



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report

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## February

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# 2026 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 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.



Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



## February Spotlight

### Business Employment Dynamics

Business Employment Dynamics, also known as BED, tracks employment gains and losses at individual business locations. BED statistics are calculated from quarterly reports provided by employers to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program. Like QCEW data, BED statistics are produced and published on a quarterly basis. At this time, BED data is only available at the national and statewide levels.

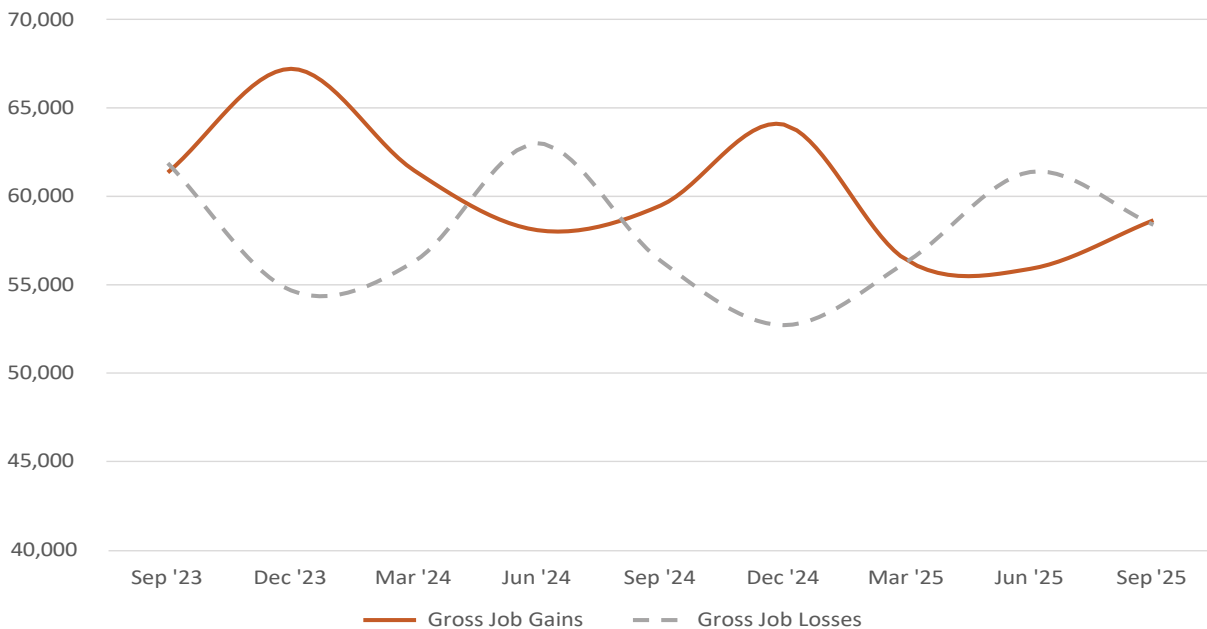
Gross Job Gains and Losses by Quarter (Private Sector)  
State of Arkansas  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

Category	Quarter Ending				
	Sep 24	Dec 24	Mar 25	Jun 25	Sep 25*
Employment Levels					
Gross job gains.....	59,478	64,055	56,374	55,899	58,645
Gross job losses....	56,349	52,715	56,305	61,370	58,386
Net Change.....	3,129	11,340	69	-5,471	259

\*Most recent BED data available is for 3rd Quarter 2025

The information produced from BED statistics includes gross job gains and losses at establishments with changes in employment. These employment changes occur when establishments open/expand or close/contract. Gross job gains are a combination of jobs created from both openings of new businesses and expansions at existing businesses. Gross job losses are a combination of jobs lost from both existing businesses that close and those that reduce their number of employees. The net change is the difference between gross job gains and gross job losses.

Arkansas' Gross Job Gains vs Gross Job Losses (Private Sector/Seasonally Adjusted)  
3rd Quarter 2023 - 3rd Quarter 2025



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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 4.4% between January and February. The United States' jobless rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.3% in January to 4.4% in February.

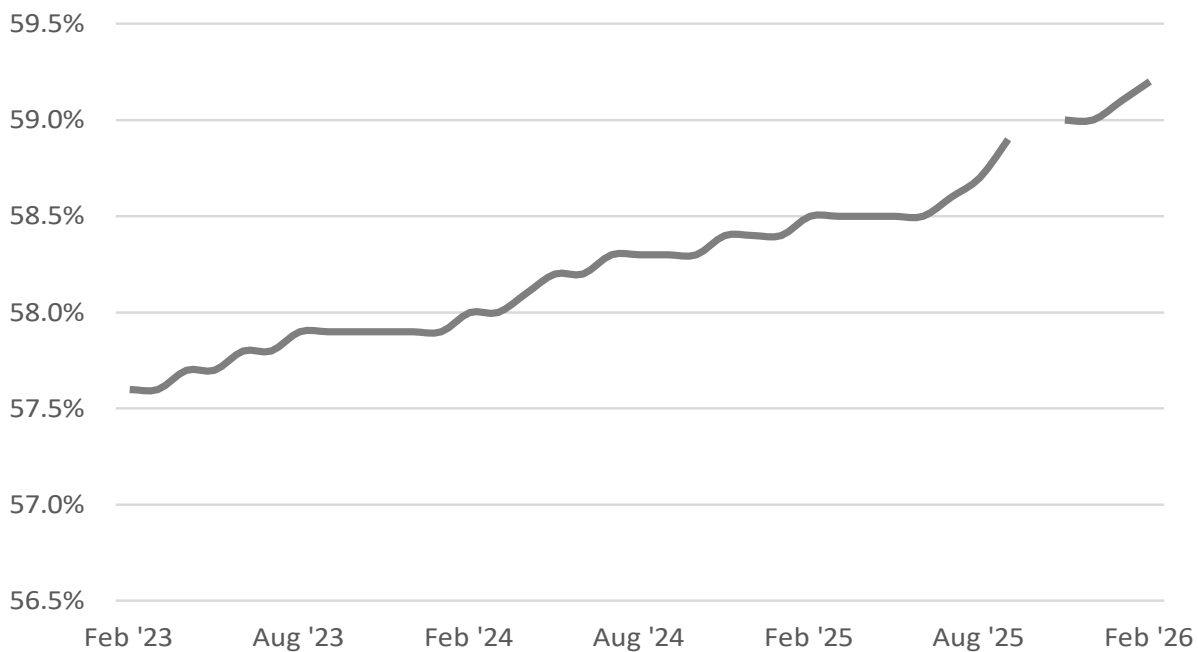
Arkansas' civilian labor force increased by 3,245 in February, setting another record high. Employment also reached a record high level, growing by 3,519 over the month, while the number of unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work declined by 274. The state's labor force participation rate, the percentage of Arkansas' working-age population that is either employed or seeking employment, increased to 59.2%, a level not seen since October 2012.

Compared to February 2025, the number of employed is up 19,785. There are 8,465 more Arkansans unemployed and actively seeking work. Both the unemployment rate and the labor force participation rate are up over the year.

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	Feb 26	Jan 26	Feb 25	Feb 26	Jan 26	Feb 25	
Civilian Labor Force	1,454,559	1,451,314	1,426,309	Civilian Labor Force	1,453,862	1,429,283	1,420,401
Employment	1,391,197	1,387,678	1,371,412	Employment	1,389,340	1,357,420	1,359,441
Unemployment	63,362	63,636	54,897	Unemployment	64,522	71,863	60,960
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.4%	3.8%	Unemployment Rate	4.4%	5.0%	4.3%
LF Participation Rate	59.2%	59.1%	58.5%	LF Participation Rate	59.1%	58.2%	58.2%

Labor Force Participation Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)  
February 2023 - February 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

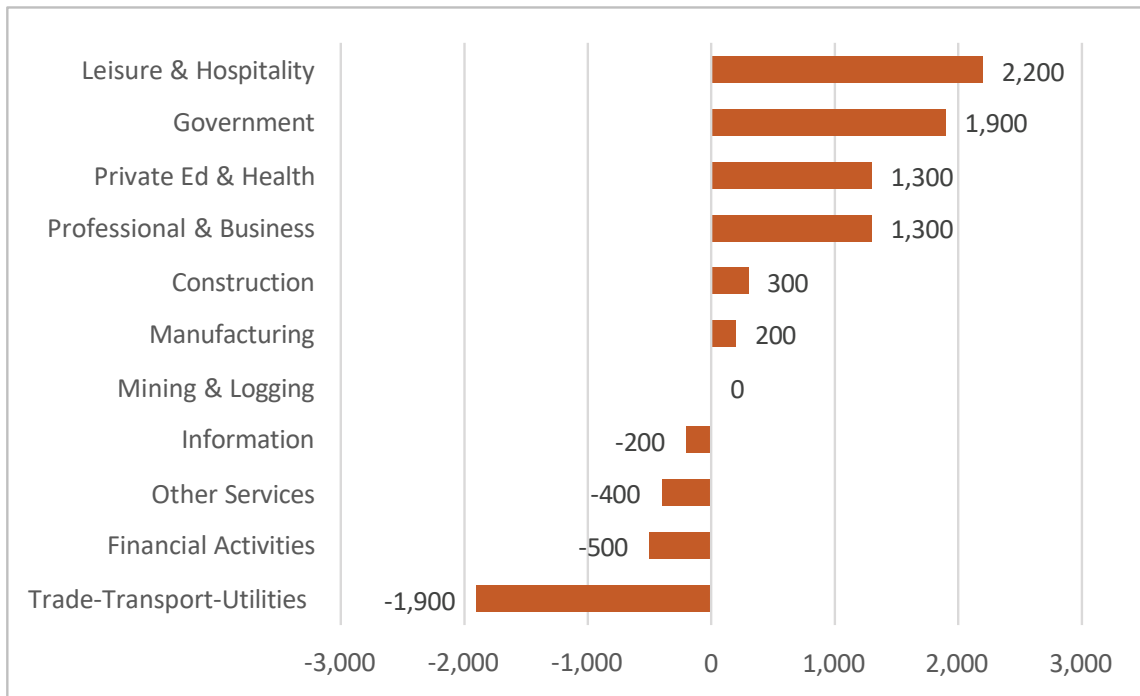
Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

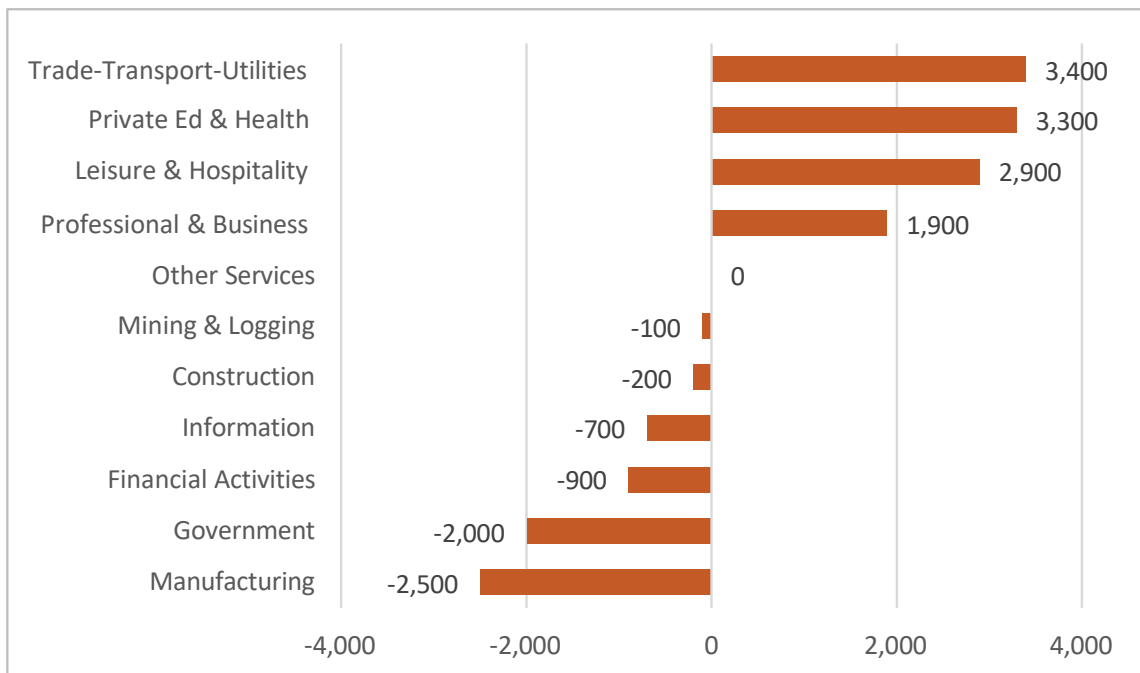
(NAICS)	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1337.1	1332.9	1332.0	4.2	5.1
Goods Producing	228.2	227.7	231.0	0.5	-2.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	69.8	69.5	70.1	0.3	-0.3
Mining & Logging	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Construction	<b>65.0</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	40.6	40.2	41.3	0.4	-0.7
Manufacturing	<b>158.4</b>	<b>158.2</b>	<b>160.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-2.5</b>
Durable Goods	74.2	74.2	75.8	0.0	-1.6
Nondurable Goods	84.2	84.0	85.1	0.2	-0.9
Service Providing	1108.9	1105.2	1101.0	3.7	7.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>272.1</b>	<b>274.0</b>	<b>268.7</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Wholesale Trade	54.1	54.1	53.6	0.0	0.5
Retail Trade	143.2	144.1	142.1	-0.9	1.1
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	74.8	75.8	73.0	-1.0	1.8
Information	<b>11.7</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Financial Activities	<b>58.8</b>	<b>59.3</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
Finance & Insurance	43.6	44.0	44.5	-0.4	-0.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15.2	15.3	15.2	-0.1	0.0
Professional & Business Services	<b>165.0</b>	<b>163.7</b>	<b>163.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Professional, Scientific & Technical	53.9	53.7	52.9	0.2	1.0
Management of Companies	43.1	43.2	41.5	-0.1	1.6
Administrative & Support Services	68.0	66.8	68.7	1.2	-0.7
Private Education & Health Services	<b>212.8</b>	<b>211.5</b>	<b>209.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3.3</b>
Private Educational Services	21.2	20.6	20.1	0.6	1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	191.6	190.9	189.4	0.7	2.2
Ambulatory Health Care	69.8	70.0	68.8	-0.2	1.0
Social Assistance	41.0	40.2	40.2	0.8	0.8
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>129.8</b>	<b>127.6</b>	<b>126.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	13.6	13.2	13.0	0.4	0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	116.2	114.4	113.9	1.8	2.3
Accommodation Services	10.4	10.3	10.3	0.1	0.1
Food Services	105.8	104.1	103.6	1.7	2.2
Other Services	<b>52.2</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Government	<b>206.5</b>	<b>204.6</b>	<b>208.5</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>-2.0</b>
Federal Government	20.4	20.3	21.8	0.1	-1.4
State Government	70.7	69.2	71.3	1.5	-0.6
State Gov, Educational Services	26.6	25.2	26.7	1.4	-0.1
State Gov, Excluding Education	44.1	44.0	44.6	0.1	-0.5
Local Government	115.4	115.1	115.4	0.3	0.0
Local Gov, Educational Services	70.3	70.1	70.5	0.2	-0.2
Local Gov, Excluding Education	45.1	45.0	44.9	0.1	0.2

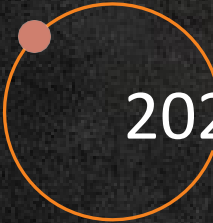
## State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

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



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





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

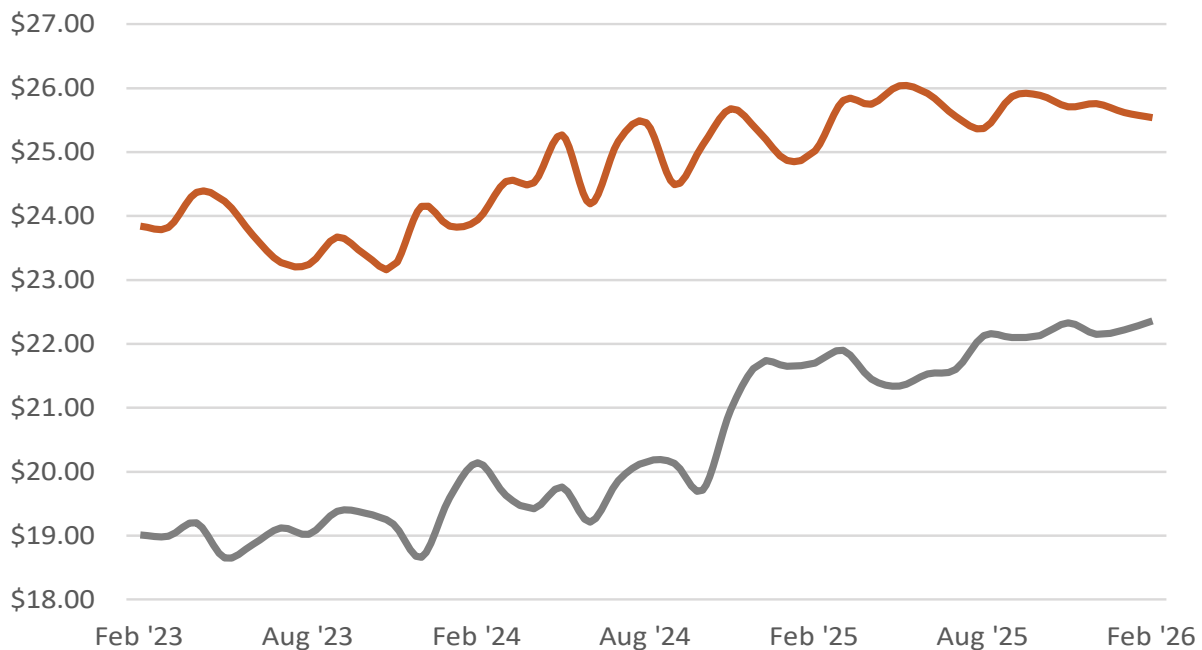
### Manufacturing

	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>
Average Weekly Hours	38.7	38.7	35.3
Average Hourly Earnings	\$24.00	\$23.99	\$23.52
Average Weekly Earnings	\$928.80	\$928.41	\$830.26

### Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

	Durable Goods Manufacturing			Nondurable Goods Manufacturing		
	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>
Average Weekly Hours	42.6	43.2	41.9	35.3	34.7	29.7
Average Hourly Earnings	\$25.54	\$25.62	\$25.02	\$22.36	\$22.22	\$21.70
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,088.00	\$1,106.78	\$1,048.34	\$789.31	\$771.03	\$644.49

Average Hourly Earnings - Durable Goods vs Nondurable Goods  
February 2023 - February 2026



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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)

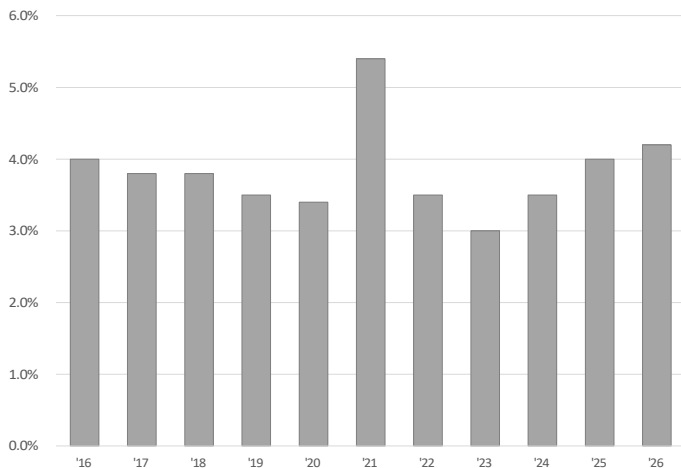
	Feb 26	Jan 26	Feb 25	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	394,872	388,485	387,054	6,387	7,818
Employment	378,227	370,078	371,671	8,149	6,556
Unemployment	16,645	18,407	15,383	-1,762	1,262
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.7%	4.0%	-0.5%	0.2%

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

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Feb 26	Jan 26	Feb 25	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	392.5	391.3	392.2	1.2	0.3
Goods Producing	41.8	41.7	42.3	0.1	-0.5
Mining, Logging & Construction	21.1	21.0	21.2	0.1	-0.1
Manufacturing	20.7	20.7	21.1	0.0	-0.4
Service Providing	350.7	349.6	349.9	1.1	0.8
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	81.1	82.0	80.0	-0.9	1.1
Wholesale Trade	18.2	18.2	18.1	0.0	0.1
Retail Trade	39.2	39.5	39.0	-0.3	0.2
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	23.7	24.3	22.9	-0.6	0.8
Information	4.7	4.7	5.0	0.0	-0.3
Financial Activities	25.0	25.1	25.5	-0.1	-0.5
Professional & Business Services	50.7	50.2	50.6	0.5	0.1
Private Education & Health Services	67.8	67.1	65.6	0.7	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	34.3	33.7	35.0	0.6	-0.7
Other Services	18.5	18.7	18.7	-0.2	-0.2
Government	68.6	68.1	69.5	0.5	-0.9
Federal Government	10.0	10.0	10.8	0.0	-0.8
State Government	32.1	31.7	32.5	0.4	-0.4
Local Government	26.5	26.4	26.2	0.1	0.3

Unemployment Rates  
February: 2016 - 2026



Jobs in Private Education & Health Services  
February 2023 - February 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

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

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

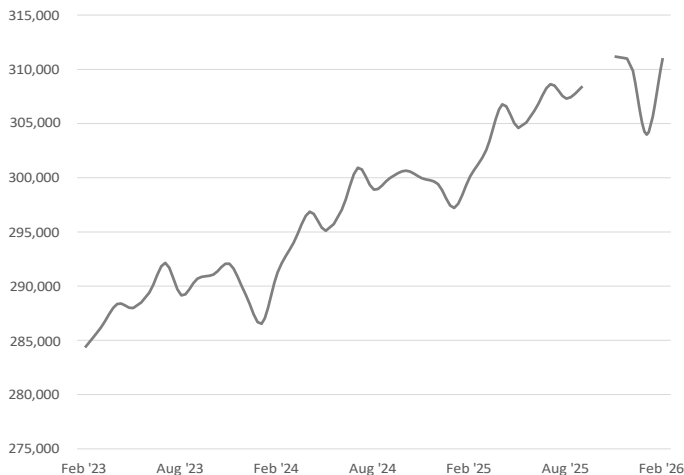
	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	322,434	316,608	310,959	5,826	11,475
Employment	311,039	303,975	300,131	7,064	10,908
Unemployment	11,395	12,633	10,828	-1,238	567
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	4.0%	3.5%	-0.5%	0.0%

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

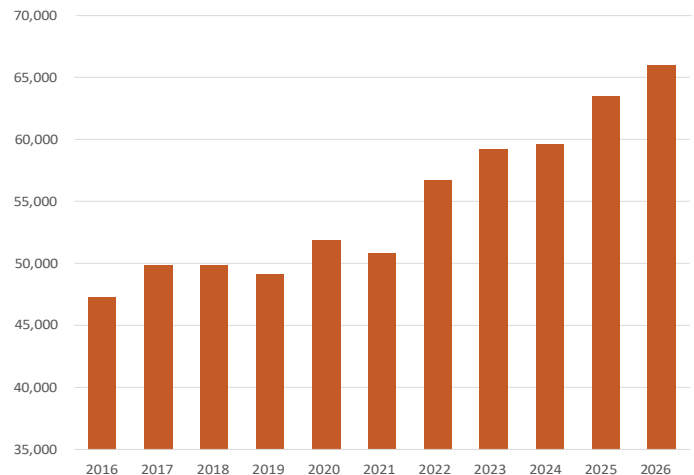
(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	304.4	303.2	298.4	1.2	6.0
Goods Producing	45.8	45.6	46.1	0.2	-0.3
Mining, Logging & Construction	<b>18.6</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Manufacturing	<b>27.2</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>27.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Service Providing	258.6	257.6	252.3	1.0	6.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>61.5</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Wholesale Trade	14.0	14.1	14.1	-0.1	-0.1
Retail Trade	29.5	29.7	28.5	-0.2	1.0
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	18.0	18.3	18.3	-0.3	-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>10.8</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Professional & Business Services	<b>66.0</b>	<b>65.4</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.5</b>
Private Education & Health Services	<b>37.5</b>	<b>37.3</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>33.5</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>31.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Other Services	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Government	<b>35.4</b>	<b>35.1</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Federal Government	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
State Government	12.1	11.8	11.5	0.3	0.6
Local Government	20.3	20.3	20.0	0.0	0.3

Employment  
February 2023 - February 2023



Jobs in Professional & Business Services  
February: 2016 - 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## 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)

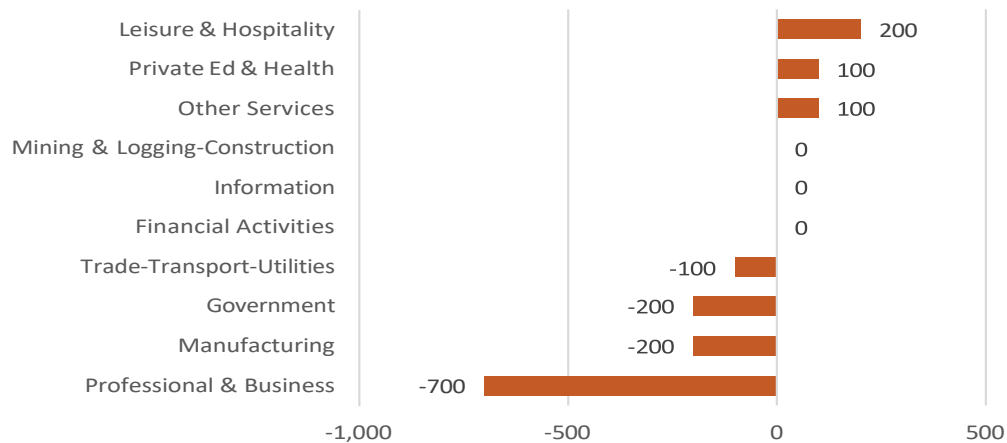
	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	103,027	101,790	102,119	1,237	908
Employment	98,394	96,721	97,877	1,673	517
Unemployment	4,633	5,069	4,242	-436	391
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	5.0%	4.2%	-0.5%	0.3%

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

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	101.0	100.7	101.8	0.3	-0.8
Goods Producing	22.5	22.4	22.7	0.1	-0.2
Mining, Logging & Construction	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Manufacturing	<b>17.7</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Service Providing	78.5	78.3	79.1	0.2	-0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>20.5</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Wholesale Trade	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-0.1
Retail Trade	11.5	11.6	11.3	-0.1	0.2
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	4.6	4.7	4.8	-0.1	-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>3.9</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Professional & Business Services	<b>10.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Private Education & Health Services	<b>17.0</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>9.1</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Other Services	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Government	<b>13.1</b>	<b>12.9</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Federal Government	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
State Government	2.2	2.1	2.3	0.1	-0.1
Local Government	9.7	9.6	9.8	0.1	-0.1

Job Change by Industry Sector  
February 2025 vs February 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

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

	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	44,709	44,079	43,800	630	909
Employment	42,635	41,769	41,859	866	776
Unemployment	2,074	2,310	1,941	-236	133
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	5.2%	4.4%	-0.6%	0.2%

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

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	40.5	40.4	40.5	0.1	0.0
Goods Producing	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-0.1
Service Providing	36.1	36.0	36.0	0.1	0.1
Government	4.4	4.3	4.4	0.1	0.0

Employment  
February 2023 - February 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

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

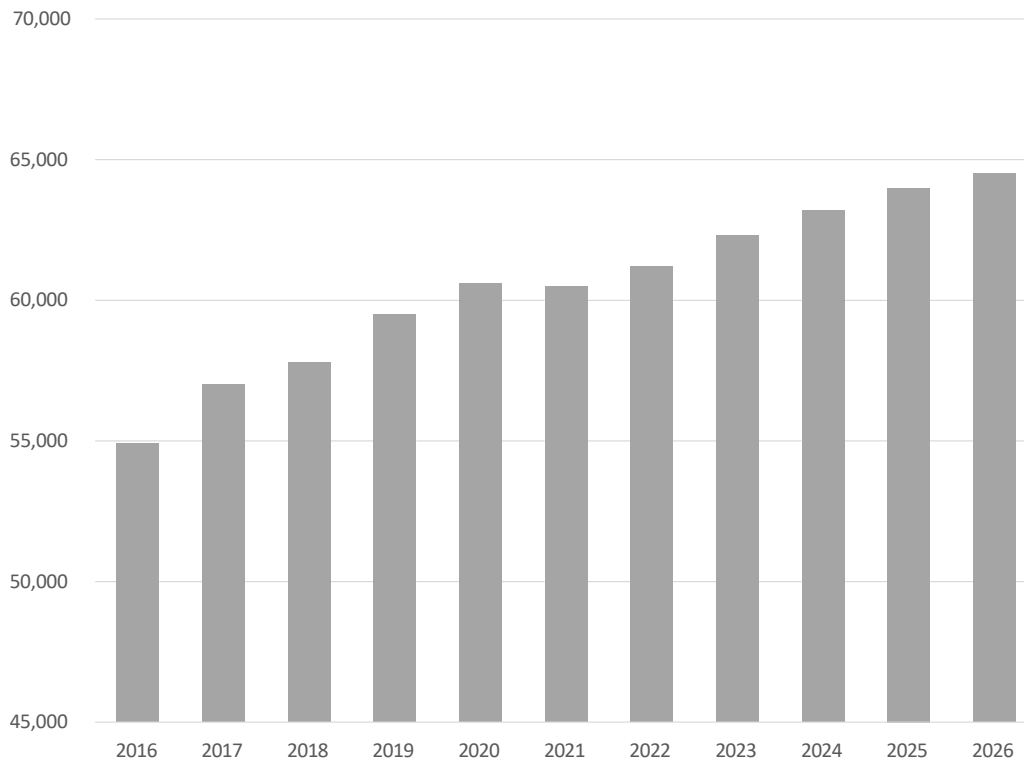
	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	68,239	67,120	66,394	1,119	1,845
Employment	65,362	63,909	63,599	1,453	1,763
Unemployment	2,877	3,211	2,795	-334	82
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.8%	4.2%	-0.6%	0.0%

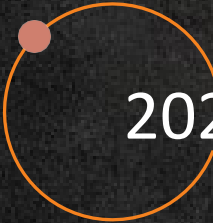
#### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	64.5	64.3	64.0	0.2	0.5
Goods Producing	11.1	11.1	11.1	0.0	0.0
Service Providing	53.4	53.2	52.9	0.2	0.5
Government	9.1	9.0	9.2	0.1	-0.1

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs  
February: 2016 - 2026





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## 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.

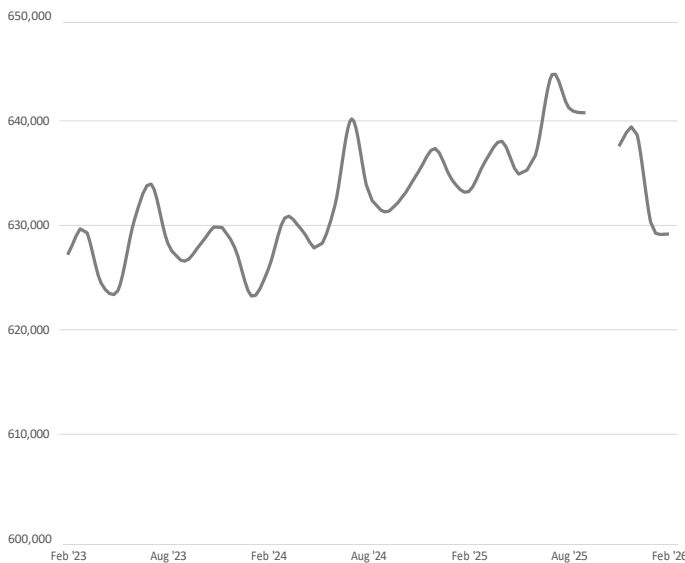
	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	629,176	629,681	633,226	-505	4,050
Employment	599,491	601,553	605,658	-2,062	-6,167
Unemployment	29,685	28,128	27,568	1,557	2,117
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	4.5%	4.4%	0.2%	0.3%

#### Texarkana MSA

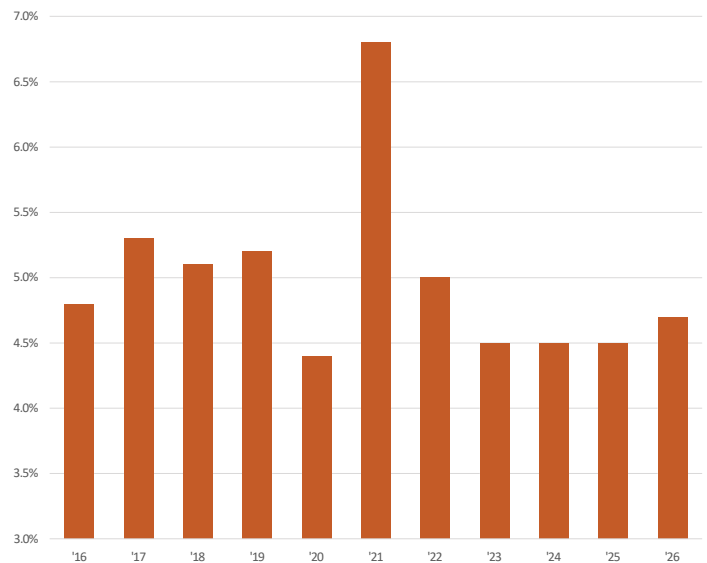
The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Feb 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	62,352	61,889	61,731	463	621
Employment	59,409	58,793	58,949	616	460
Unemployment	2,943	3,096	2,782	-153	161
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	5.0%	4.5%	-0.3%	0.2%

Memphis MSA - Civilian Labor Force  
February 2023 - February 2026



Texarkana MSA - Unemployment Rates  
February: 2016 - 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## Micropolitan Statistical Areas

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	February 2026				January 2026				February 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	10,072	9,583	489	4.9	9,753	9,230	523	5.4	9,799	9,327	472	4.8
Batesville Micro	18,691	17,976	715	3.8	18,335	17,550	785	4.3	18,016	17,264	752	4.2
Blytheville Micro	20,900	19,820	1,080	5.2	20,525	19,330	1,195	5.8	20,652	19,729	923	4.5
Camden Micro	11,382	10,825	557	4.9	11,211	10,583	628	5.6	11,211	10,648	563	5.0
El Dorado Micro	15,831	14,976	855	5.4	15,587	14,640	947	6.1	15,764	14,858	906	5.7
Forrest City Micro	7,746	7,263	483	6.2	7,635	7,087	548	7.2	7,704	7,232	472	6.1
Harrison Micro	19,563	18,707	856	4.4	19,381	18,209	1,172	6.0	19,413	18,551	862	4.4
Magnolia Micro	9,241	8,768	473	5.1	9,046	8,541	505	5.6	9,120	8,687	433	4.7
Malvern Micro	13,445	12,792	653	4.9	13,185	12,462	723	5.5	13,245	12,644	601	4.5
Mountain Home Micro	17,330	16,499	831	4.8	17,044	16,094	950	5.6	16,817	16,028	789	4.7
Paragould Micro	20,307	19,307	1,000	4.9	19,977	18,840	1,137	5.7	20,406	19,480	926	4.5
Pine Bluff Micro	27,963	26,129	1,834	6.6	27,478	25,481	1,997	7.3	27,533	25,935	1,598	5.8
Russellville Micro	37,958	36,089	1,869	4.9	37,165	35,048	2,117	5.7	37,362	35,590	1,772	4.7
Searcy Micro	36,151	34,541	1,610	4.5	35,522	33,725	1,797	5.1	35,631	34,072	1,559	4.4

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	February 2026				January 2026				February 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	15,362	14,712	650	4.2	15,110	14,378	732	4.8	14,791	14,198	593	4.0
Benton	20,979	20,267	712	3.4	20,612	19,828	784	3.8	20,602	19,905	697	3.4
Bentonville	35,835	34,664	1,171	3.3	35,109	33,876	1,233	3.5	34,544	33,452	1,092	3.2
Blytheville	7,061	6,650	411	5.8	6,920	6,485	435	6.3	6,950	6,619	331	4.8
Cabot	14,115	13,574	541	3.8	13,863	13,271	592	4.3	13,749	13,296	453	3.3
Centerton	15,202	14,831	371	2.4	14,961	14,494	467	3.1	14,777	14,312	465	3.1
Conway	38,625	37,061	1,564	4.0	37,947	36,268	1,679	4.4	37,856	36,440	1,416	3.7
El Dorado	6,924	6,577	347	5.0	6,810	6,430	380	5.6	6,934	6,525	409	5.9
Fayetteville	58,110	55,910	2,200	3.8	56,951	54,644	2,307	4.1	56,110	53,956	2,154	3.8
Fort Smith	42,335	40,496	1,839	4.3	41,634	39,620	2,014	4.8	41,802	40,099	1,703	4.1
Hot Springs	17,428	16,611	817	4.7	17,208	16,274	934	5.4	17,079	16,309	770	4.5
Jacksonville	13,181	12,491	690	5.2	12,925	12,225	700	5.4	12,966	12,286	680	5.2
Jonesboro	40,784	39,015	1,769	4.3	40,104	38,154	1,950	4.9	39,707	37,992	1,715	4.3
Little Rock	107,990	103,141	4,849	4.5	106,219	100,941	5,278	5.0	105,844	101,449	4,395	4.2
North Little Rock	34,280	32,600	1,680	4.9	33,761	31,905	1,856	5.5	33,543	32,066	1,477	4.4
Paragould	13,237	12,582	655	4.9	13,004	12,278	726	5.6	13,265	12,695	570	4.3
Pine Bluff	15,110	14,052	1,058	7.0	14,894	13,700	1,194	8.0	14,932	13,975	957	6.4
Rogers	41,997	40,568	1,429	3.4	41,233	39,646	1,587	3.8	40,457	39,149	1,308	3.2
Russellville	13,687	13,032	655	4.8	13,333	12,651	682	5.1	13,476	12,850	626	4.6
Searcy	10,442	9,986	456	4.4	10,260	9,750	510	5.0	10,330	9,850	480	4.6
Sherwood	17,466	16,745	721	4.1	17,229	16,388	841	4.9	17,112	16,471	641	3.7
Springdale	45,604	44,019	1,585	3.5	44,765	43,021	1,744	3.9	43,862	42,480	1,382	3.2
Texarkana, AR	12,341	11,721	620	5.0	12,188	11,483	705	5.8	12,063	11,499	564	4.7
Van Buren	10,709	10,247	462	4.3	10,550	10,026	524	5.0	10,617	10,151	466	4.4
West Memphis	9,516	8,855	661	6.9	9,363	8,681	682	7.3	9,350	8,726	624	6.7

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## County Labor Force Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	February 2026				January 2026				February 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	7,361	6,951	410	5.6	7,258	6,811	447	6.2	7,396	7,018	378	5.1
Ashley	7,307	6,854	453	6.2	7,110	6,612	498	7.0	6,723	6,269	454	6.8
Baxter	17,330	16,499	831	4.8	17,044	16,094	950	5.6	16,817	16,028	789	4.7
Benton	172,572	166,584	5,988	3.5	169,481	162,798	6,683	3.9	166,461	160,759	5,702	3.4
Boone	16,855	16,157	698	4.1	16,682	15,718	964	5.8	16,766	16,066	700	4.2
Bradley	3,786	3,563	223	5.9	3,729	3,473	256	6.9	3,824	3,562	262	6.9
Calhoun	2,208	2,114	94	4.3	2,169	2,062	107	4.9	2,086	1,989	97	4.7
Carroll	11,779	11,222	557	4.7	11,569	10,919	650	5.6	11,453	10,886	567	5.0
Chicot	3,367	3,113	254	7.5	3,299	3,043	256	7.8	3,209	3,003	206	6.4
Clark	10,072	9,583	489	4.9	9,753	9,230	523	5.4	9,799	9,327	472	4.8
Clay	5,940	5,662	278	4.7	5,835	5,518	317	5.4	5,887	5,606	281	4.8
Cleburne	10,302	9,757	545	5.3	10,116	9,510	606	6.0	10,058	9,559	499	5.0
Cleveland	3,059	2,912	147	4.8	3,010	2,845	165	5.5	2,979	2,844	135	4.5
Columbia	9,241	8,768	473	5.1	9,046	8,541	505	5.6	9,120	8,687	433	4.7
Conway	9,441	8,980	461	4.9	9,289	8,794	495	5.3	9,122	8,706	416	4.6
Craighead	58,086	55,684	2,402	4.1	57,130	54,455	2,675	4.7	56,568	54,225	2,343	4.1
Crawford	26,299	25,087	1,212	4.6	25,880	24,547	1,333	5.2	26,007	24,853	1,154	4.4
Crittenden	20,873	19,615	1,258	6.0	20,592	19,229	1,363	6.6	20,495	19,329	1,166	5.7
Cross	7,540	7,195	345	4.6	7,393	7,012	381	5.2	7,400	7,037	363	4.9
Dallas	2,837	2,705	132	4.7	2,785	2,645	140	5.0	2,801	2,680	121	4.3
Desha	3,933	3,628	305	7.8	3,872	3,557	315	8.1	3,979	3,667	312	7.8
Drew	8,016	7,601	415	5.2	7,828	7,374	454	5.8	7,880	7,458	422	5.4
Faulkner	68,727	65,958	2,769	4.0	67,596	64,547	3,049	4.5	67,401	64,852	2,549	3.8
Franklin	7,466	7,125	341	4.6	7,352	6,966	386	5.3	7,285	6,957	328	4.5
Fulton	4,123	3,895	228	5.5	4,090	3,824	266	6.5	3,951	3,734	217	5.5
Garland	44,709	42,635	2,074	4.6	44,079	41,769	2,310	5.2	43,800	41,859	1,941	4.4
Grant	9,073	8,749	324	3.6	8,928	8,550	378	4.2	8,886	8,552	334	3.8
Greene	20,307	19,307	1,000	4.9	19,977	18,840	1,137	5.7	20,406	19,480	926	4.5
Hempstead	8,710	8,281	429	4.9	8,532	8,065	467	5.5	8,477	8,118	359	4.2
Hot Spring	13,445	12,792	653	4.9	13,185	12,462	723	5.5	13,245	12,644	601	4.5
Howard	4,721	4,457	264	5.6	4,622	4,333	289	6.3	4,830	4,615	215	4.5
Independence	18,691	17,976	715	3.8	18,335	17,550	785	4.3	18,016	17,264	752	4.2
Izard	4,426	4,157	269	6.1	4,315	4,003	312	7.2	4,052	3,787	265	6.5
Jackson	5,687	5,423	264	4.6	5,616	5,288	328	5.8	5,545	5,252	293	5.3
Jefferson	24,904	23,217	1,687	6.8	24,468	22,636	1,832	7.5	24,554	23,091	1,463	6.0
Johnson	10,240	9,643	597	5.8	10,095	9,422	673	6.7	10,057	9,492	565	5.6
Lafayette	2,369	2,244	125	5.3	2,312	2,177	135	5.8	2,327	2,178	149	6.4
Lawrence	7,147	6,838	309	4.3	7,023	6,672	351	5.0	6,845	6,544	301	4.4
Lee	2,334	2,169	165	7.1	2,303	2,113	190	8.3	2,281	2,137	144	6.3
Lincoln	3,184	2,990	194	6.1	3,122	2,907	215	6.9	3,236	3,035	201	6.2
Little River	5,213	4,951	262	5.0	5,141	4,846	295	5.7	5,063	4,840	223	4.4
Logan	8,979	8,559	420	4.7	8,849	8,359	490	5.5	8,897	8,464	433	4.9
Lonoke	38,042	36,544	1,498	3.9	37,393	35,728	1,665	4.5	37,136	35,796	1,340	3.6
Madison	8,469	8,169	300	3.5	8,322	7,979	343	4.1	8,157	7,849	308	3.8
Marion	5,317	4,967	350	6.6	5,275	4,862	413	7.8	5,227	4,861	366	7.0
Miller	17,281	16,362	919	5.3	17,063	16,030	1,033	6.1	16,885	16,052	833	4.9

(continued on Page 16)

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## County Labor Force Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	February 2026				January 2026				February 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	20,900	19,820	1,080	5.2	20,525	19,330	1,195	5.8	20,652	19,729	923	4.5
Monroe	2,666	2,491	175	6.6	2,623	2,438	185	7.1	2,600	2,456	144	5.5
Montgomery	3,096	2,921	175	5.7	3,023	2,822	201	6.6	2,998	2,839	159	5.3
Nevada	2,687	2,517	170	6.3	2,644	2,459	185	7.0	2,583	2,442	141	5.5
Newton	2,708	2,550	158	5.8	2,699	2,491	208	7.7	2,647	2,485	162	6.1
Ouachita	9,174	8,711	463	5.0	9,042	8,521	521	5.8	9,125	8,659	466	5.1
Perry	4,442	4,231	211	4.8	4,377	4,133	244	5.6	4,340	4,130	210	4.8
Phillips	4,794	4,415	379	7.9	4,728	4,324	404	8.5	4,791	4,436	355	7.4
Pike	4,187	3,983	204	4.9	4,125	3,891	234	5.7	4,148	3,964	184	4.4
Poinsett	10,153	9,678	475	4.7	9,990	9,454	536	5.4	9,826	9,374	452	4.6
Polk	7,435	7,075	360	4.8	7,303	6,900	403	5.5	7,335	6,990	345	4.7
Pope	28,471	27,003	1,468	5.2	27,860	26,215	1,645	5.9	28,018	26,627	1,391	5.0
Prairie	3,593	3,427	166	4.6	3,543	3,365	178	5.0	3,469	3,320	149	4.3
Pulaski	205,848	196,542	9,306	4.5	202,614	192,351	10,263	5.1	201,874	193,319	8,555	4.2
Randolph	8,229	7,879	350	4.3	8,019	7,643	376	4.7	7,763	7,427	336	4.3
St. Francis	7,746	7,263	483	6.2	7,635	7,087	548	7.2	7,704	7,232	472	6.1
Saline	68,740	66,203	2,537	3.7	67,577	64,769	2,808	4.2	67,417	65,022	2,395	3.6
Scott	4,166	3,986	180	4.3	4,101	3,901	200	4.9	4,047	3,885	162	4.0
Searcy	3,191	3,045	146	4.6	3,139	2,966	173	5.5	2,993	2,839	154	5.1
Sebastian	60,052	57,417	2,635	4.4	59,077	56,175	2,902	4.9	59,301	56,854	2,447	4.1
Sevier	7,267	6,996	271	3.7	7,112	6,808	304	4.3	7,028	6,769	259	3.7
Sharp	6,672	6,341	331	5.0	6,584	6,209	375	5.7	6,512	6,179	333	5.1
Stone	4,102	3,853	249	6.1	4,069	3,770	299	7.3	4,021	3,771	250	6.2
Union	15,831	14,976	855	5.4	15,587	14,640	947	6.1	15,764	14,858	906	5.7
Van Buren	5,842	5,520	322	5.5	5,772	5,407	365	6.3	5,836	5,494	342	5.9
Washington	141,393	136,286	5,107	3.6	138,805	133,198	5,607	4.0	136,341	131,523	4,818	3.5
White	36,151	34,541	1,610	4.5	35,522	33,725	1,797	5.1	35,631	34,072	1,559	4.4
Woodruff	3,070	2,940	130	4.2	3,026	2,884	142	4.7	2,901	2,771	130	4.5
Yell	9,487	9,086	401	4.2	9,305	8,833	472	5.1	9,344	8,963	381	4.1

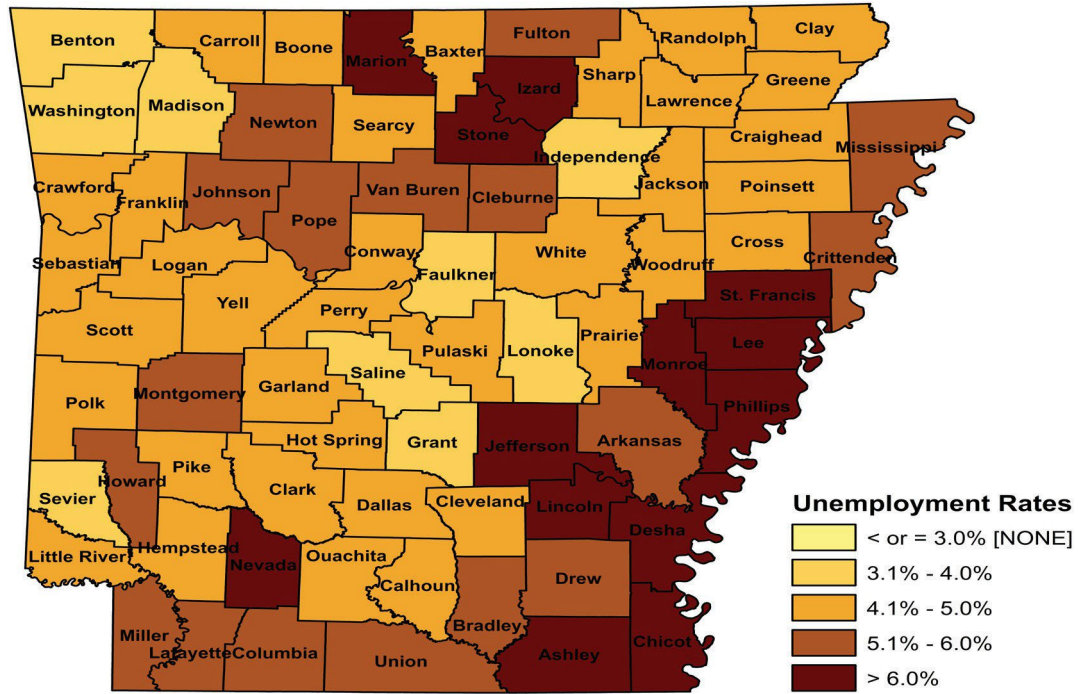
## County Labor Force Summary

Between January and February, unemployment rates declined in all 75 Arkansas counties. Rates ranged from a low of 3.5% in Benton and Madison counties to a high of 7.9% in Phillips County.

In February, no county in Arkansas posted a jobless rate at or below 3%. Four counties- Chicot, Desha, Lee and Phillips- had rates at or above seven percent. That is down from 13 counties at or above seven percent in January.

Compared to February 2025, unemployment rates are up in 43 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates in 26 counties are down over-the-year, while 6 counties remained stable. Lafayette (-1.1%) and Bradley (-1.0%) counties posted the largest annual decrease. The largest increases occurred in Chicot, Howard, and Monroe counties, all up 1.1% compared to February 2025.

## County Unemployment Rates



## Ranked by Unemployment Rates

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Benton	3.5	21	Prairie	4.6	50	Lafayette	5.3
1	Madison	3.5	21	Searcy	4.6	50	Miller	5.3
3	Grant	3.6	28	Carroll	4.7	53	Union	5.4
3	Washington	3.6	28	Clay	4.7	54	Fulton	5.5
5	Saline	3.7	28	Dallas	4.7	54	Van Buren	5.5
5	Sevier	3.7	28	Logan	4.7	56	Arkansas	5.6
7	Independence	3.8	28	Poinsett	4.7	56	Howard	5.6
8	Lonoke	3.9	33	Baxter	4.8	58	Montgomery	5.7
9	Faulkner	4.0	33	Cleveland	4.8	59	Johnson	5.8
10	Boone	4.1	33	Perry	4.8	59	Newton	5.8
10	Craighead	4.1	33	Polk	4.8	61	Bradley	5.9
12	Woodruff	4.2	37	Clark	4.9	62	Crittenden	6.0
12	Yell	4.2	37	Conway	4.9	63	Izard	6.1
14	Calhoun	4.3	37	Greene	4.9	63	Lincoln	6.1
14	Lawrence	4.3	37	Hempstead	4.9	63	Stone	6.1
14	Randolph	4.3	37	Hot Spring	4.9	66	Ashley	6.2
14	Scott	4.3	37	Pike	4.9	66	St. Francis	6.2
18	Sebastian	4.4	43	Little River	5.0	68	Nevada	6.3
19	Pulaski	4.5	43	Ouachita	5.0	69	Marion	6.6
19	White	4.5	43	Sharp	5.0	69	Monroe	6.6
21	Crawford	4.6	46	Columbia	5.1	71	Jefferson	6.8
21	Cross	4.6	47	Drew	5.2	72	Lee	7.1
21	Franklin	4.6	47	Mississippi	5.2	73	Chicot	7.5
21	Garland	4.6	47	Pope	5.2	74	Desha	7.8
21	Jackson	4.6	50	Cleburne	5.3	75	Phillips	7.9

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | February

## Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	February 2026				January 2026				February 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	279,626	268,024	11,602	4.1	275,127	262,257	12,870	4.7	274,053	263,316	10,737	3.9
City of Little Rock	107,990	103,141	4,849	4.5	106,219	100,941	5,278	5.0	105,844	101,449	4,395	4.2
Eastern	43,287	40,657	2,630	6.1	42,651	39,765	2,886	6.8	42,671	40,171	2,500	5.9
North Central	99,066	94,403	4,663	4.7	97,445	92,170	5,275	5.4	96,523	91,883	4,640	4.8
Northeast	130,762	124,868	5,894	4.5	128,499	121,912	6,587	5.1	127,947	122,385	5,562	4.3
Northwest	379,614	365,479	14,135	3.7	373,016	357,025	15,991	4.3	366,862	353,296	13,566	3.7
Southeast	73,990	69,578	4,412	6.0	72,624	67,808	4,816	6.6	72,666	68,499	4,167	5.7
Southwest	87,539	83,082	4,457	5.1	86,055	81,127	4,928	5.7	86,089	81,887	4,202	4.9
West Central	137,590	130,857	6,733	4.9	135,091	127,571	7,520	5.6	134,871	128,551	6,320	4.7
Western	114,397	109,249	5,148	4.5	112,562	106,848	5,714	5.1	112,872	108,003	4,869	4.3

