



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report

## March

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# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | March

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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



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## March Spotlight

### A Comparative Look at Labor Force Participation Rates

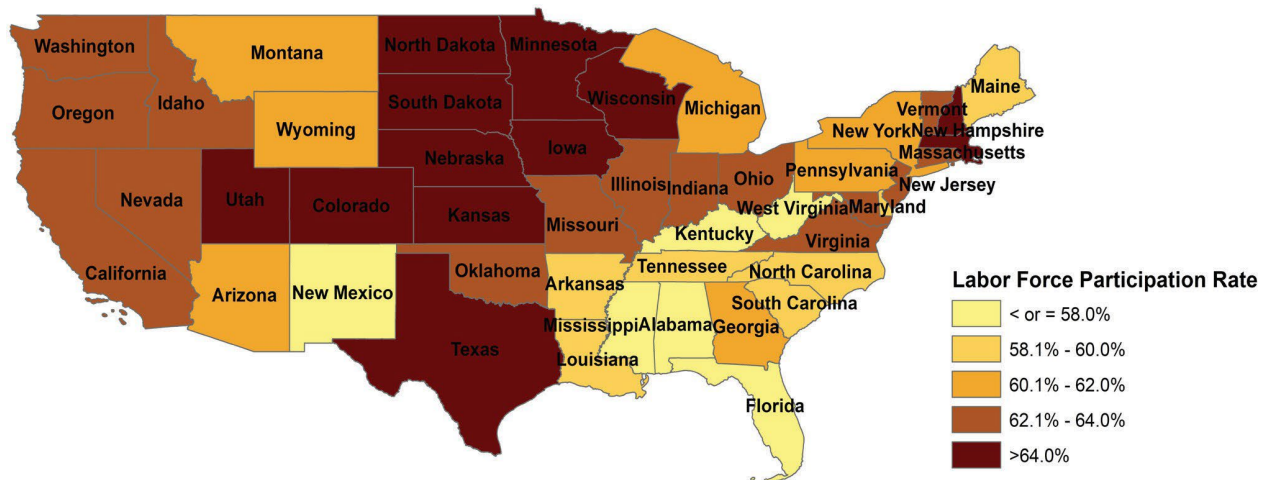
The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is the number of people in the Civilian Labor Force (Employed + Unemployed) as a percentage of the civilian non-institutionalized population. It represents the percentage of the population that is either working or actively looking for work. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) calculates LFPRs monthly at the US and Statewide levels. No substate LFPRs are officially calculated by BLS.

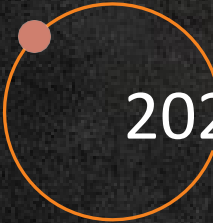
In March, LFPRs ranged from a low of 54.3% in West Virginia to a high of 70.8% in the District of Columbia. Arkansas' rate ranked 41st, with a LFPR of 59.2%. Compared to March 2025, LFPRs are down in 41 states and the District of Columbia. Nine states posted rate increases, with Arkansas increasing seven-tenths of a percentage point over the year (from 58.5% in March 2025 to 59.2% in March 2026).

Labor Force Participation Rates by State (Seasonally Adjusted)  
March 2025 vs March 2026

State	Mar '26	Mar '25	State	Mar '26	Mar '25	State	Mar '26	Mar '25
Alabama	57.5	57.7	Kentucky	57.7	58.3	North Dakota	70.1	69.6
Alaska	66.2	65.5	Louisiana	58.7	58.0	Ohio	62.1	62.8
Arizona	61.4	62.1	Maine	59.5	60.0	Oklahoma	62.4	63.1
Arkansas	<b>59.2</b>	<b>58.5</b>	Maryland	63.9	64.7	Oregon	62.6	62.8
California	62.3	62.3	Massachusetts	65.8	66.7	Pennsylvania	62.0	61.5
Colorado	66.3	67.5	Michigan	60.3	61.7	Rhode Island	63.2	64.3
Connecticut	63.5	64.4	Minnesota	67.6	68.3	South Carolina	58.9	58.3
Delaware	59.1	59.9	Mississippi	55.5	55.9	South Dakota	67.6	68.2
District Of Columbia	70.8	72.7	Missouri	63.5	63.6	Tennessee	60.0	60.5
Florida	57.7	58.0	Montana	62.0	62.4	Texas	64.4	64.9
Georgia	60.8	60.9	Nebraska	70.0	69.9	Utah	67.1	68.2
Hawaii	60.6	60.7	Nevada	63.7	62.8	Vermont	62.9	64.5
Idaho	62.4	63.6	New Hampshire	65.3	65.5	Virginia	63.6	64.6
Illinois	64.0	64.6	New Jersey	63.5	63.6	Washington	62.5	62.9
Indiana	63.3	64.0	New Mexico	57.4	57.8	West Virginia	54.3	54.5
Iowa	67.7	67.8	New York	61.8	60.9	Wisconsin	64.4	64.7
Kansas	67.6	67.7	North Carolina	59.0	59.6	Wyoming	61.1	61.9

U.S. Unemployment Rate = 61.9%





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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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.4% in February to 4.3% in March. The United States' jobless rate also decreased to 4.3% in March, down from 4.4% in February.

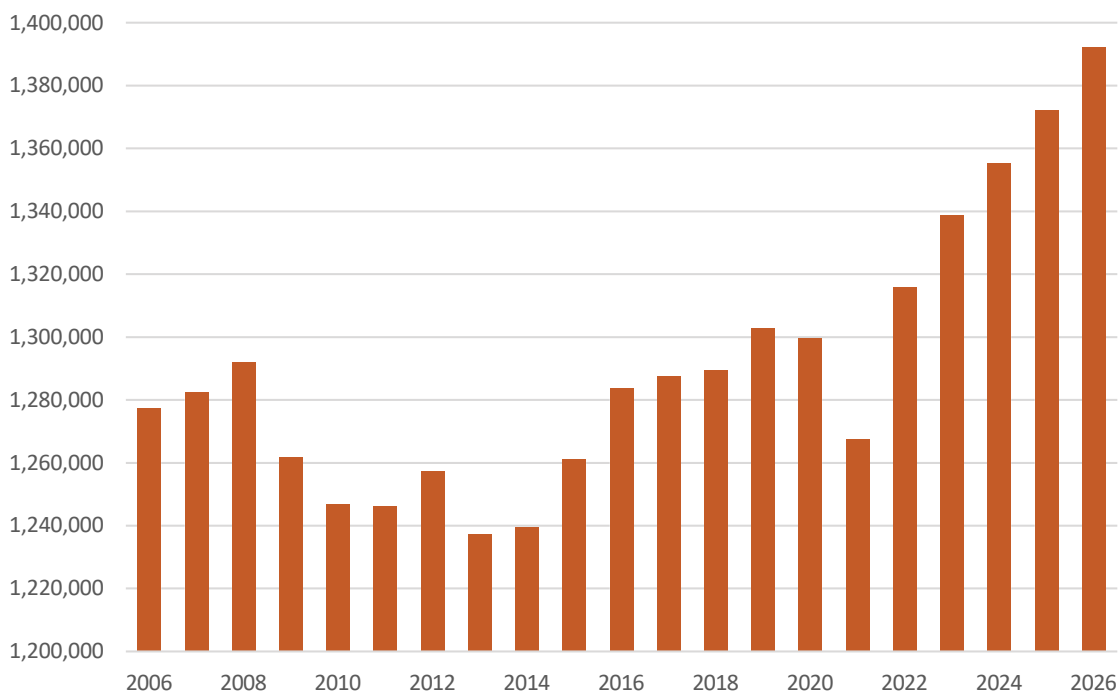
The civilian labor force in Arkansas rose by 801 in March, a result of 1,118 more employed and 317 fewer unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work. Both the civilian labor force and employment reached record high levels. The unemployment rate declined between February and March, while the labor force participation rate was stable.

Compared to March 2025, there are 19,997 more employed in the state. With 7,619 more unemployed actively seeking work, the unemployment rate is up four-tenths of a percentage point over the year. At 59.2%, Arkansas' labor force participation rate is up seven-tenths of a percentage point.

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Mar 26	Feb 26	Mar 25	Mar 26	Feb 26	Mar 25
Civilian Labor Force	1,455,362	1,454,561	1,427,746	Civilian Labor Force	1,454,070	1,453,876
Employment	1,392,317	1,391,199	1,372,320	Employment	1,393,715	1,389,349
Unemployment	63,045	63,362	55,426	Unemployment	60,355	64,527
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.4%	3.9%	Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.4%
LF Participation Rate	59.2%	59.2%	58.5%	LF Participation Rate	59.1%	59.1%

Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)  
March: 2006 - 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | March

## State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

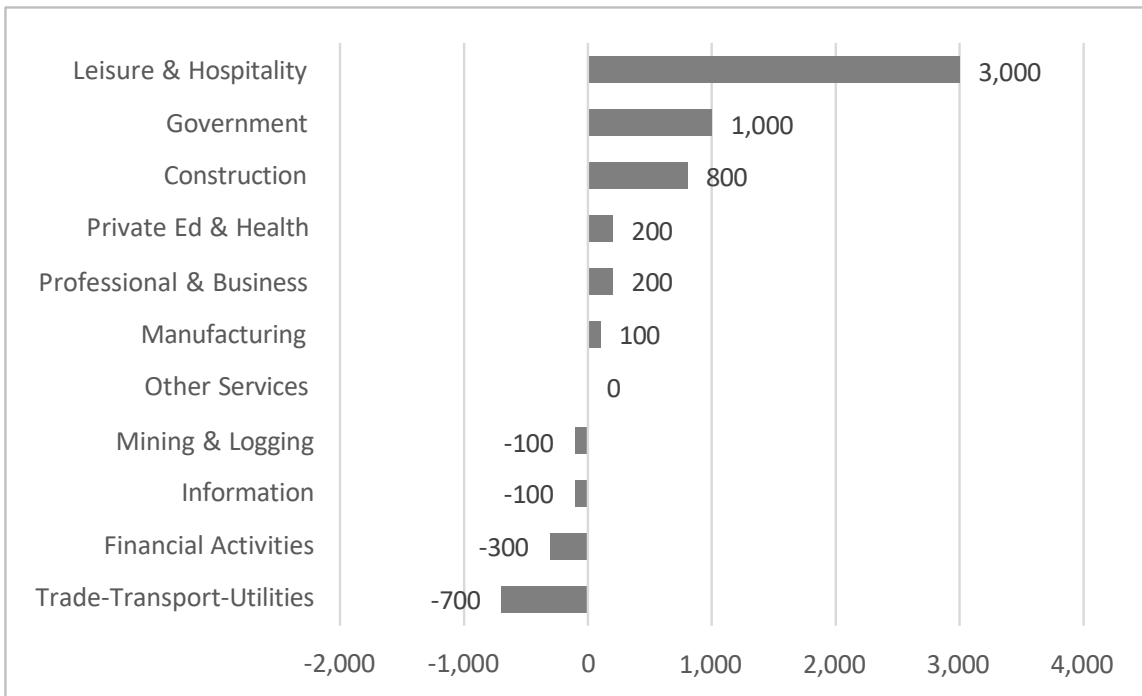
Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

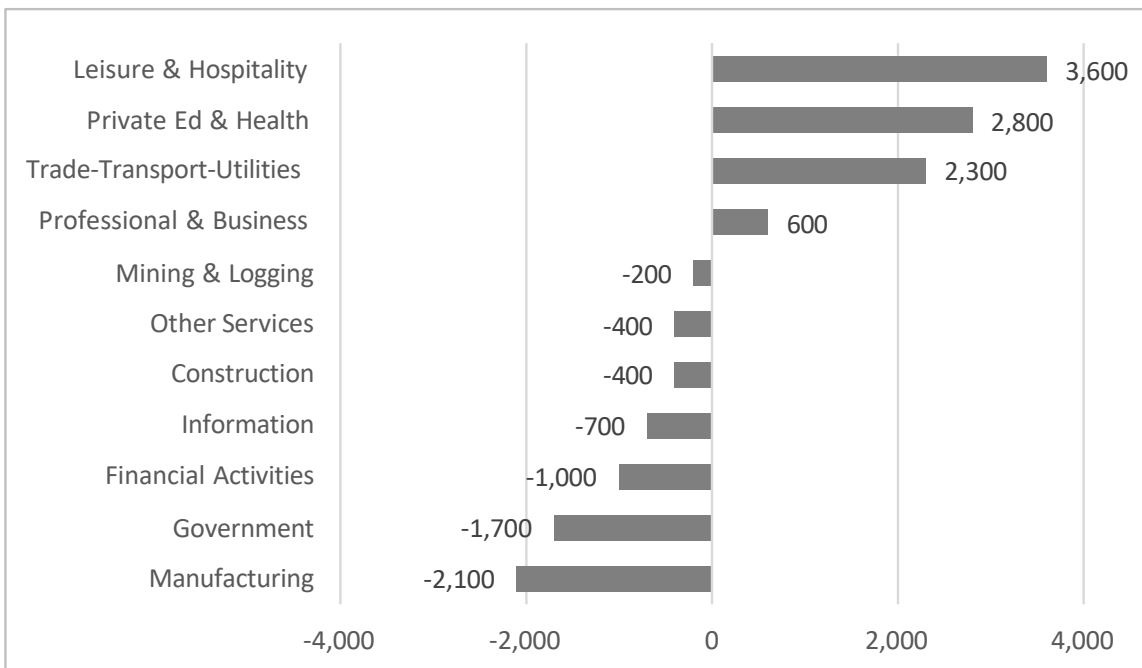
(NAICS)	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1341.2	1337.1	1338.4	4.1	2.8
Goods Producing	229.0	228.2	231.7	0.8	-2.7
Mining, Logging, & Construction	70.5	69.8	71.1	0.7	-0.6
Mining & Logging	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Construction	<b>65.8</b>	<b>65.0</b>	<b>66.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	41.1	40.6	41.9	0.5	-0.8
Manufacturing	<b>158.5</b>	<b>158.4</b>	<b>160.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-2.1</b>
Durable Goods	74.4	74.2	75.6	0.2	-1.2
Nondurable Goods	84.1	84.2	85.0	-0.1	-0.9
Service Providing	1112.2	1108.9	1106.7	3.3	5.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>271.4</b>	<b>272.1</b>	<b>269.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Wholesale Trade	53.7	54.1	53.7	-0.4	0.0
Retail Trade	143.5	143.2	142.3	0.3	1.2
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	74.2	74.8	73.1	-0.6	1.1
Information	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Financial Activities	<b>58.5</b>	<b>58.8</b>	<b>59.5</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Finance & Insurance	43.4	43.6	44.4	-0.2	-1.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15.1	15.2	15.1	-0.1	0.0
Professional & Business Services	<b>165.2</b>	<b>165.0</b>	<b>164.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Professional, Scientific & Technical	53.4	53.9	52.8	-0.5	0.6
Management of Companies	43.0	43.1	41.9	-0.1	1.1
Administrative & Support Services	68.8	68.0	69.9	0.8	-1.1
Private Education & Health Services	<b>213.0</b>	<b>212.8</b>	<b>210.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Private Educational Services	21.1	21.2	20.6	-0.1	0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	191.9	191.6	189.6	0.3	2.3
Ambulatory Health Care	70.1	69.8	68.6	0.3	1.5
Social Assistance	40.8	41.0	40.6	-0.2	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>132.8</b>	<b>129.8</b>	<b>129.2</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	14.3	13.6	13.6	0.7	0.7
Accommodation & Food Services	118.5	116.2	115.6	2.3	2.9
Accommodation Services	10.7	10.4	10.6	0.3	0.1
Food Services	107.8	105.8	105.0	2.0	2.8
Other Services	<b>52.2</b>	<b>52.2</b>	<b>52.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Government	<b>207.5</b>	<b>206.5</b>	<b>209.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
Federal Government	20.3	20.4	21.8	-0.1	-1.5
State Government	71.5	70.7	72.1	0.8	-0.6
State Gov, Educational Services	27.3	26.6	27.3	0.7	0.0
State Gov, Excluding Education	44.2	44.1	44.8	0.1	-0.6
Local Government	115.7	115.4	115.3	0.3	0.4
Local Gov, Educational Services	70.3	70.3	70.4	0.0	-0.1
Local Gov, Excluding Education	45.4	45.1	44.9	0.3	0.5

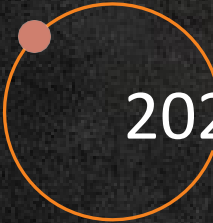
## State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

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



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





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## State of Arkansas

### Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

#### Manufacturing

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>
Average Weekly Hours	38.9	38.7	37.3
Average Hourly Earnings	\$24.20	\$24.00	\$24.03
Average Weekly Earnings	\$941.38	\$928.80	\$896.32

#### Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

	Durable Goods Manufacturing			Nondurable Goods Manufacturing		
	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>
Average Weekly Hours	43.3	42.6	43.7	34.9	35.3	31.7
Average Hourly Earnings	\$25.91	\$25.54	\$25.81	\$22.32	\$22.36	\$21.90
Average Weekly Earnings	\$1,121.90	\$1,088.00	\$1,127.90	\$778.97	\$789.31	\$694.23

Average Weekly Earnings- Durable Goods Manufacturing  
March 2023 - March 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)

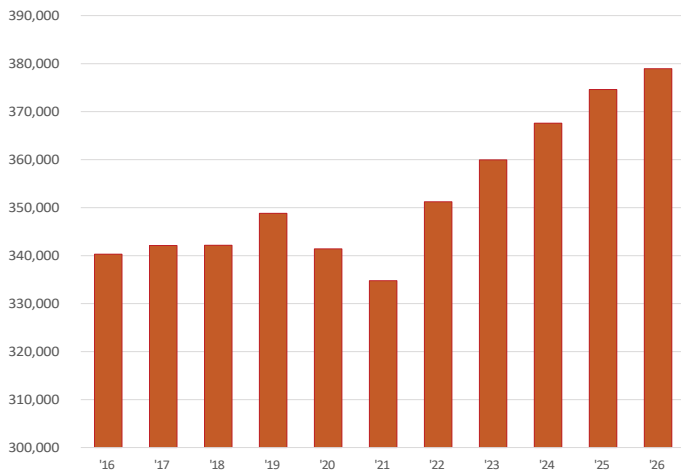
	Mar 26	Feb 26	Mar 25	OTM	QTY
Civilian Labor Force	394,911	395,134	388,588	-223	6,323
Employment	378,955	378,485	374,619	470	4,336
Unemployment	15,956	16,649	13,969	-693	1,987
Unemployment Rate	4.0%	4.2%	3.6%	-0.2%	0.4%

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

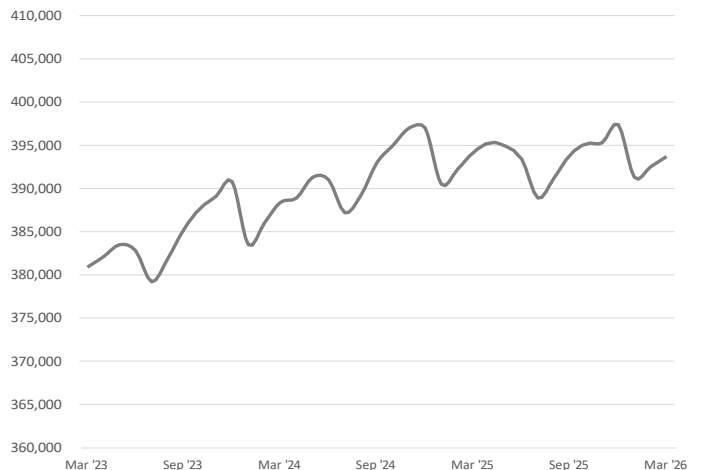
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Mar 26	Feb 26	Mar 25	OTM	QTY
Total Nonfarm	393.7	392.5	394.2	1.2	-0.5
Goods Producing	42.0	41.8	42.5	0.2	-0.5
Mining, Logging & Construction	21.3	21.1	21.4	0.2	-0.1
Manufacturing	20.7	20.7	21.1	0.0	-0.4
Service Providing	351.7	350.7	351.7	1.0	0.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	81.2	81.1	80.3	0.1	0.9
Wholesale Trade	18.1	18.2	18.1	-0.1	0.0
Retail Trade	39.6	39.2	39.3	0.4	0.3
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	23.5	23.7	22.9	-0.2	0.6
Information	4.6	4.7	5.0	-0.1	-0.4
Financial Activities	24.7	25.0	25.4	-0.3	-0.7
Professional & Business Services	50.6	50.7	51.2	-0.1	-0.6
Private Education & Health Services	68.2	67.8	65.8	0.4	2.4
Leisure & Hospitality	35.3	34.3	35.5	1.0	-0.2
Other Services	18.4	18.5	18.8	-0.1	-0.4
Government	68.7	68.6	69.7	0.1	-1.0
Federal Government	9.9	10.0	10.7	-0.1	-0.8
State Government	32.3	32.1	32.7	0.2	-0.4
Local Government	26.5	26.5	26.3	0.0	0.2

Employment  
March: 2016 - 2026



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs  
March 2023 - March 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | March

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

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

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

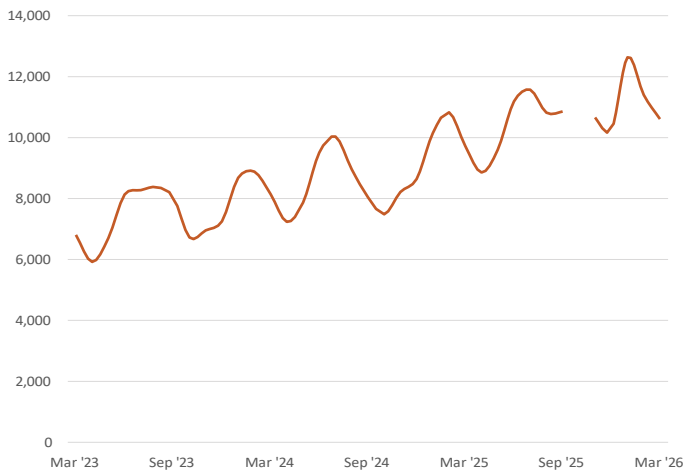
	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	323,294	322,651	312,276	643	11,018
Employment	312,686	311,250	302,554	1,436	10,132
Unemployment	10,608	11,401	9,722	-793	886
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.5%	3.1%	-0.2%	0.2%

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

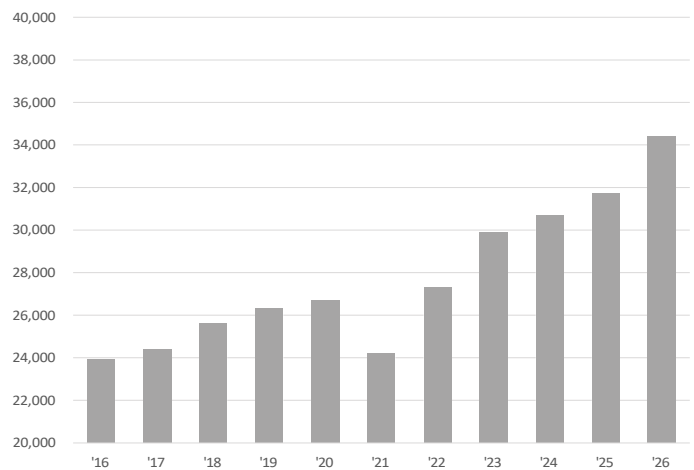
(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	306.2	304.4	299.5	1.8	6.7
Goods Producing	46.0	45.8	46.0	0.2	0.0
Mining, Logging & Construction	<b>18.8</b>	<b>18.6</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Manufacturing	<b>27.2</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>27.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Service Providing	260.2	258.6	253.5	1.6	6.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>61.8</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Wholesale Trade	14.0	14.0	14.1	0.0	-0.1
Retail Trade	29.8	29.5	28.5	0.3	1.3
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	18.0	18.0	18.3	0.0	-0.3
Information	<b>2.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Financial Activities	<b>10.6</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Professional & Business Services	<b>66.2</b>	<b>66.0</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Private Education & Health Services	<b>37.5</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>37.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>34.4</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>31.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Other Services	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Government	<b>35.8</b>	<b>35.4</b>	<b>35.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Federal Government	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
State Government	12.4	12.1	11.8	0.3	0.6
Local Government	20.4	20.3	20.1	0.1	0.3

Unemployment  
March 2023 - March 2026



Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality  
March: 2016 - 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | March

## 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)

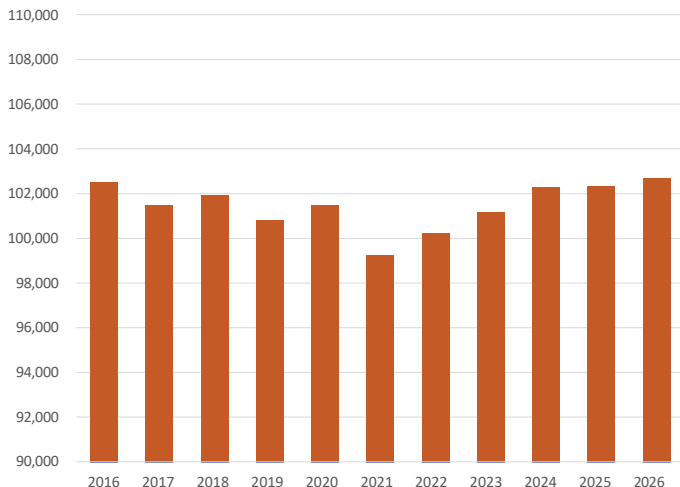
	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	102,669	103,072	102,338	-403	331
Employment	98,378	98,436	98,526	-58	-148
Unemployment	4,291	4,636	3,812	-345	479
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.5%	3.7%	-0.3%	0.5%

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

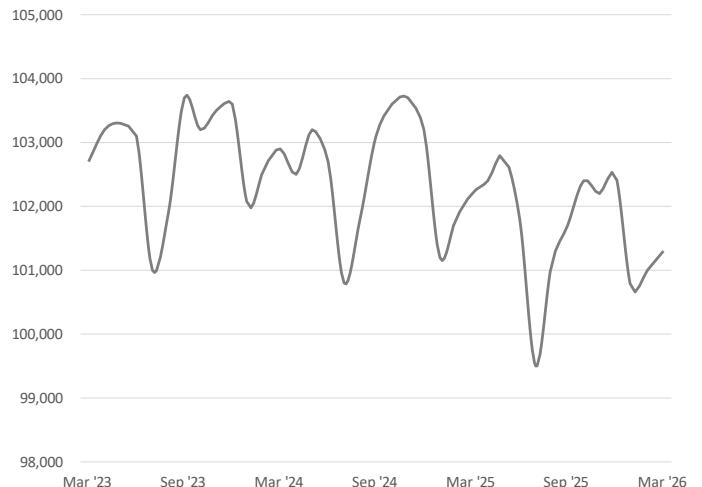
(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	101.1	101.0	102.2	0.1	-1.1
Goods Producing	22.4	22.5	22.8	-0.1	-0.4
Mining, Logging & Construction	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Manufacturing	<b>17.6</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Service Providing	78.7	78.5	79.4	0.2	-0.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	<b>20.4</b>	<b>20.5</b>	<b>20.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Wholesale Trade	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	11.5	11.5	11.4	0.0	0.1
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	4.5	4.6	4.8	-0.1	-0.3
Information	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Financial Activities	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Professional & Business Services	<b>10.3</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Private Education & Health Services	<b>17.1</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>9.3</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Other Services	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Government	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Federal Government	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
State Government	2.2	2.2	2.3	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	9.7	9.7	9.8	0.0	-0.1

Civilian Labor Force  
March: 2016 - 2026



Nonfarm Payroll Jobs  
March 2023 - March 2026



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## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

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

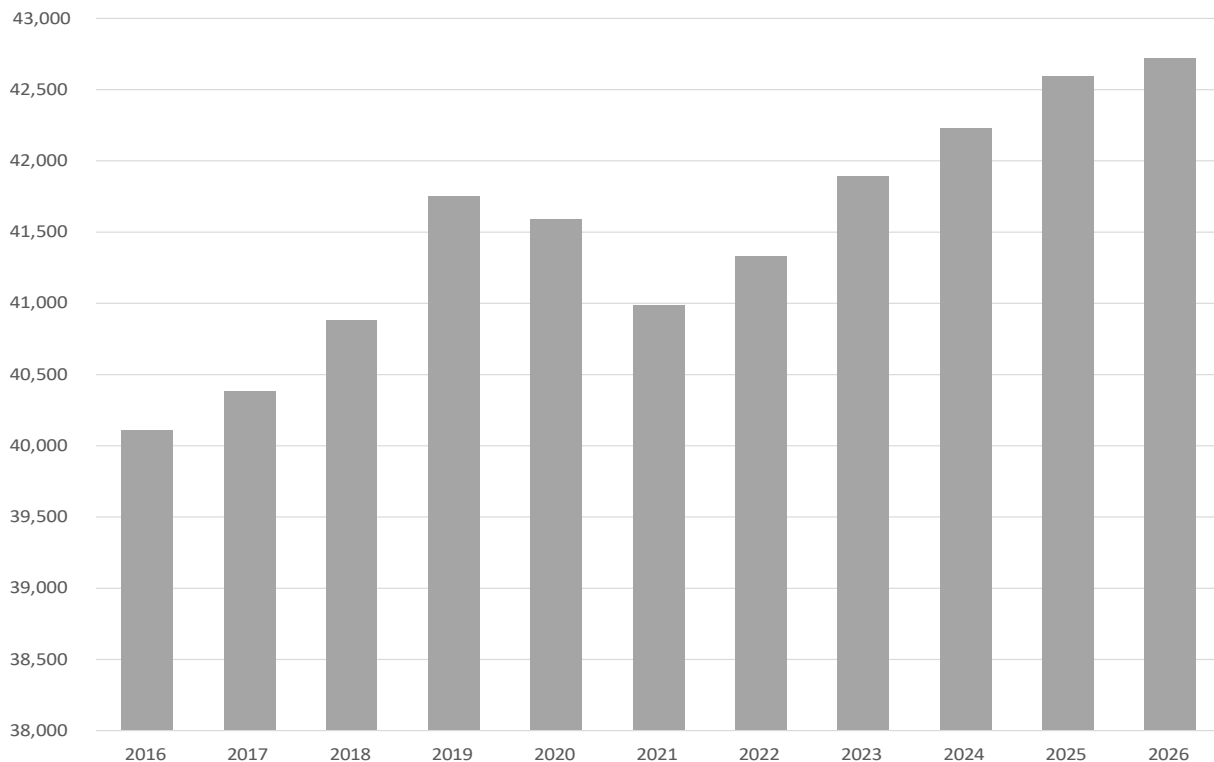
	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	44,686	44,738	44,335	-52	351
Employment	42,721	42,664	42,595	57	126
Unemployment	1,965	2,074	1,740	-109	225
Unemployment Rate	4.4%	4.6%	3.9%	-0.2%	0.5%

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

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	40.6	40.5	41.0	0.1	-0.4
Goods Producing	4.5	4.4	4.5	0.1	0.0
Service Providing	36.1	36.1	36.5	0.0	-0.4
Government	4.4	4.4	4.5	0.0	-0.1

Employment  
March: 2016 - 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | March

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

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

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	68,015	68,283	66,829	-268	1,186
Employment	65,385	65,407	64,289	-22	1,096
Unemployment	2,630	2,876	2,540	-246	90
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.2%	3.8%	-0.3%	0.1%

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

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	64.6	64.5	64.3	0.1	0.3
Goods Producing	11.2	11.1	11.2	0.1	0.0
Service Providing	53.4	53.4	53.1	0.0	0.3
Government	9.1	9.1	9.2	0.0	-0.1

Jobs in Service Providing Industries  
March 2023 - March 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | March

## 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.

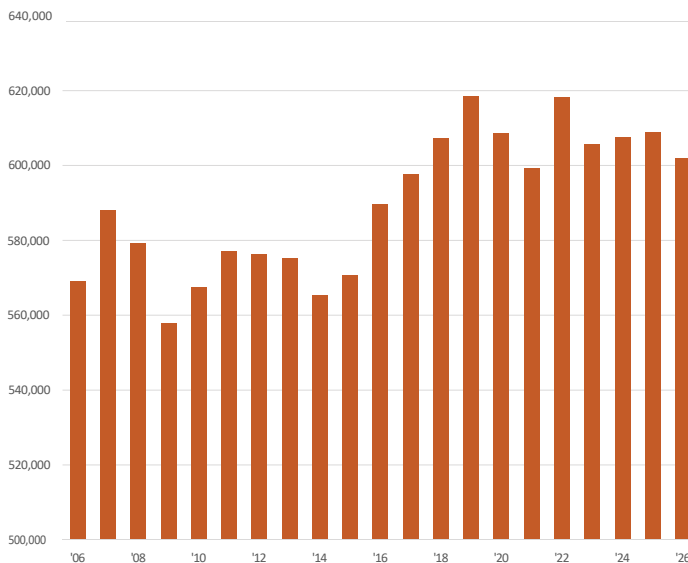
	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	628,420	629,183	636,143	-763	-7,723
Employment	601,776	599,496	608,797	2,280	-7,021
Unemployment	26,644	29,687	27,346	-3,043	-702
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.7%	4.3%	-0.5%	-0.1%

#### Texarkana MSA

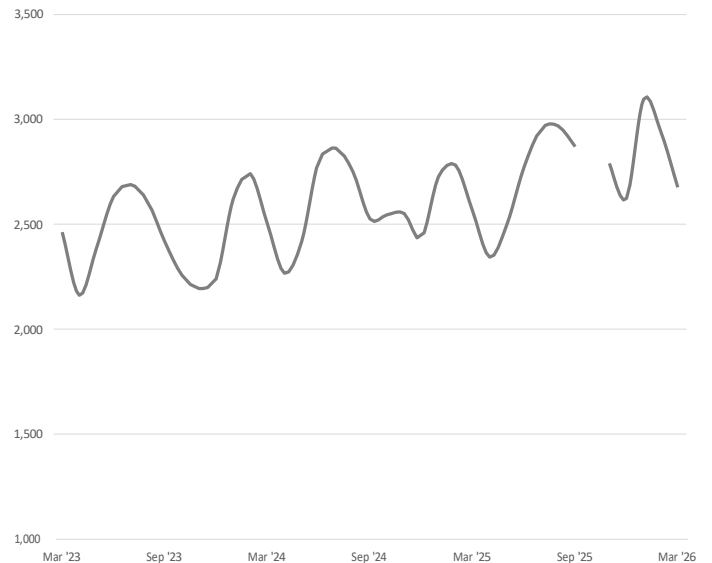
The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Mar 25</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	62,024	62,352	61,786	-328	238
Employment	59,348	59,409	59,223	-61	125
Unemployment	2,676	2,943	2,563	-267	113
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.7%	4.1%	-0.4%	0.2%

Memphis MSA - Employment  
March: 2006 - 2016



Texarkana MSA - Unemployment  
March 2023 - March 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | March

## Micropolitan Statistical Areas

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	March 2026				February 2026				March 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	9,964	9,547	417	4.2	10,003	9,515	488	4.9	9,879	9,464	415	4.2
Batesville Micro	18,956	18,301	655	3.5	18,920	18,205	715	3.8	18,185	17,562	623	3.4
Blytheville Micro	20,725	19,746	979	4.7	20,711	19,631	1,080	5.2	20,969	20,119	850	4.1
Camden Micro	11,413	10,876	537	4.7	11,373	10,816	557	4.9	11,233	10,714	519	4.6
El Dorado Micro	15,875	15,065	810	5.1	15,875	15,020	855	5.4	15,768	14,943	825	5.2
Forrest City Micro	7,818	7,378	440	5.6	7,847	7,364	483	6.2	7,711	7,296	415	5.4
Harrison Micro	19,472	18,682	790	4.1	19,466	18,610	856	4.4	19,503	18,755	748	3.8
Magnolia Micro	9,142	8,715	427	4.7	9,154	8,681	473	5.2	9,064	8,692	372	4.1
Malvern Micro	13,376	12,765	611	4.6	13,375	12,722	653	4.9	13,320	12,788	532	4.0
Mountain Home Micro	17,501	16,704	797	4.6	17,378	16,547	831	4.8	16,843	16,154	689	4.1
Paragould Micro	20,156	19,221	935	4.6	20,196	19,197	999	4.9	20,541	19,702	839	4.1
Pine Bluff Micro	27,741	26,027	1,714	6.2	27,850	26,018	1,832	6.6	27,613	26,141	1,472	5.3
Russellville Micro	38,063	36,374	1,689	4.4	37,973	36,103	1,870	4.9	37,701	36,159	1,542	4.1
Searcy Micro	36,055	34,593	1,462	4.1	36,031	34,423	1,608	4.5	35,667	34,285	1,382	3.9

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	March 2026				February 2026				March 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	15,510	14,787	723	4.7	15,376	14,722	654	4.3	14,868	14,306	562	3.8
Benton	21,008	20,304	704	3.4	20,993	20,281	712	3.4	20,730	20,074	656	3.2
Bentonville	35,900	34,841	1,059	2.9	35,861	34,687	1,174	3.3	34,707	33,708	999	2.9
Blytheville	6,997	6,625	372	5.3	6,997	6,586	411	5.9	7,081	6,750	331	4.7
Cabot	14,133	13,596	537	3.8	14,124	13,583	541	3.8	13,881	13,453	428	3.1
Centerton	15,292	14,907	385	2.5	15,212	14,841	371	2.4	14,848	14,422	426	2.9
Conway	38,573	37,134	1,439	3.7	38,650	37,086	1,564	4.0	37,956	36,703	1,253	3.3
El Dorado	6,956	6,616	340	4.9	6,944	6,597	347	5.0	6,954	6,563	391	5.6
Fayetteville	58,087	56,210	1,877	3.2	58,149	55,949	2,200	3.8	56,264	54,386	1,878	3.3
Fort Smith	42,231	40,517	1,714	4.1	42,362	40,523	1,839	4.3	41,878	40,355	1,523	3.6
Hot Springs	17,439	16,645	794	4.6	17,439	16,622	817	4.7	17,311	16,595	716	4.1
Jacksonville	13,128	12,516	612	4.7	13,189	12,500	689	5.2	12,984	12,369	615	4.7
Jonesboro	40,631	39,029	1,602	3.9	40,810	39,041	1,769	4.3	39,931	38,363	1,568	3.9
Little Rock	108,169	103,347	4,822	4.5	108,061	103,211	4,850	4.5	106,157	102,137	4,020	3.8
North Little Rock	34,204	32,666	1,538	4.5	34,313	32,623	1,690	4.9	33,645	32,283	1,362	4.0
Paragould	13,170	12,526	644	4.9	13,165	12,511	654	5.0	13,372	12,840	532	4.0
Pine Bluff	15,016	14,004	1,012	6.7	15,058	14,001	1,057	7.0	14,937	14,067	870	5.8
Rogers	42,112	40,774	1,338	3.2	42,021	40,595	1,426	3.4	40,631	39,449	1,182	2.9
Russellville	13,768	13,177	591	4.3	13,726	13,067	659	4.8	13,584	13,031	553	4.1
Searcy	10,430	10,001	429	4.1	10,407	9,951	456	4.4	10,322	9,912	410	4.0
Sherwood	17,460	16,779	681	3.9	17,483	16,757	726	4.2	17,173	16,582	591	3.4
Springdale	45,687	44,253	1,434	3.1	45,636	44,049	1,587	3.5	44,065	42,816	1,249	2.8
Texarkana, AR	12,312	11,733	579	4.7	12,348	11,728	620	5.0	12,104	11,565	539	4.5
Van Buren	10,696	10,252	444	4.2	10,716	10,254	462	4.3	10,615	10,210	405	3.8
West Memphis	9,515	8,890	625	6.6	9,526	8,861	665	7.0	9,382	8,786	596	6.4

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | March

## County Labor Force Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	March 2026				February 2026				March 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	7,220	6,842	378	5.2	7,228	6,818	410	5.7	7,491	7,139	352	4.7
Ashley	7,112	6,698	414	5.8	7,189	6,737	452	6.3	6,816	6,390	426	6.3
Baxter	17,501	16,704	797	4.6	17,378	16,547	831	4.8	16,843	16,154	689	4.1
Benton	173,102	167,433	5,669	3.3	172,687	166,697	5,990	3.5	167,132	161,989	5,143	3.1
Boone	16,718	16,064	654	3.9	16,748	16,050	698	4.2	16,807	16,185	622	3.7
Bradley	3,744	3,535	209	5.6	3,780	3,555	225	6.0	3,850	3,599	251	6.5
Calhoun	2,202	2,112	90	4.1	2,202	2,108	94	4.3	2,105	2,020	85	4.0
Carroll	12,131	11,623	508	4.2	11,891	11,334	557	4.7	11,803	11,334	469	4.0
Chicot	3,288	3,053	235	7.1	3,311	3,057	254	7.7	3,260	3,060	200	6.1
Clark	9,964	9,547	417	4.2	10,003	9,515	488	4.9	9,879	9,464	415	4.2
Clay	5,959	5,699	260	4.4	5,945	5,667	278	4.7	6,026	5,785	241	4.0
Cleburne	10,344	9,840	504	4.9	10,293	9,748	545	5.3	10,157	9,711	446	4.4
Cleveland	3,033	2,888	145	4.8	3,032	2,885	147	4.8	3,026	2,898	128	4.2
Columbia	9,142	8,715	427	4.7	9,154	8,681	473	5.2	9,064	8,692	372	4.1
Conway	9,362	8,941	421	4.5	9,394	8,933	461	4.9	9,215	8,851	364	4.0
Craighead	57,895	55,704	2,191	3.8	58,123	55,722	2,401	4.1	56,896	54,754	2,142	3.8
Crawford	26,229	25,100	1,129	4.3	26,316	25,104	1,212	4.6	26,021	24,996	1,025	3.9
Crittenden	20,835	19,692	1,143	5.5	20,888	19,628	1,260	6.0	20,537	19,463	1,074	5.2
Cross	7,554	7,230	324	4.3	7,542	7,196	346	4.6	7,430	7,118	312	4.2
Dallas	2,828	2,697	131	4.6	2,842	2,710	132	4.6	2,796	2,687	109	3.9
Desha	3,923	3,631	292	7.4	3,916	3,611	305	7.8	4,037	3,755	282	7.0
Drew	7,965	7,582	383	4.8	8,022	7,607	415	5.2	7,885	7,516	369	4.7
Faulkner	68,658	66,087	2,571	3.7	68,774	66,003	2,771	4.0	67,604	65,320	2,284	3.4
Franklin	7,420	7,100	320	4.3	7,414	7,073	341	4.6	7,367	7,072	295	4.0
Fulton	4,138	3,921	217	5.2	4,112	3,884	228	5.5	3,996	3,805	191	4.8
Garland	44,686	42,721	1,965	4.4	44,738	42,664	2,074	4.6	44,335	42,595	1,740	3.9
Grant	9,089	8,765	324	3.6	9,079	8,755	324	3.6	8,975	8,678	297	3.3
Greene	20,156	19,221	935	4.6	20,196	19,197	999	4.9	20,541	19,702	839	4.1
Hempstead	8,714	8,326	388	4.5	8,739	8,311	428	4.9	8,666	8,332	334	3.9
Hot Spring	13,376	12,765	611	4.6	13,375	12,722	653	4.9	13,320	12,788	532	4.0
Howard	4,760	4,514	246	5.2	4,781	4,517	264	5.5	4,892	4,687	205	4.2
Independence	18,956	18,301	655	3.5	18,920	18,205	715	3.8	18,185	17,562	623	3.4
Izard	4,355	4,100	255	5.9	4,338	4,069	269	6.2	4,085	3,855	230	5.6
Jackson	5,726	5,488	238	4.2	5,715	5,451	264	4.6	5,676	5,416	260	4.6
Jefferson	24,708	23,139	1,569	6.4	24,818	23,133	1,685	6.8	24,587	23,243	1,344	5.5
Johnson	10,217	9,686	531	5.2	10,262	9,667	595	5.8	10,060	9,569	491	4.9
Lafayette	2,330	2,215	115	4.9	2,345	2,220	125	5.3	2,351	2,217	134	5.7
Lawrence	7,150	6,869	281	3.9	7,121	6,813	308	4.3	6,927	6,665	262	3.8
Lee	2,359	2,213	146	6.2	2,373	2,208	165	7.0	2,363	2,224	139	5.9
Lincoln	3,207	3,030	177	5.5	3,211	3,017	194	6.0	3,291	3,106	185	5.6
Little River	5,190	4,952	238	4.6	5,216	4,954	262	5.0	5,084	4,887	197	3.9
Logan	9,069	8,683	386	4.3	9,077	8,657	420	4.6	8,985	8,594	391	4.4
Lonoke	38,031	36,602	1,429	3.8	38,067	36,569	1,498	3.9	37,449	36,217	1,232	3.3
Madison	8,525	8,238	287	3.4	8,474	8,174	300	3.5	8,277	7,996	281	3.4
Marion	5,442	5,112	330	6.1	5,400	5,050	350	6.5	5,257	4,953	304	5.8
Miller	17,228	16,380	848	4.9	17,292	16,373	919	5.3	16,915	16,145	770	4.6

(continued on Page 16)

## County Labor Force Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	March 2026				February 2026				March 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	20,725	19,746	979	4.7	20,711	19,631	1,080	5.2	20,969	20,119	850	4.1
Monroe	2,628	2,470	158	6.0	2,640	2,465	175	6.6	2,647	2,510	137	5.2
Montgomery	3,140	2,971	169	5.4	3,102	2,927	175	5.6	3,081	2,944	137	4.4
Nevada	2,677	2,516	161	6.0	2,691	2,521	170	6.3	2,608	2,477	131	5.0
Newton	2,754	2,618	136	4.9	2,718	2,560	158	5.8	2,696	2,570	126	4.7
Ouachita	9,211	8,764	447	4.9	9,171	8,708	463	5.0	9,128	8,694	434	4.8
Perry	4,443	4,241	202	4.5	4,445	4,234	211	4.7	4,392	4,200	192	4.4
Phillips	4,737	4,389	348	7.3	4,741	4,361	380	8.0	4,859	4,539	320	6.6
Pike	4,219	4,032	187	4.4	4,186	3,982	204	4.9	4,252	4,085	167	3.9
Poinsett	10,120	9,681	439	4.3	10,160	9,685	475	4.7	9,933	9,535	398	4.0
Polk	7,435	7,082	353	4.7	7,402	7,040	362	4.9	7,416	7,115	301	4.1
Pope	28,616	27,305	1,311	4.6	28,546	27,077	1,469	5.1	28,216	27,001	1,215	4.3
Prairie	3,602	3,444	158	4.4	3,594	3,428	166	4.6	3,542	3,409	133	3.8
Pulaski	205,935	196,935	9,000	4.4	205,984	196,676	9,308	4.5	202,446	194,629	7,817	3.9
Randolph	8,167	7,845	322	3.9	8,165	7,815	350	4.3	7,926	7,633	293	3.7
St. Francis	7,818	7,378	440	5.6	7,847	7,364	483	6.2	7,711	7,296	415	5.4
Saline	68,755	66,325	2,430	3.5	68,785	66,248	2,537	3.7	67,722	65,575	2,147	3.2
Scott	4,156	3,980	176	4.2	4,177	3,997	180	4.3	4,057	3,909	148	3.6
Searcy	3,186	3,043	143	4.5	3,111	2,965	146	4.7	3,098	2,964	134	4.3
Sebastian	59,932	57,447	2,485	4.1	60,094	57,456	2,638	4.4	59,432	57,217	2,215	3.7
Sevier	7,213	6,970	243	3.4	7,226	6,955	271	3.8	7,153	6,923	230	3.2
Sharp	6,771	6,464	307	4.5	6,719	6,388	331	4.9	6,624	6,348	276	4.2
Stone	4,125	3,885	240	5.8	4,078	3,829	249	6.1	4,110	3,895	215	5.2
Union	15,875	15,065	810	5.1	15,875	15,020	855	5.4	15,768	14,943	825	5.2
Van Buren	6,023	5,704	319	5.3	5,951	5,629	322	5.4	5,935	5,632	303	5.1
Washington	141,667	137,015	4,652	3.3	141,490	136,379	5,111	3.6	136,867	132,569	4,298	3.1
White	36,055	34,593	1,462	4.1	36,031	34,423	1,608	4.5	35,667	34,285	1,382	3.9
Woodruff	3,101	2,983	118	3.8	3,097	2,967	130	4.2	2,932	2,823	109	3.7
Yell	9,447	9,069	378	4.0	9,427	9,026	401	4.3	9,485	9,158	327	3.4

## County Labor Force Summary

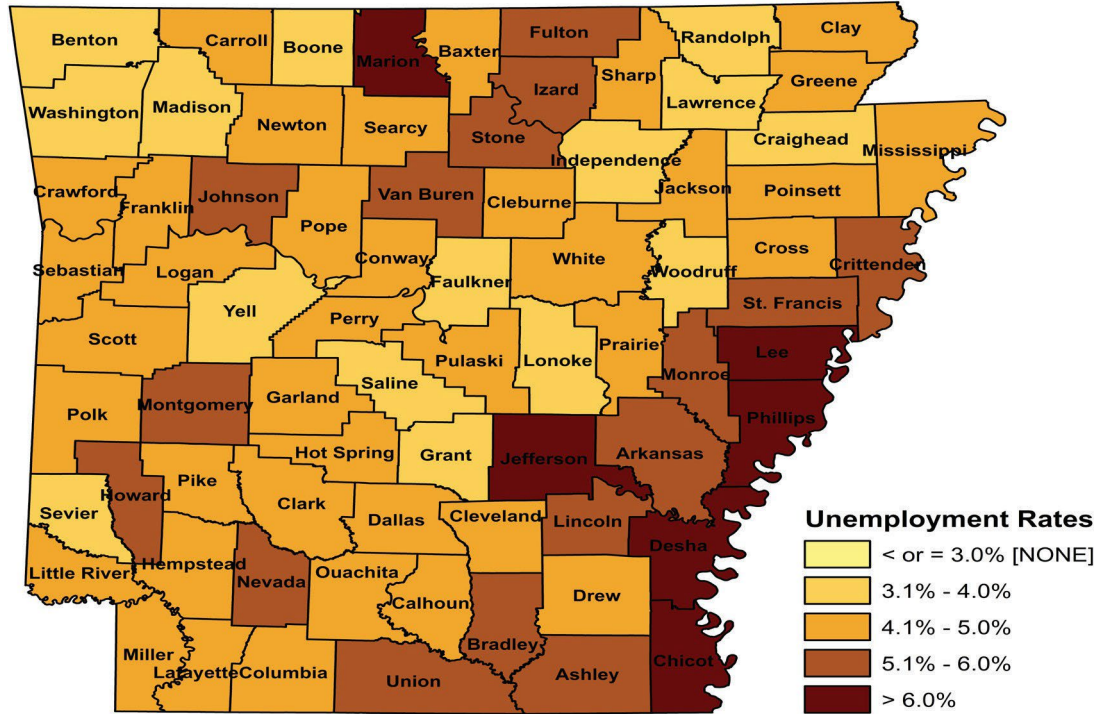
Between February and March, unemployment rates declined in 72 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates in three counties were stable over the month. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 3.3% in Benton and Washington counties to a high of 7.4% in Desha County.

In March, no Arkansas county had an unemployment rate at or below three percent. Three counties had jobless rates at or above 7%, down from four counties in February.

Compared to March 2025, unemployment rates are up in 65 Arkansas counties. Seven counties posted rate declines over the year, while three counties were stable. Four counties- Chicot, Howard, Montgomery, and Nevada- had jobless rate increases of one percentage point. The largest rate declines occurred in Bradley (-0.9%) and Lafayette (-0.8%) counties.

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | March

## County Unemployment Rates



## Ranked by Unemployment Rates

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Benton	3.3	23	Logan	4.3	49	Miller	4.9
1	Washington	3.3	23	Poinsett	4.3	49	Newton	4.9
3	Madison	3.4	28	Clay	4.4	49	Ouachita	4.9
3	Sevier	3.4	28	Garland	4.4	54	Union	5.1
5	Independence	3.5	28	Pike	4.4	55	Arkansas	5.2
5	Saline	3.5	28	Prairie	4.4	55	Fulton	5.2
7	Grant	3.6	28	Pulaski	4.4	55	Howard	5.2
8	Faulkner	3.7	33	Conway	4.5	55	Johnson	5.2
9	Craighead	3.8	33	Hempstead	4.5	59	Van Buren	5.3
9	Lonoke	3.8	33	Perry	4.5	60	Montgomery	5.4
9	Woodruff	3.8	33	Searcy	4.5	61	Crittenden	5.5
12	Boone	3.9	33	Sharp	4.5	61	Lincoln	5.5
12	Lawrence	3.9	38	Baxter	4.6	63	Bradley	5.6
12	Randolph	3.9	38	Dallas	4.6	63	St. Francis	5.6
15	Yell	4.0	38	Greene	4.6	65	Ashley	5.8
16	Calhoun	4.1	38	Hot Spring	4.6	65	Stone	5.8
16	Sebastian	4.1	38	Little River	4.6	67	Izard	5.9
16	White	4.1	38	Pope	4.6	68	Monroe	6.0
19	Carroll	4.2	44	Columbia	4.7	68	Nevada	6.0
19	Clark	4.2	44	Mississippi	4.7	70	Marion	6.1
19	Jackson	4.2	44	Polk	4.7	71	Lee	6.2
19	Scott	4.2	47	Cleveland	4.8	72	Jefferson	6.4
23	Crawford	4.3	47	Drew	4.8	73	Chicot	7.1
23	Cross	4.3	49	Cleburne	4.9	74	Phillips	7.3
23	Franklin	4.3	49	Lafayette	4.9	75	Desha	7.4

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## Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	March 2026				February 2026				March 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	279,440	268,516	10,924	3.9	279,783	268,178	11,605	4.1	275,253	265,523	9,730	3.5
City of Little Rock	108,169	103,347	4,822	4.5	108,061	103,211	4,850	4.5	106,157	102,137	4,020	3.8
Eastern	43,303	40,902	2,401	5.5	43,391	40,757	2,634	6.1	42,900	40,640	2,260	5.3
North Central	99,594	95,279	4,315	4.3	99,254	94,593	4,661	4.7	97,367	93,332	4,035	4.1
Northeast	130,172	124,765	5,407	4.2	130,421	124,530	5,891	4.5	129,218	124,193	5,025	3.9
Northwest	381,026	367,850	13,176	3.5	379,897	365,756	14,141	3.7	368,780	356,714	12,066	3.3
Southeast	73,289	69,163	4,126	5.6	73,586	69,175	4,411	6.0	73,218	69,384	3,834	5.2
Southwest	87,370	83,226	4,144	4.7	87,534	83,078	4,456	5.1	86,530	82,704	3,826	4.4
West Central	137,470	131,278	6,192	4.5	137,478	130,747	6,731	4.9	136,235	130,655	5,580	4.1
Western	114,241	109,392	4,849	4.2	114,480	109,327	5,153	4.5	113,278	108,903	4,375	3.9

