



2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report

January

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2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | January

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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



January Spotlight Annual Data Revisions

Civilian Labor Force:

In accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arkansas' Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates have undergone annual processing. The purpose of annual processing is to incorporate more complete and accurate information into the estimation process, including updated population data from the US Census Bureau.

All levels of data—State, counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Local Workforce Development Areas, and cities—have been revised. The Statewide CLF data was revised back to January 2021 and is now available at <https://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Data-Search-Tool/LAUS>. Updated sub-state CLF estimates are scheduled for publication on May 19, 2026 on the Discover Arkansas website and at www.bls.gov. All sub-state CLF data for Arkansas have been revised back to January 2016. More information concerning annual processing is available on the BLS website.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs:

In accordance with the same guidelines, the Current Employment Statistics program also re-estimated the Nonfarm Payroll Job series to include more comprehensive and precise information into the calculations. Statewide estimates were revised back to January 1990. MSA revisions are as follows:

- Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA is revised back to January 1990
- Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA is revised back to January 1990
- Fort Smith MSA is revised back to January 1990
- Hot Springs MSA is revised back to April 2020
- Jonesboro MSA is revised back to April 2020

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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 increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.3% in December 2025 to 4.4% in January 2026. The unemployment rate for December 2025 was originally estimated at 4.2% but was later revised up to 4.3%. The United States' jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.4% in December 2025 to 4.3% in January 2026.

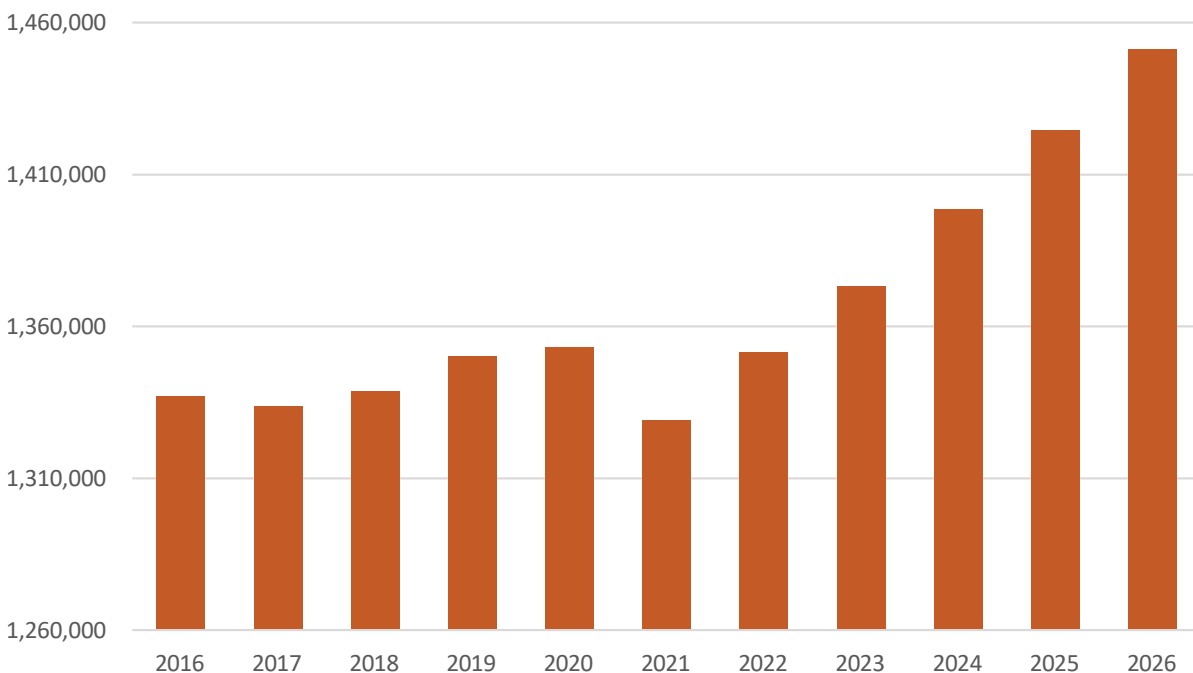
Arkansas' civilian labor force rose by 2,644 in January, reaching a record high level of 1,451,310. Employment increased by 1,205, also setting a record high. The number of unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work rose 1,439, pushing the unemployment rate up to 4.4%. Arkansas' labor force participation rate increased to 59.1%, a level not seen in the State since 2012.

Compared to January 2025, employment has grown by 17,185. There are 9,520 more unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work and the unemployment rate is up six-tenths of a percentage point. Arkansas' labor force participation rate has increased from 58.4% to 59.1% over the year.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Jan 26	Dec 25	Jan 25	Jan 26	Dec 25	Jan 25
Civilian Labor Force	1,451,310	1,448,666	1,424,605	Civilian Labor Force	1,429,259	1,447,235
Employment	1,387,674	1,386,469	1,370,489	Employment	1,357,400	1,386,979
Unemployment	63,636	62,197	54,116	Unemployment	71,859	60,256
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.3%	3.8%	Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.2%
LF Participation Rate	59.1%	59.0%	58.4%	LF Participation Rate	58.2%	57.7%

Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)
January: 2016 - 2026



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State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

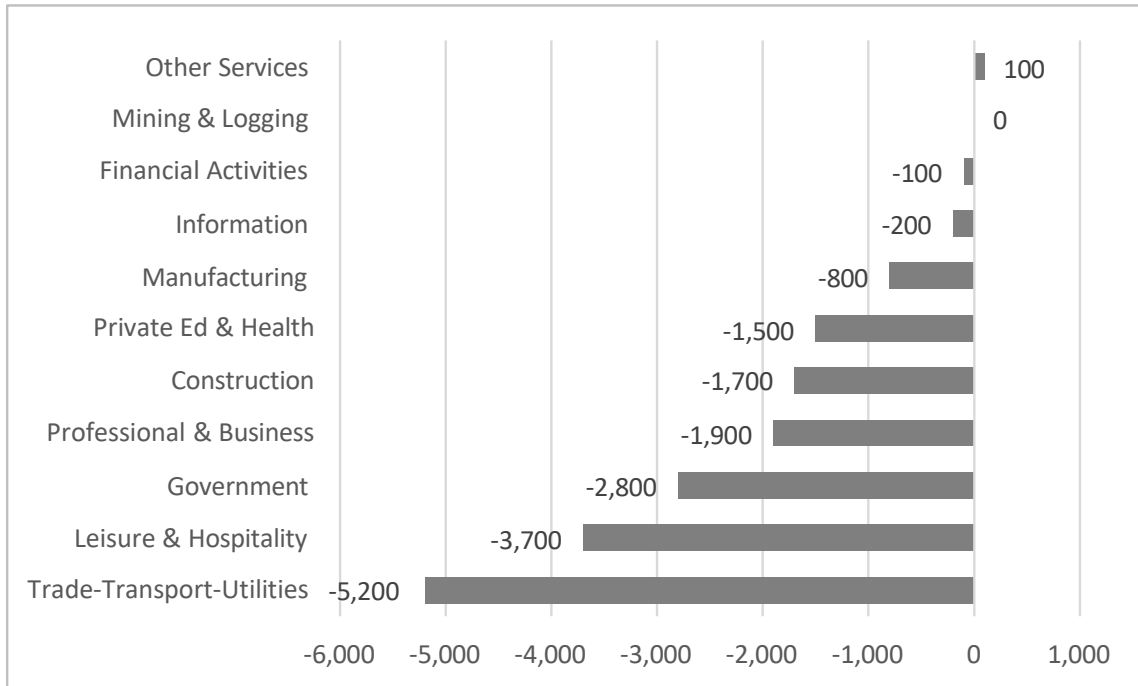
(In Thousands)

(NAICS)	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1333.4	1351.2	1324.2	-17.8	9.2
Goods Producing	227.5	230.0	230.5	-2.5	-3.0
Mining, Logging, & Construction	69.5	71.2	69.9	-1.7	-0.4
Mining & Logging	4.8	4.8	4.9	0.0	-0.1
Construction	64.7	66.4	65.0	-1.7	-0.3
Specialty Trade Contractors	40.7	41.6	41.1	-0.9	-0.4
Manufacturing	158.0	158.8	160.6	-0.8	-2.6
Durable Goods	73.9	74.6	75.8	-0.7	-1.9
Nondurable Goods	84.1	84.2	84.8	-0.1	-0.7
Service Providing	1105.9	1121.2	1093.7	-15.3	12.2
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	274.5	279.7	269.0	-5.2	5.5
Wholesale Trade	54.3	54.2	53.4	0.1	0.9
Retail Trade	144.2	147.6	142.0	-3.4	2.2
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	76.0	77.9	73.6	-1.9	2.4
Information	11.8	12.0	12.5	-0.2	-0.7
Financial Activities	59.3	59.4	59.5	-0.1	-0.2
Finance & Insurance	44.0	43.9	44.4	0.1	-0.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15.3	15.5	15.1	-0.2	0.2
Professional & Business Services	164.0	165.9	161.3	-1.9	2.7
Professional, Scientific & Technical	53.7	53.1	52.6	0.6	1.1
Management of Companies	43.3	43.4	41.1	-0.1	2.2
Administrative & Support Services	67.0	69.4	67.6	-2.4	-0.6
Private Education & Health Services	211.4	212.9	207.9	-1.5	3.5
Private Educational Services	20.6	21.4	19.4	-0.8	1.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	190.8	191.5	188.5	-0.7	2.3
Ambulatory Health Care	70.3	70.1	68.4	0.2	1.9
Social Assistance	40.2	40.5	39.9	-0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	127.4	131.1	125.1	-3.7	2.3
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	13.2	13.7	12.6	-0.5	0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	114.2	117.4	112.5	-3.2	1.7
Accommodation Services	10.3	10.6	10.2	-0.3	0.1
Food Services	103.9	106.8	102.3	-2.9	1.6
Other Services	52.9	52.8	51.8	0.1	1.1
Government	204.6	207.4	206.6	-2.8	-2.0
Federal Government	20.3	20.5	21.8	-0.2	-1.5
State Government	69.2	70.8	69.8	-1.6	-0.6
State Gov, Educational Services	25.2	26.7	25.4	-1.5	-0.2
State Gov, Excluding Education	44.0	44.1	44.4	-0.1	-0.4
Local Government	115.1	116.1	115.0	-1.0	0.1
Local Gov, Educational Services	70.1	70.6	70.2	-0.5	-0.1
Local Gov, Excluding Education	45.0	45.5	44.8	-0.5	0.2

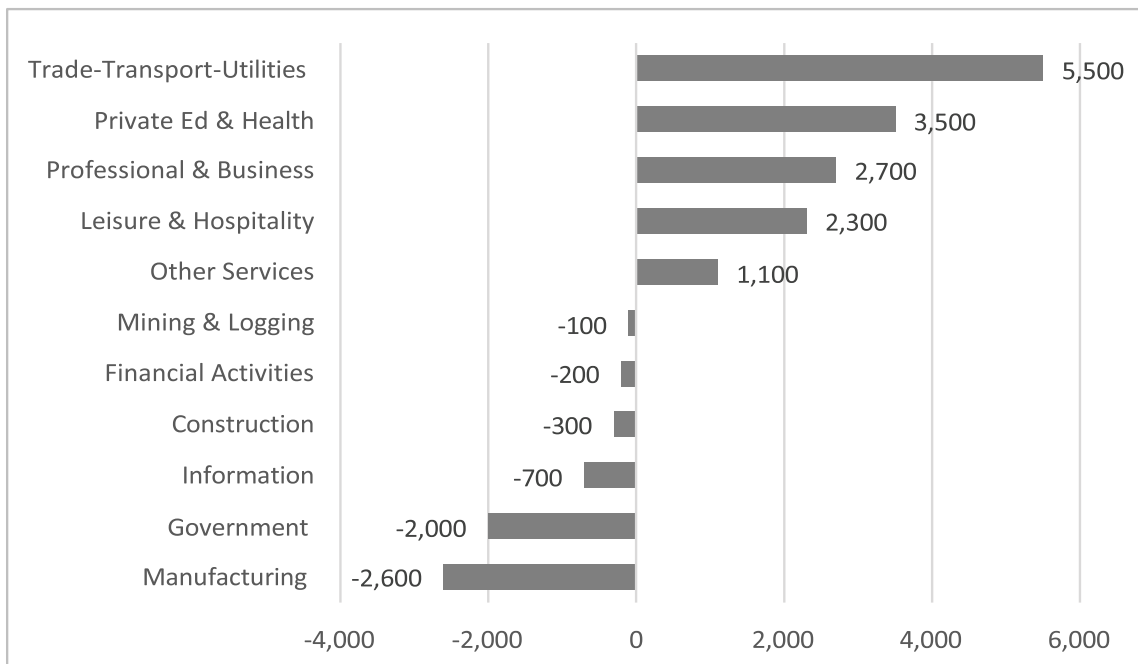
State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Monthly Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sector
December 2025 - January 2026 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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





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State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

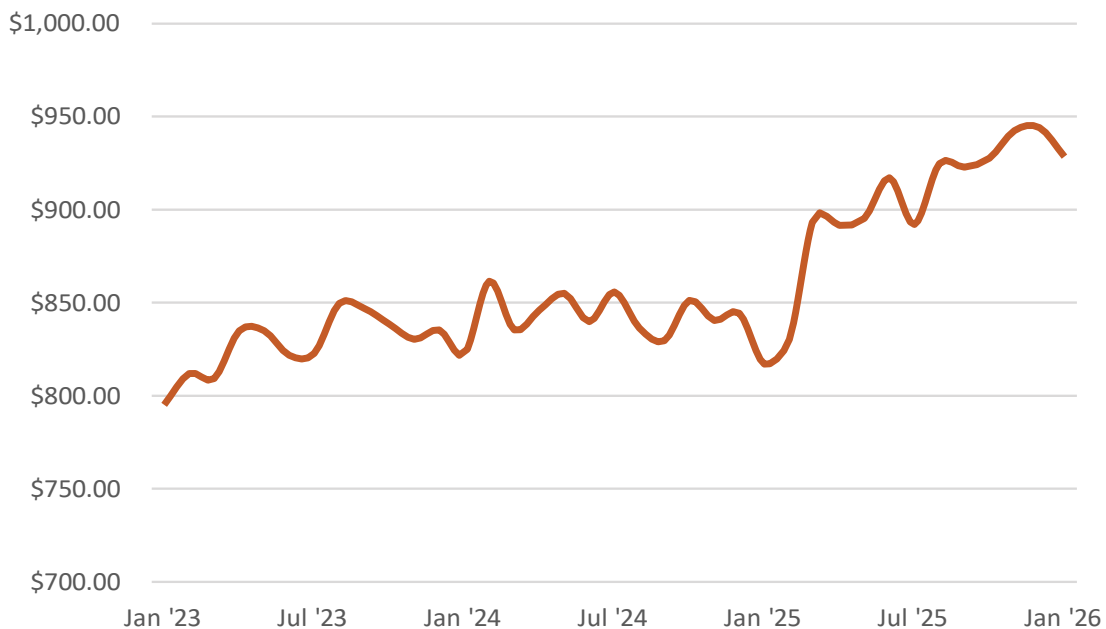
Manufacturing

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>
Average Weekly Hours	38.4	39.3	34.9
Average Hourly Earnings	\$23.98	\$24.02	\$23.41
Average Weekly Earnings	\$928.41	\$943.99	\$817.01

Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

	Durable Goods Manufacturing			Nondurable Goods Manufacturing		
	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>
Average Weekly Hours	43.2	43.9	41.4	34.2	35.4	29.3
Average Hourly Earnings	\$25.62	\$25.76	\$24.87	\$22.19	\$22.15	\$21.65
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,106.78	\$1,130.86	\$1,029.62	\$771.03	\$784.11	\$634.35

Average Weekly Earnings in Manufacturing (Production Workers)
January 2023 - January 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)

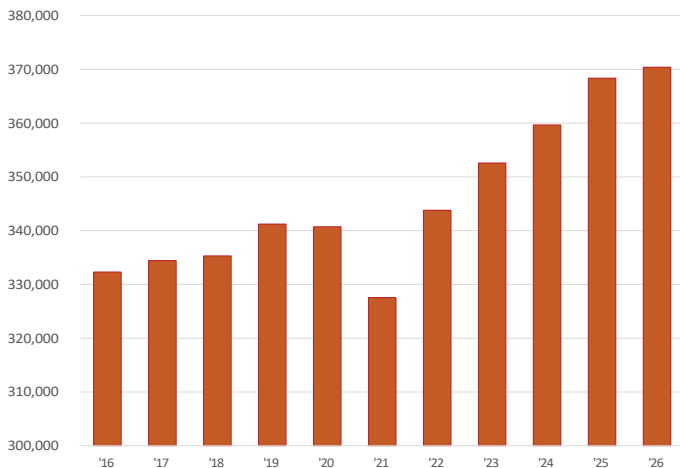
	Jan 26	Dec 25	Jan 25	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	388,613	394,228	383,029	-5,615	5,584
Employment	370,208	378,783	368,365	-8,575	1,843
Unemployment	18,405	15,445	14,664	2,960	3,741
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	3.9%	3.8%	0.8%	0.9%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

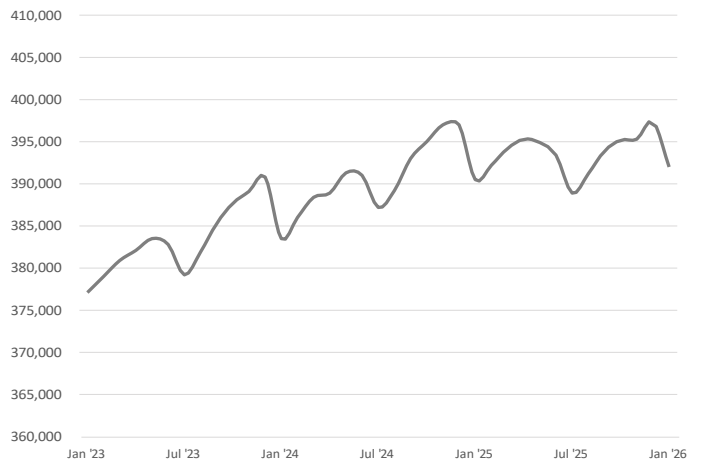
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Jan 26	Dec 25	Jan 25	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	392.0	397.4	390.5	-5.4	1.5
Goods Producing	41.8	42.2	42.2	-0.4	-0.4
Mining, Logging & Construction	21.0	21.4	21.2	-0.4	-0.2
Manufacturing	20.8	20.8	21.0	0.0	-0.2
Service Providing	350.2	355.2	348.3	-5.0	1.9
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	82.2	84.5	80.6	-2.3	1.6
Wholesale Trade	18.3	18.3	18.0	0.0	0.3
Retail Trade	39.5	40.9	39.2	-1.4	0.3
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	24.4	25.3	23.4	-0.9	1.0
Information	4.6	4.8	5.0	-0.2	-0.4
Financial Activities	25.1	25.2	25.5	-0.1	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	50.6	50.9	50.0	-0.3	0.6
Private Education & Health Services	67.1	67.6	65.0	-0.5	2.1
Leisure & Hospitality	33.7	34.8	34.4	-1.1	-0.7
Other Services	18.8	18.7	18.6	0.1	0.2
Government	68.1	68.7	69.2	-0.6	-1.1
Federal Government	10.0	10.1	10.7	-0.1	-0.7
State Government	31.7	32.0	32.3	-0.3	-0.6
Local Government	26.4	26.6	26.2	-0.2	0.2

Employment
January: 2016 - 2016



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
January 2023 - January 2026



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	316,618	320,844	307,361	-4,226	9,257
Employment	303,986	310,616	297,214	-6,630	6,772
Unemployment	12,632	10,228	10,147	2,404	2,485
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	3.2%	3.3%	0.8%	0.7%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

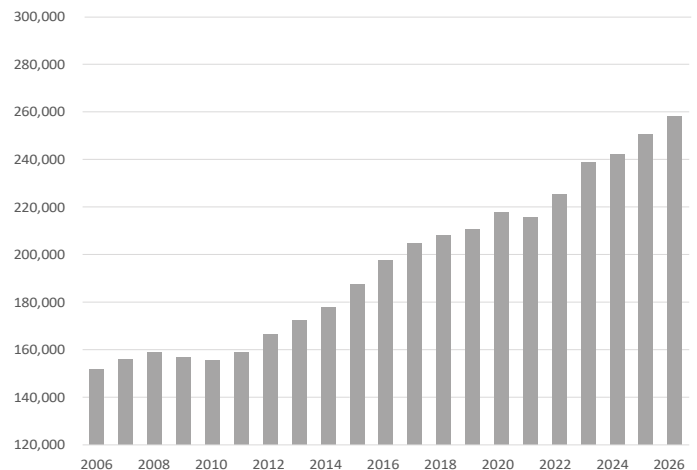
(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	303.5	307.3	296.2	-3.8	7.3
Goods Producing	45.6	46.1	45.8	-0.5	-0.2
Mining, Logging & Construction	18.3	18.7	18.1	-0.4	0.2
Manufacturing	27.3	27.4	27.7	-0.1	-0.4
Service Providing	257.9	261.2	250.4	-3.3	7.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	62.3	63.2	60.9	-0.9	1.4
Wholesale Trade	14.1	14.1	14.1	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	29.7	30.3	28.5	-0.6	1.2
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	18.5	18.8	18.3	-0.3	0.2
Information	2.4	2.5	2.6	-0.1	-0.2
Financial Activities	10.8	10.9	10.8	-0.1	0.0
Professional & Business Services	65.4	65.9	62.9	-0.5	2.5
Private Education & Health Services	37.4	37.6	36.8	-0.2	0.6
Leisure & Hospitality	32.8	33.8	30.8	-1.0	2.0
Other Services	11.7	11.6	11.3	0.1	0.4
Government	35.1	35.7	34.3	-0.6	0.8
Federal Government	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
State Government	11.8	12.1	11.2	-0.3	0.6
Local Government	20.3	20.6	20.0	-0.3	0.3

Civilian Labor Force
January 2023 - January 2026



Jobs in Service Providing Industries
January: 2006 - 2026



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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)

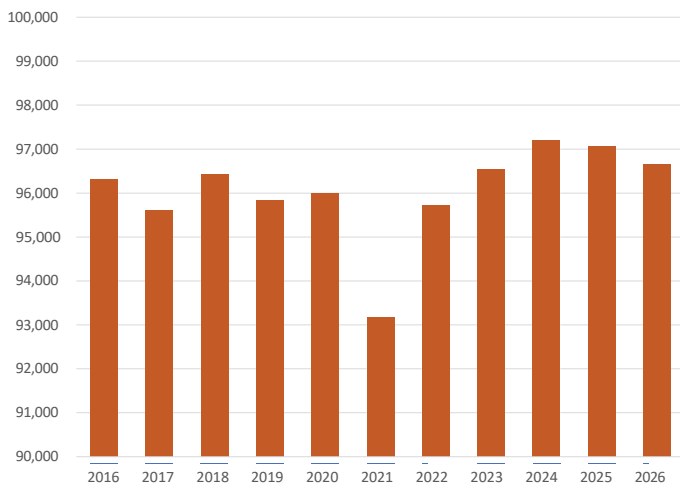
	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	101,722	103,325	101,124	-1,603	598
Employment	96,652	98,785	97,073	-2,133	-421
Unemployment	5,070	4,540	4,051	530	1,019
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.4%	4.0%	0.6%	1.0%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

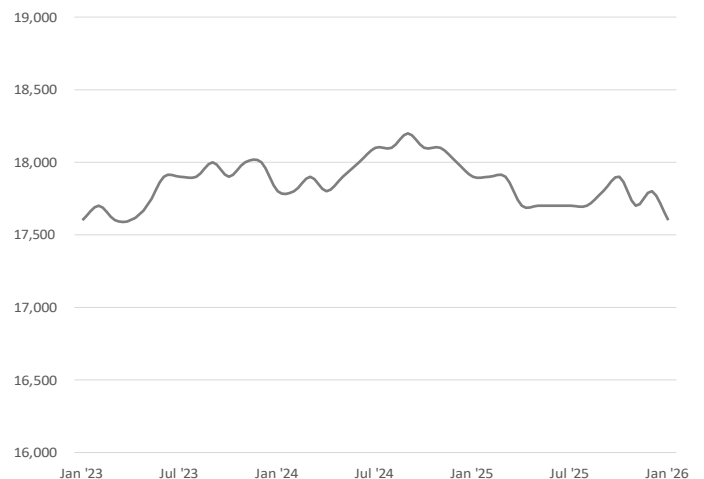
(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	101.0	102.5	101.2	-1.5	-0.2
Goods Producing	22.4	22.7	22.7	-0.3	-0.3
Mining, Logging & Construction	4.8	4.9	4.8	-0.1	0.0
Manufacturing	17.6	17.8	17.9	-0.2	-0.3
Service Providing	78.6	79.8	78.5	-1.2	0.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	20.9	21.4	20.6	-0.5	0.3
Wholesale Trade	4.5	4.5	4.4	0.0	0.1
Retail Trade	11.7	12.0	11.3	-0.3	0.4
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	4.7	4.9	4.9	-0.2	-0.2
Information	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	3.9	3.9	3.8	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	10.1	10.3	10.7	-0.2	-0.6
Private Education & Health Services	17.0	17.1	16.8	-0.1	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	9.0	9.2	8.8	-0.2	0.2
Other Services	3.6	3.6	3.5	0.0	0.1
Government	12.9	13.1	13.0	-0.2	-0.1
Federal Government	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
State Government	2.1	2.2	2.2	-0.1	-0.1
Local Government	9.6	9.7	9.6	-0.1	0.0

Employment
January: 2016 - 2026



Jobs in Manufacturing
January 2023 - January 2026



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	44,221	44,814	43,311	-593	910
Employment	41,914	42,874	41,458	-960	456
Unemployment	2,307	1,940	1,853	367	454
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	4.3%	4.3%	0.9%	0.9%

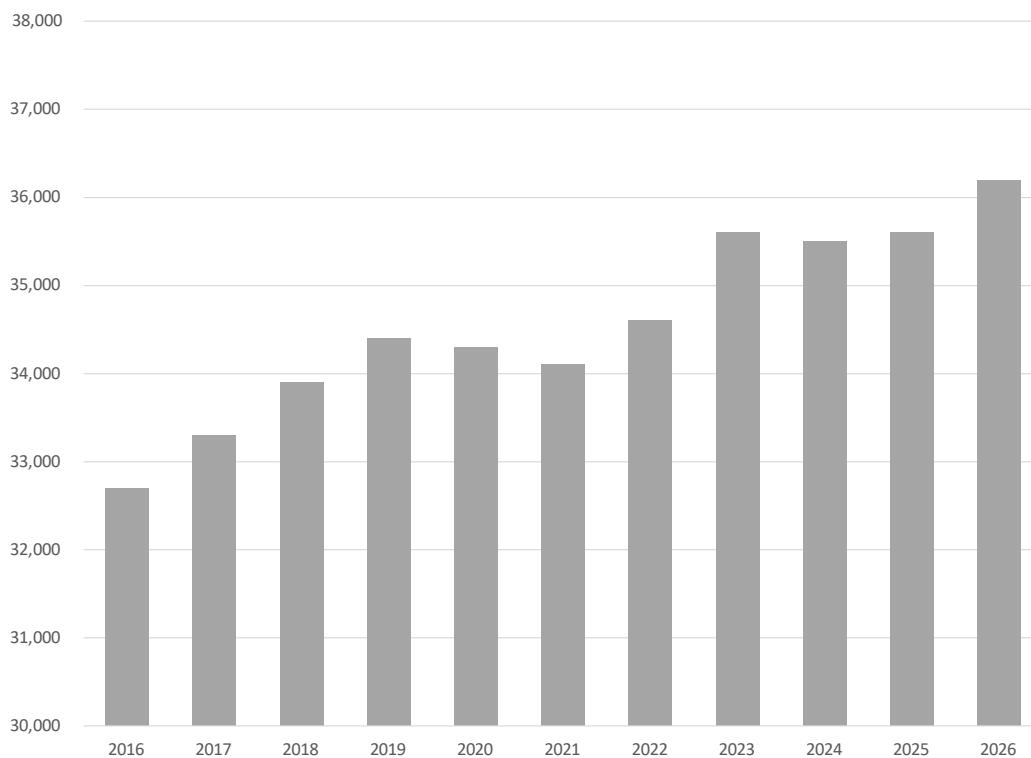
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	40.7	41.2	40.1	-0.5	0.6
Goods Producing	4.5	4.5	4.5	0.0	0.0
Service Providing	36.2	36.7	35.6	-0.5	0.6
Government	4.3	4.4	4.3	-0.1	0.0

Jobs in Service Providing Industries

January: 2016 - 2026



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

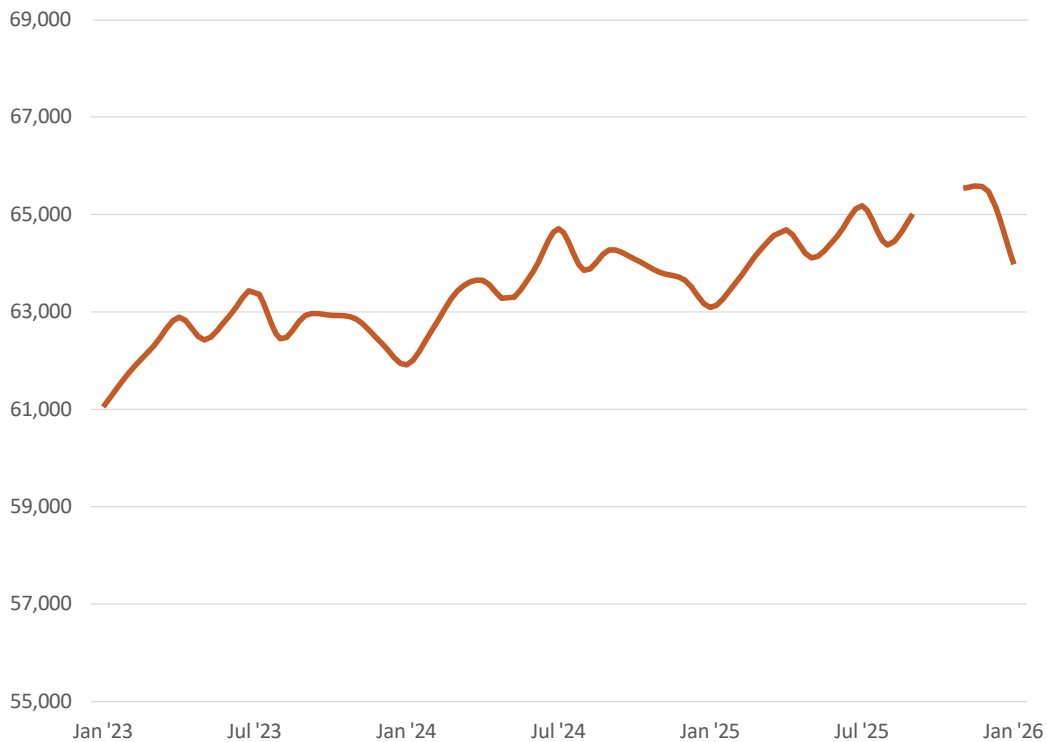
	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	67,189	68,140	65,794	-951	1,395
Employment	63,979	65,473	63,094	-1,494	885
Unemployment	3,210	2,667	2,700	543	510
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	3.9%	4.1%	0.9%	0.7%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	64.5	65.5	63.6	-1.0	0.9
Goods Producing	11.2	11.3	11.1	-0.1	0.1
Service Providing	53.3	54.2	52.5	-0.9	0.8
Government	9.0	9.1	9.1	-0.1	-0.1

Employment
January 2023 - January 2026



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Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Out-of-State MSA

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA

The Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA = Fayette, Shelby, & Tipton counties in Tennessee; Benton, Desoto, Marshall, Tate, & Tunica counties in Mississippi; & Crittenden County in Arkansas.

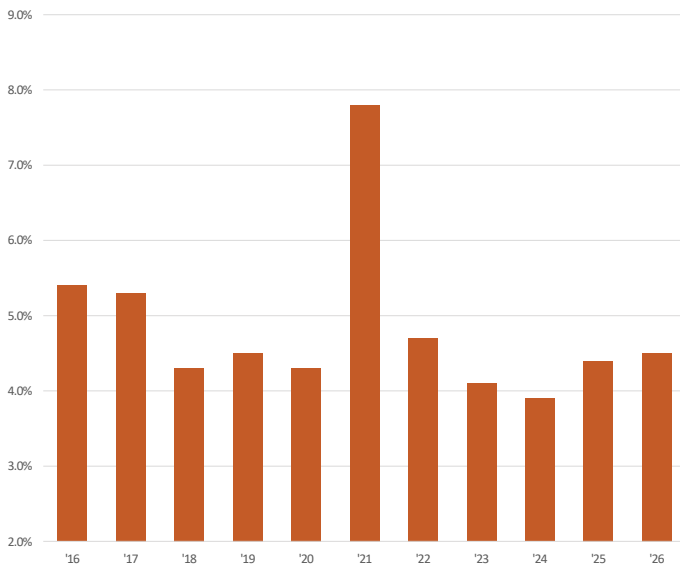
	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	630,484	639,200	634,387	-8,716	-3,903
Employment	602,347	613,555	606,304	-11,208	-3,957
Unemployment	28,137	25,645	28,083	2,492	54
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.0%	4.4%	0.5%	0.1%

Texarkana MSA

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

	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Jan 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	61,889	62,121	61,443	-232	446
Employment	58,793	59,498	58,717	-705	76
Unemployment	3,096	2,623	2,726	473	370
Unemployment Rate	5.0%	4.2%	4.4%	0.8%	0.6%

Unemployment Rates
January: 2016 - 2026



Employment
January 2023 - January 2026



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Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	January 2026				December 2025				January 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	9,744	9,221	523	5.4	9,934	9,492	442	4.4	9,592	9,153	439	4.6
Batesville Micro	18,320	17,534	786	4.3	18,519	17,880	639	3.5	17,732	17,072	660	3.7
Blytheville Micro	20,508	19,313	1,195	5.8	20,737	19,699	1,038	5.0	20,560	19,625	935	4.5
Camden Micro	11,203	10,574	629	5.6	11,383	10,821	562	4.9	11,122	10,586	536	4.8
El Dorado Micro	15,573	14,627	946	6.1	15,712	14,894	818	5.2	15,708	14,774	934	5.9
Forrest City Micro	7,632	7,084	548	7.2	7,682	7,208	474	6.2	7,643	7,168	475	6.2
Harrison Micro	19,363	18,193	1,170	6.0	19,416	18,625	791	4.1	19,249	18,432	817	4.2
Magnolia Micro	9,038	8,533	505	5.6	9,014	8,589	425	4.7	8,970	8,573	397	4.4
Malvern Micro	13,192	12,469	723	5.5	13,465	12,873	592	4.4	13,067	12,489	578	4.4
Mountain Home Micro	17,030	16,079	951	5.6	17,301	16,507	794	4.6	16,625	15,848	777	4.7
Paragould Micro	19,968	18,833	1,135	5.7	20,136	19,134	1,002	5.0	20,242	19,347	895	4.4
Pine Bluff Micro	27,457	25,462	1,995	7.3	27,841	26,081	1,760	6.3	27,247	25,674	1,573	5.8
Russellville Micro	37,133	35,016	2,117	5.7	37,581	35,792	1,789	4.8	36,941	35,151	1,790	4.8
Searcy Micro	35,501	33,704	1,797	5.1	35,798	34,325	1,473	4.1	35,295	33,780	1,515	4.3

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	January 2026				December 2025				January 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	15,112	14,379	733	4.9	15,293	14,694	599	3.9	14,646	14,054	592	4.0
Benton	20,618	19,834	784	3.8	20,943	20,289	654	3.1	20,383	19,729	654	3.2
Bentonville	35,112	33,878	1,234	3.5	35,603	34,621	982	2.8	34,206	33,113	1,093	3.2
Blytheville	6,915	6,480	435	6.3	7,014	6,609	405	5.8	6,926	6,584	342	4.9
Cabot	13,868	13,276	592	4.3	14,025	13,560	465	3.3	13,597	13,185	412	3.0
Centerton	14,962	14,495	467	3.1	15,202	14,813	389	2.6	14,590	14,167	423	2.9
Conway	37,959	36,281	1,678	4.4	38,542	37,132	1,410	3.7	37,439	36,110	1,329	3.5
El Dorado	6,806	6,424	382	5.6	6,931	6,541	390	5.6	6,913	6,489	424	6.1
Fayetteville	56,955	54,646	2,309	4.1	57,630	55,840	1,790	3.1	55,323	53,434	1,889	3.4
Fort Smith	41,608	39,594	2,014	4.8	42,420	40,592	1,828	4.3	41,307	39,697	1,610	3.9
Hot Springs	17,267	16,330	937	5.4	17,523	16,704	819	4.7	16,908	16,152	756	4.5
Jacksonville	12,924	12,229	695	5.4	13,125	12,519	606	4.6	12,839	12,174	665	5.2
Jonesboro	40,146	38,196	1,950	4.9	40,739	39,106	1,633	4.0	39,355	37,681	1,674	4.3
Little Rock	106,260	100,977	5,283	5.0	107,844	103,368	4,476	4.2	104,755	100,527	4,228	4.0
North Little Rock	33,775	31,917	1,858	5.5	34,243	32,672	1,571	4.6	33,237	31,774	1,463	4.4
Paragould	13,001	12,274	727	5.6	13,112	12,470	642	4.9	13,183	12,608	575	4.4
Pine Bluff	14,883	13,690	1,193	8.0	15,072	14,041	1,031	6.8	14,789	13,832	957	6.5
Rogers	41,235	39,647	1,588	3.9	41,798	40,517	1,281	3.1	39,975	38,753	1,222	3.1
Russellville	13,322	12,640	682	5.1	13,519	12,936	583	4.3	13,265	12,657	608	4.6
Searcy	10,254	9,744	510	5.0	10,331	9,923	408	3.9	10,208	9,766	442	4.3
Sherwood	17,236	16,394	842	4.9	17,495	16,782	713	4.1	16,934	16,321	613	3.6
Springdale	44,767	43,022	1,745	3.9	45,563	43,963	1,600	3.5	43,469	42,066	1,403	3.2
Texarkana, AR	12,192	11,487	705	5.8	12,318	11,715	603	4.9	11,962	11,403	559	4.7
Van Buren	10,545	10,020	525	5.0	10,757	10,275	482	4.5	10,477	10,047	430	4.1
West Memphis	9,374	8,692	682	7.3	9,550	8,904	646	6.8	9,325	8,704	621	6.7

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County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	January 2026				December 2025				January 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	7,252	6,805	447	6.2	7,307	6,943	364	5.0	7,461	7,092	369	4.9
Ashley	7,104	6,606	498	7.0	7,176	6,745	431	6.0	6,644	6,179	465	7.0
Baxter	17,030	16,079	951	5.6	17,301	16,507	794	4.6	16,625	15,848	777	4.7
Benton	169,488	162,805	6,683	3.9	171,768	166,377	5,391	3.1	164,523	159,131	5,392	3.3
Boone	16,666	15,704	962	5.8	16,743	16,083	660	3.9	16,586	15,929	657	4.0
Bradley	3,726	3,470	256	6.9	3,767	3,542	225	6.0	3,808	3,540	268	7.0
Calhoun	2,167	2,060	107	4.9	2,167	2,076	91	4.2	2,073	1,981	92	4.4
Carroll	11,560	10,910	650	5.6	11,752	11,246	506	4.3	11,450	10,884	566	4.9
Chicot	3,297	3,041	256	7.8	3,293	3,065	228	6.9	3,237	3,016	221	6.8
Clark	9,744	9,221	523	5.4	9,934	9,492	442	4.4	9,592	9,153	439	4.6
Clay	5,830	5,513	317	5.4	5,906	5,618	288	4.9	5,873	5,591	282	4.8
Cleburne	10,107	9,501	606	6.0	10,312	9,798	514	5.0	9,968	9,486	482	4.8
Cleveland	3,007	2,842	165	5.5	3,017	2,881	136	4.5	2,958	2,820	138	4.7
Columbia	9,038	8,533	505	5.6	9,014	8,589	425	4.7	8,970	8,573	397	4.4
Conway	9,285	8,790	495	5.3	9,364	8,939	425	4.5	9,094	8,688	406	4.5
Craighead	57,190	54,515	2,675	4.7	58,030	55,815	2,215	3.8	56,036	53,780	2,256	4.0
Crawford	25,865	24,531	1,334	5.2	26,337	25,157	1,180	4.5	25,677	24,599	1,078	4.2
Crittenden	20,617	19,254	1,363	6.6	20,908	19,723	1,185	5.7	20,450	19,280	1,170	5.7
Cross	7,387	7,006	381	5.2	7,473	7,146	327	4.4	7,335	6,971	364	5.0
Dallas	2,783	2,643	140	5.0	2,775	2,656	119	4.3	2,772	2,652	120	4.3
Desha	3,869	3,554	315	8.1	3,905	3,642	263	6.7	4,006	3,682	324	8.1
Drew	7,821	7,367	454	5.8	7,807	7,412	395	5.1	7,786	7,378	408	5.2
Faulkner	67,618	64,570	3,048	4.5	68,613	66,084	2,529	3.7	66,669	64,265	2,404	3.6
Franklin	7,345	6,959	386	5.3	7,422	7,108	314	4.2	7,267	6,943	324	4.5
Fulton	4,086	3,820	266	6.5	4,114	3,898	216	5.3	3,938	3,729	209	5.3
Garland	44,221	41,914	2,307	5.2	44,814	42,874	1,940	4.3	43,311	41,458	1,853	4.3
Grant	8,930	8,552	378	4.2	9,040	8,726	314	3.5	8,789	8,493	296	3.4
Greene	19,968	18,833	1,135	5.7	20,136	19,134	1,002	5.0	20,242	19,347	895	4.4
Hempstead	8,524	8,057	467	5.5	8,550	8,144	406	4.7	8,384	8,022	362	4.3
Hot Spring	13,192	12,469	723	5.5	13,465	12,873	592	4.4	13,067	12,489	578	4.4
Howard	4,618	4,329	289	6.3	4,629	4,377	252	5.4	4,826	4,617	209	4.3
Independence	18,320	17,534	786	4.3	18,519	17,880	639	3.5	17,732	17,072	660	3.7
Izard	4,312	4,000	312	7.2	4,416	4,124	292	6.6	4,009	3,734	275	6.9
Jackson	5,611	5,283	328	5.8	5,578	5,308	270	4.8	5,556	5,269	287	5.2
Jefferson	24,450	22,620	1,830	7.5	24,824	23,200	1,624	6.5	24,289	22,854	1,435	5.9
Johnson	10,086	9,413	673	6.7	10,118	9,551	567	5.6	9,995	9,443	552	5.5
Lafayette	2,310	2,175	135	5.8	2,311	2,189	122	5.3	2,292	2,165	127	5.5
Lawrence	7,021	6,669	352	5.0	6,938	6,652	286	4.1	6,802	6,494	308	4.5
Lee	2,301	2,111	190	8.3	2,277	2,128	149	6.5	2,299	2,149	150	6.5
Lincoln	3,120	2,905	215	6.9	3,121	2,947	174	5.6	3,218	3,016	202	6.3
Little River	5,141	4,846	295	5.7	5,183	4,934	249	4.8	5,024	4,798	226	4.5
Logan	8,842	8,352	490	5.5	8,917	8,498	419	4.7	8,897	8,453	444	5.0
Lonoke	37,405	35,740	1,665	4.5	37,858	36,507	1,351	3.6	36,752	35,496	1,256	3.4
Madison	8,321	7,978	343	4.1	8,401	8,124	277	3.3	8,120	7,834	286	3.5
Marion	5,271	4,858	413	7.8	5,342	5,000	342	6.4	5,192	4,851	341	6.6
Miller	17,069	16,036	1,033	6.1	17,217	16,354	863	5.0	16,707	15,918	789	4.7

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County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	January 2026				December 2025				January 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	20,508	19,313	1,195	5.8	20,737	19,699	1,038	5.0	20,560	19,625	935	4.5
Monroe	2,620	2,435	185	7.1	2,651	2,487	164	6.2	2,604	2,459	145	5.6
Montgomery	3,024	2,823	201	6.6	3,058	2,867	191	6.2	2,966	2,802	164	5.5
Nevada	2,642	2,457	185	7.0	2,640	2,481	159	6.0	2,552	2,411	141	5.5
Newton	2,697	2,489	208	7.7	2,673	2,542	131	4.9	2,663	2,503	160	6.0
Ouachita	9,036	8,514	522	5.8	9,216	8,745	471	5.1	9,049	8,605	444	4.9
Perry	4,379	4,135	244	5.6	4,414	4,215	199	4.5	4,301	4,104	197	4.6
Phillips	4,724	4,320	404	8.6	4,715	4,365	350	7.4	4,799	4,444	355	7.4
Pike	4,121	3,887	234	5.7	4,133	3,934	199	4.8	4,092	3,923	169	4.1
Poinsett	9,999	9,464	535	5.4	10,110	9,658	452	4.5	9,758	9,314	444	4.6
Polk	7,297	6,894	403	5.5	7,352	7,003	349	4.7	7,277	6,946	331	4.5
Pope	27,836	26,191	1,645	5.9	28,201	26,804	1,397	5.0	27,633	26,226	1,407	5.1
Prairie	3,541	3,363	178	5.0	3,606	3,456	150	4.2	3,480	3,334	146	4.2
Pulaski	202,681	192,420	10,261	5.1	205,705	196,976	8,729	4.2	199,820	191,561	8,259	4.1
Randolph	8,012	7,636	376	4.7	8,088	7,780	308	3.8	7,640	7,325	315	4.1
St. Francis	7,632	7,084	548	7.2	7,682	7,208	474	6.2	7,643	7,168	475	6.2
Saline	67,600	64,791	2,809	4.2	68,598	66,275	2,323	3.4	66,698	64,446	2,252	3.4
Scott	4,097	3,897	200	4.9	4,119	3,952	167	4.1	4,004	3,852	152	3.8
Searcy	3,137	2,964	173	5.5	3,172	3,027	145	4.6	3,020	2,872	148	4.9
Sebastian	59,041	56,138	2,903	4.9	60,146	57,553	2,593	4.3	58,613	56,284	2,329	4.0
Sevier	7,106	6,802	304	4.3	7,166	6,924	242	3.4	6,992	6,764	228	3.3
Sharp	6,578	6,203	375	5.7	6,644	6,327	317	4.8	6,463	6,153	310	4.8
Stone	4,066	3,767	299	7.4	4,121	3,869	252	6.1	4,017	3,773	244	6.1
Union	15,573	14,627	946	6.1	15,712	14,894	818	5.2	15,708	14,774	934	5.9
Van Buren	5,768	5,403	365	6.3	5,817	5,522	295	5.1	5,794	5,468	326	5.6
Washington	138,809	133,203	5,606	4.0	140,675	136,115	4,560	3.2	134,718	130,249	4,469	3.3
White	35,501	33,704	1,797	5.1	35,798	34,325	1,473	4.1	35,295	33,780	1,515	4.3
Woodruff	3,023	2,881	142	4.7	3,041	2,918	123	4.0	2,937	2,805	132	4.5
Yell	9,297	8,825	472	5.1	9,380	8,988	392	4.2	9,308	8,925	383	4.1

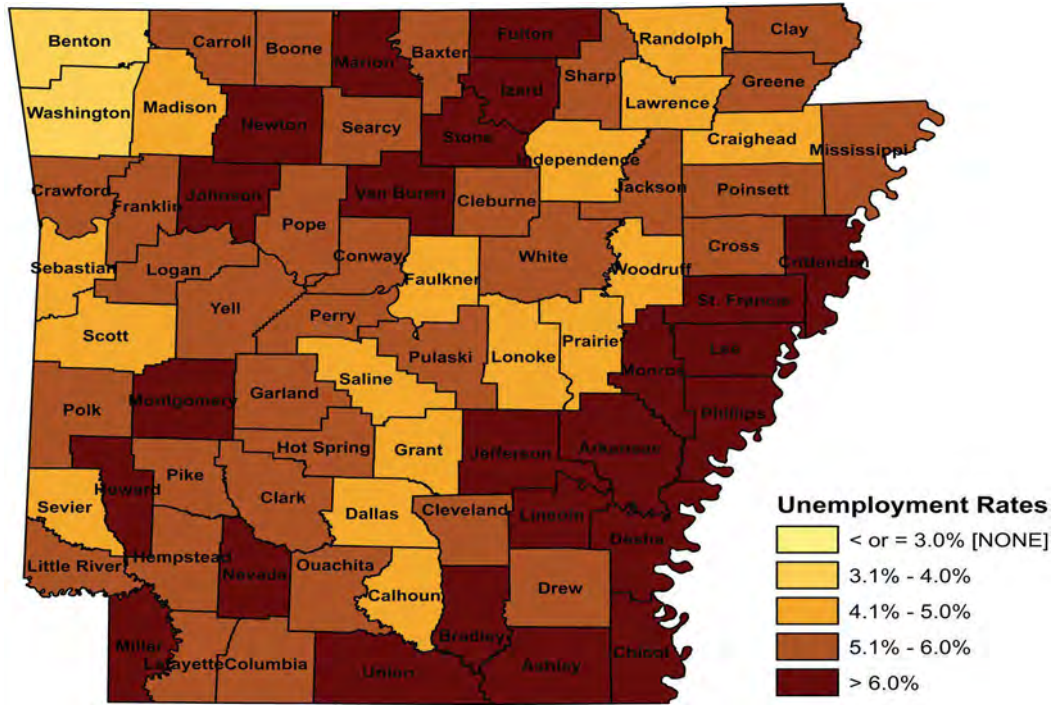
County Labor Force Summary

Between December 2025 and January 2026, unemployment rates increased in all 75 Arkansas counties. Rates ranged from a low of 3.9% in Benton County to a high of 8.6% in Phillips County.

In January, no county in Arkansas had a jobless rate at or below three percent. Thirteen counties posted a rate at or above seven percent, compared to one county above seven percent in December.

Compared to January 2025, unemployment rates are up in 72 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Ashley and Desha counties both remained stable over the year, while the jobless rate in Bradley County declined slightly. Annual rate increases ranged from as little as two-tenths of a percentage point (in Cross, Union, and Woodruff counties) to as much as a two percentage point jump in Howard County.

County Unemployment Rates



Ranked by Unemployment Rates

January 2026 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Benton	3.9	25	Franklin	5.3	51	Cleburne	6.0
2	Washington	4.0	27	Clark	5.4	52	Miller	6.1
3	Madison	4.1	27	Clay	5.4	52	Union	6.1
4	Grant	4.2	27	Poinsett	5.4	54	Arkansas	6.2
4	Saline	4.2	30	Cleveland	5.5	55	Howard	6.3
6	Independence	4.3	30	Hempstead	5.5	55	Van Buren	6.3
6	Sevier	4.3	30	Hot Spring	5.5	57	Fulton	6.5
8	Faulkner	4.5	30	Logan	5.5	58	Crittenden	6.6
8	Lonoke	4.5	30	Polk	5.5	58	Montgomery	6.6
10	Craighead	4.7	30	Searcy	5.5	60	Johnson	6.7
10	Randolph	4.7	36	Baxter	5.6	61	Bradley	6.9
10	Woodruff	4.7	36	Carroll	5.6	61	Lincoln	6.9
13	Calhoun	4.9	36	Columbia	5.6	63	Ashley	7.0
13	Scott	4.9	36	Perry	5.6	63	Nevada	7.0
13	Sebastian	4.9	40	Greene	5.7	65	Monroe	7.1
16	Dallas	5.0	40	Little River	5.7	66	Izard	7.2
16	Lawrence	5.0	40	Pike	5.7	66	St. Francis	7.2
16	Prairie	5.0	40	Sharp	5.7	68	Stone	7.4
19	Pulaski	5.1	44	Boone	5.8	69	Jefferson	7.5
19	White	5.1	44	Drew	5.8	70	Newton	7.7
19	Yell	5.1	44	Jackson	5.8	71	Chicot	7.8
22	Crawford	5.2	44	Lafayette	5.8	71	Marion	7.8
22	Cross	5.2	44	Mississippi	5.8	73	Desha	8.1
22	Garland	5.2	44	Ouachita	5.8	74	Lee	8.3
25	Conway	5.3	50	Pope	5.9	75	Phillips	8.6

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Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	January 2026				December 2025				January 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	275,205	262,342	12,863	4.7	279,187	268,417	10,770	3.9	271,268	261,034	10,234	3.8
City of Little Rock	106,260	100,977	5,283	5.0	107,844	103,368	4,476	4.2	104,755	100,527	4,228	4.0
Eastern	42,661	39,775	2,886	6.8	43,055	40,570	2,485	5.8	42,526	40,012	2,514	5.9
North Central	97,372	92,096	5,276	5.4	98,360	93,969	4,391	4.5	95,709	91,269	4,440	4.6
Northeast	128,528	121,943	6,585	5.1	129,945	124,356	5,589	4.3	126,911	121,476	5,435	4.3
Northwest	372,979	356,990	15,989	4.3	377,827	365,021	12,806	3.4	362,897	350,101	12,796	3.5
Southeast	72,576	67,762	4,814	6.6	73,257	69,103	4,154	5.7	72,196	68,070	4,126	5.7
Southwest	86,007	81,079	4,928	5.7	86,580	82,363	4,217	4.9	85,349	81,280	4,069	4.8
West Central	135,185	127,668	7,517	5.6	136,881	130,537	6,344	4.6	133,359	127,211	6,148	4.6
Western	112,487	106,771	5,716	5.1	114,293	109,271	5,022	4.4	111,735	107,077	4,658	4.2

