**2017**

**Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report**

**State and Local Workforce Development Areas**

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**2017 Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report**

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Western Arkansas LWDA 100

**Executive Summary**

The 2017 Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report is produced by the Occupational/Career Information unit of the Labor Market Information Section to provide relevant information about the economy and workforce in Arkansas and the 10 Workforce Development Areas. The primary focus of this report includes the years 2012 to 2016, with some information covering shorter periods due to accessibility of data. Projection information for industry and occupational trends covers the years 2016 to 2018.

Arkansas increased in population to almost 3 million residents in 2016, increasing by 10,395 from 2015; and adding a total of 37,563 new residents from 2012 to 2016. Of Arkansas’s 10 Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs), Northwest Arkansas continues to see the largest increase in population, adding 11,821 in 2016. The Eastern, Southeast, and Southwest Arkansas LWDAs continued to see decreasing populations in 2016.

Between 2015 and 2016 the state’s labor force increased by 10,112 and employment increased by 23,820. Labor Force and employment were mixed across the LWDAs. The State’s unemployment rate dropped significantly to 4.0 percent in 2016 or by three and six-tenth percentage points since 2012. The unemployment rate continued to decline in 2017, ending the month of July at 3.4 percent. The unemployment rate decreased across all LWDAs in 2016 and through July 2017. The Central, City of Little Rock, and Northwest Arkansas LWDAs unemployment rates all fell at or below state levels through July 2017.

Short-term employment projections for 2016 to 2018 continue to see an increase in the Arkansas job market with 41,750 jobs, equivalent to a 3.06 percent rise in employment. **Goods-Producing Industries** are estimated to see a net gain of 4,466 jobs, while the **Services-Providing Industries** are forecast to increase employment by 33,437. Arkansas’s self-employed ranks are estimated to experience a net gain of 3,847, an increase of 2.86 percent.

Jobs requiring no formal educational credential are estimated to add more jobs than any other education level with 13,670 jobs between 2016 and 2018. Occupations requiring a Bachelor’s degree are expected to grow by 8,417.

Arkansas’ per capita personal income increased over the 2011-2015 period to $38,257; however, the state’s per capita personal income in 2015 remained below the United States per capita personal income of $48,190. During the first quarter of 2017, the cost of living composite index in Arkansas’ urban areas was below the national average for all urban areas in the index.

Almost 885,000 Arkansas workers earned at least $10 or more an hour in 2016, with the mean annual wage for all employer sizes estimated at $39,590 in 2016. Of the six states surrounding Arkansas, only Mississippi had a lower overall average hourly and average annual wage for all occupations. Of the surrounding states, Texas had the highest average annual wage that was about 21 percent higher than the average annual wage for Arkansas.

*Sources used for this report include the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Employment Assistance Division, Labor Market Information Section, United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the Local Employment Dynamics Program (a partnership between the State of Arkansas and the United States Census Bureau), Population Reference Bureau and The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER).*

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**State of Arkansas**

**Population**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State of Arkansas Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | | | |
| **(All Ownerships)** | | | | | | |
| **QWI Explorer** | | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | | 60,484 | 58,132 | 58,636 | 63,379 | 58,769 |
| New Hires | | 188,760 | 185,127 | 194,555 | 206,429 | 209,605 |
| Separations | | 206,815 | 205,115 | 208,093 | 215,963 | 225,137 |
| Turnover |  | 8.5% | 8.5% | 8.6% | 8.8% | 9.1% |
| *Source: U.S.Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD*  *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.* | | | | | | |
| *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.* | | | | | |  |
| *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.* | | | | | | | |
| *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | | |

The State of Arkansas’ population grew to 2,988,248 in 2016, adding 10,395 from 2015 to 2016 and 37,563 from 2012 to 2016. The State of Arkansas consists of 10 Workforce Development Areas (WDAs), six Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and 75 counties. Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas border the state.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State of Arkansas Population 2012 - 2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 2,950,685 | 2,958,663 | 2,966,912 | 2,977,853 | 2,988,248 |
| *Source: Source: US Census Bureau* | |  |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation decreased between the second quarter of 2015 and the second quarter of 2016 to 58,769, a decrease of 4,610 compared to the second quarter of 2015. Job creation has fluctuated over the five-year period but was 1,715 lower for the second quarter of 2016, compared to the second quarter of 2012. New hires increased in the second quarter of 2016 by 3,176 compared to the second quarter of 2015 and increased by 20,845 compared to the second quarter of 2012. Separations increased over the five-year period by 18,322 to 225,137 in the second quarter of 2016, and the turnover rate increased slightly between 2015 and 2016 to 9.1 percent.

**State of Arkansas**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State of Arkansas 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 1,342,753 | 1,308,383 | 1,303,106 | 1,332,579 | 1,342,691 |
| Employment | 1,241,127 | 1,212,401 | 1,223,802 | 1,265,174 | 1,288,994 |
| Unemployment | 101,626 | 95,982 | 79,304 | 67,405 | 53,697 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.6% | 7.3% | 6.1% | 5.1% | 4.0% |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | | | | |

The labor force increased by 10,112 between 2015 and 2016 and employment increased by 23,820 over the same period. Unemployment decreased by 13,708 from 2015 to 2016, but has seen a decrease of 47,929 since 2012. The State’s unemployment rate dropped by one and one-tenths percentage points from 2015 to 2016. Over the 2012 – 2016 period, the unemployment rate dropped three and six-tenths percentage points to 4.0 percent for 2016. The State’s unemployment rate was 3.4 percent in July 2017.

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **State of Arkansas Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment Rate** |
| 2017 | January | 3.8% |
| 2017 | February | 3.7% |
| 2017 | March | 3.6% |
| 2017 | April | 3.5% |
| 2017 | May | 3.4% |
| 2017 | June | 3.4% |
| 2017 | July | 3.4% |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | |
| *\*Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | |  |

**State of Arkansas**

**Cost of Living**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2017 Q1 Index** | | | | | | | |  |
| **URBAN AREA AND STATE** | **100%**  **COMPOSITE**  **INDEX** | **13.61%**  **GROCERY**  **ITEMS** | **27.59%**  **HOUSING** | **10.06%**  **UTILITIES** | **9.59%**  **TRANSPORTATION** | **4.00%**  **HEALTH CARE** | **35.15%**  **MISC. GOODS**  **AND SERVICES** |  |
|  |
|  |
|  | | | | | | | |  |
| Fayetteville AR | 89.7 | 95.0 | 76.4 | 92.1 | 86.4 | 88.0 | 98.6 |  |
| Hot Springs AR | 90.4 | 91.8 | 80.4 | 104.6 | 87.3 | 90.8 | 94.5 |  |
| Jonesboro AR | 83.8 | 90.5 | 74.9 | 82.8 | 86.5 | 81.0 | 88.0 |  |
| Conway AR | 79.1 | 88.0 | 66.8 | 81.0 | 89.2 | 85.5 | 81.4 |  |
| Little Rock-North Little Rock AR | 96.7 | 91.4 | 87.9 | 114.4 | 88.5 | 91.4 | 103.3 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **2016 Q1 - 2017 Q1 Index** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **URBAN AREA AND STATE** | **100%**  **COMPOSITE**  **INDEX** | **13.61%**  **GROCERY**  **ITEMS** | **27.59%**  **HOUSING** | **10.06%**  **UTILITIES** | **9.59%**  **TRANSPORTATION** | **4.00%**  **HEALTH CARE** | **35.15%**  **MISC. GOODS**  **AND SERVICES** |  |
|  |
|  |
|  | | | | | | | |  |
| Fayetteville AR | 87.5 | 91.1 | 74.6 | 95.1 | 86.5 | 88.3 | 94.3 |  |
| Hot Springs AR | 91.6 | 95.4 | 79.6 | 109.4 | 86.9 | 90.7 | 95.8 |  |
| Jonesboro AR | 84.1 | 91.6 | 72.7 | 82.7 | 85.9 | 81.8 | 90.2 |  |
| Conway AR | 83.1 | 90.1 | 72.2 | 81.9 | 93.0 | 86.4 | 86.1 |  |
| Little Rock-North Little Rock AR | 95.5 | 92.5 | 88.5 | 115.3 | 91.8 | 90.2 | 98.0 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **ABOUT THE INDEX:** C2ER produces the *Cost of Living Index* to provide a useful and reasonably accurate measure of living cost differences among urban areas. Items on which the Index is based have  been carefully chosen to reflect the different categories of consumer expenditures. Weights assigned to relative costs are based on government survey data on expenditure patterns for professional and  executive households. All items are priced in each place at a specified time and according to standardized specifications. | | | | | | | | |
| **INTERPRETING THE INDEX:** The *Cost of Living Index* measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services in participating areas. The average for all participating places, both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan, equals 100, and each participant’s index is read as a percentage of the average for all places. | | | | | | | | |
| **The *Index* does not measure inflation** (price change over time). Because each quarterly report is a separate comparison of prices at a single point in time, and because both the number and the mix of  participants changes from one quarter to the next, **Index data from different quarters cannot be compared**. For inflation data, contact the US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) at www.bls.gov. | | | | | | | | |

**State of Arkansas**

**Median Household/Per Capita Income**

Arkansas’ median household income was $42,046 in 2015 which increased by $711 from 2014 to 2015 but is below the national median household income of $55,775 for 2015. Arkansas’ per capita personal income in 2015 was $38,257, an increase of $676 from 2014. Over the 2011 -2015 period, the per capita personal income increased by $4,477. The State’s per capita personal income is below the United States per capita personal income of $48,190.

**Median Household Income**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Arkansas/United States Median Household Income 2011-2015** | | |
|  | **Income** | |
| **Year** | **Arkansas** | **United States** |
| 2011 | $38,889 | $50,502 |
| 2012 | $40,151 | $51,371 |
| 2013 | $40,605 | $52,250 |
| 2014 | $41,335 | $53,657 |
| 2015 | $42,046 | $55,775 |

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Arkansas/United States Per Capita Personal Income 2011-2015** | | | | | | |
|  | **Income** | |  |  |  |  |
| **Year** | **Arkansas** | **United States** | |  |  |  |
| 2011 | $33,780 | $42,461 |  |  |  |  |
| 2012 | $36,149 | $44,282 |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 | $35,985 | $44,493 |  |  |  |  |
| 2014 | $37,581 | $46,464 |  |  |  |  |
| 2015 | $38,257 | $48,190 |  |  |  |  |
| *Source: United States Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)* | | | | | |  |

**Per Capita Personal Income**

**State of Arkansas**

**Employment**

In 2016, whites made up 79.9 percent of the labor force while the total of all minority groups made up 20.1 percent of the labor force. The unemployment rate for all races, including Hispanics, was 4.0 percent. The unemployment rate for all minority groups combined was 6.6 percent. Hispanics of all races made up 6.5 percent of the labor force, with an unemployment rate of 3.3 percent.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Employment Status by Race State of Arkansas 2016** | | | | |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  | **Percent Distribution** | | |  |
| **Race and Sex** | **Labor Force** | **Emp** | **Unemp** | **Unemp**  **Rate** | **Labor Force** | **Emp** | **Unemp** |  |
| **Both Sexes (Age 16+)** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total, Including Hispanic | 1,342,691 | 1,288,994 | 53,697 | 4.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |
| White | 1,072,656 | 1,036,899 | 35,757 | 3.3 | 79.9 | 80.4 | 66.6 |  |
| Black | 189,683 | 174,855 | 14,828 | 7.8 | 14.1 | 13.6 | 27.6 |  |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 7,736 | 7,383 | 353 | 4.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.7 |  |
| Asian | 20,906 | 20,330 | 576 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.1 |  |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | 2,695 | 2,572 | 123 | 4.6 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |  |
| Remaining Races | 29,050 | 28,066 | 984 | 3.4 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 1.8 |  |
| Two or More Races | 19,966 | 18,890 | 1,076 | 5.4 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 2.0 |  |
| Total: Minority Group\* | 270,036 | 252,096 | 17,940 | 6.6 | 20.1 | 19.6 | 33.4 |  |
| Hispanic, All Races | 87,946 | 85,061 | 2,885 | 3.3 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 5.4 |  |
| *\*Sum of Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, Remaining Races, and Two or More Races.* | | | | | | | | |
| *Note: Sum of individual items may not equal because of rounding. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.* | | | | | | | | |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, the U.S. Department of Labor- Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the U.S. Census Bureau- American* | | | | | | | | |
| *Community Survey (2011-2015 5-Year Estimates)* | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**State of Arkansas**

**Education**

Every education category is projected to see positive net growth between 2016 and 2018. Occupations requiring no formal education are projected to add 13,670 jobs during the projection period. Jobs requiring a High School Diploma or equivalent are expected to add 13,643 during the projection period and had the highest educational attainment between 2011 and 2015 at 34.9 percent. Occupations requiring a Bachelor’s degree are expected to grow by 8,417 jobs and 13.6 percent of the population 25 years and over had a Bachelor’s degree in 2015. Growth in occupations requiring a Master’s degree or Doctoral or Professional degree is expected to be 804 and 1,118 jobs respectively. Educational attainment of the State’s population aged 25 years and over shows that 84.7 percent have earned at least a high school diploma or equivalent.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Net Change by Education Title**  **2016 - 2018** |  |
| **Education Title** | **Net Change** |
| Doctoral or professional degree | 1,118 |
| Master's degree | 804 |
| Bachelor's degree | 8,417 |
| Associate's degree | 753 |
| Postsecondary non-degree award | 2,762 |
| Some college, no degree | 583 |
| High school diploma or equivalent | 13,643 |
| No formal educational credential | 13,670 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services Projections Suite Software*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Educational Attainment in Arkansas 2015** | |  |
|  | **Arkansas Total Estimate** | |
| Population 25 years and over | 1,962,741 | (%) |
| Less than 9th grade | 110,961 | 5.7% |
| 9th to 12th grade, no diploma | 188,138 | 9.6% |
| High school graduate (includes equivalency) | 685,277 | 34.9% |
| Some college, no degree | 440,740 | 22.5% |
| Associate's degree | 123,526 | 6.3% |
| Bachelor's degree | 267,741 | 13.6% |
| Graduate or professional degree | 146,358 | 7.5% |
| *Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates* | | |

**State of Arkansas In Demand Occupations**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Total Annual Openings** | **Education** | **May 2016 Mean Wage** | | **High Skill** |  |  |  |  | | 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 876 | B | $57,630 | | 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 831 | B | $84,770 | | 25-2021 | Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education | 465 | B | $46,950 | | 25-2031 | Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education | 425 | B | $49,780 | | 21-2011 | Clergy | 416 | B | $43,620 | | 13-2011 | Accountants and Auditors | 342 | B | $65,740 | | 25-2022 | Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education | 243 | B | $48,580 | | 13-1111 | Management Analysts | 149 | B | $60,690 | | 11-9111 | Medical and Health Services Managers | 139 | D | $81,600 | | 15-1121 | Computer Systems Analysts | 138 | B | $67,600 | | 11-2022 | Sales Managers | 134 | B | $120,240 | | 15-1131 | Computer Programmers | 126 | B | $72,040 | | 29-1051 | Pharmacists | 125 | D | $116,960 | | 23-1011 | Lawyers | 120 | D | $103,980 | | 11-3031 | Financial Managers | 116 | B | $97,940 | | **Moderate Skill** | |  |  |  | | 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 928 | PS | $39,430 | | 31-1014 | Nursing Assistants | 636 | PS | $22,760 | | 29-2061 | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 480 | PS | $36,800 | | 25-9041 | Teacher Assistants | 373 | SC | $20,310 | | 49-3023 | Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics | 258 | PS | $34,750 | | 43-3031 | Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks | 161 | SC | $35,400 | | 39-5012 | Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists | 149 | PS | $26,210 | | 31-9092 | Medical Assistants | 144 | PS | $30,160 | | 15-1151 | Computer User Support Specialists | 132 | SC | $40,350 | | 49-9021 | Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers | 132 | PS | $37,470 | | 31-9091 | Dental Assistants | 114 | PS | $32,280 | | 29-2041 | Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics | 98 | PS | $28,770 | | 33-2011 | Firefighters | 94 | PS | $35,590 | | 29-2071 | Medical Records and Health Information Technicians | 76 | PS | $33,410 | | 25-4031 | Library Technicians | 48 | PS | $26,030 | | **Basic Skill** |  |  |  |  | | 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,312 | NFE | $19,540 | | 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,256 | NFE | $24,640 | | 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,888 | NFE | $18,820 | | 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 1,724 | HS | $86,200 | | 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,414 | NFE | $19,300 | | 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 1,306 | NFE | $25,120 | | 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 982 | HS | $26,380 | | 43-5081 | Stock Clerks and Order Fillers | 784 | NFE | $23,990 | | 43-4051 | Customer Service Representatives | 691 | HS | $31,770 | | 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 685 | NFE | $22,020 | | 41-1011 | First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers | 667 | HS | $37,550 | | 39-9011 | Childcare Workers | 609 | HS | $19,700 | | 43-6014 | Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive | 593 | HS | $29,650 | | 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 576 | NFE | $22,200 | | 35-1012 | First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers | 557 | HS | $27,920 | | *Source: Department of Workforce Services*  *Doctoral or professional degree (D) - Requires at least three years of full-time academic study beyond a bachelor's degree.*  *Master's degree (M) - Requires one or two years of full-time academic study beyond a bachelor's degree.*  *Bachelor's degree (B) - Requires for or five years of full-time academic study.*  *Associate degree (A) - Requires at least two years of full-time academic study.*  *Postsecondary non-degree award (PS) - Programs last a few weeks to more than a year; leads to a certificate or other award.*  *Some college, no degree (SC) - Requires the completion of a high school or an equivalent program resulting in the award of a high school diploma or equivalent plus the completion of one or more postsecondary courses that did not result in a degree or award.*  *High School diploma or equivalent (HS) - Requires the completion of a high school or an equivalent program resulting in the award of a high school diploma or an equivalent, such as a GED.*  *No Formal Education (NFE) - Signifies that a formal credential issued by an educational instruction, such as a high school diploma or postsecondary certificate, is not typically needed for entry into the occupation.* | | | | | |

**State of Arkansas**

**Wages**

*Retail Salespersons* was estimated to have the most employees across the State with 37,840 employed in 2016 with an average wage of $24,640. *Cashiers* is the second largest occupation with 34,480 employed, earning an average wage of $19,540. *General and Operations Managers*, with an estimated employment of 20,680, had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning $84,770 annually.

*Internists, General* topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of $266,980. *Surgeons* with an average annual salary of $260,950, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was $19,420 for 2016. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was $31,496, while wages for experienced workers, averaged $49,670 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 1,191,316 estimated employees, 201,684 made $15.00 to $19.99 an hour while 165,434 made $12.00 to 14.99 an hour. Employees making less than $8.50 totaled 88,027.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State of Arkansas Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average**  **Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Retail Salespersons | 37,840 | $24,640 | $18,160 | $27,890 |
| Cashiers | 34,480 | $19,540 | $18,130 | $20,250 |
| Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer | 33,210 | $39,430 | $27,240 | $45,520 |
| Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 30,910 | $18,820 | $18,110 | $19,180 |
| Office Clerks, General | 28,430 | $26,380 | $18,920 | $30,110 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 24,180 | $25,120 | $19,420 | $27,970 |
| Registered Nurses | 23,380 | $57,630 | $43,020 | $64,930 |
| General and Operations Managers | 20,680 | $84,770 | $32,610 | $110,860 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 19,360 | $19,300 | $18,120 | $19,900 |
| Secretaries, Except Legal, Medical and Executive | 18,030 | $29,650 | $20,440 | $34,250 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | |  |  |

**State of Arkansas**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **State of Arkansas Occupations Paying the Most** |  |
| **Occupation** | **Average Annual**  **Salary** |
| Internists, General | $266,980 |
| Surgeons | $260,950 |
| Orthodontists | $259,010 |
| Obstetricians and Gynecologists | $244,290 |
| Anesthesiologists | $219,640 |
| Family and General Practitioners | $212,480 |
| Podiatrists | $190,710 |
| Pediatricians, General | $188,140 |
| Dentists, General | $185,170 |
| Nurse Anesthetists | $158,940 |
| Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary | $143,110 |
| Marketing Managers | $134,570 |
| Compensation and Benefits Managers | $125,100 |
| Sales Managers | $120,240 |
| Advertising and Promotions Managers | $119,710 |
| Pharmacists | $116,960 |
| Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists | $115,120 |
| Petroleum Engineers | $113,730 |
| Computer and Information Systems Managers | $112,320 |
| Architectural and Engineering Managers | $112,050 |
| Psychiatrists | $110,880 |
| Actuaries | $108,800 |
| Law Teachers, Postsecondary | $108,380 |
| Optometrists | $106,800 |
| Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates | $105,460 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

**State of Arkansas**

**Wages**

**State of Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State of Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** |
| All Sizes | $39,590 | $30,130 | $19,420 | $49,670 |
| 0-49 Employees | $36,331 | $26,479 | $18,471 | $45,260 |
| 50-99 Employees | $36,003 | $26,889 | $18,656 | $44,677 |
| 100-249 Employees | $37,889 | $30,220 | $19,806 | $46,930 |
| 250-499 Employees | $38,430 | $31,496 | $20,025 | $47,633 |
| 500+ Employees | $48,947 | $39,872 | $22,749 | $62,046 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**State of Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **State of Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | |
| **Total** | **1,191,316** |
| <$8.50 | 88,027 |
| $8.50-$9.99 | 218,512 |
| $10.00-$11.99 | 150,472 |
| $12.00-$14.99 | 165,434 |
| $15.00-$19.99 | 201,684 |
| $20.00-$24.99 | 127,194 |
| $25.00+ | 239,993 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

Employees

**State of Arkansas**

Employees

**Wages**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Average Wages of States Surrounding Arkansas** | | |
| **State** | **Mean Hourly Wage** | **Mean Annual Wage** |
| Arkansas | $19.03 | $39,590 |
| Louisiana | $19.84 | $41,260 |
| Mississippi | $18.41 | $38,300 |
| Missouri | $21.45 | $44,620 |
| Oklahoma | $20.56 | $42,760 |
| Tennessee | $20.36 | $42,350 |
| Texas | $22.97 | $47,770 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | |

**Average Wages for Surrounding States**

**State of Arkansas**

**Wages**

**State of Arkansas Employment and Wages for Select STEM Occupations**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | | |
| **Occupation** | **Employment** | **Mean Hourly Wage** |
| Computer User Support Specialists | 3,901 | $19.40 |
| Computer Programmers | 3,537 | $34.64 |
| Network and Computer Systems Administrators | 3,143 | $33.33 |
| Computer Systems Analysts | 2,790 | $32.50 |
| Software Developers, Applications | 2,122 | $41.77 |
| Computer and Information Systems Managers | 2,099 | $54.00 |
| Industrial Engineers | 1,499 | $36.64 |
| Civil Engineers | 1,341 | $38.74 |
| Software Developers, Systems Software | 1,019 | $34.56 |
| Actuaries | 55 | $52.31 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | |

**State of Arkansas**

**Industry**

The Arkansas job market is expected to continue its growth with an increase of 41,750 jobs between 2016 and 2018, equivalent to a 3.06 percent rise in employment. *Restaurants and Other Eating Places* is predicted to be the top growing industry adding 4,360 new jobs, going from 85,850 jobs in 2016 to 90,210 in 2018. *Forging and Stamping* is projected to raise employment levels by 32.11 percent becoming the fastest growing industry in the state, bringing employment to 506. *Support Activities for Mining* could see the opposite effect, losing 718 jobs due to the volatility in the oil and gas industry and be the top declining industry, bringing employment down to 1,317. *Cutlery and Handtool Manufacturing* is estimated to be the fastest declining industry with a loss of 44.11 percent of its workforce going from 603 in 2016 to 337 in 2018. **Education and Health Services** is expected to be the top growing supersector in Arkansas adding 9,637 jobs bringing employment levels to 302,879 by March 2018.

**Top 5 Industry Supersectors**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102500 | Education and Health Services | 293,242 | 302,879 | **9,637** | 3.29% |
| 102100 | Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 249,523 | 256,563 | **7,040** | 2.82% |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 139,887 | 146,516 | **6,629** | 4.74% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 111,140 | 116,667 | **5,527** | 4.97% |
| 101200 | Construction | 48,757 | 52,260 | **3,503** | 7.18% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 722500 | Restaurants and Other Eating Places | 85,850 | 90,210 | **4,360** | 5.08% |
| 611100 | Elementary and Secondary Schools | 77,887 | 80,238 | **2,351** | 3.02% |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 34,355 | 36,616 | **2,261** | 6.58% |
| 561300 | Employment Services | 26,708 | 28,097 | **1,389** | 5.20% |
| 621100 | Offices of Physicians | 23,820 | 25,138 | **1,318** | 5.53% |
| 624100 | Individual and Family Services | 24,642 | 25,896 | **1,254** | 5.09% |
| 813100 | Religious Organizations | 19,565 | 20,771 | **1,206** | 6.16% |
| 238200 | Building Equipment Contractors | 16,486 | 17,644 | **1,158** | 7.02% |
| 311600 | Animal Slaughtering and Processing | 29,588 | 30,577 | **989** | 3.34% |
| 236200 | Nonresidential Building Construction | 7,324 | 8,237 | **913** | 12.47% |

**State of Arkansas**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | |
| 332100 | Forging and Stamping | 383 | 506 | 123 | **32.11%** |
| 327100 | Clay Product and Refractory Manufacturing | 402 | 490 | 88 | **21.89%** |
| 331100 | Iron and Steel Mills and Ferroalloy Manufacturing | 2,546 | 3,084 | 538 | **21.13%** |
| 481200 | Nonscheduled Air Transportation | 83 | 100 | 17 | **20.48%** |
| 325300 | Pesticide, Fertilizer, and Other Agricultural Chemical Manufacturing | 422 | 495 | 73 | **17.30%** |
| 238300 | Building Finishing Contractors | 4,309 | 4,991 | 682 | **15.83%** |
| 721300 | Rooming and Boarding Houses | 126 | 145 | 19 | **15.08%** |
| 441200 | Other Motor Vehicle Dealers | 1,577 | 1,801 | 224 | **14.20%** |
| 311100 | Animal Food Manufacturing | 1,518 | 1,727 | 209 | **13.77%** |
| 712000 | Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institution | 610 | 692 | 82 | **13.44%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 2,035 | 1,317 | **-718** | -35.28% |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 5,250 | 4,926 | **-324** | -6.17% |
| 333400 | Ventilation, Heating, Air-Conditioning, and Commercial Refrigeration Equipment Manufacturing | 3,046 | 2,739 | **-307** | -10.08% |
| 511100 | Newspaper, Periodical, Book, and Directory Publishers | 3,195 | 2,905 | **-290** | -9.08% |
| 332200 | Cutlery and Handtool Manufacturing | 603 | 337 | **-266** | -44.11% |
| 331500 | Foundries | 1,888 | 1,628 | **-260** | -13.77% |
| 337100 | Household and Institutional Furniture & Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturing | 2,619 | 2,373 | **-246** | -9.39% |
| 211000 | Oil and Gas Extraction | 1,157 | 962 | **-195** | -16.85% |
| 484200 | Specialized Freight Trucking | 6,215 | 6,037 | **-178** | -2.86% |
| 322200 | Converted Paper Product Manufacturing | 5,674 | 5,497 | **-177** | -3.12% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 332200 | Cutlery and Handtool Manufacturing | 603 | 337 | -266 | **-44.11%** |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 2,035 | 1,317 | -718 | **-35.28%** |
| 334500 | Navigational, Measuring, Electromedical, and Control Instruments Manufacturing | 411 | 307 | -104 | **-25.30%** |
| 541400 | Specialized Design Services | 404 | 316 | -88 | **-21.78%** |
| 337200 | Office Furniture (including Fixtures) Manufacturing | 717 | 585 | -132 | **-18.41%** |
| 327900 | Other Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing | 432 | 355 | -77 | **-17.82%** |
| 211000 | Oil and Gas Extraction | 1,157 | 962 | -195 | **-16.85%** |
| 533000 | Lessors of Nonfinancial Intangible Assets (except Copyrighted Works) | 54 | 45 | -9 | **-16.67%** |
| 332400 | Boiler, Tank, and Shipping Container Manufacturing | 707 | 607 | -100 | **-14.14%** |
| 331500 | Foundries | 1,888 | 1,628 | -260 | **-13.77%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**State of Arkansas**

**Occupations**

The Arkansas labor market is expected to see a growth of 41,750 jobs over the 2016-2018 projection period, an increase of 3.06 percent, with many job opportunities for recent graduates and other job seekers. Of the 53,598 total annual job openings expected during the projection period, 21,696 jobs are estimated to come from growth and expansion of businesses. The other 31,902 jobs are expected to be available due to the need to replace workers who leave their jobs for various reasons. All major occupational groups are estimated to see net gains in employment. *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food* is forecast to lead the state in net growth with 1,661 new jobs raising employment to 28,833. *Pourers and Casters, Metal* is set to be the fastest growing occupation increasing employment by 15.45 percent to 142. *Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining* could be the top declining occupation losing 111 jobs, moving from 450 in 2016 to 339 in 2018. *Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas* could also be impacted by the oil and gas industry with a loss of 29.49 percent of its workforce, becoming the fastest declining occupation moving employment down to 110. The **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** major group is estimated to lead the state in net growth adding 4,860 new jobs to its workforce increasing employment to 108,212 by 2018.

**Top 5 Major Occupational Groups**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 103,352 | 108,212 | **4,860** | 4.70% | 2,430 | 4,087 | 6,517 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 138,191 | 142,558 | **4,367** | 3.16% | 2,210 | 4,568 | 6,778 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 187,489 | 191,794 | **4,305** | 2.30% | 2,196 | 3,864 | 6,060 |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 132,670 | 136,551 | **3,881** | 2.93% | 1,940 | 2,560 | 4,500 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 109,804 | 112,956 | **3,152** | 2.87% | 1,604 | 2,492 | 4,096 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 27,172 | 28,833 | **1,661** | 6.11% | 830 | 1,058 | 1,888 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 39,797 | 41,332 | **1,535** | 3.86% | 768 | 1,488 | 2,256 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 59,892 | 61,357 | **1,465** | 2.45% | 732 | 992 | 1,724 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 34,387 | 35,526 | **1,139** | 3.31% | 570 | 1,742 | 2,312 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 26,678 | 27,641 | **963** | 3.61% | 482 | 824 | 1,306 |
| 39-9021 | Personal Care Aides | 17,186 | 18,051 | **865** | 5.03% | 432 | 110 | 542 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 19,107 | 19,940 | **833** | 4.36% | 416 | 998 | 1,414 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 23,040 | 23,777 | **737** | 3.20% | 368 | 508 | 876 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 35,834 | 36,548 | **714** | 1.99% | 357 | 571 | 928 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 20,388 | 21,093 | **705** | 3.46% | 352 | 479 | 831 |

**State of Arkansas**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-4052 | Pourers and Casters, Metal | 123 | 142 | 19 | **15.45%** | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| 47-3014 | Helpers--Painters, Paperhangers, Plasterers, and Stucco Masons | 247 | 284 | 37 | **14.98%** | 18 | 4 | 22 |
| 49-3052 | Motorcycle Mechanics | 206 | 234 | 28 | **13.59%** | 14 | 4 | 18 |
| 47-2081 | Drywall and Ceiling Tile Installers | 653 | 738 | 85 | **13.02%** | 42 | 4 | 46 |
| 47-2131 | Insulation Workers, Floor, Ceiling, and Wall | 241 | 270 | 29 | **12.03%** | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| 25-4013 | Museum Technicians and Conservators | 87 | 96 | 9 | **10.34%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 49-3051 | Motorboat Mechanics and Service Technicians | 199 | 219 | 20 | **10.05%** | 10 | 4 | 14 |
| 47-2132 | Insulation Workers, Mechanical | 176 | 192 | 16 | **9.09%** | 8 | 6 | 14 |
| 25-4012 | Curators | 69 | 75 | 6 | **8.70%** | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 47-3011 | Helpers--Brickmasons, Blockmasons, Stonemasons, and Tile and Marble Setters | 290 | 315 | 25 | **8.62%** | 12 | 4 | 16 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 450 | 339 | **-111** | -24.67% | 0 | 15 | 15 |
| 47-5071 | Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 366 | 273 | **-93** | -25.41% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 51-4031 | Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 2,848 | 2,759 | **-89** | -3.13% | 0 | 39 | 39 |
| 51-7011 | Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters | 1,244 | 1,174 | **-70** | -5.63% | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 51-6042 | Shoe Machine Operators and Tenders | 541 | 486 | **-55** | -10.17% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 51-4122 | Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 1,300 | 1,246 | **-54** | -4.15% | 0 | 36 | 36 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 1,503 | 1,453 | **-50** | -3.33% | 0 | 28 | 28 |
| 51-2022 | Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers | 1,014 | 965 | **-49** | -4.83% | 0 | 13 | 13 |
| 47-5011 | Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas | 156 | 110 | **-46** | -29.49% | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 51-9196 | Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 1,949 | 1,906 | **-43** | -2.21% | 0 | 34 | 34 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-5011 | Derrick Operators, Oil and Gas | 156 | 110 | -46 | **-29.49%** | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 47-5012 | Rotary Drill Operators, Oil and Gas | 68 | 48 | -20 | **-29.41%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 47-5071 | Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 366 | 273 | -93 | **-25.41%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 450 | 339 | -111 | **-24.67%** | 0 | 15 | 15 |
| 53-7073 | Wellhead Pumpers | 162 | 125 | -37 | **-22.84%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 47-5081 | Helpers--Extraction Workers | 197 | 160 | -37 | **-18.78%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-4192 | Layout Workers, Metal and Plastic | 41 | 35 | -6 | **-14.63%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-6042 | Shoe Machine Operators and Tenders | 541 | 486 | -55 | **-10.17%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 51-8092 | Gas Plant Operators | 137 | 125 | -12 | **-8.76%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-4111 | Tool and Die Makers | 535 | 493 | -42 | **-7.85%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area’s population was 523,287 in 2016, an increase of 2,254 since 2015 and the Area saw an increase in population of 14,269 from 2012 to 2016. Central Arkansas LWDA includes a large portion of the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area and six counties: Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Saline, and Pulaski County, excluding Little Rock. *Note: Data for Central Arkansas does not include City of Little Rock LWDA.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Central Arkansas LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 509,018 | 514,461 | 518,933 | 521,033 | 523,287 |  |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Central Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | | |
| **(All Ownerships)** | |  |  |  |  |
| **QWI Explorer** | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | 9,883 | 9,225 | 9,734 | 10,283 | 9,895 |
| New Hires | 32,399 | 31,684 | 31,826 | 33,688 | 33,877 |
| Separations | 34,648 | 36,041 | 33,245 | 34,467 | 35,401 |
| Turnover | 9.1% | 9.3% | 9.2% | 9.4% | 9.8% |
| *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD*  *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.*  *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.*  *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.*  *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.*  *Central Arkansas LWDA does not include the City of Little Rock* | | | | | |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation decreased by 388, when comparing the second quarter of 2016 to the second quarter of 2015, to 9,895 and slightly increased by 12 when comparing to the second quarter of 2012. The number of new hires and the number of separations increased in the second quarter of 2016 compared to the same time period in 2015. New hires totaled 33,877 for the second quarter of 2016 while separations totaled 35,401. Turnover increased to 9.8 percent in the second quarter of 2016.

**Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

The LWDA saw an increase in the labor force of 1,919 to 247,866 from 2015 to 2016 and labor force increased by 2,507 over the 2012 to 2016 period. Employment increased by 4,148 between 2015 and 2016 and increased by 9,853 over the five-year period. The LWDA has seen a decrease in unemployment over the same time periods. From 2015 to 2016, there was a decrease of 2,229 in unemployment and from 2012 to 2016, unemployment decreased by 7,346. The LWDA’s unemployment rate decreased by nine-tenths of a percentage point from 2015 to 3.6 percent for 2016 and the unemployment rate decreased by 3 percentage points over the five-year period. In 2017, the unemployment rate decreased by three-tenths of a percentage point to 3.4 percent in July 2017.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Central Arkansas LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 245,359 | 241,694 | 240,500 | 245,947 | 247,866 |
| Employment | 229,206 | 226,184 | 227,491 | 234,911 | 239,059 |
| Unemployment | 16,153 | 15,510 | 13,009 | 11,036 | 8,807 |
| Unemployment Rate | 6.6% | 6.4% | 5.4% | 4.5% | 3.6% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Central Arkansas LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment Rate** |  |
| 2017 | January | 3.7% |  |
| 2017 | February | 3.9% |  |
| 2017 | March | 3.2% |  |
| 2017 | April | 2.8% |  |
| 2017 | May | 3.1% |  |
| 2017 | June | 3.3% |  |
| 2017 | July | 3.4% |  |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | | |
| *\* Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | |  |  |
| *Central Arkansas does not include City of Little Rock LWDA* | | |  |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

**Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

With an estimated employment of 4,062, *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food* was the largest occupation in the LWDA in 2016, with an estimated average wage of $19,110. *Cashiers* had the next largest estimated employment with 3,227, earning an estimated entry wage of $19,507. *General and Operations Managers* had the largest estimated experienced wage of all the occupations on the 10 Largest Occupations List at $96,943.

*Family and General Practitioners*, with an estimated average annual salary of $263,533, led the Occupations Paying the Most list in 2016. Occupations on the list were mixed with *Financial Managers* finishing the list, earning an average annual salary of $87,896.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Employers of all sizes had a median wage estimate of $29,194 in 2016 with an estimated experienced wage of $46,146. Employers with 50 to 99 employees had an estimated entry wage of $19,104. Estimated mean wages ranged from $33,730 for employers with 0 to 49 employees to $48,178 for employers with 500 or more employees.

Of the 83,384 estimated employees in the Area, 11,374 employees made an hourly wage in the $12.00 to $14.99 range. Employees making less than $8.50 an hour totaled 6,793. Employees making $8.50 to $9.99 an hour totaled 16,719. *Note: Wage data for Central Arkansas LWDA does not include Pulaski County.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Central Arkansas LWDA Wages of the 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 4,062 | $19,110 | $18,244 | $19,542 |
| Cashiers | 3,227 | $19,507 | $18,114 | $20,203 |
| Retail Salespersons | 3,105 | $24,572 | $18,317 | $27,700 |
| Office Clerks, General | 1,798 | $27,012 | $19,419 | $30,808 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 1,548 | $18,965 | $18,235 | $19,329 |
| Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive | 1,440 | $27,394 | $19,337 | $31,422 |
| Stock Clerks and Order Fillers | 1,424 | $23,635 | $18,161 | $26,372 |
| General and Operations Managers | 1,358 | $76,779 | $36,452 | $96,943 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 1,239 | $24,114 | $18,193 | $27,074 |
| First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers | 1,189 | $38,490 | $23,285 | $46,092 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* |  |  |  |  |

**Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | |  | |
| **Central Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most** | | |
| **Occupation** | **Average**  **Annual Salary** | |
| Family and General Practitioners | $263,533 | |
| Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates | $120,559 | |
| Computer and Information Systems Managers | $110,867 | |
| Chief Executives | $107,701 | |
| Pharmacists | $104,471 | |
| Architectural and Engineering Managers | $104,453 | |
| Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers | $103,090 | |
| Industrial Production Managers | $91,079 | |
| Nurse Practitioners | $89,052 | |
| Financial Managers | $87,896 | |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | |
| **Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**  **Wages**  **Central Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Central Arkansas LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | | | **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** | | All Sizes | $37,135 | $29,194 | $19,113 | $46,146 | | 0-49 Employees | $33,730 | $25,854 | $18,371 | $41,409 | | 50-99 Employees | $36,916 | $27,553 | $19,104 | $45,855 | | 100-249 Employees | $34,432 | $26,986 | $19,005 | $42,145 | | 250-499 Employees | $38,041 | $32,951 | $19,663 | $47,230 | | 500+ Employees | $48,178 | $44,563 | $24,347 | $60,093 | | *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | | | | | |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Central Arkansas LWDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | | | | **Total** | **83,384** |  |  | | <$8.50 | 6,793 |  |  | | $8.50-$9.99 | 16,719 |  |  | | $10.00-$11.99 | 10,312 |  |  | | $12.00-$14.99 | 11,374 |  |  | | $15.00-$19.99 | 14,020 |  |  | | $20.00-$24.99 | 8,698 |  |  | | $25.00+ | 15,468 |  |  | | *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | |   **Central Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**  Employees | | | |

**Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

The Area is expected to add 5,137 new jobs, an increase of 2.93 percent. *Food Services and Drinking Places* is estimated to be the top growing industry with an increase of 830 new jobs growing from 15,578 in 2016 to 16,408 in 2018. *Telecommunications* is anticipated to be the fastest growing industry during the 2016-2018 period with an increase of 19.01 percent adding 111 jobs to an employment of 584. *Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing* is predicted to be the top and fastest declining industry decreasing by 21.96 percent, losing 213 jobs between 2016 and 2018, dropping employment to 757. **Education and Health Services** is estimated to be the top growing supersector with 1,307 new jobs increasing employment to 35,404.

**Top 5 Industry Supersectors**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102500 | Education and Health Services | 34,097 | 35,404 | **1,307** | 3.83% |
| 102100 | Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 37,116 | 38,159 | **1,043** | 2.81% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 18,021 | 19,029 | **1,008** | 5.59% |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 17,105 | 17,668 | **563** | 3.29% |
| 101200 | Construction | 9,554 | 10,051 | **497** | 5.20% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 15,578 | 16,408 | **830** | 5.33% |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 7,308 | 7,851 | **543** | 7.43% |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 4,716 | 5,237 | **521** | 11.05% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 6,734 | 7,084 | **350** | 5.20% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 6,084 | 6,422 | **338** | 5.56% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 5,468 | 5,766 | **298** | 5.45% |
| 813000 | Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations | 5,300 | 5,591 | **291** | 5.49% |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 13,391 | 13,681 | **290** | 2.17% |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 1,415 | 1,642 | **227** | 16.04% |
| 441000 | Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers | 3,788 | 3,969 | **181** | 4.78% |

**Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 584 | 695 | 111 | **19.01%** |
| 518000 | Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services | 193 | 226 | 33 | **17.10%** |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 1,415 | 1,642 | 227 | **16.04%** |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 570 | 660 | 90 | **15.79%** |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 4,716 | 5,237 | 521 | **11.05%** |
| 442000 | Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores | 606 | 672 | 66 | **10.89%** |
| 488000 | Support Activities for Transportation | 444 | 491 | 47 | **10.59%** |
| 721000 | Accommodation, including Hotels and Motels | 1,215 | 1,322 | 107 | **8.81%** |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 7,308 | 7,851 | 543 | **7.43%** |
| 451000 | Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores | 771 | 826 | 55 | **7.13%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 337000 | Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing | 970 | 757 | **-213** | -21.96% |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 4,438 | 4,298 | **-140** | -3.15% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 7,917 | 7,829 | **-88** | -1.11% |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 2,943 | 2,873 | **-70** | -2.38% |
| 325000 | Chemical Manufacturing | 887 | 838 | **-49** | -5.52% |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 1,351 | 1,308 | **-43** | -3.18% |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 392 | 352 | **-40** | -10.20% |
| 443000 | Electronics and Appliance Stores | 772 | 738 | **-34** | -4.40% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 622 | 595 | **-27** | -4.34% |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 231 | 208 | **-23** | -9.96% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 337000 | Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing | 970 | 757 | -213 | **-21.96%** |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 392 | 352 | -40 | **-10.20%** |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 231 | 208 | -23 | **-9.96%** |
| 454000 | Nonstore Retailers | 176 | 164 | -12 | **-6.82%** |
| 325000 | Chemical Manufacturing | 887 | 838 | -49 | **-5.52%** |
| 443000 | Electronics and Appliance Stores | 772 | 738 | -34 | **-4.40%** |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 622 | 595 | -27 | **-4.34%** |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 1,351 | 1,308 | -43 | **-3.18%** |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 4,438 | 4,298 | -140 | **-3.15%** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 2,943 | 2,873 | -70 | **-2.38%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**   
The Central Arkansas LWDA is expected to have 7,070 annual job openings during the projection period with 2,804 being for growth and expansion and 4,266 being for replacement. *Retail Salespersons*, which is estimated to gain 228 jobs by March 2018, is projected to be the top growing occupation increasing employment to 6,036. *Psychiatric Technicians* is anticipated to be the fastest growing occupation increasing employment by 9.30 percent to a level of 94. *Team Assemblers* is forecasted to lead the Area in net decline, losing 46 jobs during the projection period to a level of 1,403. *Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining* is projected to be the fastest declining occupation with a loss of 27.14 percent of its workforce due to decreased investment in natural gas activities. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is predicted to add 814 new jobs to its Central Arkansas workforce increasing employment to 17,403.

**Top 5 Major Occupational Groups**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 16,589 | 17,403 | **814** | 4.91% | 407 | 674 | 1,081 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 24,924 | 25,582 | **658** | 2.64% | 340 | 541 | 881 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 19,785 | 20,401 | **616** | 3.11% | 311 | 682 | 993 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 9,353 | 9,874 | **521** | 5.57% | 261 | 192 | 453 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 8,565 | 8,909 | **344** | 4.02% | 175 | 184 | 359 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 5,808 | 6,036 | **228** | 3.93% | 114 | 217 | 331 |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 3,527 | 3,737 | **210** | 5.95% | 105 | 138 | 243 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 5,798 | 6,004 | **206** | 3.55% | 103 | 294 | 397 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 3,876 | 4,058 | **182** | 4.70% | 91 | 202 | 293 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 2,315 | 2,476 | **161** | 6.95% | 80 | 51 | 131 |
| 39-9011 | Childcare Workers | 3,347 | 3,494 | **147** | 4.39% | 74 | 102 | 176 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 1,700 | 1,824 | **124** | 7.29% | 62 | 46 | 108 |
| 39-9021 | Personal Care Aides | 2,531 | 2,639 | **108** | 4.27% | 54 | 16 | 70 |
| 43-6014 | Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive | 3,312 | 3,414 | **102** | 3.08% | 51 | 35 | 86 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 3,274 | 3,375 | **101** | 3.08% | 50 | 101 | 151 |

**Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 29-2053 | Psychiatric Technicians | 86 | 94 | 8 | **9.30%** | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 43-4081 | Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks | 434 | 472 | 38 | **8.76%** | 19 | 24 | 43 |
| 51-9083 | Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians | 122 | 132 | 10 | **8.20%** | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 13-1161 | Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists | 332 | 359 | 27 | **8.13%** | 14 | 4 | 18 |
| 53-7081 | Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors | 323 | 349 | 26 | **8.05%** | 13 | 7 | 20 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 1,700 | 1,824 | 124 | **7.29%** | 62 | 46 | 108 |
| 19-4021 | Biological Technicians | 113 | 121 | 8 | **7.08%** | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 29-1071 | Physician Assistants | 85 | 91 | 6 | **7.06%** | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 2,315 | 2,476 | 161 | **6.95%** | 80 | 51 | 131 |
| 43-5052 | Postal Service Mail Carriers | 302 | 323 | 21 | **6.95%** | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-2092 | Team Assemblers | 1,449 | 1,403 | **-46** | -3.17% | 0 | 31 | 31 |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 140 | 102 | **-38** | -27.14% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-1011 | First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers | 808 | 784 | **-24** | -2.97% | 0 | 13 | 13 |
| 51-9198 | Helpers--Production Workers | 707 | 683 | **-24** | -3.39% | 0 | 22 | 22 |
| 47-5071 | Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 71 | 53 | **-18** | -25.35% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 162 | 146 | **-16** | -9.88% | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 51-7011 | Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters | 86 | 70 | **-16** | -18.60% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-4122 | Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 156 | 143 | **-13** | -8.33% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 31-1014 | Nursing Assistants | 2,251 | 2,239 | **-12** | -0.53% | 0 | 48 | 48 |
| 51-4031 | Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 89 | 80 | **-9** | -10.11% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 140 | 102 | -38 | **-27.14%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 47-5071 | Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 71 | 53 | -18 | **-25.35%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-8093 | Petroleum Pump System Operators, Refinery Operators, and Gaugers | 28 | 21 | -7 | **-25.00%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-7011 | Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters | 86 | 70 | -16 | **-18.60%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-4031 | Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 89 | 80 | -9 | **-10.11%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 162 | 146 | -16 | **-9.88%** | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 47-5081 | Helpers--Extraction Workers | 62 | 56 | -6 | **-9.68%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-4111 | Tool and Die Makers | 62 | 56 | -6 | **-9.68%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-6031 | Sewing Machine Operators | 78 | 71 | -7 | **-8.97%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-4122 | Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 156 | 143 | -13 | **-8.33%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**City of Little Rock Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The City of Little Rock Local Workforce Development Area grew by 549 between 2015 and 2016, bringing the population to 198,541. The City of Little Rock’s population grew by 1,958 between 2012 and 2016. The Area is the county seat of Pulaski County and includes part of the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **City of Little Rock LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 196,583 | 197,278 | 197,652 | 197,992 | 198,541 |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | | |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **City of Little Rock Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | | |
| **(All Ownerships)** | |  |  |  |  |
| **QWI Explorer** | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | 7,022 | 6,752 | 6,423 | 7,328 | 6,899 |
| New Hires | 23,470 | 23,091 | 23,635 | 25,120 | 26,063 |
| Separations | 24,385 | 24,046 | 25,307 | 25,778 | 26,624 |
| Turnover | 7.7% | 7.8% | 7.9% | 8.0% | 8.2% |
| *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD*  *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.*  *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.*  *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.*  *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | | | |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation decreased by 429 to 6,899 jobs created in the second quarter of 2016. This is a decrease compared to the second quarter of 2012 when 7,022 jobs were created in the LWDA. The number of new hires increased by 943 while the number of separations increased by 846 between the second quarters of 2015 and 2016. Both new hires and separations increased from the second quarter of 2012 compared to second quarter 2016. The turnover rate increased from the second quarter of 2015 to 2016 by two-tenths of a percentage point to 8.2 percent.

**City of Little Rock Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

The Labor Force increased in the LWDA by 813 from 2015 to 2016, and saw a decrease of 802 between 2012 and 2016. Employment increased by 1,746 from 2015 to 2016 and by 2,535 from 2012 to 2016. Unemployment and the unemployment rate decreased between 2015 and 2016, with unemployment decreasing by 933 and the unemployment rate decreasing by one percentage point to 3.5 in 2016. The unemployment rate decreased by three and four-tenths percentage points from 2012 to 2016. The Area unemployment rate continued to decline through July 2017, decreasing by two-tenths of a percentage point from January 2017 to 3.4 percent.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **City of Little Rock LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | |  |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 97,414 | 95,137 | 93,868 | 95,799 | 96,612 |
| Employment | 90,672 | 88,879 | 88,712 | 91,461 | 93,207 |
| Unemployment | 6,742 | 6,258 | 5,156 | 4,338 | 3,405 |
| Unemployment Rate | 6.9% | 6.6% | 5.5% | 4.5% | 3.5% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | | |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **City of Little Rock LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment Rate** |
| 2017 | January | 3.6% |
| 2017 | February | 3.8% |
| 2017 | March | 3.3% |
| 2017 | April | 2.8% |
| 2017 | May | 3.1% |
| 2017 | June | 3.3% |
| 2017 | July | 3.4% |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | |
| *\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | |  |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

**City Of Little Rock Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

*Registered Nurses* was the largest occupation in 2016 with 8,250 estimated employees with an estimated entry wage of $47,755. *Retail Salespersons* was the second largest occupation with an estimated employment of 8,232 and an estimated experienced wage of $26,367. *General and Operations Managers* had the highest estimated experienced wage of the 10 largest occupations at $125,923 in 2016.

*Obstetricians and Gynecologists* topped the list of Occupations Paying the Most, with an average annual salary of $261,724 for the Area. With an estimated average annual salary of $234,946, *Family and General Practitioners* ranked second on the list. *Architectural and Engineering Mangers* completed the list, earning $116,118 annually in 2016.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

The City of Little Rock LWDA had an estimated median wage of $34,883 for employers of all sizes in 2016. Employers with 100 to 249 employees had an estimated entry wage of $19,896. Estimated mean wages ranged from $39,696 for employers with 100 to 249 employees to $54,043 for employers with 500 or more employees in the LWDA.

The Area’s total number of estimated employees by hourly wage was 254,497 with 29,657 estimated employees earning $20.00 to $24.99 an hour. The number of employees earning from $8.50 to0 $9.99 was estimated at 36,032. The number of employees earning less than $8.50 an hour was estimated at 14,166 in 2016. *Note: Wage data for the City of Little Rock LWDA includes all of Pulaski County.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **City of Little Rock LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Registered Nurses | 8,250 | $62,472 | $47,755 | $69,831 |
| Retail Salespersons | 8,232 | $23,642 | $18,192 | $26,367 |
| Customer Service Representatives | 6,547 | $33,590 | $24,087 | $38,342 |
| Office Clerks, General | 5,934 | $27,984 | $19,911 | $32,020 |
| Cashiers | 5,760 | $20,534 | $18,163 | $21,720 |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 5,043 | $42,005 | $28,057 | $48,979 |
| General and Operations Managers | 4,852 | $97,490 | $40,624 | $125,923 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 4,820 | $25,893 | $19,418 | $29,130 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 4,686 | $20,778 | $18,112 | $22,110 |
| First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers | 4,155 | $51,577 | $33,943 | $60,395 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |  |  |  |

**City Of Little Rock Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **City of Little Rock LWDA Occupations Paying the Most** | |
| **Occupation** | **Average Annual**  **Salary** |
| Obstetricians and Gynecologists | $261,724 |
| Family and General Practitioners | $234,946 |
| Surgeons | $224,800 |
| Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary | $170,034 |
| Nurse Anesthetists | $152,929 |
| Dentists, General | $138,548 |
| Advertising and Promotions Managers | $138,380 |
| Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists | $135,602 |
| Psychiatrists | $126,013 |
| Architectural and Engineering Managers | $116,118 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

**City Of Little Rock Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **City of Little Rock LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** |
| All Sizes | $45,027 | $34,883 | $20,549 | $57,266 |
| 0-49 Employees | $41,417 | $30,273 | $19,275 | $52,488 |
| 50-99 Employees | $41,641 | $30,716 | $19,288 | $52,818 |
| 100-249 Employees | $39,696 | $29,971 | $19,896 | $49,596 |
| 250-499 Employees | $41,600 | $32,903 | $20,837 | $51,982 |
| 500+ Employees | $54,043 | $46,042 | $26,077 | $68,025 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**City of Little Rock Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

**City of Little Rock Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **City of Little Rock LWDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | | | | |
| **Total** | **254,497** |  |  |  | |
| <$8.50 | 14,166 |  |  |  | |
| $8.50-$9.99 | 36,032 |  |  |  | |
| $10.00-$11.99 | 26,773 |  |  |  | |
| $12.00-$14.99 | 33,378 |  |  |  | |
| $15.00-$19.99 | 44,525 |  |  |  | |
| $20.00-$24.99 | 29,657 |  |  |  | |
| $25.00+ | 69,966 |  |  |  | |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

Employees

**City of Little Rock Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

The City of Little Rock LWDA is expected to grow by 5,138 jobs between 2016 and 2018, or an increase of 2.64 percent. *Food Services and Drinking Places* is projected to be the top growing industry adding 524 jobs between 2016 and 2018 raising employment to 11,837. *Construction of Buildings* is anticipated to experience strong growth gain of 18.20 percent making it the fastest growing industry in the Area moving from 1,423 jobs in 2016 to 1,682 in 2018. *Federal Government, Excluding Post Office*, however, could see a decline in jobs with a loss of 117 bringing employment down to 3,555. *Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing* could lose 10.42 percent of its workforce making it the fastest declining industry, moving employment down to 129. **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** is projected to be the top growing major group with an increase of 971 raising employment to 30,261.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Industry Supersectors** | | | | | |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102100 | Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 29,290 | 30,261 | **971** | 3.32% |
| 102500 | Education and Health Services | 50,157 | 51,065 | **908** | 1.81% |
| 102300 | Financial Activities | 14,748 | 15,376 | **628** | 4.26% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 14,503 | 15,096 | **593** | 4.09% |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 24,040 | 24,587 | **547** | 2.28% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 11,313 | 11,837 | **524** | 4.63% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 9,418 | 9,912 | **494** | 5.25% |
| 524000 | Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 7,633 | 8,063 | **430** | 5.63% |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 10,034 | 10,423 | **389** | 3.88% |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 21,160 | 21,444 | **284** | 1.34% |
| 236000 | Construction of Buildings | 1,423 | 1,682 | **259** | 18.20% |
| 999200 | State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 13,013 | 13,266 | **253** | 1.94% |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 2,345 | 2,570 | **225** | 9.59% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 4,940 | 5,125 | **185** | 3.74% |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 3,846 | 3,999 | **153** | 3.98% |
|  | | | | | |

**City of Little Rock Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | |
| 236000 | Construction of Buildings | 1,423 | 1,682 | 259 | **18.20%** |
| 112000 | Animal Production | 30 | 35 | 5 | **16.67%** |
| 339000 | Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 223 | 259 | 36 | **16.14%** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 820 | 917 | 97 | **11.83%** |
| 237000 | Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 830 | 911 | 81 | **9.76%** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 2,345 | 2,570 | 225 | **9.59%** |
| 512000 | Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries | 267 | 288 | 21 | **7.87%** |
| 481000 | Air Transportation | 279 | 300 | 21 | **7.53%** |
| 443000 | Electronics and Appliance Stores | 432 | 464 | 32 | **7.41%** |
| 515000 | Broadcasting (except Internet) | 547 | 585 | 38 | **6.95%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 3,672 | 3,555 | **-117** | -3.19% |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 12,139 | 12,023 | **-116** | -0.96% |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 1,280 | 1,207 | **-73** | -5.70% |
| 451000 | Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores | 796 | 735 | **-61** | -7.66% |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 2,862 | 2,808 | **-54** | -1.89% |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 700 | 652 | **-48** | -6.86% |
| 326000 | Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing | 479 | 433 | **-46** | -9.60% |
| 814000 | Private Households | 575 | 532 | **-43** | -7.48% |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 967 | 936 | **-31** | -3.21% |
| 488000 | Support Activities for Transportation | 475 | 449 | **-26** | -5.47% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 327000 | Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing | 144 | 129 | -15 | **-10.42%** |
| 326000 | Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing | 479 | 433 | -46 | **-9.60%** |
| 451000 | Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores | 796 | 735 | -61 | **-7.66%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 575 | 532 | -43 | **-7.48%** |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 700 | 652 | -48 | **-6.86%** |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 1,280 | 1,207 | -73 | **-5.70%** |
| 488000 | Support Activities for Transportation | 475 | 449 | -26 | **-5.47%** |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 967 | 936 | -31 | **-3.21%** |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 3,672 | 3,555 | -117 | **-3.19%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 2,862 | 2,808 | -54 | **-1.89%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**City of Little Rock Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**

Area employers are expected to have 7,041 annual openings during the projection period. Of these, 4,368 would be for replacement and 2,673 for growth and expansion. *Retail Salespersons* is estimated to be the top growing occupation adding 167 new jobs increasing employment to 5,265. *Medical Appliance Technicians* could see an increase of 15.38 percent, making it the fastest growing occupation increasing from 39 jobs in 2016 to 45 in 2018. On the negative side of the economy, *Printing Press Operators* is predicted to lose the most jobs with a decline of 14 jobs, bringing employment down to 317. *Tire Builders* could see an 8.93 percent reduction in its workforce, dropping employment to 51. **Office and Administrative Support Occupations** is forecasted to be the top growing major occupational group adding 601 jobs to bring employment to 33,200.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Major Occupational Groups** | | | | | | | | |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 32,599 | 33,200 | **601** | 1.84% | 318 | 632 | 950 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 20,187 | 20,761 | **574** | 2.84% | 296 | 610 | 906 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 12,662 | 13,151 | **489** | 3.86% | 246 | 511 | 757 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 18,762 | 19,233 | **471** | 2.51% | 236 | 392 | 628 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 10,632 | 11,068 | **436** | 4.10% | 234 | 245 | 479 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 5,098 | 5,265 | **167** | 3.28% | 84 | 190 | 274 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,487 | 2,653 | **166** | 6.67% | 83 | 40 | 123 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 6,489 | 6,639 | **150** | 2.31% | 75 | 143 | 218 |
| 43-4051 | Customer Service Representatives | 4,735 | 4,883 | **148** | 3.13% | 74 | 110 | 184 |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 2,380 | 2,507 | **127** | 5.34% | 64 | 92 | 156 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,793 | 2,911 | **118** | 4.22% | 59 | 86 | 145 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 2,926 | 3,039 | **113** | 3.86% | 56 | 153 | 209 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 3,050 | 3,161 | **111** | 3.64% | 56 | 72 | 128 |
| 39-9021 | Personal Care Aides | 2,549 | 2,660 | **111** | 4.35% | 56 | 16 | 72 |
| 41-3021 | Insurance Sales Agents | 1,921 | 2,025 | **104** | 5.41% | 52 | 50 | 102 |

**City of Little Rock Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growing** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-9082 | Medical Appliance Technicians | 39 | 45 | 6 | **15.38%** | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 51-7011 | Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters | 157 | 174 | 17 | **10.83%** | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| 49-3042 | Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines | 84 | 93 | 9 | **10.71%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 47-2051 | Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers | 98 | 108 | 10 | **10.20%** | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 27-3042 | Technical Writers | 69 | 76 | 7 | **10.14%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 27-4032 | Film and Video Editors | 53 | 58 | 5 | **9.43%** | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 47-1011 | First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers | 654 | 715 | 61 | **9.33%** | 30 | 6 | 36 |
| 49-2091 | Avionics Technicians | 79 | 86 | 7 | **8.86%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 31-2011 | Occupational Therapy Assistants | 69 | 75 | 6 | **8.70%** | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 15-2031 | Operations Research Analysts | 81 | 88 | 7 | **8.64%** | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-5112 | Printing Press Operators | 331 | 317 | **-14** | -4.23% | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 25-2021 | Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education | 1,102 | 1,090 | **-12** | -1.09% | 0 | 24 | 24 |
| 41-3031 | Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents | 669 | 658 | **-11** | -1.64% | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| 25-2031 | Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education | 770 | 761 | **-9** | -1.17% | 0 | 19 | 19 |
| 25-2022 | Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education | 534 | 528 | **-6** | -1.12% | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 634 | 629 | **-5** | -0.79% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 51-9197 | Tire Builders | 56 | 51 | **-5** | -8.93% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 43-9011 | Computer Operators | 74 | 70 | **-4** | -5.41% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-5111 | Prepress Technicians and Workers | 54 | 50 | **-4** | -7.41% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 72 | 68 | **-4** | -5.56% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-9197 | Tire Builders | 56 | 51 | -5 | **-8.93%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-5111 | Prepress Technicians and Workers | 54 | 50 | -4 | **-7.41%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 72 | 68 | -4 | **-5.56%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-5113 | Print Binding and Finishing Workers | 54 | 51 | -3 | **-5.56%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 43-9011 | Computer Operators | 74 | 70 | -4 | **-5.41%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-5112 | Printing Press Operators | 331 | 317 | -14 | **-4.23%** | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 39-6011 | Baggage Porters and Bellhops | 80 | 77 | -3 | **-3.75%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 43-9051 | Mail Clerks and Mail Machine Operators, Except Postal Service | 119 | 115 | -4 | **-3.36%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 43-4011 | Brokerage Clerks | 102 | 99 | -3 | **-2.94%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 27-3041 | Editors | 152 | 149 | -3 | **-1.97%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area’s population declined by 1,271 residents between 2015 and 2016 to 120,753 residents. The Area has seen a decrease in population of 5,794 since 2012. The Eastern Arkansas LWDA includes five counties: Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Phillips, and Saint Francis. With Tennessee bordering to the east, Crittenden County is part of the Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Eastern Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | | |
| **(All Ownerships)** | |  |  |  |  |
| **QWI Explorer** | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | 1,985 | 1,904 | 2,050 | 2,443 | 1,943 |
| New Hires | 5,839 | 5,925 | 6,668 | 7,326 | 7,171 |
| Separations | 6,572 | 6,575 | 7,260 | 7,706 | 8,086 |
| Turnover | 8.8% | 9.2% | 10.3% | 9.8% | 10.5% |
| *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD*  *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.*  *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.*  *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.*  *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Eastern Arkansas LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 126,547 | 125,058 | 123,482 | 122,024 | 120,753 |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | | | | |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation decreased in the second quarter of 2016 compared to the second quarter of 2015 by 500 jobs, with 1,943 jobs created. Job creation decreased in the LWDA by 42 when comparing second quarter 2012 to 2016. When comparing the second quarters of 2015 to 2016, new hires decreased by 155 and separations increased by 380. The turnover rate was 10.5 percent during the second quarter of 2016.

**Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

The labor force decreased by 431 to 48,230 in 2016 from 2015, and has decreased by 3,393 from 2012 to 2016. Employment increased from 2015 to 2016, gaining 373 workers to 45,873. Unemployment and the unemployment rate saw significant decreases from 2015 to 2016, having 804 fewer unemployed and the unemployment rate dropping by one and sixth-tenths percentage points to 4.9 percent. Over the five-year period, the Area saw the unemployment rate drop by four and nine-tenths percentage points from 9.8 percent to 4.9 percent. Since the beginning of 2017, the unemployment rate fluctuated from 5.5 percent in February to 3.8 percent in April, ending July 2017 at 4.8 percent.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Eastern Arkansas LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | |  |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 51,623 | 49,313 | 48,499 | 48,661 | 48,230 |
| Employment | 46,547 | 44,747 | 44,683 | 45,500 | 45,873 |
| Unemployment | 5,076 | 4,566 | 3,816 | 3,161 | 2,357 |
| Unemployment Rate | 9.8% | 9.3% | 7.9% | 6.5% | 4.9% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | |  |  |  |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Eastern Arkansas LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment**  **Rate** | |
| 2017 | January | 5.3% | |
| 2017 | February | 5.5% | |
| 2017 | March | 4.5% | |
| 2017 | April | 3.8% | |
| 2017 | May | 4.1% | |
| 2017 | June | 4.6% | |
| 2017 | July | 4.8% | |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics*  *\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | | | | |  |

**Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

*Cashiers* had the largest estimated employment in the LWDA in 2016 with 1,855 employed, earning an average wage of $19,248 in 2016. *Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education* had the largest experienced wage on the 10 Largest Occupations list with $49,717 and 704 employed in this occupation.

*Family and General Practitioners* leads the Occupations Paying the Most list with an average annual wage of $210,042. *Human Resource Managers* rounds out the list with an average annual wage of $89,663.

Employers of all sizes in the Eastern Arkansas LWDA had an estimated entry wage of $18,201 in 2016. Employers with 250 to 499 employees had an estimated mean wage of $32,163. Employers of 50 to 99 employees had an estimated entry wage of $18,504, while estimated experienced wages were $41,696 for 2016.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Of the 36,706 estimated employees in the Area, those earning $8.50 to $9.99 an hour was the largest group on the list, with an estimated 8,978 employees. The estimated number of employees earning $12.00 to $14.99 an hour was 4,959.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Eastern Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Cashiers | 1,855 | $19,248 | $18,097 | $19,824 |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,364 | $18,302 | $18,044 | $18,431 |
| Personal Care Aides | 1,146 | $18,277 | $17,977 | $18,426 |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,119 | $38,156 | $24,098 | $45,184 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 999 | $24,383 | $19,208 | $26,971 |
| Nursing Assistants | 979 | $23,051 | $18,283 | $25,435 |
| Office Clerks, General | 937 | $25,862 | $18,287 | $29,649 |
| Retail Salespersons | 916 | $25,225 | $18,177 | $28,749 |
| Stock Clerks and Order Fillers | 719 | $21,756 | $17,832 | $23,718 |
| Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education | 704 | $44,147 | $33,006 | $49,717 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |  |  |  |

**Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eastern Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most** | |
| **Occupation** | **Average**  **Annual Salary** |
| Family and General Practitioners | $210,042 |
| Nurse Practitioners | $147,204 |
| Pharmacists | $125,187 |
| Chief Executives | $106,564 |
| Architectural and Engineering Managers | $105,267 |
| Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates | $101,514 |
| Construction Managers | $100,801 |
| Physical Therapists | $95,062 |
| Occupational Therapists | $90,588 |
| Human Resources Managers | $89,663 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

**Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

**Eastern Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Eastern Arkansas LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** |
| All Sizes | $33,392 | $25,938 | $18,201 | $40,988 |
| 0-49 Employees | $31,952 | $23,389 | $18,092 | $38,881 |
| 50-99 Employees | $33,965 | $26,476 | $18,504 | $41,696 |
| 100-249 Employees | $34,709 | $29,939 | $19,093 | $42,516 |
| 250-499 Employees | $32,163 | $27,315 | $18,806 | $38,841 |
| 500+ Employees | $51,963 | $52,627 | $31,602 | $62,144 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**Eastern Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Eastern Arkansas LWDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | |
| **Total** | **36,706** |
| <$8.50 | 4,047 |
| $8.50-$9.99 | 8,978 |
| $10.00-$11.99 | 4,435 |
| $12.00-$14.99 | 4,959 |
| $15.00-$19.99 | 5,817 |
| $20.00-$24.99 | 3,370 |
| $25.00+ | 5,100 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

Employees

**Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

The Eastern Arkansas LWDA is expected to experience a net growth of 557 jobs between 2016 and 2018. *Food Services and Drinking Places* is estimated to be the top growing industry adding 143 jobs between 2016 and 2018 bringing its employment to 2,696. *Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing* is expected to be the fastest growing industry with a gain of 59.46 percent, or 66 new jobs going from 111 jobs in 2016 to 177 in 2018. *Hospitals* could see a drop of 197 jobs, or 36.41 percent of its workforce, making it the top and fastest declining industry in Eastern Arkansas, dropping employment to 344. **Leisure and Hospitality** leads the Area in net growth among the industry supersectors with 167 new jobs increasing employment 4.70 percent to 3,721.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Industry Supersectors** | | | | | |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 3,554 | 3,721 | **167** | 4.70% |
| 102100 | Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 9,323 | 9,439 | **116** | 1.24% |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 2,255 | 2,339 | **84** | 3.73% |
| 101200 | Construction | 1,032 | 1,115 | **83** | 8.04% |
| 102800 | Government | 4,272 | 4,328 | **56** | 1.31% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 2,553 | 2,696 | **143** | 5.60% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 1,475 | 1,580 | **105** | 7.12% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 1,704 | 1,801 | **97** | 5.69% |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 716 | 796 | **80** | 11.17% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 2,339 | 2,406 | **67** | 2.86% |
| 327000 | Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing | 111 | 177 | **66** | 59.46% |
| 236000 | Construction of Buildings | 391 | 449 | **58** | 14.83% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 512 | 568 | **56** | 10.94% |
| 111000 | Crop Production | 1,432 | 1,484 | **52** | 3.63% |
| 452000 | General Merchandise Stores | 1,465 | 1,508 | **43** | 2.94% |

**Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growing** | | |  |  |  |
| 327000 | Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing | 111 | 177 | 66 | **59.46%** |
| 443000 | Electronics and Appliance Stores | 83 | 111 | 28 | **33.73%** |
| 236000 | Construction of Buildings | 391 | 449 | 58 | **14.83%** |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 716 | 796 | 80 | **11.17%** |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 512 | 568 | 56 | **10.94%** |
| 326000 | Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing | 192 | 209 | 17 | **8.85%** |
| 485000 | Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation | 137 | 147 | 10 | **7.30%** |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 1,475 | 1,580 | 105 | **7.12%** |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 1,704 | 1,801 | 97 | **5.69%** |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 2,553 | 2,696 | 143 | **5.60%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 541 | 344 | **-197** | -36.41% |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 4,459 | 4,340 | **-119** | -2.67% |
| 488000 | Support Activities for Transportation | 330 | 238 | **-92** | -27.88% |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 837 | 763 | **-74** | -8.84% |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 293 | 245 | **-48** | -16.38% |
| 237000 | Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 129 | 98 | **-31** | -24.03% |
| 721000 | Accommodation, including Hotels and Motels | 364 | 345 | **-19** | -5.22% |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 61 | 43 | **-18** | -29.51% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 649 | 634 | **-15** | -2.31% |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 237 | 222 | **-15** | -6.33% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 541 | 344 | -197 | **-36.41%** |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 61 | 43 | -18 | **-29.51%** |
| 488000 | Support Activities for Transportation | 330 | 238 | -92 | **-27.88%** |
| 237000 | Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 129 | 98 | -31 | **-24.03%** |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 293 | 245 | -48 | **-16.38%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 62 | 53 | -9 | **-14.52%** |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 90 | 81 | -9 | **-10.00%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 75 | 68 | -7 | **-9.33%** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 837 | 763 | -74 | **-8.84%** |
| 448000 | Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores | 120 | 110 | -10 | **-8.33%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**

The Eastern Arkansas LWDA is expected to have 1,518 annual job openings during the projection period with 1,026 being for replacement and the remaining 492 for growth and expansion. *Cashiers* is predicted to add the most jobs with 63 new jobs anticipated increasing employment to 2,007. *Carpenters* is forecasted to be the fastest growing occupation with an increase of 9.57 percent, moving from 115 jobs in 2016 to 126 in 2018. *Registered Nurses* could lose 40 jobs between 2016 and 2018 making it the top declining occupation, dropping employment to 318, while *Radiologic Technologists* could be the fastest declining occupation, losing 24.1 percent of its workforce dropping down to 22 in 2018. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is anticipated to be the top growing major occupational group with 139 new jobs, increasing its total workforce to 3,395.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Major Occupational Groups** | | | | | | | | |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 3,256 | 3,395 | **139** | 4.27% | 72 | 124 | 196 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 4,724 | 4,856 | **132** | 2.79% | 67 | 172 | 239 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 2,637 | 2,716 | **79** | 3.00% | 40 | 46 | 86 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 1,421 | 1,500 | **79** | 5.56% | 47 | 22 | 69 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 1,529 | 1,572 | **43** | 2.81% | 24 | 32 | 56 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 1,944 | 2,007 | **63** | 3.24% | 32 | 98 | 130 |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,090 | 1,150 | **60** | 5.50% | 30 | 42 | 72 |
| 39-9021 | Personal Care Aides | 1,331 | 1,383 | **52** | 3.91% | 26 | 8 | 34 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 957 | 991 | **34** | 3.55% | 17 | 30 | 47 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 877 | 903 | **26** | 2.96% | 13 | 33 | 46 |
| 31-1011 | Home Health Aides | 399 | 423 | **24** | 6.02% | 12 | 8 | 20 |
| 51-2092 | Team Assemblers | 310 | 332 | **22** | 7.10% | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 479 | 500 | **21** | 4.38% | 10 | 25 | 35 |
| 47-2061 | Construction Laborers | 284 | 305 | **21** | 7.39% | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 271 | 291 | **20** | 7.38% | 10 | 8 | 18 |

**Eastern Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-2031 | Carpenters | 115 | 126 | 11 | **9.57%** | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 47-2111 | Electricians | 76 | 82 | 6 | **7.89%** | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 47-2061 | Construction Laborers | 284 | 305 | 21 | **7.39%** | 10 | 6 | 16 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 271 | 291 | 20 | **7.38%** | 10 | 8 | 18 |
| 43-5061 | Production, Planning, and Expediting Clerks | 83 | 89 | 6 | **7.23%** | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| 49-9041 | Industrial Machinery Mechanics | 196 | 210 | 14 | **7.14%** | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| 51-2092 | Team Assemblers | 310 | 332 | 22 | **7.10%** | 11 | 6 | 17 |
| 21-2011 | Clergy | 212 | 225 | 13 | **6.13%** | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| 31-1011 | Home Health Aides | 399 | 423 | 24 | **6.02%** | 12 | 8 | 20 |
| 13-1151 | Training and Development Specialists | 100 | 106 | 6 | **6.00%** | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 358 | 318 | **-40** | -11.2% | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,170 | 1,145 | **-25** | -2.1% | 0 | 18 | 18 |
| 25-2021 | Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education | 680 | 661 | **-19** | -2.8% | 0 | 15 | 15 |
| 25-2031 | Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education | 518 | 504 | **-14** | -2.7% | 0 | 13 | 13 |
| 43-6014 | Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive | 777 | 764 | **-13** | -1.7% | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 25-2022 | Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education | 390 | 378 | **-12** | -3.1% | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 29-2061 | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 318 | 307 | **-11** | -3.5% | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| 25-9041 | Teacher Assistants | 448 | 440 | **-8** | -1.8% | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,002 | 994 | **-8** | -0.8% | 0 | 21 | 21 |
| 29-2034 | Radiologic Technologists | 29 | 22 | **-7** | -24.1% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 29-2034 | Radiologic Technologists | 29 | 22 | -7 | **-24.1%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29-2012 | Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians | 32 | 27 | -5 | **-15.6%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 358 | 318 | -40 | **-11.2%** | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 47-2071 | Paving, Surfacing, and Tamping Equipment Operators | 48 | 44 | -4 | **-8.3%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 43-5032 | Dispatchers, Except Police, Fire, and Ambulance | 62 | 58 | -4 | **-6.5%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 47-2073 | Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators | 89 | 84 | -5 | **-5.6%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 11-9111 | Medical and Health Services Managers | 92 | 87 | -5 | **-5.4%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-9121 | Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 116 | 110 | -6 | **-5.2%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 53-7081 | Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors | 138 | 131 | -7 | **-5.1%** | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 43-4081 | Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks | 99 | 94 | -5 | **-5.1%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area had a slight increase in population in 2016, adding 22 to bring the population to 237,437. But the population decreased over the five-year period of 2012 to 2016, decreasing by 1,305. The North Central Arkansas LWDA consists of 10 counties: Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, White, and Woodruff, with the state of Missouri bordering the area to the north.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **North Central Arkansas LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 238,742 | 238,145 | 237,646 | 237,415 | 237,437 |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **North Central Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | | | |
| **(All Ownerships)** | | | | | | |
| **QWI Explorer** | | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | | 4,657 | 3,900 | 3,613 | 4,031 | 3,518 |
| New Hires | | 12,069 | 11,748 | 11,311 | 12,207 | 11,876 |
| Separations | | 14,269 | 12,942 | 12,596 | 13,094 | 13,461 |
| Turnover |  | 9.0% | 8.6% | 8.8% | 9.3% | 8.9% |
| *Source: U.S.Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD*  *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.* | | | | | | |
| *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.* | | | | | |  |
| *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.* | | | | | | | |
| *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | | |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

There were 3,518 new jobs created in the second quarter of 2016, a decrease of 513 compared to the same quarter in 2015. New hires decreased by 331 compared to the second quarter of 2015 while separations increased by 367 compared to the same quarter. The turnover rate decreased by four-tenths of a percentage point to 8.9 percent.

**North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

The labor force decreased by 604 from 2015 to 2016 and decreased by 5,234 between 2012 and 2016. Employment increased by 434 while unemployment decreased by 1,038 from 2015 to 2016. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.4 percent or one and one tenths percentage points from 2015 to 2016. The unemployment rate continued to decline during 2017 to 4.8 percent in July.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **North Central Arkansas LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 100,563 | 96,644 | 94,933 | 95,933 | 95,329 |
| Employment | 91,783 | 88,229 | 87,663 | 89,710 | 90,144 |
| Unemployment | 8,780 | 8,415 | 7,270 | 6,223 | 5,185 |
| Unemployment Rate | 8.7% | 8.7% | 7.7% | 6.5% | 5.4% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | | | | |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **North Central Arkansas LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment**  **Rate** | | |
| 2017 | January | 5.8% | | |
| 2017 | February | 5.8% | | |
| 2017 | March | 4.8% | | |
| 2017 | April | 4.1% | | |
| 2017 | May | 4.4% | | |
| 2017 | June | 4.6% | | |
| 2017 | July | 4.8% | | |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | |  |
| *\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | | |  |

**North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

*Retail Salespersons*, with an estimated employment of 2,257 was the largest occupation in the LWDA with an experienced wage of $31,085 in 2016. *Registered Nurses* had the largest entry wage of the 10 largest occupations at $42,701 and had an estimated employment of 1,419.

*Pediatricians, General* topped the Occupations Paying the Most list, earning an average annual wage of $291,065. *Internists, General* was second with an average annual wage of $257,268. *Civil Engineers* completed the list with an average annual wage of $90,742 in 2016.

Employees of all employer sizes in North Central Arkansas had an estimated median wage of $27,529 in 2016. Employers with 100-249 employees had an estimated entry wage of $19,698 and experienced wage of $43,111. Entry wages for employers with 500 plus employees were estimated to be $21,289 in 2016.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Of the 70,329 employees in North Central Arkansas, employees making $8.50 to $9.99 an hour was the largest group with 14,981 employees. Employees making $15.00 to $19.99 an hour totaled 11,429 in 2016.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **North Central Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Retail Salespersons | 2,257 | $26,811 | $18,263 | $31,085 |
| Cashiers | 1,992 | $19,739 | $18,157 | $20,531 |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,981 | $18,455 | $18,106 | $18,630 |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,975 | $36,401 | $24,308 | $42,448 |
| Office Clerks, General | 1,796 | $24,565 | $18,244 | $27,725 |
| Nursing Assistants | 1,600 | $22,449 | $20,259 | $23,544 |
| Registered Nurses | 1,419 | $57,220 | $42,701 | $64,479 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 1,324 | $19,003 | $18,111 | $19,449 |
| Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive | 1,310 | $25,927 | $19,416 | $29,183 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 1,222 | $23,855 | $18,411 | $26,577 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |  |  |  |

**North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **North Central LWDA Arkansas Occupations Paying the Most** |  |
| **Occupation** | **Average**  **Annual Salary** |
| Pediatricians, General | $291,065 |
| Internists, General | $257,268 |
| Dentists, General | $248,510 |
| Family and General Practitioners | $246,446 |
| Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates | $121,644 |
| Psychiatrists | $120,928 |
| Pharmacists | $107,390 |
| Construction Managers | $104,173 |
| Architectural and Engineering Managers | $92,605 |
| Civil Engineers | $90,742 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

**North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

**North Central Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **North Central Arkansas LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** |
| All Sizes | $35,461 | $27,529 | $18,871 | $43,755 |
| 0-49 Employees | $33,612 | $24,638 | $18,195 | $41,321 |
| 50-99 Employees | $34,894 | $25,751 | $18,584 | $43,049 |
| 100-249 Employees | $35,307 | $30,573 | $19,698 | $43,111 |
| 250-499 Employees | $38,279 | $34,197 | $20,671 | $47,083 |
| 500+ Employees | $42,472 | $33,052 | $21,289 | $53,063 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**North Central Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **North Central Arkansas LWDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | | | | | | | | | |
| **Total** | **70,329** | | | | |  | |  |  |
| <$8.50 | | 6,294 |  |  |  | |
| $8.50-$9.99 | | 14,981 |  |  |  | |
| $10.00-$11.99 | | 9,472 |  |  |  | |
| $12.00-$14.99 | | 10,133 |  |  |  | |
| $15.00-$19.99 | | 11,429 |  |  |  | |
| $20.00-$24.99 | | 7,812 |  |  |  | |
| $25.00+ | | 10,208 |  |  |  | |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | | | | | | |

Employees

Employees

**North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

The North Central Arkansas LWDA is projected to add 1,742 jobs from first quarter 2016 through first quarter 2018, or increase employment by 2.08 percent. *Administrative and Support Services* is forecast to be the top growing industry with an increase of 305 new jobs, moving employment to 2,156. *Plastics and Rubber Product Manufacturing* is predicted to be the fastest growing industry with a 25.85 percent rise in employment, moving from 205 jobs in 2016 to 258 in 2018. *Truck Transportation* is predicted to be the top declining industry with a loss of 247 jobs, dropping employment to 1,532. *Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores* could lose more than half of its local workforce between 2016 and 2018, dropping employment to 182. **Education and Health Services** is projected to be the top growing supersector with 716 new jobs increasing employment to 22,348.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Industry Supersectors** | | | | | |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102500 | Education and Health Services | 21,632 | 22,348 | **716** | 3.31% |
| 101300 | Manufacturing | 8,120 | 8,471 | **351** | 4.32% |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 3,362 | 3,680 | **318** | 9.46% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 6,276 | 6,592 | **316** | 5.04% |
| 102700 | Other Services (except Government) | 2,671 | 2,785 | **114** | 4.27% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 1,851 | 2,156 | **305** | 16.48% |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 5,410 | 5,693 | **283** | 5.23% |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 1,047 | 1,312 | **265** | 25.31% |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 3,195 | 3,427 | **232** | 7.26% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 3,596 | 3,825 | **229** | 6.37% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 2,173 | 2,329 | **156** | 7.18% |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 9,071 | 9,202 | **131** | 1.44% |
| 813000 | Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations | 1,547 | 1,671 | **124** | 8.02% |
| 452000 | General Merchandise Stores | 2,907 | 3,017 | **110** | 3.78% |
| 112000 | Animal Production | 656 | 751 | **95** | 14.48% |

**North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 326000 | Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing | 205 | 258 | 53 | **25.85%** |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 1,047 | 1,312 | 265 | **25.31%** |
| 113000 | Forestry and Logging | 35 | 41 | 6 | **17.14%** |
| 713000 | Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries | 409 | 477 | 68 | **16.63%** |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 1,851 | 2,156 | 305 | **16.48%** |
| 112000 | Animal Production | 656 | 751 | 95 | **14.48%** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 754 | 822 | 68 | **9.02%** |
| 813000 | Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations | 1,547 | 1,671 | 124 | **8.02%** |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 3,195 | 3,427 | 232 | **7.26%** |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 2,173 | 2,329 | 156 | **7.18%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 1,779 | 1,532 | **-247** | -13.88% |
| 448000 | Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores | 379 | 182 | **-197** | -51.98% |
| 445000 | Food and Beverage Stores | 1,266 | 1,178 | **-88** | -6.95% |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 226 | 141 | **-85** | -37.61% |
| 211000 | Oil and Gas Extraction | 430 | 364 | **-66** | -15.35% |
| 212000 | Mining (except Oil and Gas) | 227 | 167 | **-60** | -26.43% |
| 339000 | Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 389 | 346 | **-43** | -11.05% |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 558 | 520 | **-38** | -6.81% |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 228 | 190 | **-38** | -16.67% |
| 524000 | Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 419 | 382 | **-37** | -8.83% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 448000 | Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores | 379 | 182 | -197 | **-51.98%** |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 226 | 141 | -85 | **-37.61%** |
| 212000 | Mining (except Oil and Gas) | 227 | 167 | -60 | **-26.43%** |
| 334000 | Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing | 29 | 22 | -7 | **-24.14%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 96 | 76 | -20 | **-20.83%** |
| 486000 | Pipeline Transportation | 132 | 106 | -26 | **-19.70%** |
| 485000 | Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation | 149 | 122 | -27 | **-18.12%** |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 228 | 190 | -38 | **-16.67%** |
| 211000 | Oil and Gas Extraction | 430 | 364 | -66 | **-15.35%** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 1,779 | 1,532 | -247 | **-13.88%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**

The Area is expected to have 3,142 total job openings annually between 2016 and 2018. Of these, 1,948 would be for replacement, while 1,194 would be for growth and expansion. *Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers* is anticipated to gain 134 jobs between 2016 and 2018 making it the top growing occupation in the Area moving employment to 9,046. The occupation is also projected to have the most job openings with 215 annually. *Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders* are forecast to increase employment by 16.92 percent making it the fastest growing occupation in North Central Arkansas increasing jobs to 152. On the negative side of the economy, *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* could lose the most with a loss of 141 jobs dropping employment to 2,137, while *Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining* is expected to lose 29.51 percent of its workforce dropping down to only 43 jobs. **Production Occupations** is forecast to be the top growing occupational group adding 321 new jobs to an employment level of 7,764.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Major Occupational Groups** | | | | | | | | |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 7,443 | 7,764 | **321** | 4.31% | 210 | 167 | 377 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 6,822 | 7,124 | **302** | 4.43% | 152 | 260 | 412 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 5,314 | 5,539 | **225** | 4.23% | 114 | 114 | 228 |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 12,368 | 12,571 | **203** | 1.64% | 106 | 224 | 330 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 2,782 | 2,935 | **153** | 5.50% | 77 | 58 | 135 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 8,912 | 9,046 | **134** | 1.50% | 67 | 148 | 215 |
| 31-1014 | Nursing Assistants | 1,894 | 2,009 | **115** | 6.07% | 58 | 40 | 98 |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,667 | 1,760 | **93** | 5.58% | 46 | 65 | 111 |
| 51-9198 | Helpers--Production Workers | 656 | 735 | **79** | 12.04% | 40 | 20 | 60 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 1,046 | 1,114 | **68** | 6.50% | 34 | 19 | 53 |
| 51-4121 | Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers | 577 | 634 | **57** | 9.88% | 28 | 16 | 44 |
| 51-2092 | Team Assemblers | 603 | 657 | **54** | 8.96% | 27 | 13 | 40 |
| 39-9021 | Personal Care Aides | 1,183 | 1,236 | **53** | 4.48% | 26 | 8 | 34 |
| 29-2061 | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 1,132 | 1,184 | **52** | 4.59% | 26 | 32 | 58 |
| 35-1012 | First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers | 830 | 878 | **48** | 5.78% | 24 | 26 | 50 |

**North Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growing** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-9111 | Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders | 130 | 152 | 22 | **16.92%** | 11 | 4 | 15 |
| 51-9122 | Painters, Transportation Equipment | 80 | 90 | 10 | **12.50%** | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 51-9198 | Helpers--Production Workers | 656 | 735 | 79 | **12.04%** | 40 | 20 | 60 |
| 51-4121 | Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers | 577 | 634 | 57 | **9.88%** | 28 | 16 | 44 |
| 35-3011 | Bartenders | 53 | 58 | 5 | **9.43%** | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 51-2092 | Team Assemblers | 603 | 657 | 54 | **8.96%** | 27 | 13 | 40 |
| 13-1161 | Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists | 59 | 64 | 5 | **8.47%** | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 29-1123 | Physical Therapists | 95 | 103 | 8 | **8.42%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 37-3011 | Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers | 455 | 493 | 38 | **8.35%** | 19 | 8 | 27 |
| 37-1012 | First-Line Supervisors of Landscaping, Lawn Service, and Groundskeeping Workers | 153 | 165 | 12 | **7.84%** | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,278 | 2,137 | **-141** | -6.19% | 0 | 36 | 36 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,513 | 2,465 | **-48** | -1.91% | 0 | 94 | 94 |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 61 | 43 | **-18** | -29.51% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 41-3021 | Insurance Sales Agents | 227 | 212 | **-15** | -6.61% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 43-3031 | Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks | 731 | 718 | **-13** | -1.78% | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| 47-5041 | Continuous Mining Machine Operators | 51 | 38 | **-13** | -25.49% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 49-3031 | Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists | 195 | 183 | **-12** | -6.15% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 47-2031 | Carpenters | 485 | 474 | **-11** | -2.27% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 156 | 146 | **-10** | -6.41% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 43-4081 | Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks | 105 | 97 | **-8** | -7.62% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 61 | 43 | -18 | **-29.51%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 47-5041 | Continuous Mining Machine Operators | 51 | 38 | -13 | **-25.49%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 49-9043 | Maintenance Workers, Machinery | 26 | 22 | -4 | **-15.38%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 11-3071 | Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers | 49 | 45 | -4 | **-8.16%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 43-4081 | Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks | 105 | 97 | -8 | **-7.62%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 41-3021 | Insurance Sales Agents | 227 | 212 | -15 | **-6.61%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 156 | 146 | -10 | **-6.41%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-3021 | Butchers and Meat Cutters | 78 | 73 | -5 | **-6.41%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,278 | 2,137 | -141 | **-6.19%** | 0 | 36 | 36 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The Northeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area’s population was 266,394 in 2016, an increase of 875 since 2015, and it saw an increase of 2,987 from 2012 to 2016. The Northeast Arkansas LWDA consists of the Jonesboro Metropolitan Statistical Area and seven counties: Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, and Randolph. Both Missouri and Tennessee border the Area.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northeast Arkansas LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 263,407 | 263,575 | 264,406 | 265,519 | 266,394 |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | | |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northeast Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | |  |
| **(All Ownerships)** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **QWI Explorer** | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | 4,465 | 4,794 | 4,853 | 5,164 | 5,909 |
| New Hires | 16,529 | 16,161 | 17,825 | 17,847 | 20,167 |
| Separations | 18,781 | 18,931 | 20,182 | 20,180 | 22,068 |
| Turnover | 9.0% | 8.5% | 8.8% | 9.0% | 9.8% |
| *Source: U.S.Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD* | | | |  |  |
| *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.* | | | | |  |
| *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.* | | | |  |  |
| *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.* | | | | | |
| *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | |  |  |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation increased from the second quarter of 2015 by 745 to 5,909 for the same time period in 2016, and the Area’s job creation increased by 1,444 compared to the second quarter 2012. New hires were 20,167 or 2,320 more than in 2015. Separations increased from the second quarter of 2015 by 1,888 to 22,068. The turnover rate was 9.8 percent in the second quarter of 2016.

**Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

The labor force increased to 119,918 in 2016, or by 975 since 2015, but it decreased over the 2012-2016 period by 771. Employment increased by 2,596 while unemployment decreased by 1,621 from 2015 to 2016. The unemployment rate decreased to 4.3 percent, a decline of one and four-tenths percentage points from 2015 to 2016. The Area’s unemployment rate dropped to 4.1 by July 2017.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northeast Arkansas LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 120,689 | 117,019 | 117,132 | 118,943 | 119,918 |
| Employment | 110,309 | 107,318 | 109,214 | 112,133 | 114,729 |
| Unemployment | 10,380 | 9,701 | 7,918 | 6,810 | 5,189 |
| Unemployment Rate | 8.6% | 8.3% | 6.8% | 5.7% | 4.3% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | | | | |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northeast Arkansas LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment**  **Rate** | |
| 2017 | January | 4.5% | |
| 2017 | February | 4.5% | |
| 2017 | March | 3.7% | |
| 2017 | April | 3.1% | |
| 2017 | May | 3.4% | |
| 2017 | June | 4.2% | |
| 2017 | July | 4.1% | |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | | | |  |
| *\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | | |  | |  |

**Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

*Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food* was the largest occupation of 2016 for the Area with an estimated employment of 3,259, earning an entry wage of $18,138. The second largest, *Retail Salespersons,* had an estimated employment of 3,197 with an average wage of $23,344. *General and Operations Managers* had the largest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, at $75,224 annually.

*Surgeons,* with an average annual salary of $290,321, was the occupation paying the most in the LWDA in 2016. *Internists, General* earned an annual average wage of $271,376, placing it second on the list. *Optometrists* finished the list, earning $118,441 in 2016.

Employers of all sizes had an estimated experienced wage of $44,155 in Northeast Arkansas for 2016. Employers with 100-249 employees had an estimated mean wage of $37,122 and an estimated entry wage of $19,963. Estimated entry wages for the Area were $19,070 for employers of all sizes.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Of the 98,062 estimated employees in Northeast Arkansas, employees making $15.00 to $19.99 an hour numbered 17,387. Employees making $8.50 to $9.99 was the largest group in the Area with 20,130.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northeast Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 3,259 | $18,886 | $18,138 | $19,261 |
| Retail Salespersons | 3,197 | $23,344 | $18,232 | $25,900 |
| Team Assemblers | 3,140 | $27,468 | $20,827 | $30,789 |
| Cashiers | 2,707 | $19,320 | $18,130 | $19,915 |
| Office Clerks, General | 2,419 | $25,688 | $19,222 | $28,920 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,044 | $25,658 | $19,482 | $28,747 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 2,013 | $19,165 | $18,240 | $19,627 |
| Registered Nurses | 1,972 | $54,822 | $43,485 | $60,491 |
| Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 1,861 | $20,988 | $18,058 | $22,454 |
| General and Operations Managers | 1,578 | $75,224 | $33,744 | $95,964 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |  |  |  |

**Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Northeast Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most** |  |
| **Occupation** | **Average**  **Annual Salary** |
| Surgeons | $290,321 |
| Internists, General | $271,376 |
| Psychiatrists | $259,143 |
| Family and General Practitioners | $203,511 |
| Dentists, General | $190,758 |
| Nurse Anesthetists | $185,970 |
| Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | $179,566 |
| Chief Executives | $156,463 |
| Pharmacists | $137,570 |
| Optometrists | $118,441 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

**Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

**Northeast Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northeast Arkansas LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** |
| All Sizes | $35,793 | $28,260 | $19,070 | $44,155 |
| 0-49 Employees | $33,928 | $25,255 | $18,304 | $41,741 |
| 50-99 Employees | $33,724 | $25,482 | $18,332 | $41,421 |
| 100-249 Employees | $37,122 | $30,966 | $19,963 | $45,701 |
| 250-499 Employees | $36,155 | $30,178 | $19,556 | $44,454 |
| 500+ Employees | $40,058 | $34,224 | $21,354 | $49,410 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**Northeast Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Northeast Arkansas WDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | | |
| **Total** | **98,062** |
| <$8.50 | 8,094 |
| $8.50-$9.99 | 20,130 |
| $10.00-$11.99 | 12,643 |
| $12.00-$14.99 | 15,227 |
| $15.00-$19.99 | 17,387 |
| $20.00-$24.99 | 10,365 |
| $25.00+ | 14,216 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | |

Employees

**Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

The Northeast Arkansas LWDA is expected to add 4,719 jobs during the projection period, a 4.18 percent rise in employment. Driving this growth, *Food Manufacturing* is estimated to gain 762 jobs raising employment to 3,198. *Animal Production* may also ramp up employment in the Area with an anticipated increase of 45.16 percent to an employment of 495, making it the fastest growing industry. *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* is expected to fall in employment with a cut of 150 jobs, moving employment down to 3,723, making it the top declining industry. *Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers* could be the fastest declining industry with a 19.28 percent decline, moving employment down to 134. **Manufacturing** is expected to be the top growing supersector with an increase of 1,348, or a 7.02 percent increase in employment to a level of 20,540.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Industry Supersectors** | | | | | |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 101300 | Manufacturing | 19,192 | 20,540 | **1,348** | 7.02% |
| 102500 | Education and Health Services | 27,492 | 28,816 | **1,324** | 4.82% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 8,898 | 9,378 | **480** | 5.39% |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 6,973 | 7,298 | **325** | 4.66% |
| 101100 | Natural Resources and Mining | 3,353 | 3,606 | **253** | 7.55% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 2,436 | 3,198 | **762** | 31.28% |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 11,194 | 11,726 | **532** | 4.75% |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 7,877 | 8,291 | **414** | 5.26% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 4,910 | 5,215 | **305** | 6.21% |
| 331000 | Primary Metal Manufacturing | 3,035 | 3,308 | **273** | 9.00% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 4,184 | 4,396 | **212** | 5.07% |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 4,812 | 5,020 | **208** | 4.32% |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 2,172 | 2,343 | **171** | 7.87% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 4,463 | 4,631 | **168** | 3.76% |
| 112000 | Animal Production | 341 | 495 | **154** | 45.16% |

**Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | |
| 112000 | Animal Production | 341 | 495 | 154 | **45.16%** |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 2,436 | 3,198 | 762 | **31.28%** |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 593 | 670 | 77 | **12.98%** |
| 713000 | Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries | 412 | 452 | 40 | **9.71%** |
| 331000 | Primary Metal Manufacturing | 3,035 | 3,308 | 273 | **9.00%** |
| 531000 | Real Estate | 701 | 761 | 60 | **8.56%** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 2,172 | 2,343 | 171 | **7.87%** |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 1,419 | 1,523 | 104 | **7.33%** |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 2,163 | 2,312 | 149 | **6.89%** |
| 453000 | Miscellaneous Store Retailers | 580 | 618 | 38 | **6.55%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 3,873 | 3,723 | **-150** | -3.87% |
| 424000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 1,539 | 1,433 | **-106** | -6.89% |
| 221000 | Utilities | 364 | 300 | **-64** | -17.58% |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 929 | 871 | **-58** | -6.24% |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 166 | 134 | **-32** | -19.28% |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 698 | 669 | **-29** | -4.15% |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 252 | 223 | **-29** | -11.51% |
| 812000 | Personal and Laundry Services | 663 | 643 | **-20** | -3.02% |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 201 | 182 | **-19** | -9.45% |
| 814000 | Private Households | 116 | 100 | **-16** | -13.79% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 166 | 134 | -32 | **-19.28%** |
| 221000 | Utilities | 364 | 300 | -64 | **-17.58%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 116 | 100 | -16 | **-13.79%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 252 | 223 | -29 | **-11.51%** |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 201 | 182 | -19 | **-9.45%** |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 69 | 63 | -6 | **-8.70%** |
| 512000 | Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries | 83 | 77 | -6 | **-7.23%** |
| 424000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 1,539 | 1,433 | -106 | **-6.89%** |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 929 | 871 | -58 | **-6.24%** |
| 454000 | Nonstore Retailers | 157 | 150 | -7 | **-4.46%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**

The Northeast Arkansas LWDA is expected to have 5,147 annual openings during the projection period with 2,463 for growth and expansion and 2,684 for replacement. *Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers* is anticipated to be the top growing occupation with a gain of 201 jobs raising its employment to 6,264. *Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals* is estimated to be the fastest growing occupation increasing its employment by 33.02 percent to 286. *Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers* is projected to be the fastest declining occupation losing 15.56 percent of its workforce bringing employment down to 76 jobs. The occupation is tied with *Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers* as the top declining occupation with each losing 14 jobs between 2016 and 2018. **Production Occupations** is anticipated to add the most new jobs among the major occupational groups in Northeast Arkansas adding 625 increasing employment to 14,936.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Major Occupational Groups** | | | | | | | | |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 14,311 | 14,936 | **625** | 4.37% | 371 | 320 | 691 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 9,534 | 10,046 | **512** | 5.37% | 258 | 228 | 486 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 9,088 | 9,528 | **440** | 4.84% | 220 | 352 | 572 |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 10,901 | 11,321 | **420** | 3.85% | 210 | 207 | 417 |
| 25-0000 | Education, Training, and Library Occupations | 8,061 | 8,453 | **392** | 4.86% | 196 | 174 | 370 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 6,063 | 6,264 | **201** | 3.32% | 100 | 100 | 200 |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 2,759 | 2,931 | **172** | 6.23% | 86 | 108 | 194 |
| 51-9023 | Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 461 | 574 | **113** | 24.51% | 56 | 10 | 66 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 1,970 | 2,075 | **105** | 5.33% | 52 | 44 | 96 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,514 | 2,608 | **94** | 3.74% | 47 | 78 | 125 |
| 53-7051 | Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators | 766 | 859 | **93** | 12.14% | 46 | 18 | 64 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,955 | 2,047 | **92** | 4.71% | 46 | 102 | 148 |
| 39-9021 | Personal Care Aides | 1,493 | 1,583 | **90** | 6.03% | 45 | 10 | 55 |
| 49-9041 | Industrial Machinery Mechanics | 566 | 655 | **89** | 15.72% | 44 | 14 | 58 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 3,499 | 3,584 | **85** | 2.43% | 42 | 131 | 173 |

**Northeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growing** | | | | | | | | |
| 45-2093 | Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals | 215 | 286 | 71 | **33.02%** | 36 | 6 | 42 |
| 51-9023 | Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 461 | 574 | 113 | **24.51%** | 56 | 10 | 66 |
| 51-9021 | Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 36 | 44 | 8 | **22.22%** | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 53-7061 | Cleaners of Vehicles and Equipment | 364 | 422 | 58 | **15.93%** | 29 | 13 | 42 |
| 49-9041 | Industrial Machinery Mechanics | 566 | 655 | 89 | **15.72%** | 44 | 14 | 58 |
| 49-9043 | Maintenance Workers, Machinery | 109 | 124 | 15 | **13.76%** | 8 | 2 | 10 |
| 13-1161 | Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists | 117 | 132 | 15 | **12.82%** | 8 | 1 | 9 |
| 53-7051 | Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators | 766 | 859 | 93 | **12.14%** | 46 | 18 | 64 |
| 17-2112 | Industrial Engineers | 119 | 133 | 14 | **11.76%** | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| 53-7064 | Packers and Packagers, Hand | 701 | 775 | 74 | **10.56%** | 37 | 18 | 55 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 49-9051 | Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers | 192 | 178 | **-14** | -7.29% | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 49-9052 | Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers | 90 | 76 | **-14** | -15.56% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-2022 | Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers | 118 | 112 | **-6** | -5.08% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-4031 | Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 731 | 725 | **-6** | -0.82% | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 51-4072 | Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 456 | 451 | **-5** | -1.10% | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 51-9122 | Painters, Transportation Equipment | 193 | 188 | **-5** | -2.59% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 27-3022 | Reporters and Correspondents | 50 | 46 | **-4** | -8.00% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 41-4012 | Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products | 1,008 | 1,004 | **-4** | -0.40% | 0 | 20 | 20 |
| 49-9091 | Coin, Vending, and Amusement Machine Servicers and Repairers | 57 | 53 | **-4** | -7.02% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-7042 | Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing | 56 | 52 | **-4** | -7.14% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 49-9052 | Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers | 90 | 76 | -14 | **-15.56%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 27-3022 | Reporters and Correspondents | 50 | 46 | -4 | **-8.00%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 27-3041 | Editors | 38 | 35 | -3 | **-7.89%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 49-9051 | Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers | 192 | 178 | -14 | **-7.29%** | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 51-7042 | Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing | 56 | 52 | -4 | **-7.14%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 49-9091 | Coin, Vending, and Amusement Machine Servicers and Repairers | 57 | 53 | -4 | **-7.02%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 43-2011 | Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service | 59 | 56 | -3 | **-5.08%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-2022 | Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers | 118 | 112 | -6 | **-5.08%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 43-5041 | Meter Readers, Utilities | 65 | 62 | -3 | **-4.62%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-9122 | Painters, Transportation Equipment | 193 | 188 | -5 | **-2.59%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area’s population increased to 640,652 or by 11,821 in 2016. The Area has seen an increase in population of 40,604 from 2012 to 2016. The Northwest Arkansas LWDA consists of nine counties: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy, and Washington. The area borders two states, Missouri to the north and Oklahoma to the west. The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes McDonald County in Missouri, is located within this LWDA.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northwest Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | | |
| **(All Ownerships)** | |  |  |  |  |
| **QWI Explorer** | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | 13,696 | 13,187 | 13,850 | 15,652 | 13,919 |
| New Hires | 39,486 | 40,621 | 44,383 | 49,695 | 49,561 |
| Separations | 40,802 | 42,132 | 44,807 | 49,207 | 51,035 |
| Turnover | 8.2% | 8.5% | 8.5% | 8.8% | 9.3% |
| *Source: U.S.Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD* | | | | | |
| *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.* | | | | | |
| *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.* | | | | | |
| *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.* | | | | | |
| *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | | |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northwest Arkansas LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 600,048 | 609,063 | 617,584 | 628,831 | 640,652 |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | | | | |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation decreased by 1,733 in Northwest Arkansas from second quarter of 2015 to second quarter of 2016 to 13,919, and new hires decreased by 134 to 49,561 for the same time period. Separations increased by 1,828 to 51,035 and turnover was at 9.3 percent for the second quarter of 2016.

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

The labor force and employment both increased from 2015 to 2016, with the labor force gaining 9,337 to 311,207 and employment increasing by 11,755 to 301,748. Unemployment decreased by 2,418 to 9,459 in 2016, and has seen a decline of 8,027 since 2012. The unemployment rate declined from 2015 to 2016 by nine-tenths of a percentage point to 3 percent, however the Area’s unemployment rate declined by three and two-tenths percentage points from 2012. The unemployment rate ended July 2017 at 3 percent.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northwest Arkansas LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 281,953 | 279,994 | 286,626 | 301,870 | 311,207 |
| Employment | 264,467 | 263,406 | 272,736 | 289,993 | 301,748 |
| Unemployment | 17,486 | 16,588 | 13,890 | 11,877 | 9,459 |
| Unemployment Rate | 6.2% | 5.9% | 4.8% | 3.9% | 3.0% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | | | | |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Northwest Arkansas LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment**  **Rate** | |
| 2017 | January | 3.2% | |
| 2017 | February | 3.3% | |
| 2017 | March | 2.7% | |
| 2017 | April | 2.3% | |
| 2017 | May | 2.6% | |
| 2017 | June | 2.9% | |
| 2017 | July | 3.0% | |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | |
| *\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | |  |

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

*Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers,* with an estimated employment of 11,142, was the largest occupation in the Area in 2016 earning an entry wage of $31,278. *General and Operations Mangers* had the highest estimated experienced wage of the 10 largest occupations at $120,384 with 5,293 employed.

*Internists, General* had the highest average annual salary in the LWDA at $302,012 for 2016. *Surgeons* was second on the Occupations Paying the Most list with an average annual salary of $297,602*. Marketing Mangers* completed the list with an average annual salary of $163,349.

Employers of all sizes had an estimated experienced wage of $55,102 in Northwest Arkansas. Employers with 250 to 499 employees had an entry wage of $20,761 in 2016. Estimated entry wages for all sizes were $19,753 in 2016.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Of the 273,136 estimated employees in the Area, employees making $10.00 to $11.99 an hour totaled 35,205 in 2016. Employees making $25.00 or more an hour totaled 64,360. Employees earning under $8.50 an hour totaled 17,626.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northwest Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 11,142 | $41,960 | $31,278 | $47,302 |
| Retail Salespersons | 9,600 | $25,643 | $18,086 | $29,422 |
| Cashiers | 6,825 | $19,556 | $18,156 | $20,256 |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 6,799 | $19,169 | $18,104 | $19,702 |
| Office Clerks, General | 6,245 | $27,168 | $19,363 | $31,070 |
| General and Operations Managers | 5,293 | $90,514 | $30,775 | $120,384 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 4,888 | $25,407 | $20,024 | $28,098 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 4,450 | $18,872 | $18,035 | $19,290 |
| Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products | 4,426 | $71,014 | $31,310 | $90,866 |
| Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive | 4,410 | $32,826 | $23,088 | $37,695 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |  |  |  |

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Northwest Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most** |  |
| **Occupation** | **Average**  **Annual Salary** |
| Internists, General | $302,012 | |
| Surgeons | $297,602 | |
| Anesthesiologists | $297,145 | |
| Obstetricians and Gynecologists | $291,049 | |
| Dentists, General | $261,629 | |
| Family and General Practitioners | $212,871 | |
| Nurse Anesthetists | $202,541 | |
| Purchasing Managers | $195,968 | |
| Compensation and Benefits Managers | $172,244 | |
| Marketing Managers | $163,349 | |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | |

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

**Northwest Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Northwest Arkansas LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** |
| All Sizes | $43,319 | $31,406 | $19,753 | $55,102 |
| 0-49 Employees | $38,454 | $27,231 | $18,733 | $48,315 |
| 50-99 Employees | $36,420 | $26,184 | $18,600 | $45,330 |
| 100-249 Employees | $39,998 | $30,053 | $19,889 | $50,053 |
| 250-499 Employees | $40,561 | $33,137 | $20,761 | $50,461 |
| 500+ Employees | $55,119 | $41,089 | $23,655 | $70,850 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**Northwest Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Northwest LWDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | | |
| **Total** | **273,136** |  |  |
| <$8.50 | 17,626 |  |  |
| $8.50-$9.99 | 45,514 |  |  |
| $10.00-$11.99 | 35,205 |  |  |
| $12.00-$14.99 | 37,048 |  |  |
| $15.00-$19.99 | 45,666 |  |  |
| $20.00-$24.99 | 27,717 |  |  |
| $25.00+ | 64,360 |  |  |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | |

Employees

Employees

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

The Northwest Arkansas LWDA has the largest employment base in the state and is predicted to be the top and fastest growing Area in the state, which provides job seekers with a variety of career choices among the many industries and occupations. This Area is projected to gain 14,398 jobs, an increase of 4.75 percent between 2016 and 2018. *Management of Companies and Enterprises* is predicted to be the top growing industry in the Area with 1,877 new jobs anticipated raising employment to 25,530. *Construction of Buildings* is predicted to increase by 20.15 percent, making it the fastest growing industry in the Area moving employment to 2,421. *Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing* is projected to be the top and fastest declining industry with a loss of 168 jobs, or 28.67 percent of its workforce moving employment to 418. **Education and Health Services** is predicted to be the top growing supersector adding 3,030 new jobs increasing its workforce to 61,284.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Industry Supersectors** | | | | | |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102500 | Education and Health Services | 58,254 | 61,284 | **3,030** | 5.20% |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 45,899 | 48,891 | **2,992** | 6.52% |
| 102100 | Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 59,188 | 61,877 | **2,689** | 4.54% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 27,770 | 29,262 | **1,492** | 5.37% |
| 101200 | Construction | 10,477 | 11,640 | **1,163** | 11.10% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 23,653 | 25,530 | **1,877** | 7.94% |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 27,133 | 28,669 | **1,536** | 5.66% |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 22,151 | 23,359 | **1,208** | 5.45% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 7,444 | 8,200 | **756** | 10.16% |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 11,857 | 12,527 | **670** | 5.65% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 10,527 | 11,181 | **654** | 6.21% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 14,966 | 15,498 | **532** | 3.55% |
| 813000 | Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations | 5,333 | 5,805 | **472** | 8.85% |
| 445000 | Food and Beverage Stores | 5,126 | 5,579 | **453** | 8.84% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 9,829 | 10,280 | **451** | 4.59% |

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
|  | **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | |
| 236000 | Construction of Buildings | 2,015 | 2,421 | 406 | **20.15%** |
| 518000 | Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services | 244 | 289 | 45 | **18.44%** |
| 312000 | Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing | 255 | 302 | 47 | **18.43%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 436 | 513 | 77 | **17.66%** |
| 314000 | Textile Product Mills | 507 | 583 | 76 | **14.99%** |
| 485000 | Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation | 532 | 610 | 78 | **14.66%** |
| 325000 | Chemical Manufacturing | 264 | 301 | 37 | **14.02%** |
| 442000 | Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores | 817 | 928 | 111 | **13.59%** |
| 811000 | Repair and Maintenance | 1,957 | 2,211 | 254 | **12.98%** |
| 712000 | Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institution | 443 | 500 | 57 | **12.87%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 334000 | Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing | 586 | 418 | **-168** | -28.67% |
| 331000 | Primary Metal Manufacturing | 1,042 | 910 | **-132** | -12.67% |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 2,953 | 2,838 | **-115** | -3.89% |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 1,412 | 1,313 | **-99** | -7.01% |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 762 | 680 | **-82** | -10.76% |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 713 | 651 | **-62** | -8.70% |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 866 | 806 | **-60** | -6.93% |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 424 | 414 | **-10** | -2.36% |
| 515000 | Broadcasting (except Internet) | 345 | 335 | **-10** | -2.90% |
| 523000 | Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other Financial Investments and Related Activities | 432 | 423 | **-9** | -2.08% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 334000 | Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing | 586 | 418 | -168 | **-28.67%** |
| 331000 | Primary Metal Manufacturing | 1,042 | 910 | -132 | **-12.67%** |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 762 | 680 | -82 | **-10.76%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 713 | 651 | -62 | **-8.70%** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 1,412 | 1,313 | -99 | **-7.01%** |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 866 | 806 | -60 | **-6.93%** |
| 212000 | Mining (except Oil and Gas) | 105 | 100 | -5 | **-4.76%** |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 2,953 | 2,838 | -115 | **-3.89%** |
| 515000 | Broadcasting (except Internet) | 345 | 335 | -10 | **-2.90%** |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 424 | 414 | -10 | **-2.36%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**

The Northwest Arkansas LWDA is projected to have 14,428 annual job openings and the only Area where growth openings exceed replacement with 7,346 for growth and expansion and 7,082 for replacement. *Retail Salespersons* is estimated to drive growth adding 610 new jobs, making it the top growing occupation in Northwest Arkansas increasing employment to 11,546. *Helpers--Carpenters* is predicted to be the fastest growing occupation raising employment 13.79 percent. *Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers* is forecasted to be the fastest declining occupation losing 12.82 percent of its workforce dropping to an employment of 238 and is tied with *Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic* as the top declining occupation with 35 job losses each. **Office and Administrative Support Occupations** is expected to be the top growing major group with an increase of 1,800 new jobs moving employment from 40,836 in 2016 to 42,636 in 2018.

**Top 5 Major Occupational Groups**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 40,836 | 42,636 | **1,800** | 4.41% | 904 | 851 | 1,755 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 31,619 | 33,271 | **1,652** | 5.22% | 826 | 1,040 | 1,866 |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 31,795 | 33,195 | **1,400** | 4.40% | 700 | 616 | 1,316 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 24,403 | 25,707 | **1,304** | 5.34% | 652 | 1,008 | 1,660 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 16,739 | 17,910 | **1,171** | 7.00% | 586 | 311 | 897 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 10,936 | 11,546 | **610** | 5.58% | 305 | 409 | 714 |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 5,794 | 6,182 | **388** | 6.70% | 194 | 226 | 420 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 13,138 | 13,514 | **376** | 2.86% | 188 | 218 | 406 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 6,868 | 7,199 | **331** | 4.82% | 166 | 348 | 514 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 6,416 | 6,719 | **303** | 4.72% | 152 | 136 | 288 |
| 43-6014 | Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive | 5,147 | 5,436 | **289** | 5.61% | 144 | 54 | 198 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 5,050 | 5,337 | **287** | 5.68% | 144 | 118 | 262 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 11,516 | 11,773 | **257** | 2.23% | 128 | 184 | 312 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 5,477 | 5,705 | **228** | 4.16% | 114 | 169 | 283 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 4,678 | 4,903 | **225** | 4.81% | 112 | 244 | 356 |

**Northwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-3012 | Helpers--Carpenters | 87 | 99 | 12 | **13.79%** | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 15-2031 | Operations Research Analysts | 39 | 44 | 5 | **12.82%** | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 47-2221 | Structural Iron and Steel Workers | 80 | 90 | 10 | **12.50%** | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 47-3011 | Helpers--Brickmasons, Blockmasons, Stonemasons, and Tile and Marble Setters | 82 | 92 | 10 | **12.20%** | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 47-3013 | Helpers--Electricians | 117 | 131 | 14 | **11.97%** | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| 41-3021 | Insurance Sales Agents | 1,031 | 1,147 | 116 | **11.25%** | 58 | 26 | 84 |
| 49-2097 | Electronic Home Entertainment Equipment Installers and Repairers | 72 | 80 | 8 | **11.11%** | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| 47-2051 | Cement Masons and Concrete Finishers | 280 | 311 | 31 | **11.07%** | 16 | 4 | 20 |
| 47-2021 | Brickmasons and Blockmasons | 165 | 183 | 18 | **10.91%** | 9 | 2 | 11 |
| 47-3016 | Helpers--Roofers | 76 | 84 | 8 | **10.53%** | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-2022 | Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers | 273 | 238 | **-35** | -12.82% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-4072 | Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 479 | 444 | **-35** | -7.31% | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 274 | 251 | **-23** | -8.39% | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 51-5112 | Printing Press Operators | 373 | 350 | **-23** | -6.17% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 368 | 354 | **-14** | -3.80% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-4193 | Plating and Coating Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 127 | 113 | **-14** | -11.02% | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 51-4033 | Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 240 | 228 | **-12** | -5.00% | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 51-4111 | Tool and Die Makers | 149 | 137 | **-12** | -8.05% | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 27-3022 | Reporters and Correspondents | 174 | 165 | **-9** | -5.17% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 27-3041 | Editors | 189 | 180 | **-9** | -4.76% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-2022 | Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers | 273 | 238 | -35 | **-12.82%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-4193 | Plating and Coating Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 127 | 113 | -14 | **-11.02%** | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 51-4191 | Heat Treating Equipment Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 44 | 40 | -4 | **-9.09%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 274 | 251 | -23 | **-8.39%** | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 51-4111 | Tool and Die Makers | 149 | 137 | -12 | **-8.05%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-4072 | Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 479 | 444 | -35 | **-7.31%** | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 51-5112 | Printing Press Operators | 373 | 350 | -23 | **-6.17%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 17-3027 | Mechanical Engineering Technicians | 67 | 63 | -4 | **-5.97%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 27-3022 | Reporters and Correspondents | 174 | 165 | -9 | **-5.17%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 51-4033 | Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 240 | 228 | -12 | **-5.00%** | 0 | 10 | 10 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area’s population decreased by 2,629 from 2015 to 201,208 in 2016 from 2015, or by 2,629. The Area has seen a decrease in population of 8,742 from 2012 to 2016. The Southeast Arkansas LWDA includes the Pine Bluff Metropolitan Statistical Area and 10 counties: Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, and Lincoln. Louisiana and Mississippi border the Area.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southeast Arkansas LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 209,950 | 207,384 | 205,368 | 203,837 | 201,208 |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | | | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southeast Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | | |
| **(All Ownerships)** | |  |  |  |  |
| **QWI Explorer** | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | 3,206 | 3,334 | 3,739 | 3,889 | 3,367 |
| New Hires | 9,974 | 10,089 | 10,126 | 10,483 | 10,416 |
| Separations | 12,687 | 12,251 | 11,288 | 11,852 | 12,058 |
| Turnover | 7.9% | 8.0% | 7.9% | 8.3% | 8.3% |
| *Source: U.S.Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD* | | | | | |
| *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.* | | | | | |
| *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.* | | | | | |
| *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.* | | | | | |
| *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | | |  |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation decreased in Southeast Arkansas by 522 to 3,367

for the second quarter of 2016 compared to the second quarter of 2015. New hires decreased for the same time period by 67 to 10,416 while separations increased by 206 from 2015 to 2016. Turnover remained stable at 8.3 percent for the second quarter of 2016.

**Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

Southeast Arkansas saw a decrease in the labor force by 932 to 82,817 from 2015 to 2016, but employment increased by 217 to 78,513 for the same time period. Both the labor force and employment have decreased since 2012 by 8,357 and 3,729 respectively. Unemployment decreased by 1,149 to 4,304 from 2015 to 2016 and the unemployment rate dropped to 5.2 percent in 2016. After climbing to 5.2% in January 2017, the unemployment rate decreased sixth-tenths of a percentage point to settle at 4.9 percent in July 2017.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southeast Arkansas LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 91,174 | 86,632 | 84,022 | 83,749 | 82,817 |
| Employment | 82,242 | 78,372 | 77,305 | 78,296 | 78,513 |
| Unemployment | 8,932 | 8,260 | 6,717 | 5,453 | 4,304 |
| Unemployment Rate | 9.8% | 9.5% | 8.0% | 6.5% | 5.2% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | | | | |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southeast Arkansas LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment**  **Rate** | | | | |
| 2017 | January | 5.5% | | | | |
| 2017 | February | 5.6% | | | | |
| 2017 | March | 4.7% | | | | |
| 2017 | April | 4.0% | | | | |
| 2017 | May | 4.3% | | | | |
| 2017 | June | 4.7% | | | | |
| 2017 | July | 4.9% | | | | |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | | | | |  | | | |
| *\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | | | |  |  | |  | |  | |

**Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

*Cashiers* had the largest estimated employment in Southeast Arkansas with 2,186 employed, making an entry wage of $18,110 in 2016. *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food* had the second largest estimated employment with 1,828 employed. *General and Operations Mangers* had the largest experienced wage of the 10 largest occupations, making an experienced wage of $98,091 in 2016.

*Family and General Practitioners,* with an average annual wage of $163,455, was the occupation paying the most in 2016. *Architectural and Engineering Mangers* was second on the list, making an average wage of $133,155, while *Microbiologists* finished the list with an average wage of $96,792.

The entry wage estimate for all employer sizes in Southeast Arkansas was $19,215 in 2016. Employers with 250 to 499 employees had an estimated mean wage of $36,781. Experienced wages for all employer categories for the Area were at $45,050.

Of the 70,785 estimated number of employees, Southeast Arkansas employees making $15.00 to $19.99 an hour numbered 13,825 and was the largest group in 2016. Coming in as the second largest group, employees making $8.50 to $9.99 an hour numbered 13,513 in 2016.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southeast Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Cashiers | 2,186 | $18,864 | $18,110 | $19,240 |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,828 | $18,449 | $18,092 | $18,628 |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,794 | $34,274 | $23,593 | $39,614 |
| Office Clerks, General | 1,741 | $25,264 | $18,832 | $28,479 |
| Correctional Officers and Jailers | 1,623 | $34,546 | $27,997 | $37,820 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 1,517 | $24,114 | $19,027 | $26,657 |
| Retail Salespersons | 1,492 | $24,475 | $18,188 | $27,618 |
| Nursing Assistants | 1,355 | $21,577 | $18,246 | $23,242 |
| Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive | 1,187 | $27,399 | $19,742 | $31,227 |
| General and Operations Managers | 1,157 | $76,785 | $34,173 | $98,091 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |  |  |  |

**Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Southeast Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most** |  |
| **Occupation** | **Average**  **Annual Salary** |
| Family and General Practitioners | $163,455 |
| Architectural and Engineering Managers | $133,155 |
| Dentists, General | $123,771 |
| Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists | $123,170 |
| Pharmacists | $120,102 |
| Sales Managers | $118,941 |
| Nurse Practitioners | $103,816 |
| Industrial Production Managers | $100,486 |
| Chemists | $98,617 |
| Microbiologists | $96,792 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

**Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

**Southeast Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southeast Arkansas LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** |
| All Sizes | $36,438 | $29,435 | $19,215 | $45,050 |
| 0-49 Employees | $33,850 | $24,939 | $18,223 | $41,663 |
| 50-99 Employees | $32,991 | $25,892 | $18,772 | $40,100 |
| 100-249 Employees | $36,127 | $30,635 | $19,768 | $44,306 |
| 250-499 Employees | $36,781 | $32,505 | $20,024 | $45,159 |
| 500+ Employees | $43,997 | $37,525 | $23,226 | $54,382 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**Southeast Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southeast Arkansas LWDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | | | | | | |
| **Total** | **70,785** |  |  |  |  |
| <$8.50 | 5,743 |  |  |  |  |
| $8.50-$9.99 | 13,513 |  |  |  |  |
| $10.00-$11.99 | 8,940 |  |  |  |  |
| $12.00-$14.99 | 9,887 |  |  |  |  |
| $15.00-$19.99 | 13,825 |  |  |  |  |
| $20.00-$24.99 | 7,579 |  |  |  |  |
| $25.00+ | 11,298 |  |  |  |  |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | | | |

Employees

**Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

The Southeast Arkansas LWDA is expected to gain only 369 new jobs between 2016 and 2018. *Food Services and Drinking Places* is expected to be the top growing occupation in the Area, growing by 207 jobs to an employment level of 4,128. At 17.73 percent, *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* is predicted to be the fastest growing industry moving from 908 in 2016 to 1,069 in 2018. *Paper Manufacturing* is estimated to be the top declining industry losing an anticipated 181 jobs and moving employment down to 3,155. *Private Households* is estimated to be the fastest declining industry with a loss of 44.03 percent of its workforce, dropping employment below 100. **Professional and Business Services** is projected to be the top growing industry supersector, adding 267 jobs, moving the employment level to 3,502.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Industry Supersectors** | | | | | |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 3,235 | 3,502 | **267** | 8.25% |
| 102500 | Education and Health Services | 19,561 | 19,805 | **244** | 1.25% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 4,549 | 4,790 | **241** | 5.30% |
| 102100 | Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 12,046 | 12,121 | **75** | 0.62% |
| 101200 | Construction | 1,986 | 2,036 | **50** | 2.52% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 3,921 | 4,128 | **207** | 4.50% |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 908 | 1,069 | **161** | 3.68% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 2,517 | 2,659 | **142** | 8.12% |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 8,421 | 8,503 | **82** | 8.38% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 1,870 | 1,951 | **81** | 4.68% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 3,420 | 3,500 | **80** | 3.02% |
| 452000 | General Merchandise Stores | 2,237 | 2,308 | **71** | 5.05% |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 503 | 556 | **53** | 4.77% |
| 999300 | Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 2,838 | 2,886 | **48** | 7.93% |
| 111000 | Crop Production | 1,305 | 1,348 | **43** | 4.37% |

**Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 908 | 1,069 | 161 | **17.73%** |
| 339000 | Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 91 | 106 | 15 | **16.48%** |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 503 | 556 | 53 | **10.54%** |
| 326000 | Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing | 420 | 452 | 32 | **7.62%** |
| 713000 | Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries | 187 | 200 | 13 | **6.95%** |
| 443000 | Electronics and Appliance Stores | 189 | 201 | 12 | **6.35%** |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 349 | 371 | 22 | **6.30%** |
| 444000 | Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers | 561 | 593 | 32 | **5.70%** |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 2,517 | 2,659 | 142 | **5.64%** |
| 442000 | Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores | 132 | 139 | 7 | **5.30%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 3,336 | 3,155 | **-181** | -5.43% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 3,342 | 3,167 | **-175** | -5.24% |
| 999200 | State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 4,328 | 4,197 | **-131** | -3.03% |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 816 | 743 | **-73** | -8.95% |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 1,613 | 1,541 | **-72** | -4.46% |
| 424000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 713 | 645 | **-68** | -9.54% |
| 814000 | Private Households | 134 | 75 | **-59** | -44.03% |
| 221000 | Utilities | 609 | 555 | **-54** | -8.87% |
| 522000 | Credit Intermediation and Related Activities | 1,489 | 1,435 | **-54** | -3.63% |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 2,896 | 2,859 | **-37** | -1.28% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 814000 | Private Households | 134 | 75 | -59 | **-44.03%** |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 30 | 24 | -6 | **-20.00%** |
| 515000 | Broadcasting (except Internet) | 35 | 29 | -6 | **-17.14%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 142 | 118 | -24 | **-16.90%** |
| 424000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 713 | 645 | -68 | **-9.54%** |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 126 | 114 | -12 | **-9.52%** |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 816 | 743 | -73 | **-8.95%** |
| 221000 | Utilities | 609 | 555 | -54 | **-8.87%** |
| 485000 | Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation | 69 | 63 | -6 | **-8.70%** |
| 454000 | Nonstore Retailers | 93 | 87 | -6 | **-6.45%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Major Occupational Groups** | | | | | | | | |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 4,974 | 5,168 | **194** | 3.90% | 98 | 180 | 557 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 7,327 | 7,452 | **125** | 1.71% | 70 | 260 | 662 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 4,382 | 4,447 | **65** | 1.48% | 38 | 92 | 258 |
| 25-0000 | Education, Training, and Library Occupations | 5,455 | 5,517 | **62** | 1.14% | 31 | 116 | 295 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 2,724 | 2,756 | **32** | 1.17% | 22 | 42 | 129 |

Southeast Arkansas LWDA employment is expected to increase by just 0.45 percent between 2016 and 2018, the slowest in the state. Of these, 504 would be for growth and expansion, while 1,912 would be for replacement. *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food* is predicted to be the top growing occupation in the Area gaining 84 new jobs between 2016 and 2018, increasing to a level of 1,488. *Computer Systems Analysts* is projected to be the fastest growing occupation, increasing employment by 12.50 percent to 63 employees. On the negative side of the local economy, *Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders* is estimated to lose the most jobs with an anticipated loss of 44, moving employment from 827 in 2016 to 783 in 2018. *Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers* is forecasted to be the fastest declining occupation, losing 22.58 percent of its workforce. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is forecasted to be the top growing major occupational group, increasing employment by 194 to a level of 5,168.

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,404 | 1,488 | **84** | 5.98% | 42 | 54 | 96 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,484 | 2,534 | **50** | 2.01% | 25 | 126 | 151 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,841 | 1,891 | **50** | 2.72% | 25 | 69 | 94 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 410 | 440 | **30** | 7.32% | 15 | 11 | 26 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 410 | 431 | **21** | 5.12% | 10 | 22 | 32 |
| 39-9021 | Personal Care Aides | 1,196 | 1,214 | **18** | 1.51% | 9 | 8 | 17 |
| 41-1011 | First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers | 1,295 | 1,313 | **18** | 1.39% | 9 | 30 | 39 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 1,132 | 1,148 | **16** | 1.41% | 8 | 25 | 33 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 1,141 | 1,156 | **15** | 1.31% | 8 | 20 | 28 |
| 51-4121 | Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers | 613 | 627 | **14** | 2.28% | 7 | 17 | 24 |

**Southeast Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 15-1121 | Computer Systems Analysts | 56 | 63 | 7 | **12.50%** | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 13-1161 | Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists | 57 | 62 | 5 | **8.77%** | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 410 | 440 | 30 | **7.32%** | 15 | 11 | 26 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 77 | 82 | 5 | **6.49%** | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,404 | 1,488 | 84 | **5.98%** | 42 | 54 | 96 |
| 29-2041 | Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics | 210 | 222 | 12 | **5.71%** | 6 | 3 | 9 |
| 23-1011 | Lawyers | 130 | 137 | 7 | **5.38%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 410 | 431 | 21 | **5.12%** | 10 | 22 | 32 |
| 49-9044 | Millwrights | 159 | 167 | 8 | **5.03%** | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 13-2011 | Accountants and Auditors | 237 | 248 | 11 | **4.64%** | 6 | 6 | 12 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-9196 | Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 827 | 783 | **-44** | -5.32% | 0 | 14 | 14 |
| 33-3012 | Correctional Officers and Jailers | 1,695 | 1,653 | **-42** | -2.48% | 0 | 47 | 47 |
| 51-9198 | Helpers--Production Workers | 829 | 797 | **-32** | -3.86% | 0 | 26 | 26 |
| 43-3071 | Tellers | 450 | 424 | **-26** | -5.78% | 0 | 20 | 20 |
| 37-2012 | Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 403 | 388 | **-15** | -3.72% | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| 53-7064 | Packers and Packagers, Hand | 426 | 411 | **-15** | -3.52% | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 39-9011 | Childcare Workers | 920 | 906 | **-14** | -1.52% | 0 | 28 | 28 |
| 43-3031 | Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks | 702 | 688 | **-14** | -1.99% | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| 49-9071 | Maintenance and Repair Workers, General | 1,025 | 1,014 | **-11** | -1.07% | 0 | 24 | 24 |
| 49-1011 | First-Line Supervisors of Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers | 331 | 321 | **-10** | -3.02% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 49-9052 | Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers | 31 | 24 | -7 | **-22.58%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-6031 | Sewing Machine Operators | 73 | 64 | -9 | **-12.33%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 74 | 68 | -6 | **-8.11%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 49-9051 | Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers | 99 | 91 | -8 | **-8.08%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-8091 | Chemical Plant and System Operators | 140 | 131 | -9 | **-6.43%** | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| 51-9021 | Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 97 | 91 | -6 | **-6.19%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 43-3071 | Tellers | 450 | 424 | -26 | **-5.78%** | 0 | 20 | 20 |
| 51-8021 | Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators | 139 | 131 | -8 | **-5.76%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 53-3031 | Driver/Sales Workers | 106 | 100 | -6 | **-5.66%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-9196 | Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 827 | 783 | -44 | **-5.32%** | 0 | 14 | 14 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area’s population decreased by 1,709 from 2015 to 224,243 in 2016. The Area has seen a decline in population over the 2012-2016 period, losing 5,853 residents since 2012. Southwest Arkansas is the largest LWDA in the state in terms of the number of counties represented. Twelve counties are located within this region: Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, and Union. Three states border the Area: Oklahoma to the west, Texas to the southwest, and Louisiana to the south. Miller County is part of the Texarkana AR/TX Metropolitan Statistical Area.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southwest Arkansas LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 230,096 | 228,433 | 226,988 | 225,952 | 224,243 |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | | |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southwest Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | | |
| **(All Ownerships)** | |  |  |  |  |
| **QWI Explorer** | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | 4,504 | 3,231 | 3,297 | 3,821 | 3,466 |
| New Hires | 12,563 | 10,686 | 11,999 | 12,462 | 11,901 |
| Separations | 14,446 | 12,689 | 13,597 | 13,382 | 13,184 |
| Turnover | 8.5% | 7.7% | 8.0% | 7.9% | 8.2% |
| *Source: U.S.Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD* | | | | | |
| *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.* | | | | | |
| *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.* | | | | | |
| *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.* | | | | | |
| *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | | |  |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation decreased by 355 from the second quarter of 2015 to the second quarter of 2016 to 3,466 jobs, and also decreased from 2012 compared to 2016 with a decrease of 1,038. New hires decreased from the second quarter of 2015 to total 11,901 in the second quarter of 2016. Also, separations decreased, during the same time period, by 198, totaling 13,184 and the turnover rate was 8.2 percent in the second quarter of 2016.

**Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

The labor force decreased from 2015 to 2016 by 442 to 94,423, while employment increased by 507 to 89,963. Over the five-year period from 2012 to 2016, the Area has seen a decrease of 5,307 in the labor force and a decrease of 1,619 in employment. But unemployment decreased by 949 from 2015 to 2016 and by 3,688 over the five-year period. In turn, the unemployment rate dropped one percentage point from 2015 to 2016 to 4.7 percent. After various fluctuations in the unemployment rate during 2017, the rate settled back to 4.7 percent in July 2017.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southwest Arkansas LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 99,730 | 94,912 | 93,533 | 94,865 | 94,423 |
| Employment | 91,582 | 87,244 | 87,134 | 89,456 | 89,963 |
| Unemployment | 8,148 | 7,668 | 6,399 | 5,409 | 4,460 |
| Unemployment Rate | 8.2% | 8.1% | 6.8% | 5.7% | 4.7% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | |  |  |  |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southwest Arkansas LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | | | | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment**  **Rate** | | |
| 2017 | January | 4.9% | | |
| 2017 | February | 5.0% | | |
| 2017 | March | 4.3% | | |
| 2017 | April | 3.7% | | |
| 2017 | May | 4.0% | | |
| 2017 | June | 4.5% | | |
| 2017 | July | 4.7% | | |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | | | | | |
| *\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | | |  |  | |  |

**Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

*Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* was the largest occupation in the Area with 3,175 estimated employees, earning an annual average wage of $38,745 in 2016. *Cashiers* was second with an estimated employment of 2,845 with an entry wage of $18,131. *General and Operations Managers* had the highest experienced wage at $115,910.

*Family and General Practitioners* was the occupation paying the most for the LWDA, earning an average annual salary of $189,791. *Dentists, General* was second on the list, earning an average annual salary of $184,379. Completing the list, *Environmental Engineers* earned an average annual salary of $102,159 in 2016.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

The median wage estimate for employers of all sizes in Southwest Arkansas was $29,492 in 2016. Employers with 50 to 99 employees had an estimated experienced wage of $39,778. Estimated entry wages for all employer categories was $19,256.

Of a total of 79,200 employees, 15,231 earned between $8.50 and $9.99 an hour. Employees earning $20.00 to $24.99 an hour totaled 9,271 in 2016.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southwest Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average**  **Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 3,175 | $38,745 | $25,187 | $45,524 |
| Cashiers | 2,845 | $18,654 | $18,131 | $18,915 |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 2,269 | $18,489 | $18,122 | $18,673 |
| Office Clerks, General | 2,202 | $25,366 | $18,241 | $28,929 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,077 | $25,443 | $19,053 | $28,638 |
| Retail Salespersons | 1,952 | $25,164 | $18,130 | $28,681 |
| Nursing Assistants | 1,504 | $21,161 | $18,126 | $22,679 |
| Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive | 1,238 | $26,745 | $18,916 | $30,659 |
| Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 1,170 | $35,501 | $27,972 | $39,266 |
| General and Operations Managers | 1,159 | $89,980 | $38,119 | $115,910 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |  |  |  |

**Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Southwest Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most** |  |
| **Occupation** | **Average**  **Annual Salary** |
| Family and General Practitioners | $189,791 |
| Dentists, General | $184,379 |
| Pharmacists | $130,337 |
| Software Developers, Systems Software | $122,811 |
| Marketing Managers | $119,453 |
| Petroleum Engineers | $114,594 |
| Architectural and Engineering Managers | $112,680 |
| Education Administrators, Postsecondary | $110,276 |
| Personal Financial Advisors | $103,982 |
| Environmental Engineers | $102,159 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

**Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

**Southwest Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southwest Arkansas LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** | |
| All Sizes | $36,882 | $29,492 | $19,256 | $45,694 | |
| 0-49 Employees | $35,445 | $25,910 | $18,277 | $44,029 | |
| 50-99 Employees | $32,695 | $25,655 | $18,530 | $39,778 | |
| 100-249 Employees | $39,246 | $34,351 | $21,425 | $48,156 | |
| 250-499 Employees | $38,612 | $33,052 | $19,381 | $48,227 | |
| 500+ Employees | $40,943 | $35,824 | $22,073 | $50,377 | |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**Southwest Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Southwest Arkansas LWDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | | | | |
| **Total** | **79,200** |  |  |
| <$8.50 | 6,291 |  |  |
| $8.50-$9.99 | 15,231 |  |  |
| $10.00-$11.99 | 10,543 |  |  |
| $12.00-$14.99 | 10,282 |  |  |
| $15.00-$19.99 | 13,588 |  |  |
| $20.00-$24.99 | 9,271 |  |  |
| $25.00+ | 13,994 |  |  |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

Employees

**Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

Employment in the Southwest Arkansas LWDA is projected to increase by 1,028 jobs, a 1.11 percent growth rate over the 2016-2018 projection period. *Specialty Trade Contractors* is predicted to lead the Area in net growth with 261 new jobs moving from 2,735 jobs in 2016 to 2,996 in 2018. *Waste Management and Remediation Services* is anticipated to be the fastest growing industry with an increase of 20.78 percent, or 106 new jobs increasing employment to 616. On the negative side of the economy, *Support Activities for Mining* is estimated to decline by 178 jobs, or 38.78 percent of its workforce, making it the top and fastest declining industry dropping to an employment of 281. **Professional and Business Services** is predicted to add the most jobs among the industry supersectors with 279 new jobs, increasing employment to 4,714.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Industry Supersectors** | | | | | |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 4,435 | 4,714 | **279** | 6.29% |
| 102100 | Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 15,217 | 15,480 | **263** | 1.73% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 5,550 | 5,767 | **217** | 3.91% |
| 101200 | Construction | 3,892 | 4,067 | **175** | 4.50% |
| 102800 | Government | 6,371 | 6,494 | **123** | 1.93% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 2,735 | 2,996 | **261** | 9.54% |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 4,660 | 4,906 | **246** | 5.28% |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 3,036 | 3,163 | **127** | 4.18% |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 510 | 616 | **106** | 20.78% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 2,553 | 2,653 | **100** | 3.92% |
| 112000 | Animal Production | 843 | 917 | **74** | 8.78% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 2,299 | 2,372 | **73** | 3.18% |
| 321000 | Wood Product Manufacturing | 2,352 | 2,423 | **71** | 3.02% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 1,738 | 1,809 | **71** | 4.09% |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 1,069 | 1,133 | **64** | 5.99% |

**Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 510 | 616 | 106 | **20.78%** |
| 488000 | Support Activities for Transportation | 242 | 278 | 36 | **14.88%** |
| 339000 | Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 88 | 97 | 9 | **10.23%** |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 2,735 | 2,996 | 261 | **9.54%** |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 45 | 49 | 4 | **8.89%** |
| 112000 | Animal Production | 843 | 917 | 74 | **8.78%** |
| 492000 | Couriers and Messengers | 265 | 288 | 23 | **8.68%** |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 449 | 482 | 33 | **7.35%** |
| 486000 | Pipeline Transportation | 151 | 161 | 10 | **6.62%** |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 1,069 | 1,133 | 64 | **5.99%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 459 | 281 | **-178** | -38.78% |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 1,364 | 1,209 | **-155** | -11.36% |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 1,773 | 1,688 | **-85** | -4.79% |
| 326000 | Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing | 2,750 | 2,672 | **-78** | -2.84% |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 8,211 | 8,134 | **-77** | -0.94% |
| 236000 | Construction of Buildings | 778 | 703 | **-75** | -9.64% |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 3,109 | 3,051 | **-58** | -1.87% |
| 211000 | Oil and Gas Extraction | 218 | 166 | **-52** | -23.85% |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 3,156 | 3,117 | **-39** | -1.24% |
| 331000 | Primary Metal Manufacturing | 495 | 458 | **-37** | -7.47% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 459 | 281 | -178 | **-38.78%** |
| 334000 | Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing | 94 | 71 | -23 | **-24.47%** |
| 211000 | Oil and Gas Extraction | 218 | 166 | -52 | **-23.85%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 197 | 162 | -35 | **-17.77%** |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 1,364 | 1,209 | -155 | **-11.36%** |
| 713000 | Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries | 276 | 245 | -31 | **-11.23%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 157 | 141 | -16 | **-10.19%** |
| 236000 | Construction of Buildings | 778 | 703 | -75 | **-9.64%** |
| 515000 | Broadcasting (except Internet) | 99 | 90 | -9 | **-9.09%** |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 153 | 140 | -13 | **-8.50%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**

Between 2016 and 2018, Southwest Arkansas LWDA employers are estimated to have 2,954 job openings annually. The Area is forecast to have 2,166 replacement annual openings, or about 73.32 percent of the total job openings for the Area. *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food* is expected to be the top growing occupation adding 106 jobs between 2016 and 2018 increasing to an employment of 1,995. *Electricians* is predicted to be the fastest growing occupation, raising employment 8.38 percent to a level of 647. *Roustabouts, Oil and Gas* is forecasted to be the top and fastest declining occupation losing 55 jobs during the projection period, a 36.67 percent drop, going from 150 in 2016 to 95 in 2018. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is estimated to be the top growing major occupational group increasing employment by 222 jobs to above 6,000.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Major Occupational Groups** | | | | | | | | |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 5,888 | 6,110 | **222** | 3.77% | 115 | 222 | 337 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 8,084 | 8,249 | **165** | 2.04% | 90 | 276 | 366 |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 6,627 | 6,750 | **123** | 1.86% | 64 | 133 | 197 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 10,029 | 10,135 | **106** | 1.06% | 77 | 223 | 300 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 5,646 | 5,737 | **91** | 1.61% | 102 | 91 | 193 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016**  **Estimated** | **2018**  **Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,889 | 1,995 | **106** | 5.61% | 53 | 74 | 127 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,439 | 2,505 | **66** | 2.71% | 33 | 124 | 157 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,343 | 2,404 | **61** | 2.60% | 30 | 72 | 102 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 1,978 | 2,033 | **55** | 2.78% | 28 | 33 | 61 |
| 47-2111 | Electricians | 597 | 647 | **50** | 8.38% | 25 | 9 | 34 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,067 | 1,113 | **46** | 4.31% | 23 | 56 | 79 |
| 41-1011 | First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers | 1,500 | 1,537 | **37** | 2.47% | 18 | 34 | 52 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,068 | 2,102 | **34** | 1.64% | 17 | 78 | 95 |
| 45-2093 | Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals | 428 | 461 | **33** | 7.71% | 16 | 12 | 28 |
| 39-9021 | Personal Care Aides | 914 | 945 | **31** | 3.39% | 16 | 6 | 22 |

**Southwest Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-2111 | Electricians | 597 | 647 | 50 | **8.38%** | 25 | 9 | 34 |
| 45-2093 | Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals | 428 | 461 | 33 | **7.71%** | 16 | 12 | 28 |
| 49-9021 | Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers | 65 | 70 | 5 | **7.69%** | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 47-2181 | Roofers | 98 | 105 | 7 | **7.14%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 53-7081 | Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors | 192 | 205 | 13 | **6.77%** | 6 | 4 | 10 |
| 39-2011 | Animal Trainers | 89 | 95 | 6 | **6.74%** | 3 | 3 | 6 |
| 15-1122 | Information Security Analysts | 75 | 80 | 5 | **6.67%** | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 47-2151 | Pipelayers | 91 | 97 | 6 | **6.59%** | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 416 | 442 | 26 | **6.25%** | 13 | 11 | 24 |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 1,889 | 1,995 | 106 | **5.61%** | 53 | 74 | 127 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-5071 | Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 150 | 95 | **-55** | -36.67% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 99 | 73 | **-26** | -26.26% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-9041 | Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 295 | 275 | **-20** | -6.78% | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 3,823 | 3,803 | **-20** | -0.52% | 0 | 61 | 61 |
| 51-4033 | Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 171 | 152 | **-19** | -11.11% | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| 53-7073 | Wellhead Pumpers | 67 | 50 | **-17** | -25.37% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-9198 | Helpers--Production Workers | 566 | 552 | **-14** | -2.47% | 0 | 18 | 18 |
| 51-4072 | Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 201 | 188 | **-13** | -6.47% | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 51-9061 | Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers | 841 | 828 | **-13** | -1.55% | 0 | 21 | 21 |
| 51-9111 | Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders | 287 | 274 | **-13** | -4.53% | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-5071 | Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 150 | 95 | -55 | **-36.67%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 99 | 73 | -26 | **-26.26%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 53-7073 | Wellhead Pumpers | 67 | 50 | -17 | **-25.37%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-4033 | Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 171 | 152 | -19 | **-11.11%** | 0 | 7 | 7 |
| 49-9052 | Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers | 28 | 25 | -3 | **-10.71%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 51-9196 | Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 88 | 79 | -9 | **-10.23%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-5112 | Printing Press Operators | 100 | 92 | -8 | **-8.00%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-9041 | Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 295 | 275 | -20 | **-6.78%** | 0 | 10 | 10 |
| 51-9121 | Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 91 | 85 | -6 | **-6.59%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-4072 | Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 201 | 188 | -13 | **-6.47%** | 0 | 3 | 3 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area saw a slight increase in population between 2015 and 2016 of 269 to total 315,795. The Area has seen an increase in population from 2012, gaining 260 from 2012 to 2016. The West Central Arkansas LWDA consists of 10 counties: Clark, Conway, Garland, Hot Spring, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Pope, and Yell; with the Hot Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area located within the LWDA.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **West Central Arkansas LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 315,535 | 315,163 | 315,549 | 315,526 | 315,795 |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **West Central Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | | | | |
| **(All Ownerships)** | | | | | | | |
| **QWI Explorer** | **2012 Q2** | | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | 6,153 | | 7,177 | 6,220 | 6,106 | | 5,223 |
| New Hires | 18,081 | | 17,982 | 18,617 | 19,092 | | 19,425 |
| Separations | 20,324 | | 20,292 | 20,337 | 20,402 | | 22,609 |
| Turnover |  | 8.7% | 9.2% | 9.0% | 9.0% | | 9.1% |
| *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD*  *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.*  *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.*  *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.* | | | | | | | |
| *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | | |  |  | |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation decreased by 883 for the second quarter of 2016 compared to second quarter of 2015 in West Central Arkansas. New hires increased in 2016, by 333, compared to the second quarter of 2015 bringing the total of new hires to 19,425. Separations increased from the second quarter of 2015 by 2,207 to 22,609 in the second quarter of 2016. The turnover rate increased from 2015 to 2016 to 9.1 percent.

**West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

In 2016, the labor force decreased and employment increased in the LWDA. The labor force decreased by 560 to a total of 132,284, while employment increased 744 to a total of 126,269. The labor force decreased by 4,687 from 2012 to 2016 while employment increased by 125. The unemployment and the unemployment rate both decreased from 2015 to 2016. Unemployment decreased to 6,015 and the unemployment rate decreased by one percentage point to 4.5 percent. The unemployment rate saw a decrease through 2017, but increased to 4.5 percent by July 2017.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **West Central Arkansas LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 136,971 | 133,344 | 131,808 | 132,844 | 132,284 |
| Employment | 126,144 | 122,867 | 123,237 | 125,525 | 126,269 |
| Unemployment | 10,827 | 10,477 | 8,571 | 7,319 | 6,015 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.9% | 7.9% | 6.5% | 5.5% | 4.5% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | |  |  |  |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **West Central Arkansas LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment**  **Rate** | | |
| 2017 | January | 4.8% | | |
| 2017 | February | 4.8% | | |
| 2017 | March | 3.9% | | |
| 2017 | April | 3.3% | | |
| 2017 | May | 3.6% | | |
| 2017 | June | 4.2% | | |
| 2017 | July | 4.5% | | |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | | | | |  |
| *\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | | |  |  | |  |

**West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

*Cashiers* was the largest occupation in West Central Arkansas in 2016 with an estimated employment of 3,756, earning an entry wage of $18,052. *Retail Salespersons* was the second largest with an estimated employment of 3,752. *General and Operations Managers* earned the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations with $68,207 earned annually.

*Surgeons* was the highest paying occupation for the Area, earning $292,851 annually. *Internists, General* was second on the list, earning $244,577. *Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates* completed the list, earning $115,852.

The 2016 experienced wage for employers of all sizes was estimated to be $43,647 for the Area. Employers with 50 to 99 employees had an estimated mean wage of $32,954. The estimated entry wage for all size categories of employers was $18,850 for 2016.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

Of the 106,317 total number of employees in 2016, employees making $8.50 to $9.99 an hour was the largest group, totaling 23,448. Employees earning $12.00 to $14.99 an hour totaled 15,747. Employees making under $8.50 an hour totaled 9,628.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **West Central Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Cashiers | 3,756 | $19,352 | $18,052 | $20,002 |
| Retail Salespersons | 3,752 | $24,395 | $18,153 | $27,516 |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 2,663 | $18,370 | $18,033 | $18,539 |
| Office Clerks, General | 2,538 | $24,758 | $18,295 | $27,990 |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,443 | $38,860 | $24,288 | $46,146 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,257 | $24,961 | $19,888 | $27,497 |
| Waiters and Waitresses | 1,988 | $18,546 | $18,047 | $18,796 |
| General and Operations Managers | 1,899 | $68,207 | $23,381 | $90,620 |
| Customer Service Representatives | 1,870 | $27,258 | $19,094 | $31,340 |
| Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, & Executive | 1,863 | $26,147 | $18,908 | $29,767 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* |  |  |  |  |

**West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **West Central Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most** | |
| **Occupation** | **Average**  **Annual Salary** |
| Surgeons | $292,851 |
| Internists, General | $244,577 |
| Family and General Practitioners | $195,252 |
| Dentists, General | $144,321 |
| Architectural and Engineering Managers | $122,076 |
| Sales Managers | $121,661 |
| Pharmacists | $120,076 |
| Software Developers, Applications | $119,733 |
| Optometrists | $116,203 |
| Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates | $115,852 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* |  |

**West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

**West Central Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **West Central Arkansas LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** |
| All Sizes | $35,381 | $26,951 | $18,850 | $43,647 |
| 0-49 Employees | $33,667 | $24,621 | $18,208 | $41,396 |
| 50-99 Employees | $32,954 | $25,301 | $18,149 | $40,356 |
| 100-249 Employees | $36,195 | $30,175 | $19,544 | $44,520 |
| 250-499 Employees | $37,725 | $29,425 | $19,855 | $46,660 |
| 500+ Employees | $39,448 | $31,128 | $20,447 | $48,948 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**West Central Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **West Central Arkansas LWDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | | |
| **Total** | **106,317** |  | |  |
| <$8.50 | 9,628 |  | |  |  |  |
| $8.50-$9.99 | 23,448 |  | |  |  |  |
| $10.00-$11.99 | 15,440 |  | |  |  |  |
| $12.00-$14.99 | 15,747 |  | |  |  |  |
| $15.00-$19.99 | 17,039 |  | |  |  |  |
| $20.00-$24.99 | 9,910 |  | |  |  |  |
| $25.00+ | 16,395 |  | |  |  |  |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | |

Employees

**West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

The West Central Arkansas LWDA is expected to see a growth of 3,323 jobs by the first quarter of 2018. *Educational Services* is estimated to be the top growing industry adding 539 new jobs between 2016 and 2018 to an employment level of 12,785. *Crop Production* is projected to be the fastest growing industry increasing employment by 25.35 percent moving employment from 217 in 2016 to 272 in 2018. On the negative side of the economy, *Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry* is projected to experience a loss of 108 jobs making it the top declining industry, dropping employment down to 1,177. *Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers* could see a 47.65 percent decline making it the fastest declining industry in West Central Arkansas going from 149 in 2016 to 78 in 2018. **Education and Health Services** is predicted to be the top growing supersector adding 1,054 new jobs increasing employment to 29,265.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Industry Supersectors** | | | | | |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102500 | Education and Health Services | 28,211 | 29,265 | **1,054** | 3.74% |
| 102100 | Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 21,537 | 22,284 | **747** | 3.47% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 13,029 | 13,615 | **586** | 4.50% |
| 101200 | Construction | 4,407 | 4,632 | **225** | 5.11% |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 7,564 | 7,734 | **170** | 2.25% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 12,246 | 12,785 | **539** | 4.40% |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 9,492 | 10,008 | **516** | 5.44% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 5,002 | 5,257 | **255** | 5.10% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 2,969 | 3,203 | **234** | 7.88% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 4,853 | 5,037 | **184** | 3.79% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 3,913 | 4,084 | **171** | 4.37% |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 2,103 | 2,271 | **168** | 7.99% |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 3,449 | 3,606 | **157** | 4.55% |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 1,265 | 1,395 | **130** | 10.28% |
| 452000 | General Merchandise Stores | 4,023 | 4,150 | **127** | 3.16% |

**West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | |
| 111000 | Crop Production | 217 | 272 | 55 | **25.35%** |
| 811000 | Repair and Maintenance | 922 | 1,035 | 113 | **12.26%** |
| 325000 | Chemical Manufacturing | 38 | 42 | 4 | **10.53%** |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 1,265 | 1,395 | 130 | **10.28%** |
| 112000 | Animal Production | 858 | 930 | 72 | **8.39%** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 2,103 | 2,271 | 168 | **7.99%** |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 2,969 | 3,203 | 234 | **7.88%** |
| 324000 | Petroleum and Coal Products Manufacturing | 92 | 99 | 7 | **7.61%** |
| 453000 | Miscellaneous Store Retailers | 705 | 758 | 53 | **7.52%** |
| 512000 | Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries | 93 | 99 | 6 | **6.45%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 115000 | Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry | 1,285 | 1,177 | **-108** | -8.40% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 5,742 | 5,637 | **-105** | -1.83% |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 381 | 307 | **-74** | -19.42% |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 149 | 78 | **-71** | -47.65% |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 3,601 | 3,533 | **-68** | -1.89% |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 285 | 227 | **-58** | -20.35% |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 148 | 105 | **-43** | -29.05% |
| 721000 | Accommodation, including Hotels and Motels | 1,421 | 1,388 | **-33** | -2.32% |
| 814000 | Private Households | 213 | 181 | **-32** | -15.02% |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 892 | 862 | **-30** | -3.36% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 149 | 78 | -71 | **-47.65%** |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 148 | 105 | -43 | **-29.05%** |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 285 | 227 | -58 | **-20.35%** |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 381 | 307 | -74 | **-19.42%** |
| 486000 | Pipeline Transportation | 42 | 35 | -7 | **-16.67%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 213 | 181 | -32 | **-15.02%** |
| 337000 | Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing | 118 | 104 | -14 | **-11.86%** |
| 515000 | Broadcasting (except Internet) | 64 | 58 | -6 | **-9.38%** |
| 485000 | Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation | 104 | 95 | -9 | **-8.65%** |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 222 | 203 | -19 | **-8.56%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**

The Area’s employment is expected to increase by 2.65 percent during the projection period. An estimated 4,823 annual job openings are anticipated in this Area. Growth and expansion is estimated to account for 1,838 of those jobs, while 2,985 would be for replacement. *Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers* is estimated to be the top growing occupation with a gain of 188 to an employment level of 7,986. *Automotive Body and Related Repairers* is expected to increase employment by 12.15 percent making it the fastest growing occupation adding 13 employees to its workforce of 107. *Packers and Packagers, Hand* is forecast to be the top declining occupation losing 24 jobs and moving employment down to 441. *Continuous Mining Machine Operators* could see a 29.41 percent reduction in employment dropping its workforce to just 36. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is projected to be the top growing major occupational group with an increase of 527.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Major Occupational Groups** | | | | | | | | |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 10,759 | 11,286 | **527** | 4.90% | 264 | 416 | 680 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 12,005 | 12,372 | **367** | 3.06% | 190 | 422 | 612 |
| 25-0000 | Education, Training, and Library Occupations | 7,243 | 7,577 | **334** | 4.61% | 167 | 150 | 317 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 17,193 | 17,527 | **334** | 1.94% | 186 | 360 | 546 |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 13,244 | 13,550 | **306** | 2.31% | 158 | 249 | 407 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 7,798 | 7,986 | **188** | 2.41% | 94 | 129 | 223 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,656 | 2,832 | **176** | 6.63% | 88 | 42 | 130 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 3,984 | 4,135 | **151** | 3.79% | 76 | 149 | 225 |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 2,308 | 2,446 | **138** | 5.98% | 69 | 90 | 159 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 3,332 | 3,449 | **117** | 3.51% | 58 | 169 | 227 |
| 43-4051 | Customer Service Representatives | 2,713 | 2,803 | **90** | 3.32% | 45 | 63 | 108 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,903 | 1,990 | **87** | 4.57% | 44 | 100 | 144 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 1,142 | 1,224 | **82** | 7.18% | 41 | 31 | 72 |
| 31-1014 | Nursing Assistants | 1,931 | 2,005 | **74** | 3.83% | 37 | 41 | 78 |
| 35-2021 | Food Preparation Workers | 1,292 | 1,363 | **71** | 5.50% | 36 | 40 | 76 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**West Central Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 49-3021 | Automotive Body and Related Repairers | 107 | 120 | 13 | **12.15%** | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 51-9122 | Painters, Transportation Equipment | 92 | 100 | 8 | **8.70%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 47-2021 | Brickmasons and Blockmasons | 146 | 158 | 12 | **8.22%** | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 49-9098 | Helpers--Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers | 113 | 122 | 9 | **7.96%** | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 25-1072 | Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary | 76 | 82 | 6 | **7.89%** | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 49-3041 | Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians | 67 | 72 | 5 | **7.46%** | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 1,142 | 1,224 | 82 | **7.18%** | 41 | 31 | 72 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 114 | 122 | 8 | **7.02%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 53-7063 | Machine Feeders and Offbearers | 206 | 220 | 14 | **6.80%** | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,656 | 2,832 | 176 | **6.63%** | 88 | 42 | 130 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 53-7064 | Packers and Packagers, Hand | 465 | 441 | **-24** | -5.16% | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| 43-4151 | Order Clerks | 124 | 108 | **-16** | -12.90% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 47-5041 | Continuous Mining Machine Operators | 51 | 36 | **-15** | -29.41% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-3022 | Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 1,028 | 1,013 | **-15** | -1.46% | 0 | 18 | 18 |
| 51-6031 | Sewing Machine Operators | 187 | 174 | **-13** | -6.95% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 51 | 42 | **-9** | -17.65% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 53-7032 | Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators | 75 | 67 | **-8** | -10.67% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 47-2073 | Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators | 451 | 445 | **-6** | -1.33% | 0 | 8 | 8 |
| 51-4011 | Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic | 140 | 135 | **-5** | -3.57% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 11-2022 | Sales Managers | 172 | 167 | **-5** | -2.91% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-5041 | Continuous Mining Machine Operators | 51 | 36 | -15 | **-29.41%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 51 | 42 | -9 | **-17.65%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 43-4151 | Order Clerks | 124 | 108 | -16 | **-12.90%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 53-7032 | Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators | 75 | 67 | -8 | **-10.67%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-6031 | Sewing Machine Operators | 187 | 174 | -13 | **-6.95%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 53-7064 | Packers and Packagers, Hand | 465 | 441 | -24 | **-5.16%** | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| 27-1024 | Graphic Designers | 110 | 106 | -4 | **-3.64%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-4011 | Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic | 140 | 135 | -5 | **-3.57%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 11-2022 | Sales Managers | 172 | 167 | -5 | **-2.91%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-2041 | Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters | 183 | 179 | -4 | **-2.19%** | 0 | 3 | 3 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Population**

The Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area saw an increase in population between 2015 and 2016, increasing by 204 to 259,928. The Western Arkansas LWDA consists of six counties: Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, and Sebastian; and is bordered to the west by the state of Oklahoma. The Arkansas portion of the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area is located in the Western Arkansas LWDA.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Western Arkansas LWDA Population 2012-2016** | | | | |
| **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| 260,759 | 260,103 | 259,304 | 259,724 | 259,928 |
| *Source: US Census Bureau* | |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Western Arkansas LWDA Quarterly Workforce Indicators** | | | | |  |
| **(All Ownerships)** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **QWI Explorer** | **2012 Q2** | **2013 Q2** | **2014 Q2** | **2015 Q2** | **2016 Q2** |
| Job Creation | 4,872 | 4,580 | 4,807 | 4,617 | 4,586 |
| New Hires | 18,350 | 17,139 | 18,164 | 18,510 | 19,149 |
| Separations | 19,900 | 19,218 | 19,475 | 19,895 | 20,611 |
| Turnover | 8.8% | 8.4% | 8.6% | 8.5% | 9.4% |
| *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEHD*  *Job Creation: Estimated number of jobs gained at firms throughout the quarter.*  *New Hires: Estimated number of workers who started a new job.*  *Separations: Estimated number of workers whose job with a given employer ended in the specified quarter.*  *Turnovers: The rate at which stable jobs begin and end.* | | | | | |

**Quarterly Workforce Indicators**

Job creation decreased by 31 in the second quarter of 2016 compared to the same quarter in 2015 declining to 4,586. The number of new hires and separations increased during the same time period with new hires totaling 19,149 and separations totaling 20,611 in the second quarter of 2016, and saw increases over the 2012-2016 period gaining 799 and 716 respectively. The turnover rate was 9.4 percent.

**Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment**

The labor force increased slightly by 42 to 114,007 and employment increased by 1,303 to 109,491 in from 2015 to 2016. Over the 2012-2016 period, the labor force decreased by 3,272 while employment increased by 1,315. Unemployment and the unemployment rate both decreased significantly from 2012 to 2016. Unemployment decreased by 4,587 to 4,516 employed, while the unemployment rate decreased by three and eight-tenths percentage points to 4 percent. The Area’s unemployment rate continued to decline through July 2017, ending at 3.8 percent.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Western Arkansas LWDA 2012-2016 Labor Force/Employment** | | | | | |
| **Year** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** |
| Labor Force | 117,279 | 113,694 | 112,186 | 113,965 | 114,007 |
| Employment | 108,176 | 105,154 | 105,628 | 108,188 | 109,491 |
| Unemployment | 9,103 | 8,540 | 6,558 | 5,777 | 4,516 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.8% | 7.5% | 5.8% | 5.1% | 4.0% |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services* | | | | | |

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2017**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Western Arkansas LWDA 2017 Monthly Unemployment Rate\*** | | |
| **Year** | **Month** | **Unemployment**  **Rate** | | | |
| 2017 | January | 3.9% | | | |
| 2017 | February | 4.2% | | | |
| 2017 | March | 3.5% | | | |
| 2017 | April | 3.1% | | | |
| 2017 | May | 3.4% | | | |
| 2017 | June | 3.6% | | | |
| 2017 | July | 3.8% | |
| *Source: AR Dept. of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics* | | | |  |
| *\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary* | | | |  |

**Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

*Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* was the largest occupation in the Area in 2016 with an estimated employment of 4,231, with an experienced wage of $40,479 annually. *Registered Nurses*, with an estimated employment of 2,202 had the highest entry wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning $42,250 annually.

*Surgeons* was the highest paid occupation, averaging $283,289 annually. *Family and General Practitioners* was second, with an average annual wage of $262,641. *Marketing Mangers* finished the Occupations Paying the Most List at $104,839 annually.

The Area’s mean wage estimate for employers of all sizes was $35,758 in 2016. Employers with 100 to 249 employees had an estimated entry wage of $20,048. Estimated entry wages for all categories of employers in the Area was $19,333 while experienced wages were at $43,970.

Of the 106,307 total number of employees, employees earning $15.00 to $19.99 an hour totaled 17,700. Employees earning $8.50 to $9.99 an hour totaled 20,898 for 2016, the largest group for the Area.

*\* Private Sector Wages Only*

*Source:  Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Western Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations** |  |  |  |  |
| **Occupation** | **Estimated Employment** | **Average Wage** | **Entry Wage** | **Experienced Wage** |
| Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 4,231 | $36,308 | $27,967 | $40,479 |
| Retail Salespersons | 3,340 | $23,964 | $18,165 | $26,863 |
| Cashiers | 3,325 | $19,461 | $18,176 | $20,104 |
| Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,980 | $24,771 | $20,102 | $27,105 |
| Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 2,915 | $18,392 | $18,109 | $18,533 |
| Office Clerks, General | 2,754 | $25,654 | $18,451 | $29,256 |
| Helpers-Production Workers | 2,705 | $21,091 | $18,193 | $22,540 |
| Registered Nurses | 2,202 | $52,788 | $42,250 | $58,058 |
| Nursing Assistants | 1,824 | $22,211 | $19,183 | $23,726 |
| Stock Clerks and Order Fillers | 1,669 | $23,889 | $18,221 | $26,724 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Western Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most** | |
| **Occupation** | **Average**  **Annual Salary** |
| Surgeons | $283,289 |
| Family and General Practitioners | $262,641 |
| Purchasing Managers | $158,423 |
| Dentists, General | $152,215 |
| Pharmacists | $121,311 |
| Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates | $114,055 |
| Chief Executives | $109,428 |
| Optometrists | $106,245 |
| Architectural and Engineering Managers | $104,922 |
| Marketing Managers | $104,839 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

**Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Wages**

**Western Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Western Arkansas LWDA Wage Estimates by Employer Size** | | | | |
| **Type of Wage** | **Mean** | **Median** | **Entry** | **Experienced** |
| All Sizes | $35,758 | $28,039 | $19,333 | $43,970 |
| 0-49 Employees | $34,340 | $25,724 | $18,431 | $42,294 |
| 50-99 Employees | $34,277 | $25,350 | $18,252 | $42,290 |
| 100-249 Employees | $38,017 | $30,402 | $20,048 | $47,001 |
| 250-499 Employees | $34,861 | $28,545 | $19,948 | $42,317 |
| 500+ Employees | $38,174 | $31,937 | $20,741 | $46,890 |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | | | | |

**Western Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Western Arkansas LWDA Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate** | |
| **Total** | **106,307** |  | |  | | | |
| <$8.50 | 7,995 |  | | |  | |  | | |  | |
| $8.50-$9.99 | 20,898 | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |
| $10.00-$11.99 | 15,884 | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |
| $12.00-$14.99 | 16,433 | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |
| $15.00-$19.99 | 17,700 | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |
| $20.00-$24.99 | 11,930 | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |
| $25.00+ | 15,477 | |  | | |  | | |  | |  | |
| *Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, May 2016 Wage Survey* | |

Employees

**Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Industry**

The Western Arkansas LWDA is expected to experience a net gain of 3,201 jobs during the projection period. *Educational Services* is predicted to be the top growing industry gaining 456 jobs between 2016 and 2018 moving from 8,339 employees in 2016 to 8,795 in 2018. At 29.37 percent, *Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing* is projected to be the fastest growing industry in Western Arkansas adding 89 new jobs to its workforce bringing its employment to 392. *Support Activities for Mining* is predicted to lose 37.70 percent of its workforce, or 207 jobs, making it the top and fastest declining industry in the Area, moving employment down to 342. **Education and Health Services** is predicted to be the top growing supersector increasing employment by 979 jobs to employment of 24,307.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Industry Supersectors** | | | | | |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent**  **Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| 102500 | Education and Health Services | 23,328 | 24,307 | **979** | 4.20% |
| 102100 | Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 22,702 | 23,446 | **744** | 3.28% |
| 102400 | Professional and Business Services | 10,585 | 11,061 | **476** | 4.50% |
| 102600 | Leisure and Hospitality | 8,898 | 9,319 | **421** | 4.73% |
| 101200 | Construction | 3,835 | 4,016 | **181** | 4.72% |

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 8,339 | 8,795 | **456** | 5.47% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 5,866 | 6,276 | **410** | 6.99% |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 7,848 | 8,245 | **397** | 5.06% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 9,023 | 9,379 | **356** | 3.95% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 5,122 | 5,396 | **274** | 5.35% |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 4,291 | 4,455 | **164** | 3.82% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 2,461 | 2,615 | **154** | 6.26% |
| 622000 | Hospitals | 4,228 | 4,354 | **126** | 2.98% |
| 452000 | General Merchandise Stores | 3,917 | 4,037 | **120** | 3.06% |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 1,161 | 1,277 | **116** | 9.99% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Industries**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS Code** | **NAICS Title** | **Employment** | | **Net Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | |
| 326000 | Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing | 303 | 392 | 89 | **29.37%** |
| 325000 | Chemical Manufacturing | 124 | 139 | 15 | **12.10%** |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 1,161 | 1,277 | 116 | **9.99%** |
| 524000 | Insurance Carriers and Related Activities | 583 | 636 | 53 | **9.09%** |
| 112000 | Animal Production | 489 | 527 | 38 | **7.77%** |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 5,866 | 6,276 | 410 | **6.99%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 260 | 277 | 17 | **6.54%** |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 2,461 | 2,615 | 154 | **6.26%** |
| 492000 | Couriers and Messengers | 253 | 268 | 15 | **5.93%** |
| 611000 | Educational Services | 8,339 | 8,795 | 456 | **5.47%** |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 549 | 342 | **-207** | -37.70% |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 1,361 | 1,254 | **-107** | -7.86% |
| 337000 | Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing | 839 | 744 | **-95** | -11.32% |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 1,251 | 1,165 | **-86** | -6.87% |
| 339000 | Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 176 | 122 | **-54** | -30.68% |
| 522000 | Credit Intermediation and Related Activities | 1,627 | 1,574 | **-53** | -3.26% |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 2,471 | 2,423 | **-48** | -1.94% |
| 532000 | Rental and Leasing Services | 460 | 416 | **-44** | -9.57% |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 1,040 | 1,005 | **-35** | -3.37% |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 515 | 482 | **-33** | -6.41% |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 549 | 342 | -207 | **-37.70%** |
| 339000 | Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 176 | 122 | -54 | **-30.68%** |
| 334000 | Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing | 73 | 61 | -12 | **-16.44%** |
| 337000 | Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing | 839 | 744 | -95 | **-11.32%** |
| 211000 | Oil and Gas Extraction | 209 | 187 | -22 | **-10.53%** |
| 532000 | Rental and Leasing Services | 460 | 416 | -44 | **-9.57%** |
| 315000 | Apparel Manufacturing | 90 | 82 | -8 | **-8.89%** |
| 511000 | Publishing Industries (except Internet) | 170 | 155 | -15 | **-8.82%** |
| 312000 | Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing | 325 | 298 | -27 | **-8.31%** |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 1,361 | 1,254 | -107 | **-7.86%** |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*

**Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Occupations**

Western Arkansas LWDA is projected to have a net job gain of 2.69 percent between 2016 and 2018. Around 4,625 annual job openings are expected to be available during the projection period with 2,783 for replacement and 1,842 for growth and expansion. *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers* is estimated to be the top growing occupation with an increase of 176 jobs, going from 2,902 in 2016 to 3,078 in 2018. *Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders* is predicted to be the fastest growing occupation with an increase of 10.42 percent raising employment to 106. *Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining* is anticipated to be the top and fastest declining occupation losing 38 jobs, or 35.85 percent of its workforce, and moving employment below 100 jobs. **Transportation and Material Moving Occupations** leads the Area as the top growing occupational major group with an estimated 463 new jobs, increasing employment to 12,016.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Major Occupational Groups** | | | | | | | | |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 11,553 | 12,016 | **463** | 4.01% | 236 | 252 | 488 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 9,091 | 9,514 | **423** | 4.65% | 212 | 366 | 578 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 11,421 | 11,746 | **325** | 2.85% | 166 | 390 | 556 |
| 25-0000 | Education, Training, and Library Occupations | 5,332 | 5,627 | **295** | 5.53% | 148 | 112 | 260 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 6,535 | 6,804 | **269** | 4.12% | 136 | 134 | 270 |

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 35-3021 | Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food | 2,902 | 3,078 | **176** | 6.06% | 88 | 113 | 201 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 4,725 | 4,885 | **160** | 3.39% | 80 | 76 | 156 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 5,986 | 6,128 | **142** | 2.37% | 71 | 99 | 170 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,765 | 2,905 | **140** | 5.06% | 70 | 86 | 156 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 3,260 | 3,389 | **129** | 3.96% | 64 | 122 | 186 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 2,028 | 2,116 | **88** | 4.34% | 44 | 44 | 88 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 3,322 | 3,408 | **86** | 2.59% | 43 | 168 | 211 |
| 51-3022 | Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 1,826 | 1,901 | **75** | 4.11% | 38 | 33 | 71 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 1,400 | 1,463 | **63** | 4.50% | 32 | 25 | 57 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,504 | 1,566 | **62** | 4.12% | 31 | 78 | 109 |

**Western Arkansas Local Workforce Development Area**

**Top Occupations**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC Code** | **SOC Title** | **Employment** | | **Growth** | | **Annual Openings** | | |
| **2016 Estimated** | **2018 Projected** | **Net** | **Percent** | **Growth** | **Replacement** | **Total** |
| **Top 10 Fastest Growth** | | | | | | | | |
| 51-9196 | Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 96 | 106 | 10 | **10.42%** | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 41-3021 | Insurance Sales Agents | 287 | 314 | 27 | **9.41%** | 14 | 8 | 22 |
| 49-2098 | Security and Fire Alarm Systems Installers | 87 | 95 | 8 | **9.20%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 51-9032 | Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 226 | 246 | 20 | **8.85%** | 10 | 5 | 15 |
| 43-9041 | Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks | 227 | 245 | 18 | **7.93%** | 9 | 6 | 15 |
| 49-2094 | Electrical and Electronics Repairers, Commercial and Industrial Equipment | 120 | 129 | 9 | **7.50%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 29-1123 | Physical Therapists | 141 | 151 | 10 | **7.09%** | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 31-2021 | Physical Therapist Assistants | 72 | 77 | 5 | **6.94%** | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 49-3093 | Tire Repairers and Changers | 101 | 108 | 7 | **6.93%** | 4 | 4 | 8 |
| 29-1122 | Occupational Therapists | 116 | 124 | 8 | **6.90%** | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| **Top 10 Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 106 | 68 | **-38** | -35.85% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-2092 | Team Assemblers | 1,353 | 1,318 | **-35** | -2.59% | 0 | 29 | 29 |
| 43-3071 | Tellers | 614 | 586 | **-28** | -4.56% | 0 | 27 | 27 |
| 51-7042 | Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing | 359 | 333 | **-26** | -7.24% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 51-4121 | Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers | 404 | 390 | **-14** | -3.47% | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| 51-4031 | Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 314 | 301 | **-13** | -4.14% | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-2022 | Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers | 434 | 422 | **-12** | -2.76% | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 43-3031 | Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks | 1,441 | 1,433 | **-8** | -0.56% | 0 | 14 | 14 |
| 51-6063 | Textile Knitting and Weaving Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 63 | 55 | **-8** | -12.70% | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-4122 | Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 66 | 59 | **-7** | -10.61% | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| **Top 10 Fastest Decline** | | | | | | | | |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil, Gas, and Mining | 106 | 68 | -38 | **-35.85%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-6063 | Textile Knitting and Weaving Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 63 | 55 | -8 | **-12.70%** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 51-4122 | Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 66 | 59 | -7 | **-10.61%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-7042 | Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing | 359 | 333 | -26 | **-7.24%** | 0 | 6 | 6 |
| 51-2041 | Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters | 140 | 133 | -7 | **-5.00%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 51-5113 | Print Binding and Finishing Workers | 100 | 95 | -5 | **-5.00%** | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| 41-3011 | Advertising Sales Agents | 107 | 102 | -5 | **-4.67%** | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| 43-3071 | Tellers | 614 | 586 | -28 | **-4.56%** | 0 | 27 | 27 |
| 17-2141 | Mechanical Engineers | 117 | 112 | -5 | **-4.27%** | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| 51-4111 | Tool and Die Makers | 120 | 115 | -5 | **-4.17%** | 0 | 0 | 0 |

*Source: Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software*