

2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report

September



www.discover.arkansas.gov

2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | September

Table of Contents

Monthly Spotlight 2

Arkansas Labor Force Summary 3

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs 4

Arkansas Production Workers 6

Metropolitan Statistical Areas 7

Micropolitan Statistical Areas/Cities 13

County Labor Force Statistics 14

Local Workforce Development Areas 17

Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Technical Notes

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

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

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

Explanation of Terms and Concepts

Monthly Business Survey of Employers

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

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

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

Current Population Survey (CPS)

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

Civilian Labor Force

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

Employment

An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

Unemployment

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

Unemployment Rate

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

Seasonal Adjustment

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

September Spotlight

Business Employment Dynamics (BED)

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

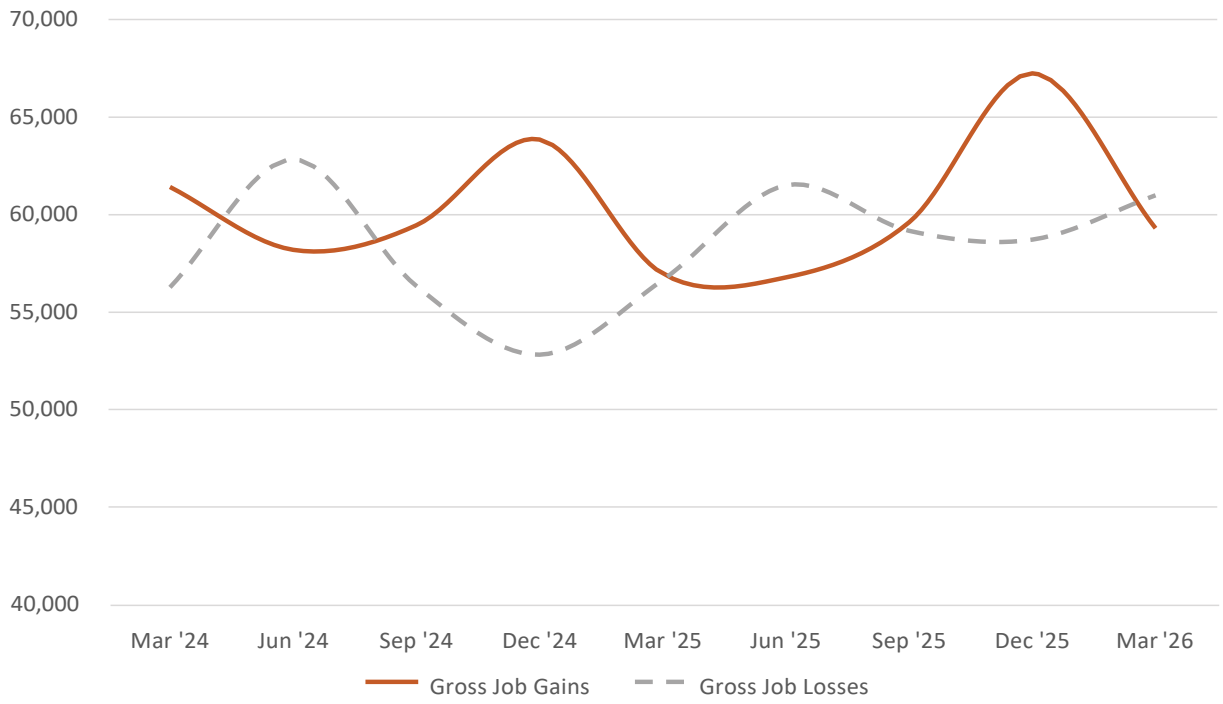
Gross Job Gains and Losses by Quarter (Private Sector)
State of Arkansas
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	Quarter Ending				
Category	Mar 25	Jun 25	Sep 25	Dec 25	Mar 26*
	Employment Levels				
Gross job gains.....	56,971	56,781	59,610	67,250	59,304
Gross job losses....	56,657	61,512	59,178	58,727	61,100
Net Change.....	314	-4,731	432	8,523	-1,696

*Most recent BED data available is for 1st Quarter 2026

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

Arkansas' Gross Job Gains vs Gross Job Losses (Private Sector/Seasonally Adjusted)
1st Quarter 2024 - 1st Quarter 2026



State of Arkansas

Civilian Labor Force Summary

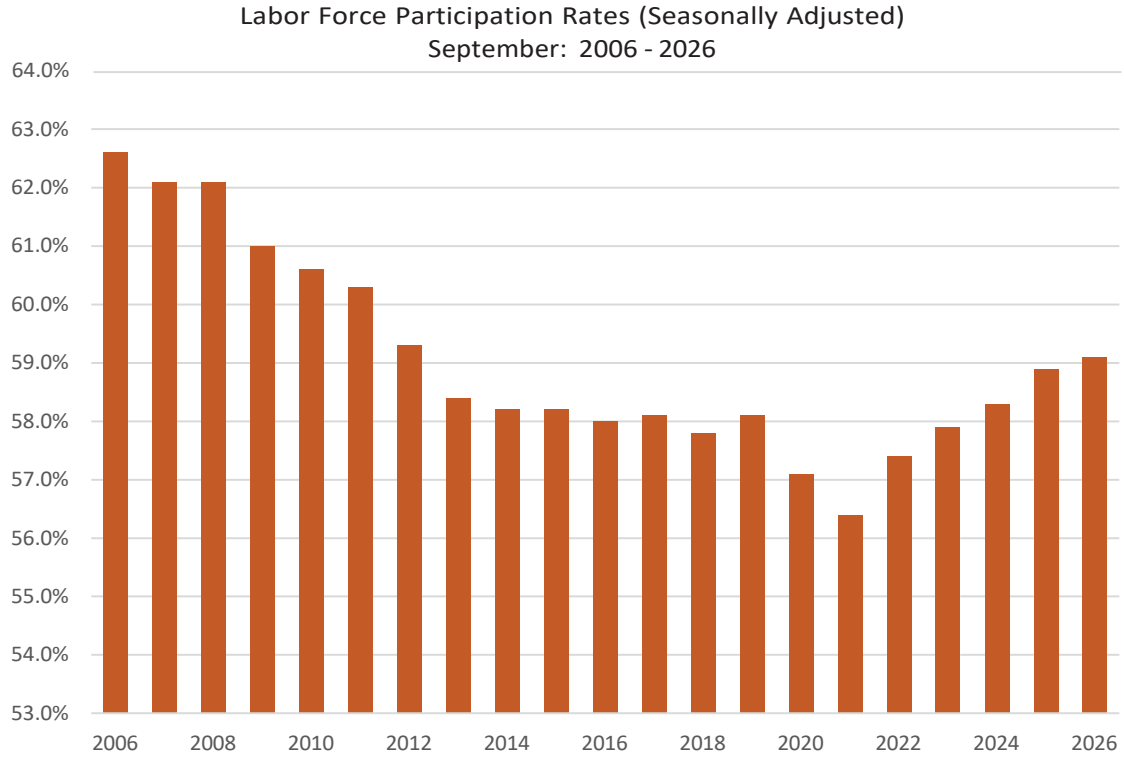
The Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained stable at 3.9% between August and September. The United States' jobless rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.1% in August to 4.2% in September.

The civilian labor force in Arkansas grew by 1,168 in September, with 1,902 more employed Arkansans. Both series reached new record high levels. Unemployment declined for an eighth consecutive month. The changes were not enough to impact the unemployment rate, which remained stable at 3.9%.

Compared to September 2025, Arkansas has 20,642 more employed residents. The number of unemployed actively seeking work has declined, along with the unemployment rate. Arkansas' labor force participation rate is up two-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Seasonally Adjusted				Not Seasonally Adjusted		
	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25		Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25
Civilian Labor Force	1,459,190	1,458,022	1,443,627	Civilian Labor Force	1,463,868	1,456,291	1,443,706
Employment	1,402,996	1,401,094	1,382,354	Employment	1,410,023	1,402,829	1,383,106
Unemployment	56,194	56,928	61,273	Unemployment	53,845	53,462	60,600
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.9%	4.2%	Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.7%	4.2%
LF Participation Rate	59.1%	59.1%	58.9%	LF Participation Rate	59.3%	59.1%	58.9%



State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

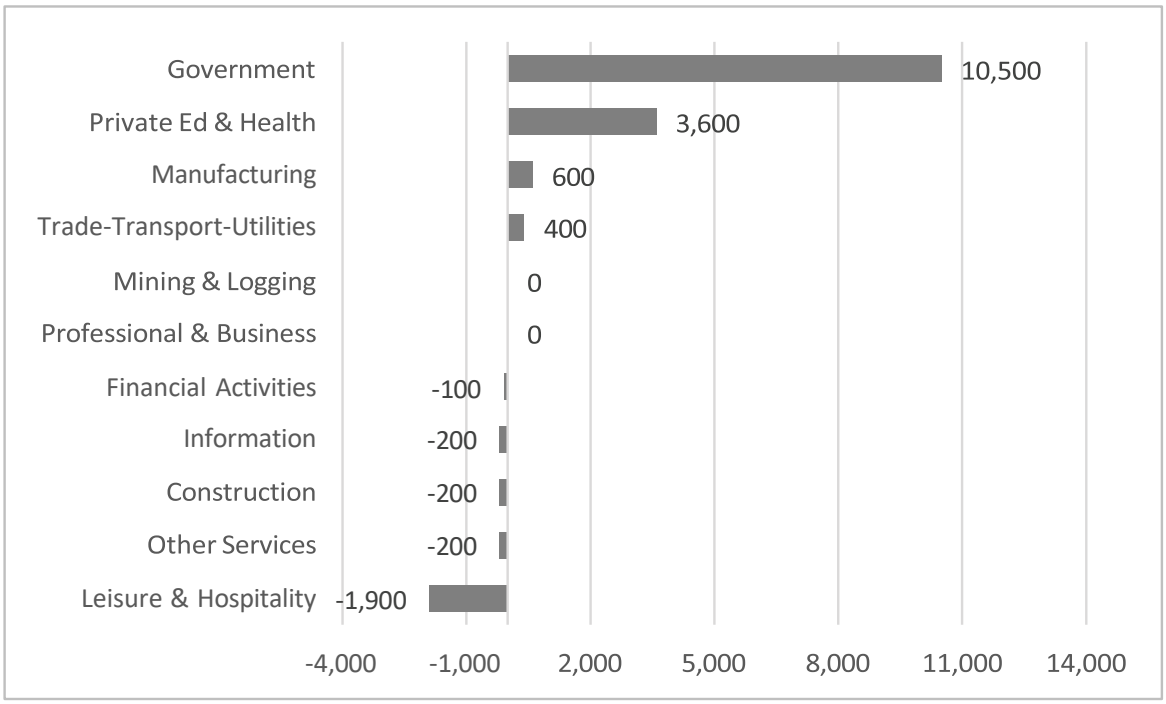
(In Thousands)

(NAICS)	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	1354.4	1341.9	1343.3	12.5	11.1
Goods Producing	232.3	231.9	230.2	0.4	2.1
Mining, Logging, & Construction	72.8	73.0	71.6	-0.2	1.2
Mining & Logging	**4.8**	**4.8**	**4.8**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Construction	**68.0**	**68.2**	**66.8**	**-0.2**	**1.2**
Specialty Trade Contractors	42.4	42.5	41.8	-0.1	0.6
Manufacturing	**159.5**	**158.9**	**158.6**	**0.6**	**0.9**
Durable Goods	75.8	75.6	74.4	0.2	1.4
Nondurable Goods	83.7	83.3	84.2	0.4	-0.5
Service Providing	1122.1	1110.0	1113.1	12.1	9.0
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	**274.6**	**274.2**	**271.4**	**0.4**	**3.2**
Wholesale Trade	54.4	54.5	53.7	-0.1	0.7
Retail Trade	144.6	144.5	143.1	0.1	1.5
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	75.6	75.2	74.6	0.4	1.0
Information	**12.0**	**12.2**	**11.9**	**-0.2**	**0.1**
Financial Activities	**59.0**	**59.1**	**59.7**	**-0.1**	**-0.7**
Finance & Insurance	43.6	43.6	44.3	0.0	-0.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	15.4	15.5	15.4	-0.1	0.0
Professional & Business Services	**166.4**	**166.4**	**164.9**	**0.0**	**1.5**
Professional, Scientific & Technical	53.5	54.4	52.2	-0.9	1.3
Management of Companies	42.9	43.0	43.0	-0.1	-0.1
Administrative & Support Services	70.0	69.0	69.7	1.0	0.3
Private Education & Health Services	**213.6**	**210.0**	**212.0**	**3.6**	**1.6**
Private Educational Services	21.4	18.6	21.1	2.8	0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	192.2	191.4	190.9	0.8	1.3
Ambulatory Health Care	70.1	70.0	69.4	0.1	0.7
Social Assistance	41.1	40.5	40.2	0.6	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	**137.3**	**139.2**	**132.8**	**-1.9**	**4.5**
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	16.0	16.7	14.6	-0.7	1.4
Accommodation & Food Services	121.3	122.5	118.2	-1.2	3.1
Accommodation Services	10.9	11.2	10.8	-0.3	0.1
Food Services	110.4	111.3	107.4	-0.9	3.0
Other Services	**52.2**	**52.4**	**52.8**	**-0.2**	**-0.6**
Government	**207.0**	**196.5**	**207.6**	**10.5**	**-0.6**
Federal Government	20.2	20.3	21.2	-0.1	-1.0
State Government	71.0	68.8	71.4	2.2	-0.4
State Gov, Educational Services	26.6	24.6	26.9	2.0	-0.3
State Gov, Excluding Education	44.4	44.2	44.5	0.2	-0.1
Local Government	115.8	107.4	115.0	8.4	0.8
Local Gov, Educational Services	69.4	60.3	69.4	9.1	0.0
Local Gov, Excluding Education	46.4	47.1	45.6	-0.7	0.8

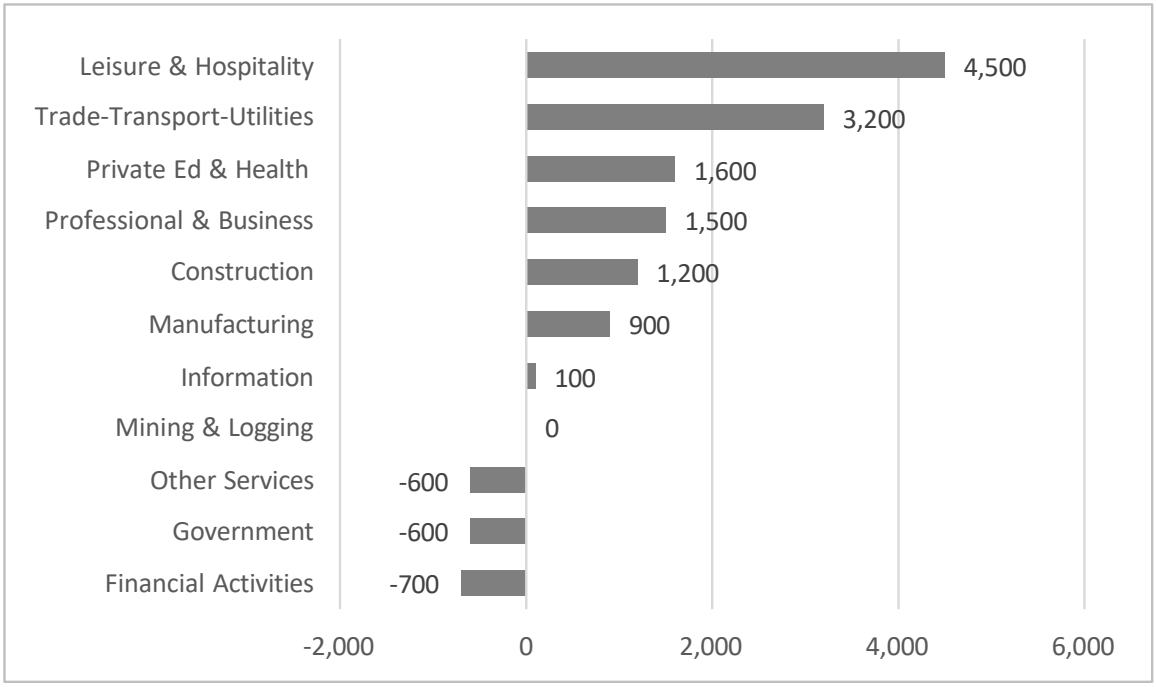
State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

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



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



State of Arkansas

Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

Manufacturing

	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25
Average Weekly Hours	39.9	40.4	38.4
Average Hourly Earnings	$24.55	$24.77	$24.03
Average Weekly Earnings	$979.55	$1,000.71	$922.75

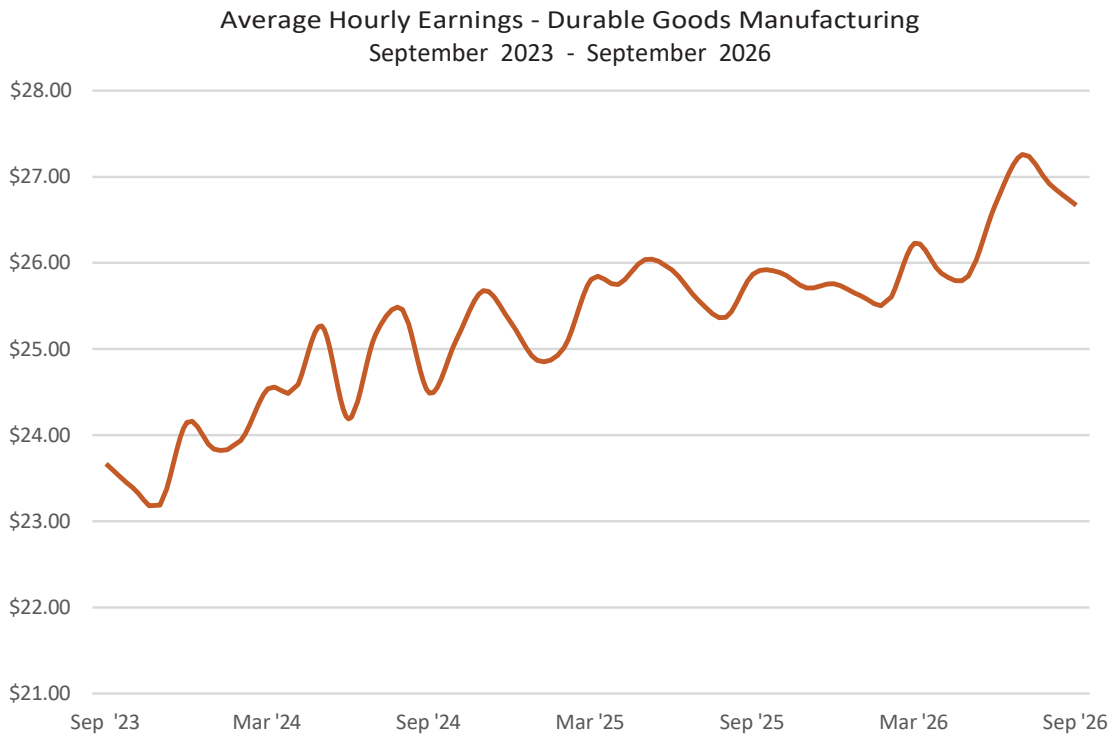
Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

Durable Goods Manufacturing

	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25
Average Weekly Hours	44.2	44.8	42.5
Average Hourly Earnings	$26.67	$26.92	$25.87
Average Weekly Earnings	$1,178.81	$1,206.02	$1,099.48

Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25
Average Weekly Hours	36.0	36.3	34.9
Average Hourly Earnings	$22.19	$22.36	$22.10
Average Weekly Earnings	$798.84	$811.67	$771.29



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)

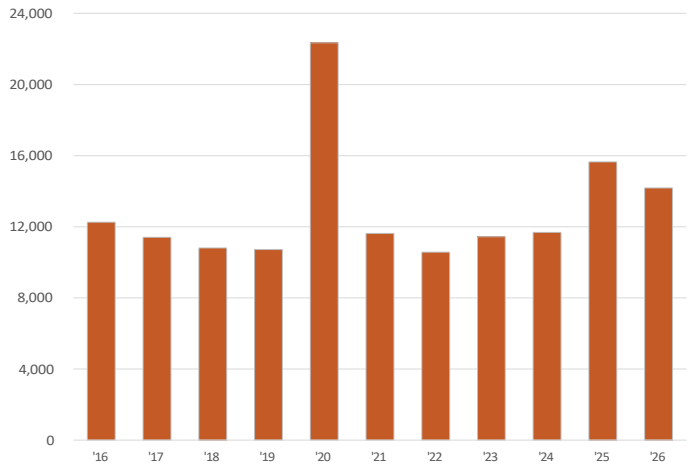
	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	398,119	397,176	391,517	943	6,602
Employment	383,933	382,804	375,865	1,129	8,068
Unemployment	14,186	14,372	15,652	-186	-1,466
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	4.0%	0.0%	-0.4%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

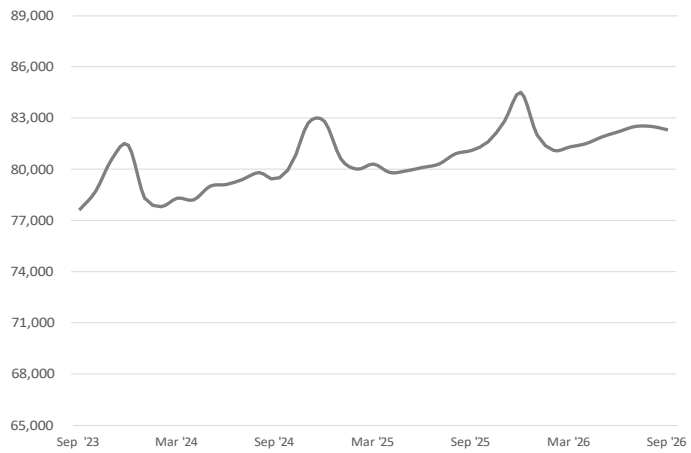
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	397.1	395.0	393.9	2.1	3.2
Goods Producing	42.8	42.9	42.3	-0.1	0.5
Mining, Logging & Construction	**21.8**	**22.0**	**21.5**	**-0.2**	**0.3**
Manufacturing	**21.0**	**20.9**	**20.8**	**0.1**	**0.2**
Service Providing	354.3	352.1	351.6	2.2	2.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	**82.3**	**82.5**	**81.1**	**-0.2**	**1.2**
Wholesale Trade	18.3	18.3	18.2	0.0	0.1
Retail Trade	39.8	40.2	39.3	-0.4	0.5
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	24.2	24.0	23.6	0.2	0.6
Information	**4.7**	**4.9**	**4.8**	**-0.2**	**-0.1**
Financial Activities	**24.8**	**25.0**	**25.3**	**-0.2**	**-0.5**
Professional & Business Services	**50.6**	**50.7**	**50.3**	**-0.1**	**0.3**
Private Education & Health Services	**68.8**	**67.6**	**66.7**	**1.2**	**2.1**
Leisure & Hospitality	**36.2**	**36.3**	**35.6**	**-0.1**	**0.6**
Other Services	**18.6**	**18.7**	**18.7**	**-0.1**	**-0.1**
Government	**68.3**	**66.4**	**69.1**	**1.9**	**-0.8**
Federal Government	9.9	9.9	10.5	0.0	-0.6
State Government	32.2	31.4	32.2	0.8	0.0
Local Government	26.2	25.1	26.4	1.1	-0.2

Unemployment
September: 2016 - 2026



Jobs in Trade-Transportation-Utilities
September 2023 - September 2026



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	329,377	327,507	319,294	1,870	10,083
Employment	319,315	317,990	308,437	1,325	10,878
Unemployment	10,062	9,517	10,857	545	-795
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	2.9%	3.4%	0.2%	-0.3%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

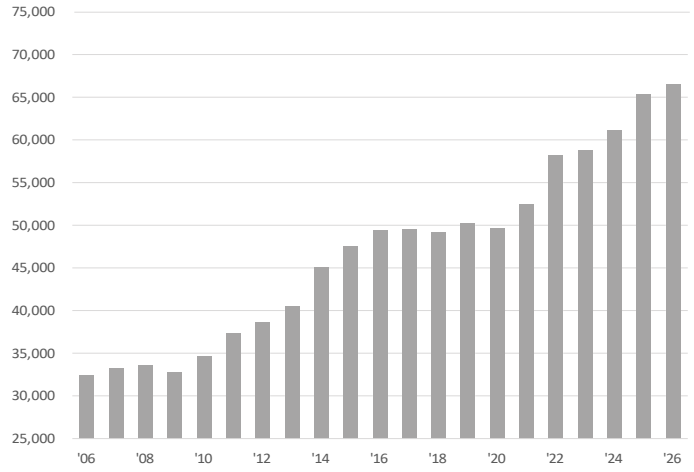
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	311.6	309.4	304.8	2.2	6.8
Goods Producing	46.9	46.7	45.8	0.2	1.1
Mining, Logging & Construction	**19.4**	**19.4**	**18.6**	**0.0**	**0.8**
Manufacturing	**27.5**	**27.3**	**27.2**	**0.2**	**0.3**
Service Providing	264.7	262.7	259.0	2.0	5.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	**62.5**	**62.2**	**61.6**	**0.3**	**0.9**
Wholesale Trade	14.1	14.1	14.0	0.0	0.1
Retail Trade	30.0	29.9	29.1	0.1	0.9
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	18.4	18.2	18.5	0.2	-0.1
Information	**2.5**	**2.6**	**2.5**	**-0.1**	**0.0**
Financial Activities	**10.8**	**10.8**	**10.9**	**0.0**	**-0.1**
Professional & Business Services	**66.6**	**67.1**	**65.4**	**-0.5**	**1.2**
Private Education & Health Services	**38.0**	**37.1**	**37.4**	**0.9**	**0.6**
Leisure & Hospitality	**36.5**	**36.6**	**34.0**	**-0.1**	**2.5**
Other Services	**11.5**	**11.5**	**11.5**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Government	**36.3**	**34.8**	**35.7**	**1.5**	**0.6**
Federal Government	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
State Government	12.8	12.5	12.4	0.3	0.4
Local Government	20.5	19.3	20.2	1.2	0.3

Employment
September 2023 - September 2026



Jobs in Professional & Business Services
September: 2006 - 2026



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

The Fort Smith MSA = Crawford & Sebastian counties in Arkansas and Sequoyah County in Oklahoma

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

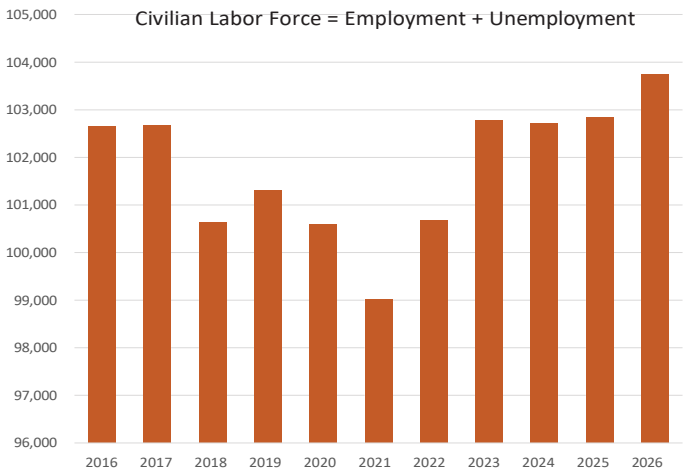
	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	103,737	103,117	102,842	620	895
Employment	99,793	99,206	98,495	587	1,298
Unemployment	3,944	3,911	4,347	33	-403
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.8%	4.2%	0.0%	-0.4%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

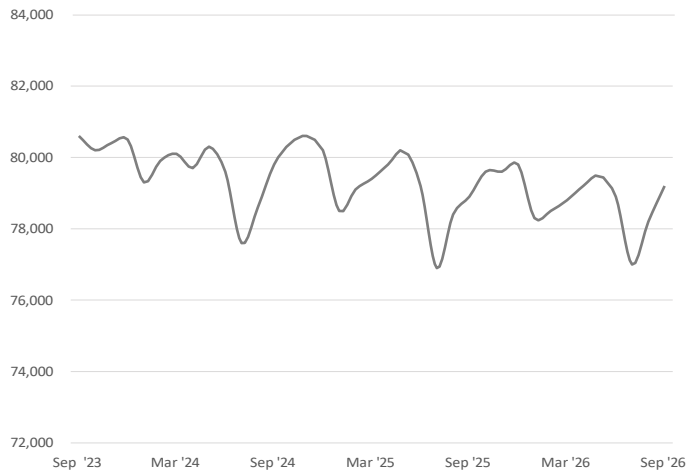
(In Thousands)

NAICS	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	102.1	101.2	101.7	0.9	0.4
Goods Producing	22.9	23.0	22.8	-0.1	0.1
Mining, Logging & Construction	**5.0**	**5.1**	**5.0**	**-0.1**	**0.0**
Manufacturing	**17.9**	**17.9**	**17.8**	**0.0**	**0.1**
Service Providing	79.2	78.2	78.9	1.0	0.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	**20.5**	**20.5**	**20.4**	**0.0**	**0.1**
Wholesale Trade	4.4	4.4	4.4	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	11.5	11.5	11.3	0.0	0.2
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	4.6	4.6	4.7	0.0	-0.1
Information	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Financial Activities	**3.8**	**3.8**	**3.9**	**0.0**	**-0.1**
Professional & Business Services	**10.2**	**10.1**	**10.3**	**0.1**	**-0.1**
Private Education & Health Services	**17.2**	**17.0**	**17.1**	**0.2**	**0.1**
Leisure & Hospitality	**9.8**	**10.1**	**9.3**	**-0.3**	**0.5**
Other Services	**3.6**	**3.6**	**3.6**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Government	**12.9**	**11.9**	**13.1**	**1.0**	**-0.2**
Federal Government	1.2	1.2	1.2	0.0	0.0
State Government	2.1	2.0	2.2	0.1	-0.1
Local Government	9.6	8.7	9.7	0.9	-0.1

Civilian Labor Force
September: 2016 - 2026



Jobs in Service Providing Industries
September 2023 - September 2026



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

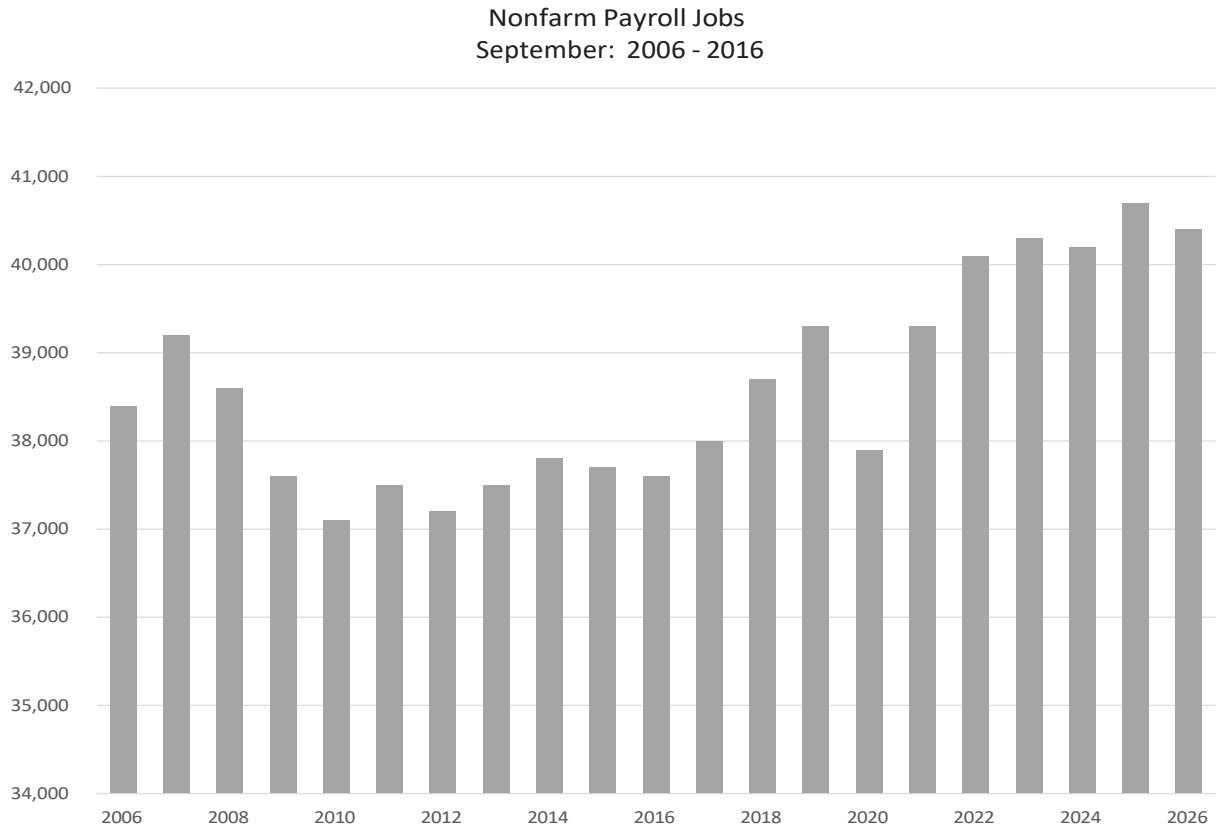
Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	44,401	44,455	44,387	-54	14
Employment	42,760	42,832	42,446	-72	314
Unemployment	1,641	1,623	1,941	18	-300
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.7%	4.4%	0.0%	-0.7%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	40.4	40.3	40.7	0.1	-0.3
Goods Producing	4.6	4.6	4.5	0.0	0.1
Service Providing	35.8	35.7	36.2	0.1	-0.4
Government	4.3	4.1	4.3	0.2	0.0



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

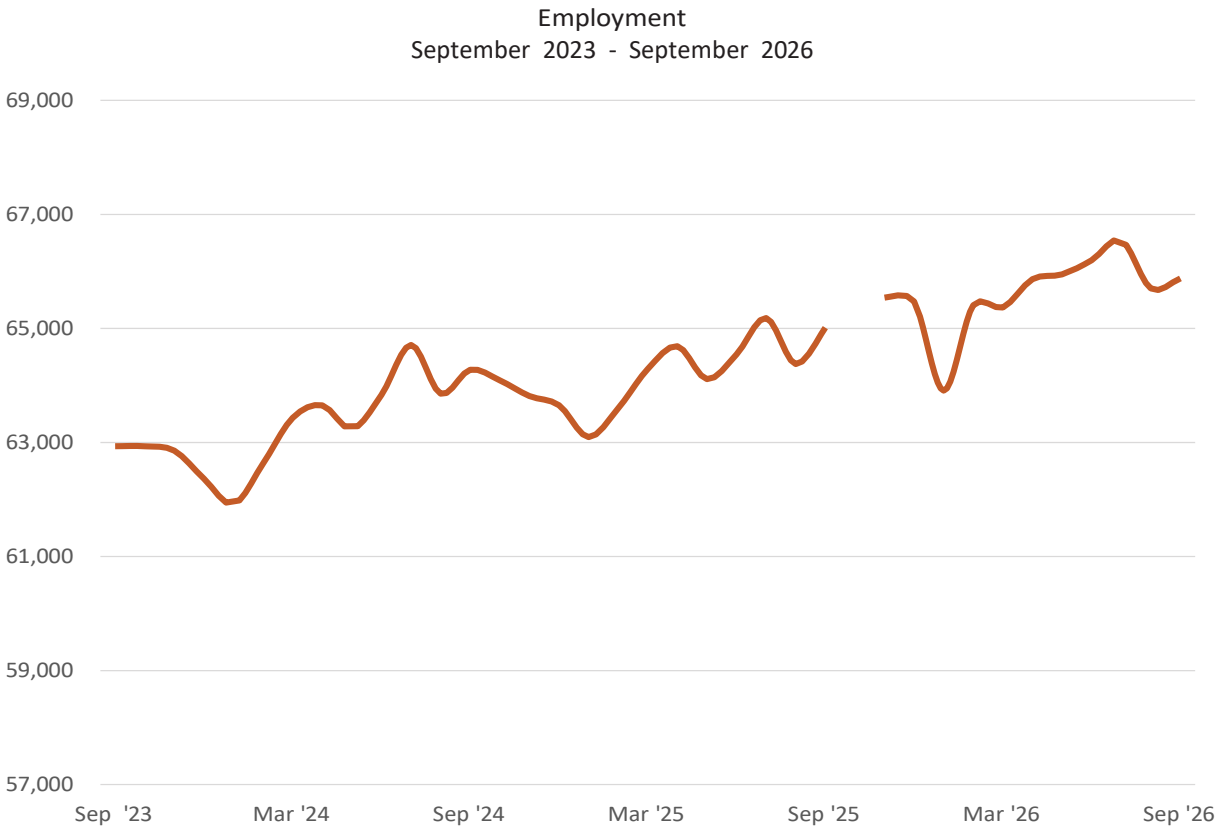
Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	68,325	68,093	67,723	232	602
Employment	65,877	65,702	65,013	175	864
Unemployment	2,448	2,391	2,710	57	-262
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.5%	4.0%	0.1%	-0.4%

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

NAICS	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Total Nonfarm	64.8	64.4	64.9	0.4	-0.1
Goods Producing	11.2	11.2	11.3	0.0	-0.1
Service Providing	53.6	53.2	53.6	0.4	0.0
Government	9.1	8.6	9.1	0.5	0.0



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Out-of-State MSA

Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA

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

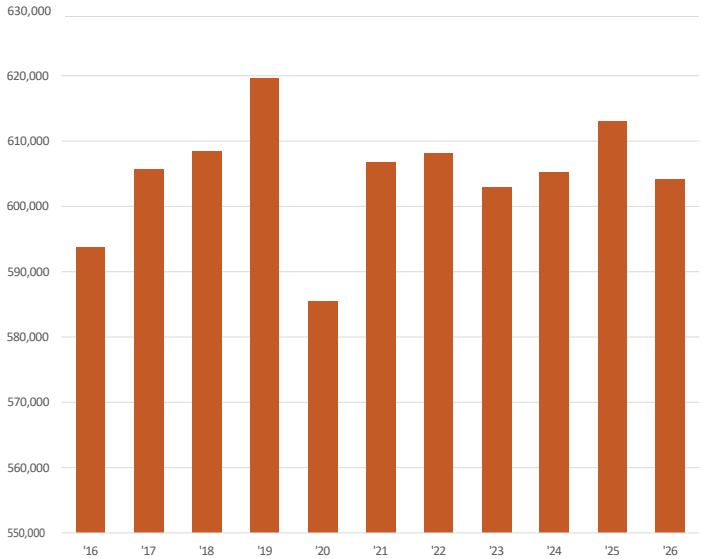
	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	630,151	626,689	640,773	3,462	-10,622
Employment	604,138	598,092	613,052	6,046	-8,914
Unemployment	26,013	28,597	27,721	-2,584	-1,708
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.6%	4.3%	-0.5%	-0.2%

Texarkana MSA

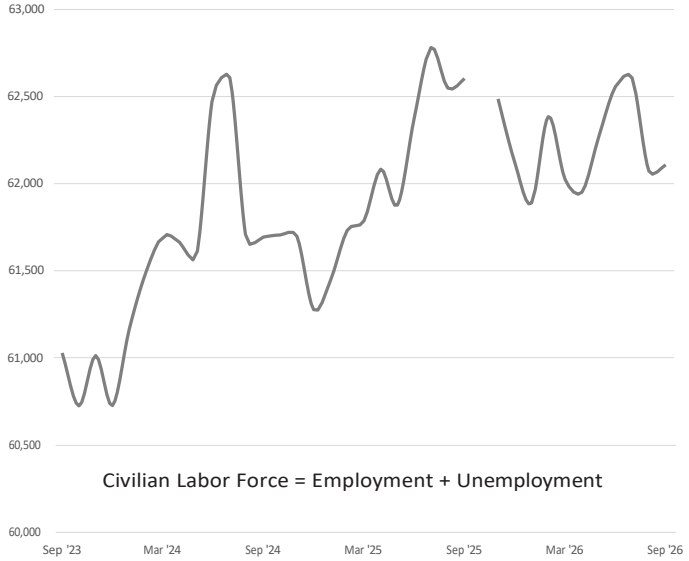
The Texarkana MSA= Bowie County in Texas & Little River & Miller counties in Arkansas.

	Sep 26	Aug 26	Sep 25	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	62,108	62,072	62,604	36	-496
Employment	59,437	59,279	59,734	158	-297
Unemployment	2,671	2,793	2,870	-122	-199
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.5%	4.6%	-0.2%	-0.3%

Memphis MSA - Employment
September: 2006 - 2026



Texarkana MSA - Civilian Labor Force
September 2023 - September 2026



Civilian Labor Force = Employment + Unemployment

Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	September 2026				August 2026				September 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	10,062	9,641	421	4.2	9,854	9,442	412	4.2	10,087	9,615	472	4.7
Batesville Micro	18,990	18,376	614	3.2	18,732	18,162	570	3.0	18,499	17,793	706	3.8
Blytheville Micro	20,793	20,025	768	3.7	20,610	19,799	811	3.9	20,827	19,847	980	4.7
Camden Micro	11,453	10,977	476	4.2	11,192	10,710	482	4.3	11,338	10,777	561	4.9
El Dorado Micro	15,806	15,110	696	4.4	15,726	15,003	723	4.6	15,757	14,939	818	5.2
Forrest City Micro	7,762	7,353	409	5.3	7,743	7,350	393	5.1	7,725	7,271	454	5.9
Harrison Micro	19,309	18,564	745	3.9	18,788	18,073	715	3.8	19,438	18,617	821	4.2
Magnolia Micro	9,079	8,656	423	4.7	8,900	8,506	394	4.4	9,180	8,710	470	5.1
Malvern Micro	13,432	12,904	528	3.9	13,300	12,796	504	3.8	13,437	12,822	615	4.6
Mountain Home Micro	17,669	16,992	677	3.8	17,499	16,842	657	3.8	17,215	16,429	786	4.6
Paragould Micro	19,610	18,841	769	3.9	19,435	18,667	768	4.0	20,052	19,151	901	4.5
Pine Bluff Micro	27,477	26,086	1,391	5.1	27,432	25,964	1,468	5.4	27,741	26,035	1,706	6.1
Russellville Micro	38,014	36,404	1,610	4.2	37,543	35,859	1,684	4.5	37,563	35,834	1,729	4.6
Searcy Micro	35,891	34,584	1,307	3.6	35,525	34,261	1,264	3.6	35,662	34,168	1,494	4.2

Arkadelphia Micro = Clark County
Batesville Micro = Independence County
Blytheville Micro = Mississippi County
Camden Micro = Calhoun & Ouachita counties
El Dorado Micro = Union County
Forrest City Micro = St. Francis County
Harrison Micro = Boone & Newton counties
Magnolia Micro = Columbia County
Malvern Micro = Hot Spring County
Mountain Home Micro = Baxter County
Paragould Micro = Greene County
Pine Bluff Micro = Cleveland & Jefferson counties
Russellville Micro = Pope & Yell Counties
Searcy Micro = White County

City Labor Force Statistics

Not Seasonally Adjusted

City	September 2026				August 2026				September 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	15,626	15,102	524	3.4	15,584	15,038	546	3.5	15,208	14,588	620	4.1
Benton	21,208	20,567	641	3.0	21,137	20,514	623	2.9	20,824	20,139	685	3.3
Bentonville	36,556	35,581	975	2.7	36,321	35,431	890	2.5	35,438	34,370	1,068	3.0
Blytheville	6,996	6,719	277	4.0	6,965	6,643	322	4.6	7,003	6,659	344	4.9
Cabot	14,214	13,763	451	3.2	14,192	13,750	442	3.1	13,969	13,488	481	3.4
Centerton	15,663	15,224	439	2.8	15,552	15,159	393	2.5	15,121	14,705	416	2.8
Conway	38,970	37,627	1,343	3.4	38,803	37,503	1,300	3.4	38,281	36,830	1,451	3.8
El Dorado	6,963	6,636	327	4.7	6,924	6,589	335	4.8	6,995	6,561	434	6.2
Fayetteville	59,410	57,403	2,007	3.4	59,001	57,160	1,841	3.1	57,482	55,444	2,038	3.5
Fort Smith	42,624	41,082	1,542	3.6	42,352	40,839	1,513	3.6	42,076	40,341	1,735	4.1
Hot Springs	17,290	16,660	630	3.6	17,336	16,688	648	3.7	17,340	16,537	803	4.6
Jacksonville	13,235	12,684	551	4.2	13,224	12,639	585	4.4	13,085	12,413	672	5.1
Jonesboro	40,843	39,330	1,513	3.7	40,689	39,204	1,485	3.6	40,486	38,806	1,680	4.1
Little Rock	108,905	104,732	4,173	3.8	108,739	104,361	4,378	4.0	107,005	102,498	4,507	4.2
North Little Rock	34,397	33,103	1,294	3.8	34,371	32,986	1,385	4.0	33,916	32,397	1,519	4.5
Paragould	12,784	12,279	505	4.0	12,652	12,165	487	3.8	13,076	12,481	595	4.6
Pine Bluff	14,910	14,080	830	5.6	14,905	14,001	904	6.1	15,024	14,015	1,009	6.7
Rogers	42,855	41,641	1,214	2.8	42,607	41,465	1,142	2.7	41,530	40,224	1,306	3.1
Russellville	13,811	13,216	595	4.3	13,613	13,016	597	4.4	13,559	12,944	615	4.5
Searcy	10,426	9,998	428	4.1	10,308	9,905	403	3.9	10,338	9,878	460	4.4
Sherwood	17,619	17,003	616	3.5	17,569	16,943	626	3.6	17,315	16,641	674	3.9
Springdale	46,513	45,192	1,321	2.8	46,266	45,001	1,265	2.7	45,297	43,651	1,646	3.6
Texarkana, AR	12,276	11,755	521	4.2	12,324	11,786	538	4.4	12,325	11,681	644	5.2
Van Buren	10,796	10,396	400	3.7	10,692	10,331	361	3.4	10,649	10,208	441	4.1
West Memphis	9,502	8,994	508	5.3	9,548	8,981	567	5.9	9,523	8,858	665	7.0

County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

	September 2026				August 2026				September 2025			
County	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	7,288	7,002	286	3.9	7,395	7,097	298	4.0	7,327	6,996	331	4.5
Ashley	6,946	6,600	346	5.0	6,999	6,646	353	5.0	7,212	6,805	407	5.6
Baxter	17,669	16,992	677	3.8	17,499	16,842	657	3.8	17,215	16,429	786	4.6
Benton	176,262	170,993	5,269	3.0	175,315	170,271	5,044	2.9	170,811	165,173	5,638	3.3
Boone	16,633	16,003	630	3.8	16,159	15,560	599	3.7	16,756	16,063	693	4.1
Bradley	3,746	3,568	178	4.8	3,696	3,521	175	4.7	3,761	3,540	221	5.9
Calhoun	2,232	2,150	82	3.7	2,216	2,135	81	3.7	2,161	2,066	95	4.4
Carroll	12,501	12,047	454	3.6	12,543	12,113	430	3.4	12,328	11,826	502	4.1
Chicot	3,163	2,983	180	5.7	3,207	3,022	185	5.8	3,302	3,093	209	6.3
Clark	10,062	9,641	421	4.2	9,854	9,442	412	4.2	10,087	9,615	472	4.7
Clay	5,983	5,748	235	3.9	6,043	5,814	229	3.8	5,994	5,732	262	4.4
Cleburne	10,714	10,287	427	4.0	10,499	10,084	415	4.0	10,435	9,927	508	4.9
Cleveland	2,944	2,822	122	4.1	2,950	2,831	119	4.0	3,019	2,878	141	4.7
Columbia	9,079	8,656	423	4.7	8,900	8,506	394	4.4	9,180	8,710	470	5.1
Conway	9,578	9,234	344	3.6	9,590	9,244	346	3.6	9,378	8,972	406	4.3
Craighead	58,207	56,134	2,073	3.6	57,975	55,954	2,021	3.5	57,667	55,386	2,281	4.0
Crawford	26,462	25,453	1,009	3.8	26,250	25,294	956	3.6	26,155	24,992	1,163	4.4
Crittenden	20,886	19,923	963	4.6	20,914	19,895	1,019	4.9	20,797	19,621	1,176	5.7
Cross	7,532	7,257	275	3.7	7,551	7,268	283	3.7	7,459	7,142	317	4.2
Dallas	2,786	2,679	107	3.8	2,795	2,686	109	3.9	2,764	2,650	114	4.1
Desha	3,846	3,615	231	6.0	3,879	3,623	256	6.6	3,957	3,687	270	6.8
Drew	7,884	7,559	325	4.1	7,897	7,575	322	4.1	7,937	7,547	390	4.9
Faulkner	69,334	66,965	2,369	3.4	69,038	66,744	2,294	3.3	68,149	65,547	2,602	3.8
Franklin	7,480	7,186	294	3.9	7,471	7,178	293	3.9	7,435	7,113	322	4.3
Fulton	4,236	4,047	189	4.5	4,070	3,883	187	4.6	4,146	3,923	223	5.4
Garland	44,401	42,760	1,641	3.7	44,455	42,832	1,623	3.7	44,387	42,446	1,941	4.4
Grant	9,164	8,870	294	3.2	9,156	8,871	285	3.1	9,013	8,695	318	3.5
Greene	19,610	18,841	769	3.9	19,435	18,667	768	4.0	20,052	19,151	901	4.5
Hempstead	8,796	8,436	360	4.1	8,629	8,241	388	4.5	8,678	8,277	401	4.6
Hot Spring	13,432	12,904	528	3.9	13,300	12,796	504	3.8	13,437	12,822	615	4.6
Howard	4,677	4,455	222	4.7	4,673	4,454	219	4.7	4,739	4,477	262	5.5
Independence	18,990	18,376	614	3.2	18,732	18,162	570	3.0	18,499	17,793	706	3.8
Izard	4,305	4,086	219	5.1	4,266	4,039	227	5.3	4,426	4,151	275	6.2
Jackson	5,679	5,454	225	4.0	5,702	5,481	221	3.9	5,705	5,441	264	4.6
Jefferson	24,533	23,264	1,269	5.2	24,482	23,133	1,349	5.5	24,722	23,157	1,565	6.3
Johnson	10,049	9,576	473	4.7	9,695	9,202	493	5.1	10,103	9,563	540	5.3
Lafayette	2,264	2,161	103	4.5	2,258	2,157	101	4.5	2,316	2,193	123	5.3
Lawrence	7,015	6,764	251	3.6	6,895	6,642	253	3.7	7,083	6,779	304	4.3
Lee	2,330	2,198	132	5.7	2,347	2,226	121	5.2	2,332	2,194	138	5.9
Lincoln	3,203	3,050	153	4.8	3,242	3,079	163	5.0	3,193	3,016	177	5.5
Little River	5,157	4,956	201	3.9	5,187	4,981	206	4.0	5,155	4,932	223	4.3
Logan	9,199	8,838	361	3.9	9,222	8,865	357	3.9	8,989	8,596	393	4.4
Lonoke	38,312	37,051	1,261	3.3	38,237	37,017	1,220	3.2	37,694	36,313	1,381	3.7
Madison	8,660	8,398	262	3.0	8,627	8,387	240	2.8	8,411	8,115	296	3.5
Marion	5,506	5,226	280	5.1	5,385	5,110	275	5.1	5,384	5,049	335	6.2
Miller	17,139	16,410	729	4.3	17,193	16,454	739	4.3	17,191	16,307	884	5.1

(continued on Page 16)

County Labor Force Statistics

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	September 2026				August 2026				September 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	20,793	20,025	768	3.7	20,610	19,799	811	3.9	20,827	19,847	980	4.7
Monroe	2,607	2,490	117	4.5	2,652	2,528	124	4.7	2,659	2,508	151	5.7
Montgomery	3,163	3,027	136	4.3	3,171	3,039	132	4.2	3,121	2,962	159	5.1
Nevada	2,656	2,503	153	5.8	2,642	2,484	158	6.0	2,660	2,505	155	5.8
Newton	2,676	2,561	115	4.3	2,629	2,513	116	4.4	2,682	2,554	128	4.8
Ouachita	9,221	8,827	394	4.3	8,976	8,575	401	4.5	9,177	8,711	466	5.1
Perry	4,474	4,288	186	4.2	4,478	4,294	184	4.1	4,413	4,205	208	4.7
Phillips	4,542	4,232	310	6.8	4,556	4,226	330	7.2	4,728	4,399	329	7.0
Pike	4,175	4,007	168	4.0	4,154	3,988	166	4.0	4,183	4,002	181	4.3
Poinsett	10,118	9,743	375	3.7	10,118	9,748	370	3.7	10,056	9,627	429	4.3
Polk	7,432	7,116	316	4.3	7,452	7,136	316	4.2	7,394	7,061	333	4.5
Pope	28,660	27,385	1,275	4.4	28,307	26,971	1,336	4.7	28,165	26,822	1,343	4.8
Prairie	3,645	3,520	125	3.4	3,644	3,515	129	3.5	3,557	3,417	140	3.9
Pulaski	207,463	199,574	7,889	3.8	207,123	198,867	8,256	4.0	204,087	195,318	8,769	4.3
Randolph	8,277	7,997	280	3.4	8,227	7,965	262	3.2	8,147	7,813	334	4.1
St. Francis	7,762	7,353	409	5.3	7,743	7,350	393	5.1	7,725	7,271	454	5.9
Saline	69,372	67,185	2,187	3.2	69,144	67,011	2,133	3.1	68,161	65,787	2,374	3.5
Scott	4,142	3,995	147	3.5	4,164	4,016	148	3.6	4,158	3,991	167	4.0
Searcy	3,260	3,138	122	3.7	3,296	3,170	126	3.8	3,331	3,189	142	4.3
Sebastian	60,441	58,248	2,193	3.6	60,070	57,903	2,167	3.6	59,655	57,197	2,458	4.1
Sevier	7,392	7,156	236	3.2	7,372	7,150	222	3.0	7,214	6,957	257	3.6
Sharp	6,889	6,613	276	4.0	6,631	6,370	261	3.9	6,666	6,353	313	4.7
Stone	4,208	4,020	188	4.5	4,231	4,046	185	4.4	4,176	3,936	240	5.7
Union	15,806	15,110	696	4.4	15,726	15,003	723	4.6	15,757	14,939	818	5.2
Van Buren	6,009	5,745	264	4.4	5,885	5,613	272	4.6	5,889	5,582	307	5.2
Washington	144,455	139,924	4,531	3.1	143,565	139,332	4,233	2.9	140,072	135,149	4,923	3.5
White	35,891	34,584	1,307	3.6	35,525	34,261	1,264	3.6	35,662	34,168	1,494	4.2
Woodruff	3,112	3,020	92	3.0	3,139	3,042	97	3.1	3,044	2,927	117	3.8
Yell	9,354	9,019	335	3.6	9,236	8,888	348	3.8	9,398	9,012	386	4.1

County Labor Force Summary

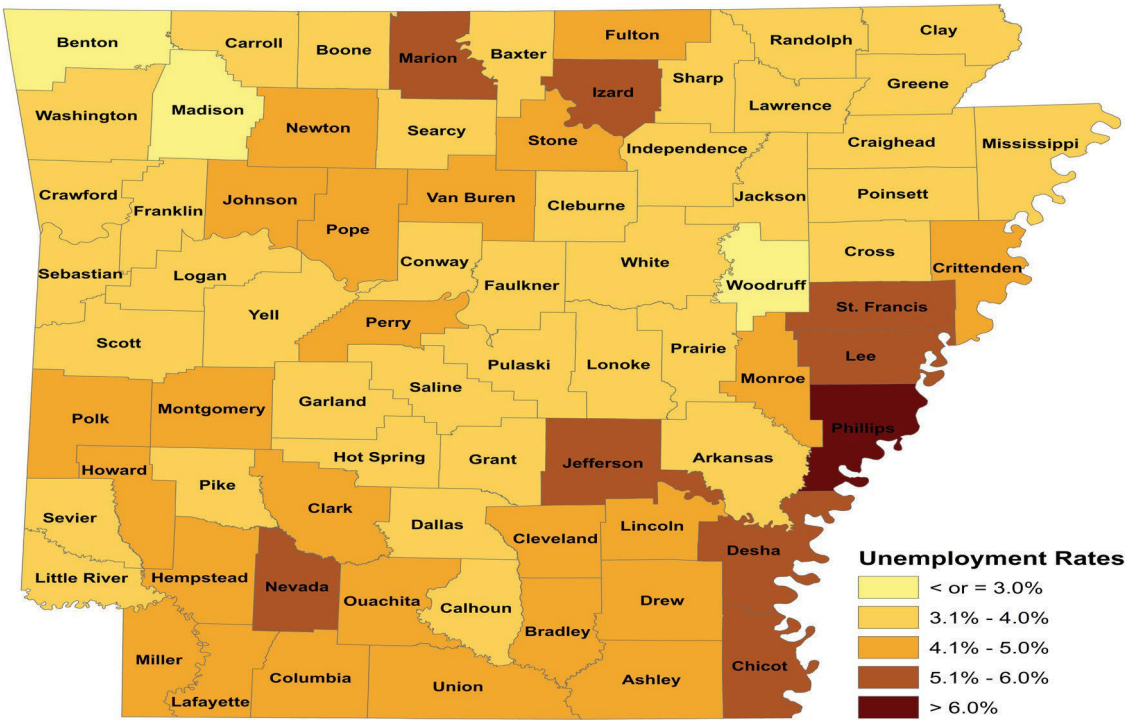
Between August and September, unemployment rates declined in 29 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates increased in 27 counties, while 19 counties were unchanged over the month. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 3.0% in Benton, Madison, and Woodruff counties to a high of 6.8% in Phillips County.

In September, three counties posted unemployment rates at or below three percent. That is down slightly from 5 counties at or below 3% last month. No county had a jobless rate at or above 7% this month, up from one county in August.

Compared to September 2025, unemployment rates have declined in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties. The rate in Nevada County remained stable over the year. Eight counties posted annual rate declines of over one full percentage point, while the average decrease was six-tenths of a percentage point.

2026 Arkansas Labor Market Report | September

County Unemployment Rates



Ranked by Unemployment Rates

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Benton	3.0	21	Searcy	3.7	48	Ouachita	4.3
1	Madison	3.0	27	Baxter	3.8	48	Polk	4.3
1	Woodruff	3.0	27	Boone	3.8	53	Pope	4.4
4	Washington	3.1	27	Crawford	3.8	53	Union	4.4
5	Grant	3.2	27	Dallas	3.8	53	Van Buren	4.4
5	Independence	3.2	27	Pulaski	3.8	56	Fulton	4.5
5	Saline	3.2	32	Arkansas	3.9	56	Lafayette	4.5
5	Sevier	3.2	32	Clay	3.9	56	Monroe	4.5
9	Lonoke	3.3	32	Franklin	3.9	56	Stone	4.5
10	Faulkner	3.4	32	Greene	3.9	60	Crittenden	4.6
10	Prairie	3.4	32	Hot Spring	3.9	61	Columbia	4.7
10	Randolph	3.4	32	Little River	3.9	61	Howard	4.7
13	Scott	3.5	32	Logan	3.9	61	Johnson	4.7
14	Carroll	3.6	39	Cleburne	4.0	64	Bradley	4.8
14	Conway	3.6	39	Jackson	4.0	64	Lincoln	4.8
14	Craighead	3.6	39	Pike	4.0	66	Ashley	5.0
14	Lawrence	3.6	39	Sharp	4.0	67	Izard	5.1
14	Sebastian	3.6	43	Cleveland	4.1	67	Marion	5.1
14	White	3.6	43	Drew	4.1	69	Jefferson	5.2
14	Yell	3.6	43	Hempstead	4.1	70	St. Francis	5.3
21	Calhoun	3.7	46	Clark	4.2	71	Chicot	5.7
21	Cross	3.7	46	Perry	4.2	71	Lee	5.7
21	Garland	3.7	48	Miller	4.3	73	Nevada	5.8
21	Mississippi	3.7	48	Montgomery	4.3	74	Desha	6.0
21	Poinsett	3.7	48	Newton	4.3	75	Phillips	6.8

Local Workforce Development Areas

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	September 2026				August 2026				September 2025			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	281,828	272,053	9,775	3.5	281,099	271,321	9,778	3.5	277,302	266,392	10,910	3.9
City of Little Rock	108,905	104,732	4,173	3.8	108,739	104,361	4,378	4.0	107,005	102,498	4,507	4.2
Eastern	43,052	40,963	2,089	4.9	43,111	40,965	2,146	5.0	43,041	40,627	2,414	5.6
North Central	100,033	96,232	3,801	3.8	98,680	94,981	3,699	3.7	98,648	94,201	4,447	4.5
Northeast	130,003	125,252	4,751	3.7	129,303	124,589	4,714	3.6	129,826	124,335	5,491	4.2
Northwest	387,622	375,282	12,340	3.2	385,018	373,298	11,720	3.0	376,990	363,547	13,443	3.6
Southeast	72,717	69,333	3,384	4.7	72,903	69,398	3,505	4.8	73,443	69,414	4,029	5.5
Southwest	87,205	83,499	3,706	4.2	86,567	82,826	3,741	4.3	86,992	82,724	4,268	4.9
West Central	137,348	131,841	5,507	4.0	136,240	130,696	5,544	4.1	136,672	130,421	6,251	4.6
Western	115,156	110,836	4,320	3.8	114,629	110,392	4,237	3.7	113,786	108,950	4,836	4.3

