110,001	5,101	4.4	113,649	108,744	4,905	4.3

