



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report

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## May

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# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

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Arkansas Division of  
Workforce Services



## Technical Notes

The *Arkansas Labor Market* is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month's estimates are preliminary, while previous month's data is subject to revision.

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work. Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). All estimates are based on a first quarter 2025 benchmark.

### Explanation of Terms and Concepts

#### Monthly Business

##### Survey of Employers

A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail surveys and telephone interviews conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with Department of Workforce Services. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full- or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of the month. Approximately 5,000 Arkansas busi-

ness establishments are surveyed.

#### Metropolitan

##### Statistical Areas

A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

#### Current Population

##### Survey (CPS)

A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for BLS. The information is collected by trained interviewers from a sample of about 60,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. Approximately 1,200 Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

#### Civilian Labor Force

The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

#### Employment

An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or

more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

#### Unemployment

An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

#### Unemployment

##### Rate

The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force. Unemployment rates are calculated from unrounded data.

#### Seasonal

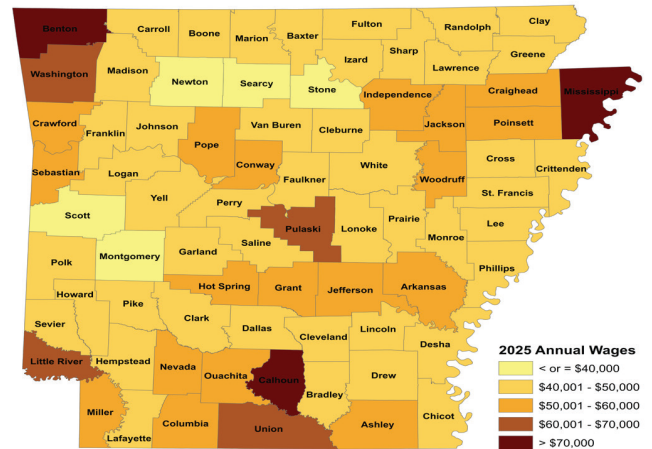
##### Adjustment

A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to seasonal events such as weather, major holidays, schedule shifts, harvest times, and the opening/closing of schools.

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## May Spotlight Wages by County

The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) is the most comprehensive data collection program utilized by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The program is based on each state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, which enables BLS to produce data using every business that is covered under UI tax law. In addition to calculating UI covered employment, the program also tracks the wages paid to employees. Due to the extensive nature of the information, data can be produced at any level-- national, statewide, counties, and cities.

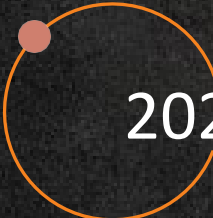


The information below comes from the QCEW program and shows annual average wage data for each county in Arkansas. Annual average wages are calculated using

the total wages earned during the calendar year, divided by annual average employment. The wages below are compiled using all industries in the private sector, for all workers included under UI tax law. It is important to note that QCEW data is based on county of employment, not county of residency. So if an individual works in a different county than where they live, their wages are counted in the county where they work.

In 2025, average annual wages in the private sector ranged from a low of \$33,586, for those employed in Montgomery County, to a high of \$93,828 in Benton County. Compared to 2024 annual averages, wages are up in 72 of Arkansas' 75 counties.

| County     | 2025 Wages | Change from 2024 | County       | 2025 Wages | Change from 2024 | County      | 2025 Wages | Change from 2024 |
|------------|------------|------------------|--------------|------------|------------------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| Arkansas   | \$55,167   | \$1,950          | Garland      | \$45,909   | \$1,051          | Newton      | \$35,039   | \$1,184          |
| Ashley     | \$53,824   | \$2,292          | Grant        | \$54,843   | \$1,616          | Ouachita    | \$51,480   | \$2,092          |
| Baxter     | \$46,958   | \$2,161          | Greene       | \$49,080   | \$1,911          | Perry       | \$46,356   | \$2,915          |
|            | \$93,828   | \$9,633          | Hempstead    | \$46,294   | \$1,589          | Phillips    | \$42,495   | \$1,147          |
| Boone      | \$48,925   | \$1,083          | Hot Spring   | \$51,591   | \$1,946          | Pike        | \$42,714   | \$1,232          |
| Bradley    | \$46,817   | \$2,498          | Howard       | \$47,456   | \$3,659          | Poinsett    | \$52,573   | \$1,046          |
| Calhoun    | \$80,345   | \$4,149          | Independence | \$51,974   | \$2,608          | Polk        | \$42,038   | \$2,233          |
| Carroll    | \$42,246   | \$2,269          | Izard        | \$44,386   | \$3,986          | Pope        | \$52,002   | \$1,456          |
| Chicot     | \$45,044   | \$1,790          | Jackson      | \$54,052   | \$2,325          | Prairie     | \$45,783   | -\$199           |
| Clark      | \$47,721   | \$1,718          | Jefferson    | \$53,402   | \$2,459          | Pulaski     | \$62,971   | \$1,883          |
| Clay       | \$42,697   | \$466            | Johnson      | \$43,370   | \$2,368          | Randolph    | \$41,864   | \$1,453          |
| Cleburne   | \$42,508   | \$1,035          | Lafayette    | \$40,716   | \$50             | St. Francis | \$44,582   | \$1,624          |
| Cleveland  | \$46,455   | \$212            | Lawrence     | \$44,551   | \$397            | Saline      | \$47,760   | \$903            |
| Columbia   | \$52,131   | \$1,706          | Lee          | \$45,558   | \$939            | Scott       | \$39,205   | \$2,353          |
| Conway     | \$54,143   | \$2,546          | Lincoln      | \$46,123   | -\$63            | Searcy      | \$36,235   | \$436            |
| Craighead  | \$53,228   | \$1,661          | Little River | \$66,376   | \$2,127          | Sebastian   | \$55,848   | \$479            |
| Crawford   | \$50,617   | \$1,375          | Logan        | \$43,453   | \$2,175          | Sevier      | \$46,063   | \$1,921          |
| Crittenden | \$49,910   | \$1,989          | Lonoke       | \$43,651   | \$659            | Sharp       | \$42,180   | \$3,547          |
| Cross      | \$42,513   | \$2,019          | Madison      | \$47,111   | \$2,210          | Stone       | \$37,716   | \$1,823          |
| Dallas     | \$48,022   | \$1,934          | Marion       | \$43,729   | \$2,303          | Union       | \$64,746   | \$636            |
| Desha      | \$48,635   | \$540            | Miller       | \$52,536   | \$1,701          | Van Buren   | \$46,657   | \$1,788          |
| Drew       | \$44,057   | \$82             | Mississippi  | \$81,126   | \$4,950          | Washington  | \$60,226   | \$1,589          |
| Faulkner   | \$45,482   | -\$3,958         | Monroe       | \$43,745   | \$1,673          | White       | \$47,527   | \$1,432          |
| Franklin   | \$45,293   | \$2,174          | Montgomery   | \$33,586   | \$1,198          | Woodruff    | \$55,574   | \$7,746          |
| Fulton     | \$42,841   | \$41             | Nevada       | \$53,782   | \$3,336          | Yell        | \$42,994   | \$2,252          |



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## 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 4.3% in April to 4.2% in May. The United States’ jobless rate remained stable at 4.3% between April and May.

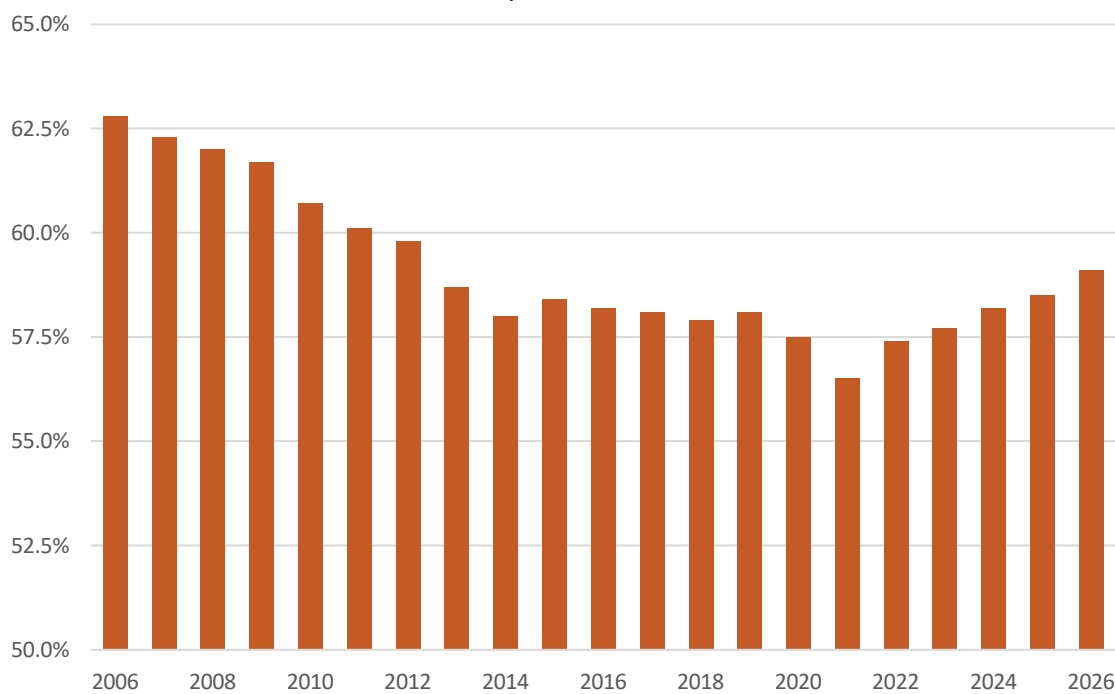
The civilian labor force in Arkansas rose 1,167 in May, as employment increased by 2,452. Both are currently at record high levels. The number of unemployed actively seeking work declined for a 4th consecutive month, pushing down the unemployment rate to 4.2% in May.

Compared to May 2025, there are now 21,532 more employed residents in Arkansas. The civilian labor force and the labor force participation rate are also up over the year. There are 3,942 more unemployed actively seeking work, with the unemployment rate up two-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

|                       | Seasonally Adjusted |               |               |                       | Not Seasonally Adjusted |               |               |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|                       | <u>May 26</u>       | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> |                       | <u>May 26</u>           | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> |
| Civilian Labor Force  | 1,455,735           | 1,454,568     | 1,430,261     | Civilian Labor Force  | 1,462,526               | 1,453,611     | 1,432,028     |
| Employment            | 1,395,175           | 1,392,723     | 1,373,643     | Employment            | 1,407,942               | 1,402,234     | 1,377,652     |
| Unemployment          | 60,560              | 61,845        | 56,618        | Unemployment          | 54,584                  | 51,377        | 54,376        |
| Unemployment Rate     | 4.2%                | 4.3%          | 4.0%          | Unemployment Rate     | 3.7%                    | 3.5%          | 3.8%          |
| LF Participation Rate | 59.1%               | 59.1%         | 58.5%         | LF Participation Rate | 59.4%                   | 59.1%         | 58.6%         |

Labor Force Participation Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)  
May: 2006 - 2016



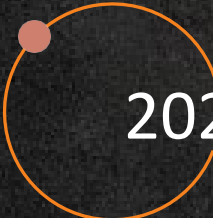


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## State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted  
(In Thousands)

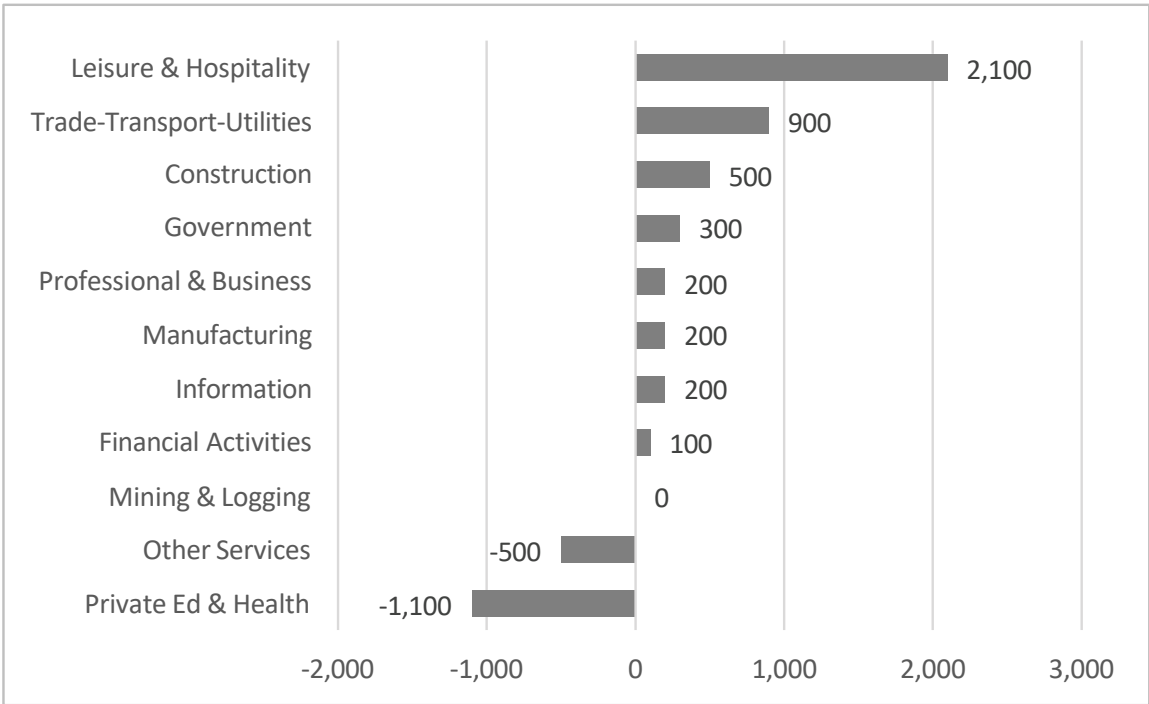
| (NAICS)                              | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u>  | <u>QTY</u>  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Nonfarm                        | 1351.7        | 1348.8        | 1346.0        | 2.9         | 5.7         |
| Goods Producing                      | 230.2         | 229.5         | 230.9         | 0.7         | -0.7        |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction      | 71.1          | 70.6          | 71.4          | 0.5         | -0.3        |
| Mining & Logging                     | <b>4.7</b>    | <b>4.7</b>    | <b>4.8</b>    | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>-0.1</b> |
| Construction                         | <b>66.4</b>   | <b>65.9</b>   | <b>66.6</b>   | <b>0.5</b>  | <b>-0.2</b> |
| Specialty Trade Contractors          | 41.7          | 41.2          | 41.9          | 0.5         | -0.2        |
| Manufacturing                        | <b>159.1</b>  | <b>158.9</b>  | <b>159.5</b>  | <b>0.2</b>  | <b>-0.4</b> |
| Durable Goods                        | 75.1          | 74.5          | 75.2          | 0.6         | -0.1        |
| Nondurable Goods                     | 84.0          | 84.4          | 84.3          | -0.4        | -0.3        |
| Service Providing                    | 1121.5        | 1119.3        | 1115.1        | 2.2         | 6.4         |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities    | <b>273.3</b>  | <b>272.4</b>  | <b>269.7</b>  | <b>0.9</b>  | <b>3.6</b>  |
| Wholesale Trade                      | 54.5          | 54.1          | 54.0          | 0.4         | 0.5         |
| Retail Trade                         | 145.0         | 144.4         | 142.6         | 0.6         | 2.4         |
| Transport, Warehousing & Utilities   | 73.8          | 73.9          | 73.1          | -0.1        | 0.7         |
| Information                          | <b>12.0</b>   | <b>11.8</b>   | <b>11.9</b>   | <b>0.2</b>  | <b>0.1</b>  |
| Financial Activities                 | <b>58.8</b>   | <b>58.7</b>   | <b>60.1</b>   | <b>0.1</b>  | <b>-1.3</b> |
| Finance & Insurance                  | 43.5          | 43.3          | 44.5          | 0.2         | -1.0        |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing       | 15.3          | 15.4          | 15.6          | -0.1        | -0.3        |
| Professional & Business Services     | <b>167.0</b>  | <b>166.8</b>  | <b>165.7</b>  | <b>0.2</b>  | <b>1.3</b>  |
| Professional, Scientific & Technical | 53.8          | 53.8          | 52.2          | 0.0         | 1.6         |
| Management of Companies              | 42.9          | 43.0          | 42.0          | -0.1        | 0.9         |
| Administrative & Support Services    | 70.3          | 70.0          | 71.5          | 0.3         | -1.2        |
| Private Education & Health Services  | <b>211.9</b>  | <b>213.0</b>  | <b>210.5</b>  | <b>-1.1</b> | <b>1.4</b>  |
| Private Educational Services         | 20.3          | 21.1          | 20.0          | -0.8        | 0.3         |
| Health Care & Social Assistance      | 191.6         | 191.9         | 190.5         | -0.3        | 1.1         |
| Ambulatory Health Care               | 69.9          | 70.1          | 69.2          | -0.2        | 0.7         |
| Social Assistance                    | 40.7          | 40.7          | 40.9          | 0.0         | -0.2        |
| Leisure & Hospitality                | <b>138.1</b>  | <b>136.0</b>  | <b>134.7</b>  | <b>2.1</b>  | <b>3.4</b>  |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation     | 16.4          | 15.4          | 15.6          | 1.0         | 0.8         |
| Accommodation & Food Services        | 121.7         | 120.6         | 119.1         | 1.1         | 2.6         |
| Accommodation Services               | 11.0          | 10.8          | 11.0          | 0.2         | 0.0         |
| Food Services                        | 110.7         | 109.8         | 108.1         | 0.9         | 2.6         |
| Other Services                       | <b>52.4</b>   | <b>52.9</b>   | <b>52.7</b>   | <b>-0.5</b> | <b>-0.3</b> |
| Government                           | <b>208.0</b>  | <b>207.7</b>  | <b>209.8</b>  | <b>0.3</b>  | <b>-1.8</b> |
| Federal Government                   | 20.2          | 20.2          | 21.4          | 0.0         | -1.2        |
| State Government                     | 71.0          | 71.2          | 72.1          | -0.2        | -1.1        |
| State Gov, Educational Services      | 26.8          | 27.0          | 27.4          | -0.2        | -0.6        |
| State Gov, Excluding Education       | 44.2          | 44.2          | 44.7          | 0.0         | -0.5        |
| Local Government                     | 116.8         | 116.3         | 116.3         | 0.5         | 0.5         |
| Local Gov, Educational Services      | 70.3          | 70.4          | 70.3          | -0.1        | 0.0         |
| Local Gov, Excluding Education       | 46.5          | 45.9          | 46.0          | 0.6         | 0.5         |



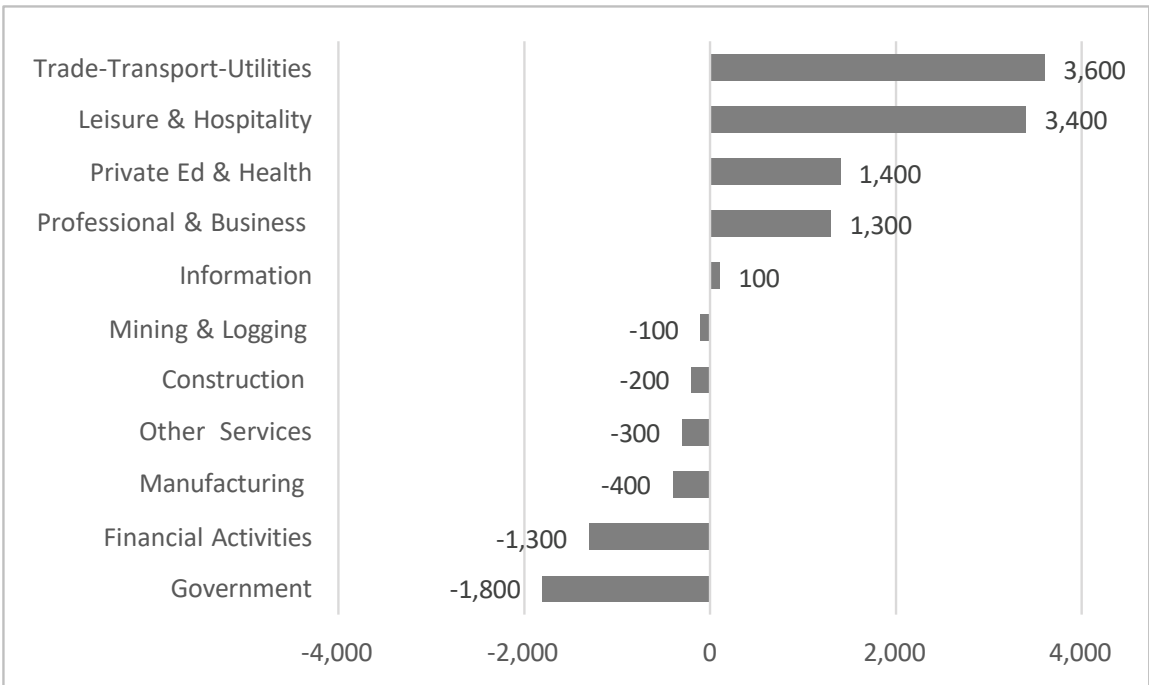
# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

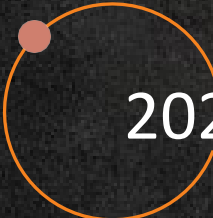
## State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

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



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





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

### Manufacturing

|                         | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Average Weekly Hours    | 39.4          | 39.0          | 37.6          |
| Average Hourly Earnings | \$24.19       | \$24.12       | \$23.81       |
| Average Weekly Earnings | \$953.09      | \$940.68      | \$895.26      |

### Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

| Durable Goods Manufacturing |               |               |               | Nondurable Goods Manufacturing |               |               |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> |                                | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> |
| Average Weekly Hours        | 43.9          | 43.6          | 42.5          | Average Weekly Hours           | 35.4          | 35.0          | 33.3          |
| Average Hourly Earnings     | \$25.81       | \$25.88       | \$26.04       | Average Hourly Earnings        | \$22.39       | \$22.19       | \$21.34       |
| Average Weekly Earnings     | \$1,133.06    | \$1,128.37    | \$1,106.70    | Average Weekly Earnings        | \$792.61      | \$776.65      | \$710.62      |



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## 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)

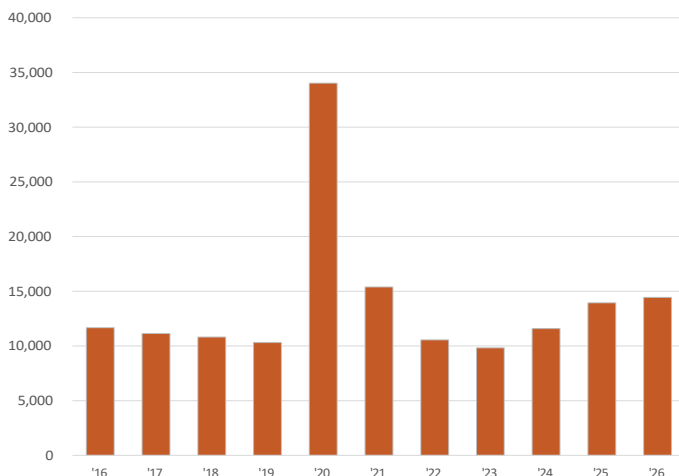
|                      | May 26  | Apr 26  | May 25  | OTM  | QTY   |
|----------------------|---------|---------|---------|------|-------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 395,006 | 394,124 | 388,630 | 882  | 6,376 |
| Employment           | 380,567 | 380,262 | 374,677 | 305  | 5,890 |
| Unemployment         | 14,439  | 13,862  | 13,953  | 577  | 486   |
| Unemployment Rate    | 3.7%    | 3.5%    | 3.6%    | 0.2% | 0.1%  |

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

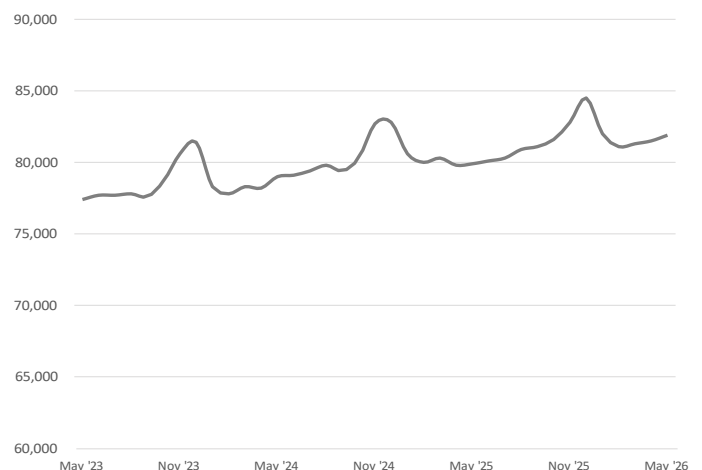
(In Thousands)

| NAICS                               | May 26 | Apr 26 | May 25 | OTM  | QTY  |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|------|------|
| Total Nonfarm                       | 395.6  | 395.6  | 394.9  | 0.0  | 0.7  |
| Goods Producing                     | 42.0   | 42.0   | 42.3   | 0.0  | -0.3 |
| Mining, Logging & Construction      | 21.2   | 21.2   | 21.5   | 0.0  | -0.3 |
| Manufacturing                       | 20.8   | 20.8   | 20.8   | 0.0  | 0.0  |
| Service Providing                   | 353.6  | 353.6  | 352.6  | 0.0  | 1.0  |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities   | 81.9   | 81.5   | 79.9   | 0.4  | 2.0  |
| Wholesale Trade                     | 18.3   | 18.2   | 18.1   | 0.1  | 0.2  |
| Retail Trade                        | 40.0   | 39.8   | 39.1   | 0.2  | 0.9  |
| Trans., Warehousing & Utilities     | 23.6   | 23.5   | 22.7   | 0.1  | 0.9  |
| Information                         | 4.8    | 4.7    | 4.9    | 0.1  | -0.1 |
| Financial Activities                | 24.9   | 24.9   | 25.4   | 0.0  | -0.5 |
| Professional & Business Services    | 50.8   | 51.0   | 51.3   | -0.2 | -0.5 |
| Private Education & Health Services | 67.9   | 68.4   | 65.8   | -0.5 | 2.1  |
| Leisure & Hospitality               | 36.1   | 35.7   | 36.9   | 0.4  | -0.8 |
| Other Services                      | 18.6   | 18.7   | 18.8   | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| Government                          | 68.6   | 68.7   | 69.6   | -0.1 | -1.0 |
| Federal Government                  | 9.8    | 9.9    | 10.6   | -0.1 | -0.8 |
| State Government                    | 32.1   | 32.2   | 32.5   | -0.1 | -0.4 |
| Local Government                    | 26.7   | 26.6   | 26.5   | 0.1  | 0.2  |

Unemployment  
May: 2016 - 2026



Jobs in Trade-Transportation-Utilities  
May 2023 - May 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>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 326,744       | 324,902       | 314,194       | 1,842      | 12,550     |
| Employment           | 317,006       | 316,047       | 304,593       | 959        | 12,413     |
| Unemployment         | 9,738         | 8,855         | 9,601         | 883        | 137        |
| Unemployment Rate    | 3.0%          | 2.7%          | 3.1%          | 0.3%       | -0.1%      |

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

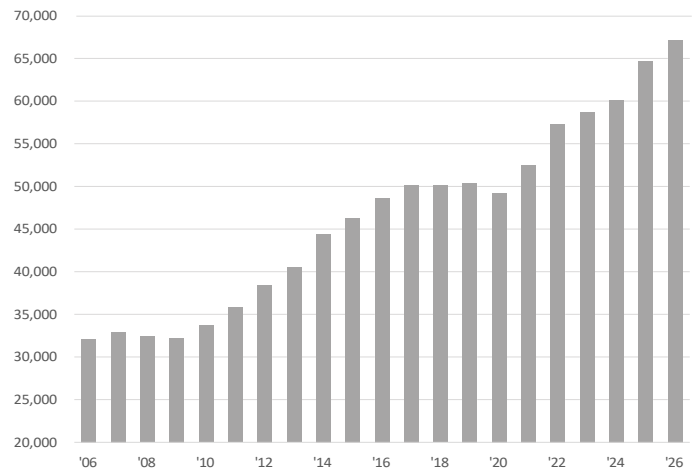
(In Thousands)

| <u>NAICS</u>                        | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Total Nonfarm                       | 310.2         | 309.2         | 302.5         | 1.0        | 7.7        |
| Goods Producing                     | 46.3          | 46.1          | 45.9          | 0.2        | 0.4        |
| Mining, Logging & Construction      | 18.9          | 18.8          | 18.3          | 0.1        | 0.6        |
| Manufacturing                       | 27.4          | 27.3          | 27.6          | 0.1        | -0.2       |
| Service Providing                   | 263.9         | 263.1         | 256.6         | 0.8        | 7.3        |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities   | 62.2          | 62.1          | 60.9          | 0.1        | 1.3        |
| Wholesale Trade                     | 14.0          | 14.0          | 14.0          | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Retail Trade                        | 30.2          | 30.1          | 28.6          | 0.1        | 1.6        |
| Trans., Warehousing & Utilities     | 18.0          | 18.0          | 18.3          | 0.0        | -0.3       |
| Information                         | 2.5           | 2.5           | 2.5           | 0.0        | 0.0        |
| Financial Activities                | 10.7          | 10.7          | 11.0          | 0.0        | -0.3       |
| Professional & Business Services    | 67.2          | 66.8          | 64.7          | 0.4        | 2.5        |
| Private Education & Health Services | 37.4          | 37.7          | 37.4          | -0.3       | 0.0        |
| Leisure & Hospitality               | 36.2          | 35.7          | 33.3          | 0.5        | 2.9        |
| Other Services                      | 11.6          | 11.7          | 11.5          | -0.1       | 0.1        |
| Government                          | 36.1          | 35.9          | 35.3          | 0.2        | 0.8        |
| Federal Government                  | 3.0           | 3.0           | 3.1           | 0.0        | -0.1       |
| State Government                    | 12.6          | 12.5          | 12.1          | 0.1        | 0.5        |
| Local Government                    | 20.5          | 20.4          | 20.1          | 0.1        | 0.4        |

Employment  
May 2023 - May 2026



Jobs in Professional & Business Services  
May: 2006 - 2026



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## 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)

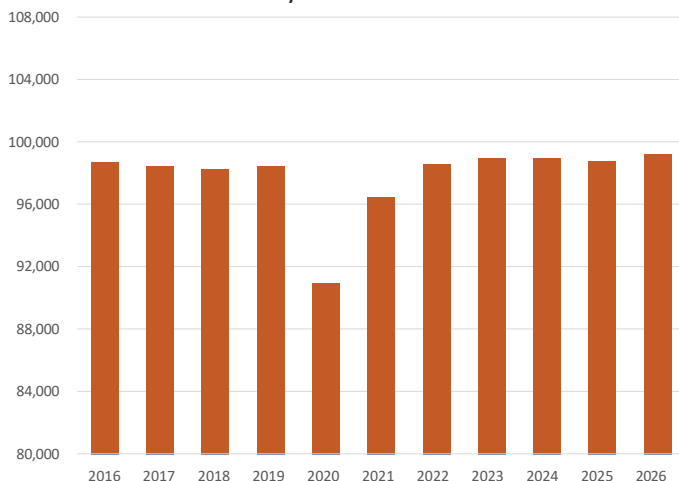
|                      | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 103,300       | 102,368       | 102,593       | 932        | 707        |
| Employment           | 99,174        | 98,612        | 98,745        | 562        | 429        |
| Unemployment         | 4,126         | 3,756         | 3,848         | 370        | 278        |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.0%          | 3.7%          | 3.8%          | 0.3%       | 0.2%       |

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

(In Thousands)

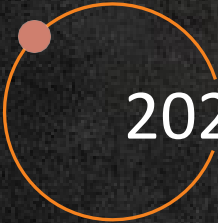
| <u>NAICS</u>                        | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u>  | <u>QTY</u>  |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total Nonfarm                       | 102.3         | 101.8         | 102.8         | 0.5         | -0.5        |
| Goods Producing                     | 22.7          | 22.6          | 22.6          | 0.1         | 0.1         |
| Mining, Logging & Construction      | <b>4.9</b>    | <b>4.9</b>    | <b>4.9</b>    | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>0.0</b>  |
| Manufacturing                       | <b>17.8</b>   | <b>17.7</b>   | <b>17.7</b>   | <b>0.1</b>  | <b>0.1</b>  |
| Service Providing                   | 79.6          | 79.2          | 80.2          | 0.4         | -0.6        |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities   | <b>20.5</b>   | <b>20.4</b>   | <b>20.7</b>   | <b>0.1</b>  | <b>-0.2</b> |
| Wholesale Trade                     | 4.4           | 4.4           | 4.5           | 0.0         | -0.1        |
| Retail Trade                        | 11.6          | 11.5          | 11.4          | 0.1         | 0.2         |
| Trans., Warehousing & Utilities     | 4.5           | 4.5           | 4.8           | 0.0         | -0.3        |
| Information                         | <b>1.2</b>    | <b>1.2</b>    | <b>1.2</b>    | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>0.0</b>  |
| Financial Activities                | <b>3.8</b>    | <b>3.8</b>    | <b>3.8</b>    | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>0.0</b>  |
| Professional & Business Services    | <b>10.3</b>   | <b>10.3</b>   | <b>11.0</b>   | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>-0.7</b> |
| Private Education & Health Services | <b>17.1</b>   | <b>17.1</b>   | <b>17.0</b>   | <b>0.0</b>  | <b>0.1</b>  |
| Leisure & Hospitality               | <b>9.9</b>    | <b>9.6</b>    | <b>9.6</b>    | <b>0.3</b>  | <b>0.3</b>  |
| Other Services                      | <b>3.6</b>    | <b>3.7</b>    | <b>3.6</b>    | <b>-0.1</b> | <b>0.0</b>  |
| Government                          | <b>13.2</b>   | <b>13.1</b>   | <b>13.3</b>   | <b>0.1</b>  | <b>-0.1</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                    | 9.8           | 9.7           | 9.8           | 0.1         | 0.0         |

Employment  
May: 2016 - 2026



Jobs in Leisure & Hospitality  
May 2023 - May 2026





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

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

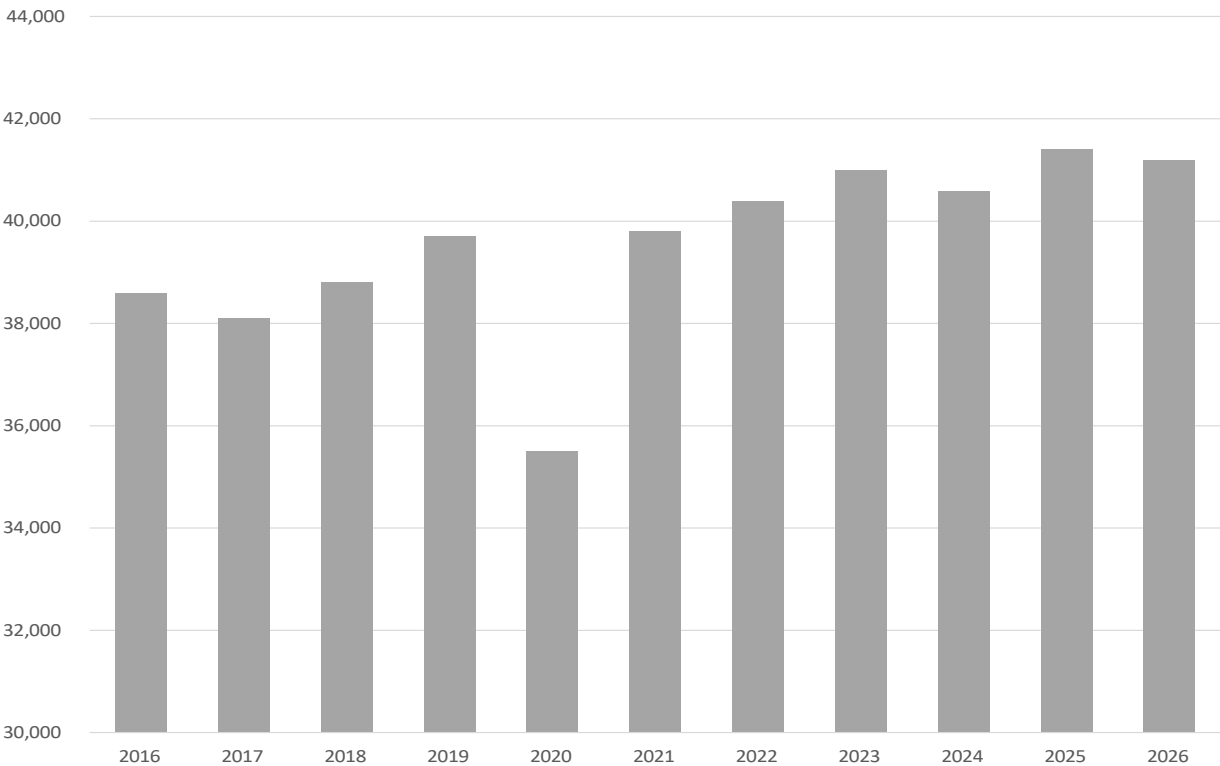
|                      | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u> | <u>OTY</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 45,050        | 44,829        | 44,616        | 221        | 434        |
| Employment           | 43,350        | 43,198        | 42,886        | 152        | 464        |
| Unemployment         | 1,700         | 1,631         | 1,730         | 69         | -30        |
| Unemployment Rate    | 3.8%          | 3.6%          | 3.9%          | 0.2%       | -0.1%      |

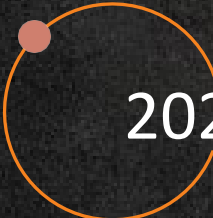
#### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

| <u>NAICS</u>      | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u> | <u>OTY</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Total Nonfarm     | 41.2          | 41.0          | 41.4          | 0.2        | -0.2       |
| Goods Producing   | 4.6           | 4.6           | 4.5           | 0.0        | 0.1        |
| Service Providing | 36.6          | 36.4          | 36.9          | 0.2        | -0.3       |
| Government        | 4.4           | 4.4           | 4.5           | 0.0        | -0.1       |

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs  
May: 2016 - 2026





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

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

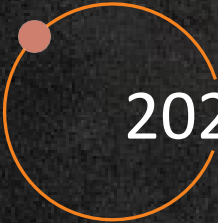
|                      | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 68,397        | 68,126        | 66,612        | 271        | 1,785      |
| Employment           | 65,991        | 65,864        | 64,111        | 127        | 1,880      |
| Unemployment         | 2,406         | 2,262         | 2,501         | 144        | -95        |
| Unemployment Rate    | 3.5%          | 3.3%          | 3.8%          | 0.2%       | -0.3%      |

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

(In Thousands)

| <u>NAICS</u>      | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Total Nonfarm     | 65.0          | 65.0          | 64.2          | 0.0        | 0.8        |
| Goods Producing   | 11.3          | 11.2          | 11.1          | 0.1        | 0.2        |
| Service Providing | 53.7          | 53.8          | 53.1          | -0.1       | 0.6        |
| Government        | 9.1           | 9.2           | 9.2           | -0.1       | -0.1       |





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## 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.

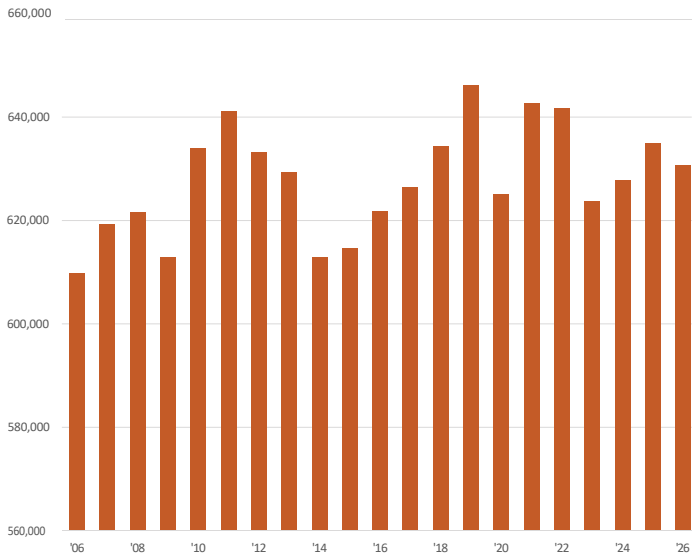
|                      | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 630,707       | 629,004       | 634,916       | 1,703      | -4,209     |
| Employment           | 604,969       | 603,074       | 609,233       | 1,895      | -4,264     |
| Unemployment         | 25,738        | 25,930        | 25,683        | -192       | 55         |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.1%          | 4.1%          | 4.0%          | 0.0%       | 0.1%       |

##### Texarkana MSA

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

|                      | <u>May 26</u> | <u>Apr 26</u> | <u>May 25</u> | <u>OTM</u> | <u>QTY</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 62,385        | 61,950        | 61,877        | 435        | 508        |
| Employment           | 59,755        | 59,499        | 59,380        | 256        | 375        |
| Unemployment         | 2,630         | 2,451         | 2,497         | 179        | 133        |
| Unemployment Rate    | 4.2%          | 4.0%          | 4.0%          | 0.2%       | 0.2%       |

Memphis MSA - Civilian Labor Force  
May: 2006 - 2026



Texarkana MSA - Employment  
May 2023 - May 2026





# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## Micropolitan Statistical Areas

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

| Micro Area          | May 2026 |        |       |      | April 2026 |        |       |      | May 2025 |        |       |      |
|---------------------|----------|--------|-------|------|------------|--------|-------|------|----------|--------|-------|------|
|                     | CLF      | Emp    | Unemp | Rate | CLF        | Emp    | Unemp | Rate | CLF      | Emp    | Unemp | Rate |
| Arkadelphia Micro   | 9,979    | 9,572  | 407   | 4.1  | 9,895      | 9,536  | 359   | 3.6  | 9,976    | 9,535  | 441   | 4.4  |
| Batesville Micro    | 19,088   | 18,481 | 607   | 3.2  | 18,893     | 18,340 | 553   | 2.9  | 18,288   | 17,684 | 604   | 3.3  |
| Blytheville Micro   | 20,670   | 19,823 | 847   | 4.1  | 20,539     | 19,670 | 869   | 4.2  | 20,938   | 20,006 | 932   | 4.5  |
| Camden Micro        | 11,468   | 10,984 | 484   | 4.2  | 11,336     | 10,892 | 444   | 3.9  | 11,254   | 10,746 | 508   | 4.5  |
| El Dorado Micro     | 15,805   | 15,088 | 717   | 4.5  | 15,762     | 15,048 | 714   | 4.5  | 15,781   | 14,958 | 823   | 5.2  |
| Forrest City Micro  | 7,859    | 7,475  | 384   | 4.9  | 7,780      | 7,397  | 383   | 4.9  | 7,702    | 7,275  | 427   | 5.5  |
| Harrison Micro      | 19,517   | 18,818 | 699   | 3.6  | 19,404     | 18,768 | 636   | 3.3  | 19,345   | 18,630 | 715   | 3.7  |
| Magnolia Micro      | 9,151    | 8,751  | 400   | 4.4  | 9,118      | 8,751  | 367   | 4.0  | 9,148    | 8,749  | 399   | 4.4  |
| Malvern Micro       | 13,362   | 12,819 | 543   | 4.1  | 13,279     | 12,767 | 512   | 3.9  | 13,349   | 12,787 | 562   | 4.2  |
| Mountain Home Micro | 17,600   | 16,888 | 712   | 4.0  | 17,471     | 16,809 | 662   | 3.8  | 16,920   | 16,230 | 690   | 4.1  |
| Paragould Micro     | 20,290   | 19,429 | 861   | 4.2  | 20,120     | 19,308 | 812   | 4.0  | 20,554   | 19,760 | 794   | 3.9  |
| Pine Bluff Micro    | 27,694   | 26,158 | 1,536 | 5.5  | 27,561     | 26,075 | 1,486 | 5.4  | 27,712   | 26,225 | 1,487 | 5.4  |
| Russellville Micro  | 38,223   | 36,560 | 1,663 | 4.4  | 37,961     | 36,514 | 1,447 | 3.8  | 37,619   | 35,986 | 1,633 | 4.3  |
| Searcy Micro        | 35,916   | 34,591 | 1,325 | 3.7  | 35,907     | 34,698 | 1,209 | 3.4  | 35,541   | 34,212 | 1,329 | 3.7  |

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              | May 2026 |         |       |      | April 2026 |         |       |      | May 2025 |         |       |      |
|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|------|------------|---------|-------|------|----------|---------|-------|------|
|                   | CLF      | Emp     | Unemp | Rate | CLF        | Emp     | Unemp | Rate | CLF      | Emp     | Unemp | Rate |
| Bella Vista       | 15,561   | 14,985  | 576   | 3.7  | 15,490     | 14,940  | 550   | 3.6  | 14,976   | 14,406  | 570   | 3.8  |
| Benton            | 21,023   | 20,397  | 626   | 3.0  | 20,971     | 20,372  | 599   | 2.9  | 20,704   | 20,071  | 633   | 3.1  |
| Bentonville       | 36,249   | 35,306  | 943   | 2.6  | 36,111     | 35,200  | 911   | 2.5  | 34,939   | 33,942  | 997   | 2.9  |
| Blytheville       | 6,974    | 6,651   | 323   | 4.6  | 6,924      | 6,599   | 325   | 4.7  | 7,037    | 6,712   | 325   | 4.6  |
| Cabot             | 14,151   | 13,689  | 462   | 3.3  | 14,089     | 13,642  | 447   | 3.2  | 13,846   | 13,428  | 418   | 3.0  |
| Centerton         | 15,472   | 15,106  | 366   | 2.4  | 15,386     | 15,060  | 326   | 2.1  | 14,927   | 14,522  | 405   | 2.7  |
| Conway            | 38,636   | 37,272  | 1,364 | 3.5  | 38,517     | 37,259  | 1,258 | 3.3  | 38,033   | 36,722  | 1,311 | 3.4  |
| El Dorado         | 6,951    | 6,626   | 325   | 4.7  | 6,919      | 6,609   | 310   | 4.5  | 7,005    | 6,569   | 436   | 6.2  |
| Fayetteville      | 58,845   | 56,983  | 1,862 | 3.2  | 58,378     | 56,817  | 1,561 | 2.7  | 56,605   | 54,756  | 1,849 | 3.3  |
| Fort Smith        | 42,467   | 40,909  | 1,558 | 3.7  | 42,226     | 40,746  | 1,480 | 3.5  | 42,018   | 40,494  | 1,524 | 3.6  |
| Hot Springs       | 17,582   | 16,890  | 692   | 3.9  | 17,529     | 16,830  | 699   | 4.0  | 17,378   | 16,709  | 669   | 3.8  |
| Jacksonville      | 13,133   | 12,559  | 574   | 4.4  | 13,108     | 12,559  | 549   | 4.2  | 12,900   | 12,379  | 521   | 4.0  |
| Jonesboro         | 40,851   | 39,359  | 1,492 | 3.7  | 40,711     | 39,308  | 1,403 | 3.4  | 39,847   | 38,279  | 1,568 | 3.9  |
| Little Rock       | 107,950  | 103,703 | 4,247 | 3.9  | 107,873    | 103,699 | 4,174 | 3.9  | 106,317  | 102,214 | 4,103 | 3.9  |
| North Little Rock | 34,196   | 32,778  | 1,418 | 4.1  | 34,202     | 32,777  | 1,425 | 4.2  | 33,583   | 32,307  | 1,276 | 3.8  |
| Paragould         | 13,245   | 12,662  | 583   | 4.4  | 13,130     | 12,583  | 547   | 4.2  | 13,410   | 12,878  | 532   | 4.0  |
| Pine Bluff        | 15,034   | 14,060  | 974   | 6.5  | 14,940     | 14,035  | 905   | 6.1  | 15,055   | 14,128  | 927   | 6.2  |
| Rogers            | 42,510   | 41,319  | 1,191 | 2.8  | 42,310     | 41,195  | 1,115 | 2.6  | 40,842   | 39,723  | 1,119 | 2.7  |
| Russellville      | 13,790   | 13,220  | 570   | 4.1  | 13,706     | 13,218  | 488   | 3.6  | 13,560   | 12,994  | 566   | 4.2  |
| Searcy            | 10,415   | 10,000  | 415   | 4.0  | 10,400     | 10,031  | 369   | 3.5  | 10,316   | 9,890   | 426   | 4.1  |
| Sherwood          | 17,435   | 16,836  | 599   | 3.4  | 17,433     | 16,836  | 597   | 3.4  | 17,227   | 16,595  | 632   | 3.7  |
| Springdale        | 46,241   | 44,859  | 1,382 | 3.0  | 45,974     | 44,727  | 1,247 | 2.7  | 44,416   | 43,108  | 1,308 | 2.9  |
| Texarkana, AR     | 12,366   | 11,833  | 533   | 4.3  | 12,215     | 11,731  | 484   | 4.0  | 12,190   | 11,663  | 527   | 4.3  |
| Van Buren         | 10,746   | 10,346  | 400   | 3.7  | 10,696     | 10,308  | 388   | 3.6  | 10,646   | 10,249  | 397   | 3.7  |
| West Memphis      | 9,511    | 8,928   | 583   | 6.1  | 9,501      | 8,900   | 601   | 6.3  | 9,404    | 8,762   | 642   | 6.8  |

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## County Labor Force Statistics Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

| County       | May 2026 |         |       |      | April 2026 |         |       |      | May 2025 |         |       |      |
|--------------|----------|---------|-------|------|------------|---------|-------|------|----------|---------|-------|------|
|              | CLF      | Emp     | Unemp | Rate | CLF        | Emp     | Unemp | Rate | CLF      | Emp     | Unemp | Rate |
| Arkansas     | 7,280    | 6,966   | 314   | 4.3  | 7,158      | 6,846   | 312   | 4.4  | 7,324    | 7,008   | 316   | 4.3  |
| Ashley       | 7,211    | 6,843   | 368   | 5.1  | 7,145      | 6,792   | 353   | 4.9  | 6,820    | 6,420   | 400   | 5.9  |
| Baxter       | 17,600   | 16,888  | 712   | 4.0  | 17,471     | 16,809  | 662   | 3.8  | 16,920   | 16,230  | 690   | 4.1  |
| Benton       | 174,805  | 169,669 | 5,136 | 2.9  | 173,910    | 169,160 | 4,750 | 2.7  | 168,192  | 163,116 | 5,076 | 3.0  |
| Boone        | 16,737   | 16,150  | 587   | 3.5  | 16,645     | 16,116  | 529   | 3.2  | 16,646   | 16,051  | 595   | 3.6  |
| Bradley      | 3,759    | 3,575   | 184   | 4.9  | 3,720      | 3,537   | 183   | 4.9  | 3,808    | 3,566   | 242   | 6.4  |
| Calhoun      | 2,217    | 2,140   | 77    | 3.5  | 2,182      | 2,110   | 72    | 3.3  | 2,114    | 2,022   | 92    | 4.4  |
| Carroll      | 12,548   | 12,106  | 442   | 3.5  | 12,278     | 11,868  | 410   | 3.3  | 12,036   | 11,606  | 430   | 3.6  |
| Chicot       | 3,305    | 3,110   | 195   | 5.9  | 3,251      | 3,056   | 195   | 6.0  | 3,238    | 3,037   | 201   | 6.2  |
| Clark        | 9,979    | 9,572   | 407   | 4.1  | 9,895      | 9,536   | 359   | 3.6  | 9,976    | 9,535   | 441   | 4.4  |
| Clay         | 6,103    | 5,877   | 226   | 3.7  | 5,995      | 5,776   | 219   | 3.7  | 5,978    | 5,747   | 231   | 3.9  |
| Cleburne     | 10,542   | 10,089  | 453   | 4.3  | 10,405     | 9,972   | 433   | 4.2  | 10,285   | 9,853   | 432   | 4.2  |
| Cleveland    | 3,053    | 2,927   | 126   | 4.1  | 3,007      | 2,886   | 121   | 4.0  | 3,004    | 2,882   | 122   | 4.1  |
| Columbia     | 9,151    | 8,751   | 400   | 4.4  | 9,118      | 8,751   | 367   | 4.0  | 9,148    | 8,749   | 399   | 4.4  |
| Conway       | 9,493    | 9,122   | 371   | 3.9  | 9,372      | 9,029   | 343   | 3.7  | 9,199    | 8,821   | 378   | 4.1  |
| Craighead    | 58,189   | 56,175  | 2,014 | 3.5  | 57,982     | 56,103  | 1,879 | 3.2  | 56,733   | 54,634  | 2,099 | 3.7  |
| Crawford     | 26,331   | 25,331  | 1,000 | 3.8  | 26,172     | 25,238  | 934   | 3.6  | 26,119   | 25,092  | 1,027 | 3.9  |
| Crittenden   | 20,806   | 19,777  | 1,029 | 4.9  | 20,726     | 19,714  | 1,012 | 4.9  | 20,480   | 19,408  | 1,072 | 5.2  |
| Cross        | 7,664    | 7,373   | 291   | 3.8  | 7,570      | 7,286   | 284   | 3.8  | 7,490    | 7,196   | 294   | 3.9  |
| Dallas       | 2,842    | 2,719   | 123   | 4.3  | 2,791      | 2,677   | 114   | 4.1  | 2,788    | 2,680   | 108   | 3.9  |
| Desha        | 3,943    | 3,682   | 261   | 6.6  | 3,878      | 3,635   | 243   | 6.3  | 3,962    | 3,677   | 285   | 7.2  |
| Drew         | 8,071    | 7,722   | 349   | 4.3  | 7,948      | 7,607   | 341   | 4.3  | 7,984    | 7,619   | 365   | 4.6  |
| Faulkner     | 68,710   | 66,333  | 2,377 | 3.5  | 68,536     | 66,310  | 2,226 | 3.2  | 67,645   | 65,355  | 2,290 | 3.4  |
| Franklin     | 7,523    | 7,228   | 295   | 3.9  | 7,430      | 7,156   | 274   | 3.7  | 7,396    | 7,099   | 297   | 4.0  |
| Fulton       | 4,210    | 4,023   | 187   | 4.4  | 4,138      | 3,960   | 178   | 4.3  | 4,027    | 3,839   | 188   | 4.7  |
| Garland      | 45,050   | 43,350  | 1,700 | 3.8  | 44,829     | 43,198  | 1,631 | 3.6  | 44,616   | 42,886  | 1,730 | 3.9  |
| Grant        | 9,143    | 8,850   | 293   | 3.2  | 9,080      | 8,808   | 272   | 3.0  | 8,938    | 8,650   | 288   | 3.2  |
| Greene       | 20,290   | 19,429  | 861   | 4.2  | 20,120     | 19,308  | 812   | 4.0  | 20,554   | 19,760  | 794   | 3.9  |
| Hempstead    | 8,836    | 8,492   | 344   | 3.9  | 8,713      | 8,384   | 329   | 3.8  | 8,584    | 8,258   | 326   | 3.8  |
| Hot Spring   | 13,362   | 12,819  | 543   | 4.1  | 13,279     | 12,767  | 512   | 3.9  | 13,349   | 12,787  | 562   | 4.2  |
| Howard       | 4,796    | 4,582   | 214   | 4.5  | 4,719      | 4,509   | 210   | 4.5  | 4,775    | 4,569   | 206   | 4.3  |
| Independence | 19,088   | 18,481  | 607   | 3.2  | 18,893     | 18,340  | 553   | 2.9  | 18,288   | 17,684  | 604   | 3.3  |
| Izard        | 4,453    | 4,213   | 240   | 5.4  | 4,376      | 4,152   | 224   | 5.1  | 4,300    | 4,071   | 229   | 5.3  |
| Jackson      | 5,840    | 5,629   | 211   | 3.6  | 5,717      | 5,524   | 193   | 3.4  | 5,679    | 5,431   | 248   | 4.4  |
| Jefferson    | 24,641   | 23,231  | 1,410 | 5.7  | 24,554     | 23,189  | 1,365 | 5.6  | 24,708   | 23,343  | 1,365 | 5.5  |
| Johnson      | 10,267   | 9,758   | 509   | 5.0  | 10,188     | 9,743   | 445   | 4.4  | 10,042   | 9,547   | 495   | 4.9  |
| Lafayette    | 2,366    | 2,268   | 98    | 4.1  | 2,331      | 2,236   | 95    | 4.1  | 2,294    | 2,169   | 125   | 5.4  |
| Lawrence     | 7,181    | 6,907   | 274   | 3.8  | 7,152      | 6,911   | 241   | 3.4  | 6,972    | 6,703   | 269   | 3.9  |
| Lee          | 2,411    | 2,286   | 125   | 5.2  | 2,362      | 2,236   | 126   | 5.3  | 2,321    | 2,188   | 133   | 5.7  |
| Lincoln      | 3,221    | 3,056   | 165   | 5.1  | 3,181      | 3,024   | 157   | 4.9  | 3,205    | 3,033   | 172   | 5.4  |
| Little River | 5,200    | 5,003   | 197   | 3.8  | 5,142      | 4,945   | 197   | 3.8  | 5,100    | 4,917   | 183   | 3.6  |
| Logan        | 9,137    | 8,796   | 341   | 3.7  | 9,036      | 8,720   | 316   | 3.5  | 8,972    | 8,605   | 367   | 4.1  |
| Lonoke       | 38,100   | 36,853  | 1,247 | 3.3  | 37,913     | 36,727  | 1,186 | 3.1  | 37,373   | 36,150  | 1,223 | 3.3  |
| Madison      | 8,692    | 8,436   | 256   | 2.9  | 8,621      | 8,392   | 229   | 2.7  | 8,262    | 8,006   | 256   | 3.1  |
| Marion       | 5,490    | 5,211   | 279   | 5.1  | 5,460      | 5,188   | 272   | 5.0  | 5,285    | 4,989   | 296   | 5.6  |
| Miller       | 17,286   | 16,519  | 767   | 4.4  | 17,098     | 16,377  | 721   | 4.2  | 17,044   | 16,282  | 762   | 4.5  |

(continued on Page 16)

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## County Labor Force Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

| County      | May 2026 |         |       |      | April 2026 |         |       |      | May 2025 |         |       |      |
|-------------|----------|---------|-------|------|------------|---------|-------|------|----------|---------|-------|------|
|             | CLF      | Emp     | Unemp | Rate | CLF        | Emp     | Unemp | Rate | CLF      | Emp     | Unemp | Rate |
| Mississippi | 20,670   | 19,823  | 847   | 4.1  | 20,539     | 19,670  | 869   | 4.2  | 20,938   | 20,006  | 932   | 4.5  |
| Monroe      | 2,654    | 2,524   | 130   | 4.9  | 2,628      | 2,499   | 129   | 4.9  | 2,642    | 2,501   | 141   | 5.3  |
| Montgomery  | 3,251    | 3,112   | 139   | 4.3  | 3,153      | 3,015   | 138   | 4.4  | 3,149    | 3,016   | 133   | 4.2  |
| Nevada      | 2,671    | 2,529   | 142   | 5.3  | 2,660      | 2,526   | 134   | 5.0  | 2,625    | 2,500   | 125   | 4.8  |
| Newton      | 2,780    | 2,668   | 112   | 4.0  | 2,759      | 2,652   | 107   | 3.9  | 2,699    | 2,579   | 120   | 4.4  |
| Ouachita    | 9,251    | 8,844   | 407   | 4.4  | 9,154      | 8,782   | 372   | 4.1  | 9,140    | 8,724   | 416   | 4.6  |
| Perry       | 4,475    | 4,288   | 187   | 4.2  | 4,434      | 4,263   | 171   | 3.9  | 4,382    | 4,181   | 201   | 4.6  |
| Phillips    | 4,745    | 4,412   | 333   | 7.0  | 4,696      | 4,372   | 324   | 6.9  | 4,773    | 4,469   | 304   | 6.4  |
| Pike        | 4,265    | 4,092   | 173   | 4.1  | 4,213      | 4,061   | 152   | 3.6  | 4,198    | 4,033   | 165   | 3.9  |
| Poinsett    | 10,208   | 9,816   | 392   | 3.8  | 10,144     | 9,761   | 383   | 3.8  | 9,879    | 9,477   | 402   | 4.1  |
| Polk        | 7,559    | 7,237   | 322   | 4.3  | 7,459      | 7,159   | 300   | 4.0  | 7,399    | 7,097   | 302   | 4.1  |
| Pope        | 28,689   | 27,393  | 1,296 | 4.5  | 28,516     | 27,390  | 1,126 | 3.9  | 28,198   | 26,926  | 1,272 | 4.5  |
| Prairie     | 3,647    | 3,501   | 146   | 4.0  | 3,576      | 3,443   | 133   | 3.7  | 3,520    | 3,386   | 134   | 3.8  |
| Pulaski     | 205,777  | 197,614 | 8,163 | 4.0  | 205,583    | 197,607 | 7,976 | 3.9  | 202,587  | 194,776 | 7,811 | 3.9  |
| Randolph    | 8,296    | 8,009   | 287   | 3.5  | 8,181      | 7,907   | 274   | 3.3  | 8,054    | 7,761   | 293   | 3.6  |
| St. Francis | 7,859    | 7,475   | 384   | 4.9  | 7,780      | 7,397   | 383   | 4.9  | 7,702    | 7,275   | 427   | 5.5  |
| Saline      | 68,801   | 66,629  | 2,172 | 3.2  | 68,578     | 66,547  | 2,031 | 3.0  | 67,705   | 65,565  | 2,140 | 3.2  |
| Scott       | 4,174    | 4,020   | 154   | 3.7  | 4,134      | 3,989   | 145   | 3.5  | 4,098    | 3,945   | 153   | 3.7  |
| Searcy      | 3,477    | 3,354   | 123   | 3.5  | 3,348      | 3,245   | 103   | 3.1  | 3,446    | 3,321   | 125   | 3.6  |
| Sebastian   | 60,245   | 58,003  | 2,242 | 3.7  | 59,889     | 57,772  | 2,117 | 3.5  | 59,617   | 57,414  | 2,203 | 3.7  |
| Sevier      | 7,291    | 7,073   | 218   | 3.0  | 7,176      | 6,976   | 200   | 2.8  | 7,137    | 6,916   | 221   | 3.1  |
| Sharp       | 6,884    | 6,610   | 274   | 4.0  | 6,790      | 6,537   | 253   | 3.7  | 6,636    | 6,362   | 274   | 4.1  |
| Stone       | 4,244    | 4,042   | 202   | 4.8  | 4,163      | 3,975   | 188   | 4.5  | 4,127    | 3,915   | 212   | 5.1  |
| Union       | 15,805   | 15,088  | 717   | 4.5  | 15,762     | 15,048  | 714   | 4.5  | 15,781   | 14,958  | 823   | 5.2  |
| Van Buren   | 6,061    | 5,782   | 279   | 4.6  | 6,012      | 5,738   | 274   | 4.6  | 5,949    | 5,664   | 285   | 4.8  |
| Washington  | 143,247  | 138,901 | 4,346 | 3.0  | 142,371    | 138,495 | 3,876 | 2.7  | 137,740  | 133,471 | 4,269 | 3.1  |
| White       | 35,916   | 34,591  | 1,325 | 3.7  | 35,907     | 34,698  | 1,209 | 3.4  | 35,541   | 34,212  | 1,329 | 3.7  |
| Woodruff    | 3,130    | 3,028   | 102   | 3.3  | 3,070      | 2,975   | 95    | 3.1  | 2,971    | 2,870   | 101   | 3.4  |
| Yell        | 9,534    | 9,167   | 367   | 3.8  | 9,445      | 9,124   | 321   | 3.4  | 9,421    | 9,060   | 361   | 3.8  |

## County Labor Force Summary

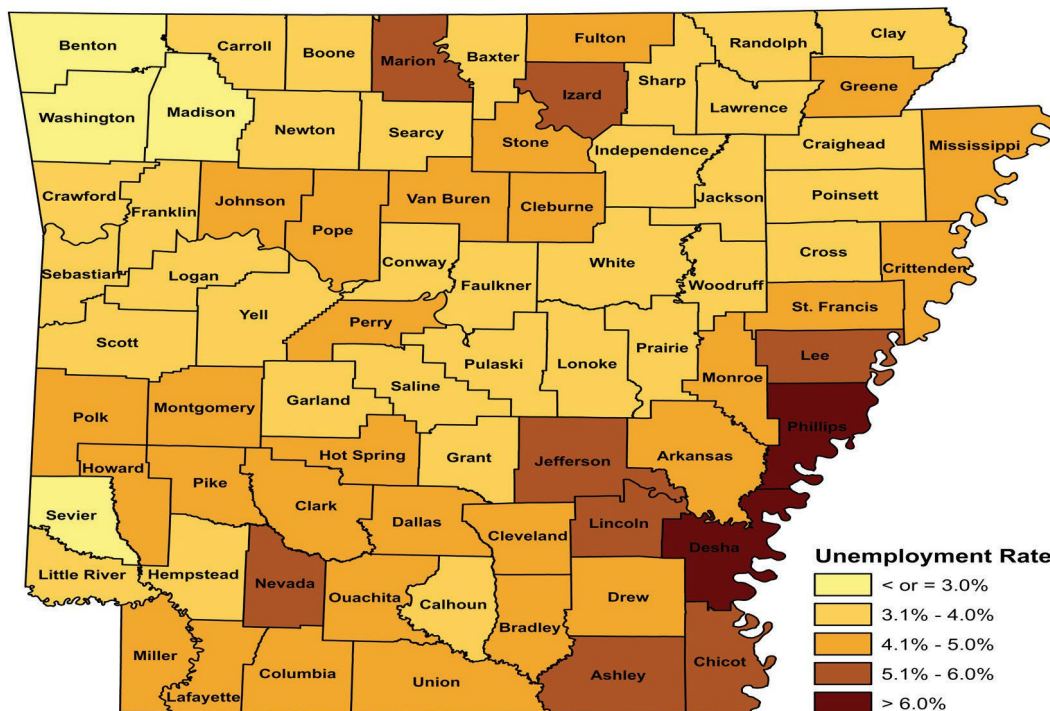
Between April and May, unemployment rates increased in 57 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates were unchanged in 13 counties, while five counties declined. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 2.9% in Benton and Washington counties to a high of 7.0% in Phillips County.

In May, four counties posted unemployment rates at or below 3%. That is down from seven counties at or below 3% last month. Only one county had a rate above 7%, compared to no county above 7% in April.

Compared to May 2025, jobless rates are down in 47 Arkansas counties. Seventeen counties had over the year rate increases, while 11 counties were unchanged. Bradley (-1.5%) and Lafayette (-1.3%) counties had the largest annual rate declines. Phillips County saw the largest increase, up six-tenths of a percentage point compared to last May.

# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## County Unemployment Rates



## Ranked by Unemployment Rates

| Rank | County       | Rate | Rank | County       | Rate | Rank | County      | Rate |
|------|--------------|------|------|--------------|------|------|-------------|------|
| 1    | Benton       | 2.9  | 23   | Lawrence     | 3.8  | 46   | Polk        | 4.3  |
| 1    | Madison      | 2.9  | 23   | Little River | 3.8  | 52   | Columbia    | 4.4  |
| 3    | Sevier       | 3.0  | 23   | Poinsett     | 3.8  | 52   | Fulton      | 4.4  |
| 3    | Washington   | 3.0  | 23   | Yell         | 3.8  | 52   | Miller      | 4.4  |
| 5    | Grant        | 3.2  | 30   | Conway       | 3.9  | 52   | Ouachita    | 4.4  |
| 5    | Independence | 3.2  | 30   | Franklin     | 3.9  | 56   | Howard      | 4.5  |
| 5    | Saline       | 3.2  | 30   | Hempstead    | 3.9  | 56   | Pope        | 4.5  |
| 8    | Lonoke       | 3.3  | 33   | Baxter       | 4.0  | 56   | Union       | 4.5  |
| 8    | Woodruff     | 3.3  | 33   | Newton       | 4.0  | 59   | Van Buren   | 4.6  |
| 10   | Boone        | 3.5  | 33   | Prairie      | 4.0  | 60   | Stone       | 4.8  |
| 10   | Calhoun      | 3.5  | 33   | Pulaski      | 4.0  | 61   | Bradley     | 4.9  |
| 10   | Carroll      | 3.5  | 33   | Sharp        | 4.0  | 61   | Crittenden  | 4.9  |
| 10   | Craighead    | 3.5  | 38   | Clark        | 4.1  | 61   | Monroe      | 4.9  |
| 10   | Faulkner     | 3.5  | 38   | Cleveland    | 4.1  | 61   | St. Francis | 4.9  |
| 10   | Randolph     | 3.5  | 38   | Hot Spring   | 4.1  | 65   | Johnson     | 5.0  |
| 10   | Searcy       | 3.5  | 38   | Lafayette    | 4.1  | 66   | Ashley      | 5.1  |
| 17   | Jackson      | 3.6  | 38   | Mississippi  | 4.1  | 66   | Lincoln     | 5.1  |
| 18   | Clay         | 3.7  | 38   | Pike         | 4.1  | 66   | Marion      | 5.1  |
| 18   | Logan        | 3.7  | 44   | Greene       | 4.2  | 69   | Lee         | 5.2  |
| 18   | Scott        | 3.7  | 44   | Perry        | 4.2  | 70   | Nevada      | 5.3  |
| 18   | Sebastian    | 3.7  | 46   | Arkansas     | 4.3  | 71   | Izard       | 5.4  |
| 18   | White        | 3.7  | 46   | Cleburne     | 4.3  | 72   | Jefferson   | 5.7  |
| 23   | Crawford     | 3.8  | 46   | Dallas       | 4.3  | 73   | Chicot      | 5.9  |
| 23   | Cross        | 3.8  | 46   | Drew         | 4.3  | 74   | Desha       | 6.6  |
| 23   | Garland      | 3.8  | 46   | Montgomery   | 4.3  | 75   | Phillips    | 7.0  |



# 2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | May

## Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

| LWDA                | May 2026 |         |        |      | April 2026 |         |        |      | May 2025 |         |        |      |
|---------------------|----------|---------|--------|------|------------|---------|--------|------|----------|---------|--------|------|
|                     | CLF      | Emp     | Unemp  | Rate | CLF        | Emp     | Unemp  | Rate | CLF      | Emp     | Unemp  | Rate |
| Central (minus LR)  | 279,739  | 269,751 | 9,988  | 3.6  | 278,941    | 269,434 | 9,507  | 3.4  | 275,155  | 265,519 | 9,636  | 3.5  |
| City of Little Rock | 107,950  | 103,703 | 4,247  | 3.9  | 107,873    | 103,699 | 4,174  | 3.9  | 106,317  | 102,214 | 4,103  | 3.9  |
| Eastern             | 43,485   | 41,323  | 2,162  | 5.0  | 43,134     | 41,005  | 2,129  | 4.9  | 42,766   | 40,536  | 2,230  | 5.2  |
| North Central       | 100,368  | 96,488  | 3,880  | 3.9  | 99,471     | 95,871  | 3,600  | 3.6  | 97,803   | 93,901  | 3,902  | 4.0  |
| Northeast           | 130,937  | 126,036 | 4,901  | 3.7  | 130,113    | 125,436 | 4,677  | 3.6  | 129,108  | 124,088 | 5,020  | 3.9  |
| Northwest           | 385,376  | 373,383 | 11,993 | 3.1  | 382,863    | 371,925 | 10,938 | 2.9  | 371,226  | 359,369 | 11,857 | 3.2  |
| Southeast           | 73,627   | 69,962  | 3,665  | 5.0  | 72,922     | 69,380  | 3,542  | 4.9  | 72,991   | 69,235  | 3,756  | 5.1  |
| Southwest           | 87,712   | 84,008  | 3,704  | 4.2  | 86,846     | 83,321  | 3,525  | 4.1  | 86,530   | 82,744  | 3,786  | 4.4  |
| West Central        | 138,365  | 132,673 | 5,692  | 4.1  | 137,324    | 132,126 | 5,198  | 3.8  | 136,530  | 130,792 | 5,738  | 4.2  |
| Western             | 114,969  | 110,615 | 4,354  | 3.8  | 114,120    | 110,034 | 4,086  | 3.6  | 113,601  | 109,252 | 4,349  | 3.8  |

