

# 2025 ARKANSAS LABOR MARKET AND ECONOMIC REPORT

*STATE AND LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS*



Arkansas Division of  
Workforce Services

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# 2025 Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report

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# Executive Summary

The 2025 Arkansas Labor Market and Economic Report is produced by the Labor Market Information unit within the office of Workforce Policy and Innovation 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 2020 to 2024, with some information covering shorter periods due to accessibility of data. Projection information for industry and occupational trends covers the years 2024 to 2026.

Arkansas grew in population in 2024 by 20,622 from 2023, and added a total of 76,812 new residents from 2020 to 2024. Of Arkansas's 10 Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs), Northwest Arkansas saw the largest increase in population, adding 15,761 in 2024. The Eastern, Southeast, and Southwest Arkansas LWDAs saw decreasing populations in 2024.

Between 2023 and 2024 the state's labor force increased by 31,335, and employment increased by 27,373. Labor force and employment varied across the LWDAs. The state's unemployment rate ended at 3.5 percent in 2024, a decrease of 2.7% since 2020. The unemployment remained relatively steady in 2025, ending the month of July at 3.7 percent. The unemployment rate fluctuated across all LWDAs in 2025 and through July 2025.

Short-term employment projections for 2024 to 2026 showed an increase in the Arkansas job market with a gain of 32,743 jobs, equivalent to a 2.23 percent growth in employment. Goods-Producing industries are estimated to see a net gain of 5,708 jobs, while the Services-Providing industries are forecast to increase employment by 26,108. Arkansas' self-employed ranks are estimated to experience a net gain of 927, an increase of 0.92 percent.

Jobs requiring a high school diploma or equivalent are estimated to add more jobs than any other education level with 10,888 jobs between 2024 and 2026. Occupations requiring a bachelor's degree are expected to grow by 9,083.

Arkansas' per capita personal income increased over the 2020-2024 period to \$58,700; however, the state's per capita

personal income in 2024 remained below the United States' per capita personal income of \$77,719.

More than a million Arkansas workers earned at least \$12 or more an hour in 2024, with the mean annual wage for all employer sizes estimated at \$53,074. 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.

## COVID-19

Some of the data in this economic report reflects the impact of COVID-19 while other data sets may not yet reflect the impact. This is especially true when comparing any data from 2020 with data from 2024. It is unknown what the full impact of COVID-19 will be on the data.

*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), and the Population Reference Bureau.*

*This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.*



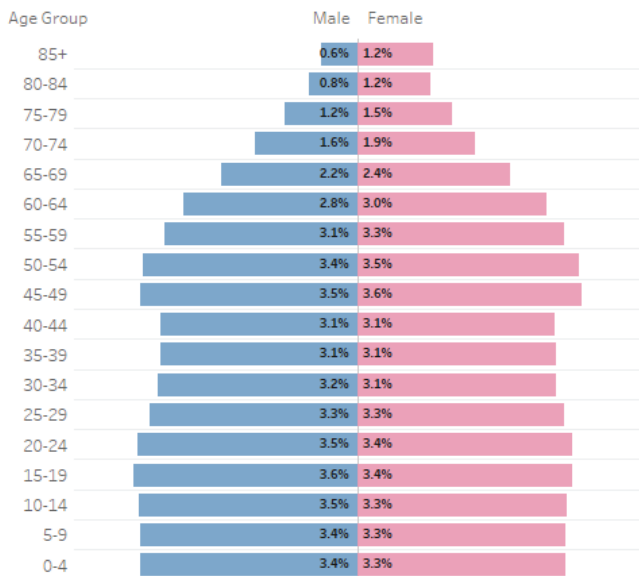
# State of Arkansas



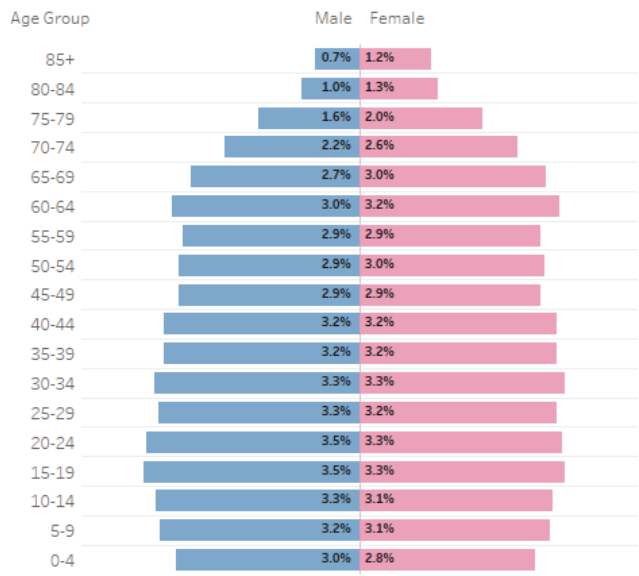
The state of Arkansas’ population grew to 3,088,354 in 2024, increasing 20,622 from 2023 to 2024 and increasing 76,812 from 2020 to 2024. The state of Arkansas consists of 10 Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs), six Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and 75 counties. Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas border the state.

## Population Pyramids for Arkansas

2010 Pop: 2,921,964



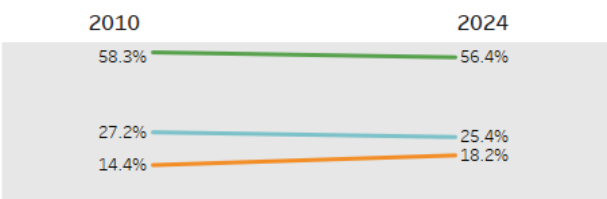
2024 Pop: 3,088,354



### Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	421,548	562,842
Adults 20-64	1,704,800	1,742,275
Under 20	795,616	783,237
Total	2,921,964	3,088,354

### Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics:2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

## State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

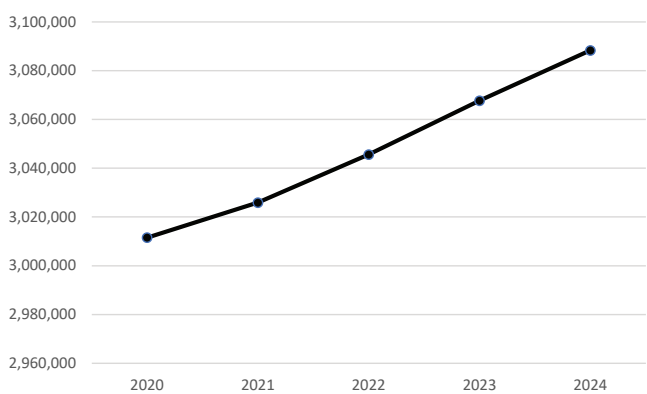
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

## United States Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
331,449,281	331,893,745	333,287,557	334,914,895	240,110,988

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Arkansas Population Progression



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Figures in the population pyramid graphics may differ from the 2020-2024 population statistics due to the timeline of data release schedules.



# Arkansas



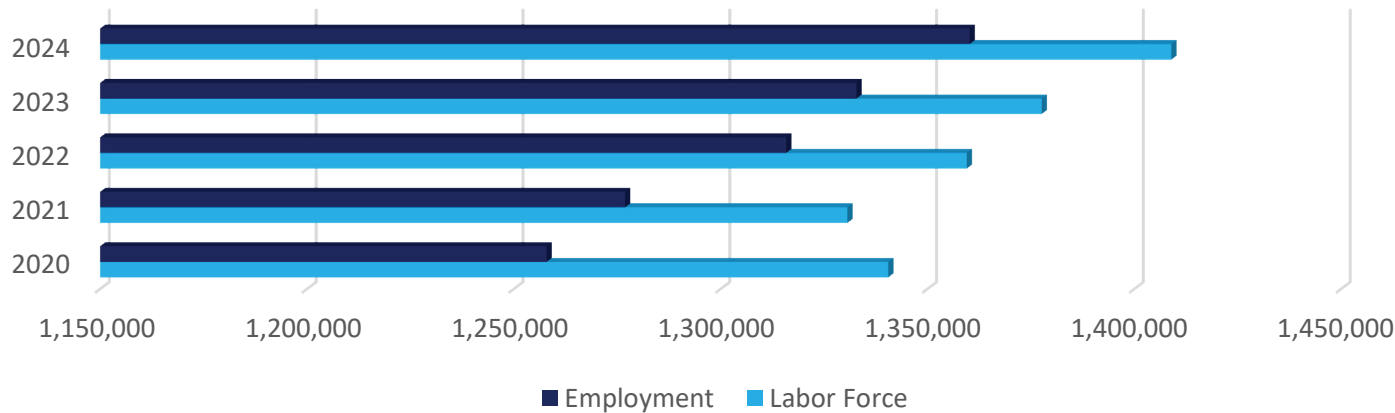
## Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

The labor force increased by 31,335 between 2023 and 2024, and employment increased by 27,373 over the same period. Unemployment increased by 3,962 from 2023 to 2024, but has seen a decrease of 33,865 since 2020. The state’s unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percent from 2023 to 2024. Over the 2020-2024 period, the unemployment rate declined 2.7 percent to 3.5 percent for 2024. The state’s unemployment rate was 3.7 percent in July 2025.

Arkansas 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	1,340,557	1,330,676	1,359,540	1,377,657	1,408,992
Employment	1,257,949	1,276,933	1,315,886	1,332,876	1,360,249
Unemployment	82,608	53,743	43,654	44,781	48,743
Unemployment Rate	6.2%	4.0%	3.2%	3.3%	3.5%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics



State of Arkansas and National Monthly Unemployment Rate\*

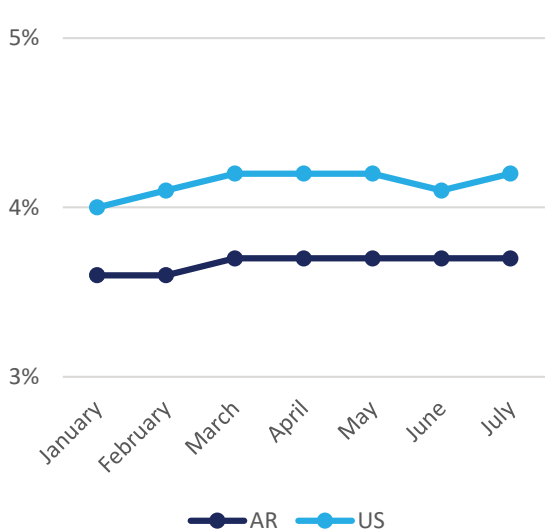
Year	Month	AR Unemployment Rate	U.S. Unemployment Rate
2025	January	3.6%	4.0%
2025	February	3.6%	4.1%
2025	March	3.7%	4.2%
2025	April	3.7%	4.2%
2025	May	3.7%	4.2%
2025	June	3.7%	4.1%
2025	July	3.7%**	4.2%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025



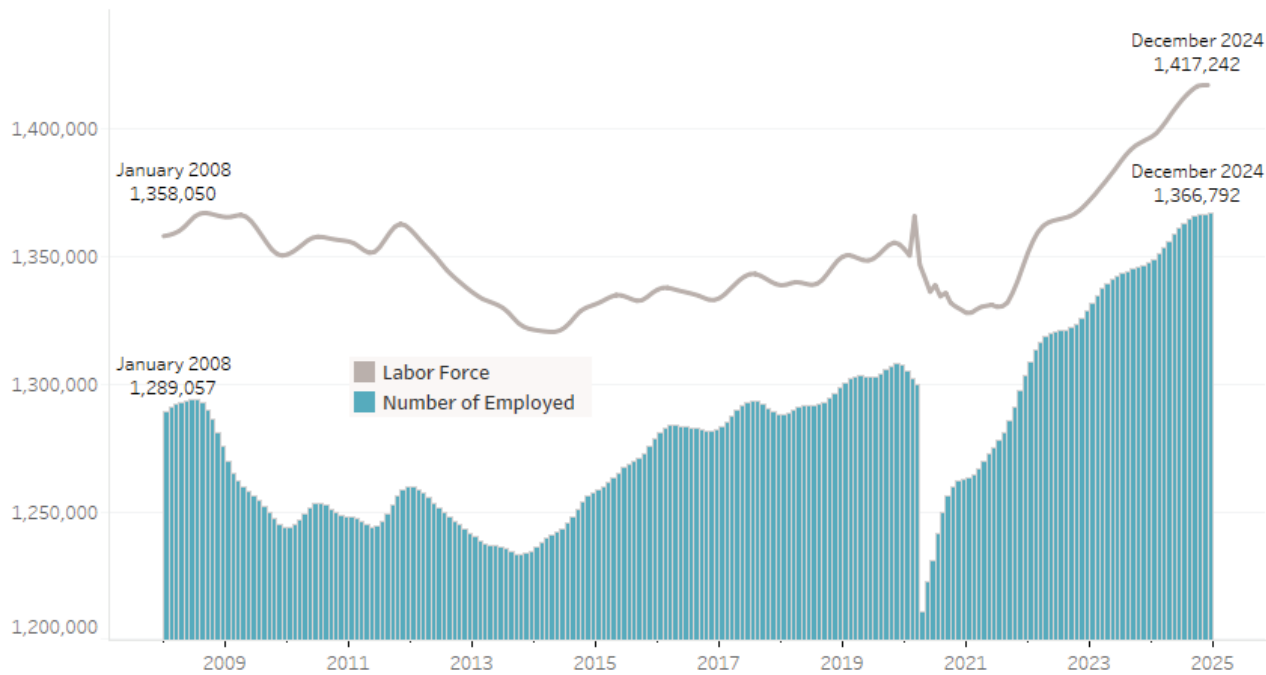


# Arkansas

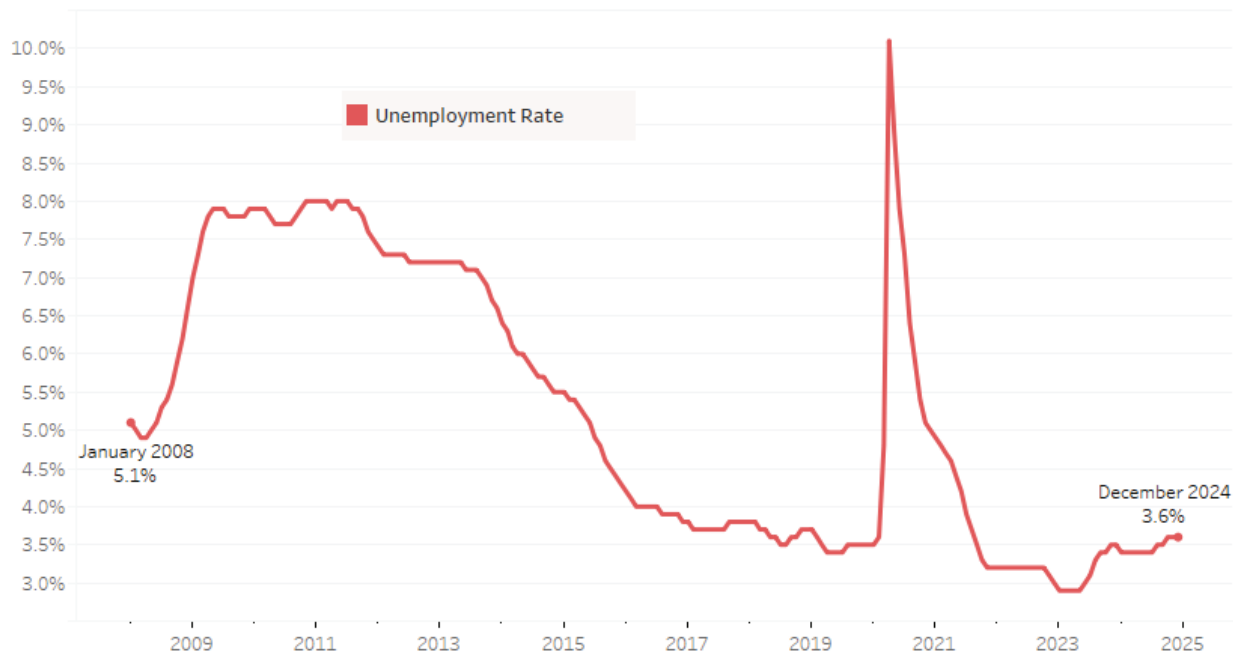
## Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment



Arkansas Labor Force and Number of Employed, January 2008 - December 2024



Arkansas Unemployment Rate, January, 2008 - December, 2024



Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using Seasonally Adjusted Employment and Unemployment Statistics from Discover Arkansas website, <https://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Data-Search-Tool/LAUS>



# Arkansas



## Median Household/Per Capita Personal Income

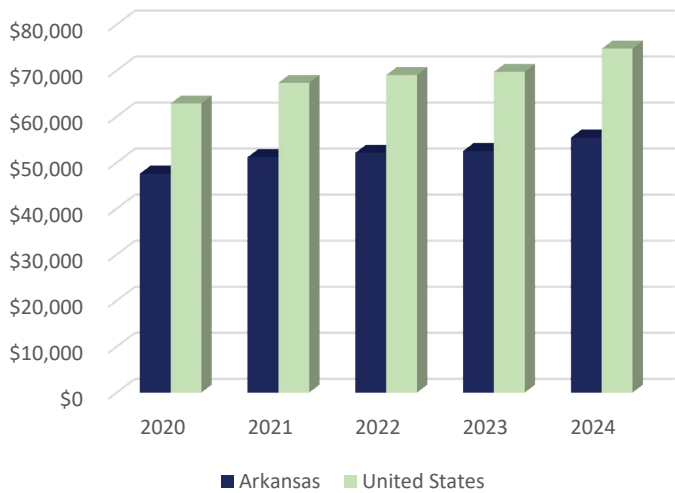
Arkansas’ median household income was \$58,700 in 2024 which increased by \$3,268 from 2023 to 2024 but is below the national median household income of \$77,719 for 2024. Arkansas’ per capita personal income in 2024 was \$59,663, an increase of \$5,316 from 2023. Over the 2020-2024 period, the per capita personal income increased by \$12,554. The state’s per capita personal income is below the United States per capita personal income of \$72,425.

Arkansas/United States Median Household Income 2019-2023

Year	Arkansas	United States
2020	\$51,183	\$67,340
2021	\$52,123	\$69,021
2022	\$52,528	\$69,717
2023	\$55,432	\$74,755
2024	\$58,700	\$77,719

Source: United States Census Bureau

Median Household Income

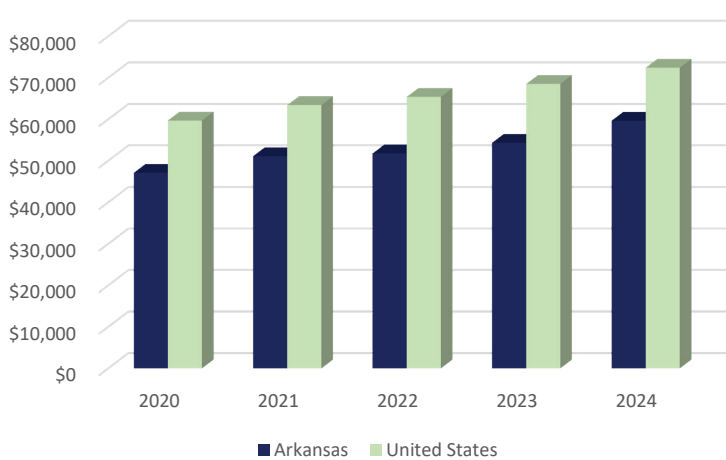


Arkansas/United States Per Capita Personal Income 2020-2024

Year	Arkansas	United States
2020	\$47,109	\$59,729
2021	\$51,148	\$63,444
2022	\$51,787	\$65,423
2023	\$54,347	\$68,531
2024	\$59,663	\$72,425

Source: United States Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)

Per Capita Personal Income



# Arkansas



## Employment

In 2024, whites made up 71.7 percent of the labor force while the total of all minority groups made up 28.3 percent of the labor force. The unemployment rate for all races, including Hispanics, was 3.5 percent. The unemployment rate for all minority groups combined was 4.8 percent. Hispanics of all races made up 9.1 percent of the labor force, with an unemployment rate of 3.1 percent.

### Employment Status by Race State of Arkansas 2024

					Percent Distribution		
Race (both sexes, age 16+)	Labor Force	Emp.	Unemp.	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force	Emp.	Unemp.
Total, Including Hispanic	1,408,992	1,360,249	48,743	3.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
White	1,009,918	980,474	29,444	2.9	71.7	72.1	60.4
Black	198,491	186,043	12,448	6.3	14.1	13.7	25.5
American Indian/ Alaska Native	8,284	8,008	276	3.3	0.6	0.6	0.6
Asian	26,834	26,345	489	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.0
Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	5,275	4,757	518	9.8	0.4	0.3	1.1
Remaining Races	46,518	44,969	1,549	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2
Two or More Races	113,673	109,653	4,020	3.5	8.1	8.1	8.2
Total: Minority Group*	399,075	379,775	19,300	4.8	28.3	27.9	39.6
Hispanic, All Races	127,829	123,926	3,903	3.1	9.1	9.1	8.0

*\*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 Division of Workforce Services, the U.S. Department of Labor-Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the U.S. Census Bureau-American Community Survey (2019-2023 5-year estimates)*



# Arkansas

## Education



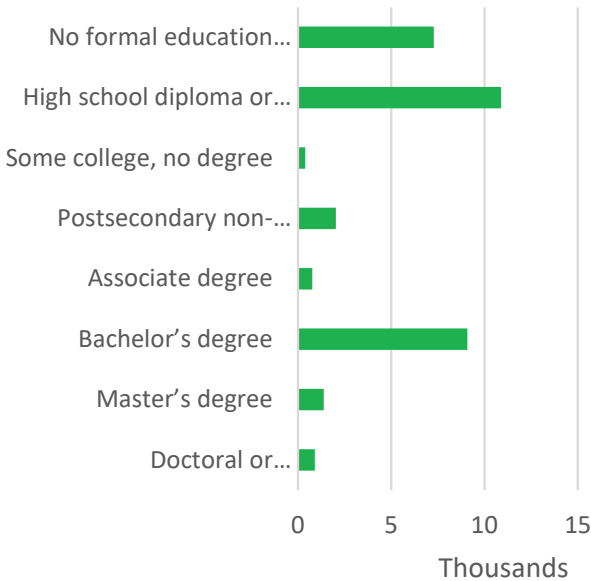
All eight education categories are projected to see positive net growth between 2024 and 2026. Occupations requiring no formal education are projected to gain 7,274 jobs during the projection period. Jobs requiring a high school diploma or equivalent are expected to gain 10,888 jobs during the projection period and had the highest educational attainment in 2023 at 34.4 percent. Occupations requiring a bachelor’s degree are expected to grow by 9,083 jobs and 15.9 percent of the population 25 years and over had a bachelor’s degree in 2023. Growth in occupations requiring a master’s degree or doctoral or professional degree is expected to be 1,388 and 904 jobs respectively. Educational attainment of the state’s population aged 25 years and over shows that 88.6 percent have earned at least a high school diploma or equivalent, up 0.4 percent from 2022.

### Net Change by Education Title 2024-2026

Education Title	Net Change
Doctoral or professional degree	904
Master’s degree	1,388
Bachelor’s degree	9,083
Associate degree	781
Postsecondary non-degree award	2,030
Some college, no degree	395
High school diploma or equivalent	10,888
No formal education credential	7,274

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

### Education Title Change 2024-2026



### Educational Attainment in Arkansas 2023

	Arkansas	Total Estimate
Population 25 years and over	2,043,779	(%)
Less than 9th grade	88,834	4.3%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	145,023	2.2%
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	702,778	34.4%
Some college, no degree	431,023	21.1%
Associate degree	162,900	8.0%
Bachelor’s degree	324,625	15.9%
Graduate or professional degree	188,596	9.2%

Source: 2023 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

# Arkansas

## In-Demand Occupations



### High Skill

SOC Title	Total Annual Openings	May 2024 Mean Wage
General and Operations Managers	3,495	\$87,730
Registered Nurses	2,017	\$77,720
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	944	\$54,400
Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	874	\$58,820
Accountants and Auditors	853	\$75,720
Medical and Health Services Managers	811	\$101,100
Financial Managers	706	\$128,690
Management Analysts	687	\$80,610
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	643	\$75,160
Clergy	618	\$54,140
Project Management Specialists	591	\$92,490
Human Resources Specialists	571	\$61,630
Buyers and Purchasing Agents	542	\$82,630
Middle School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	488	\$56,700
Software Developers	442	\$100,380

### Moderate Skill

SOC Title	Total Annual Openings	May 2024 Mean Wage
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,420	\$56,570
Nursing Assistants	2,937	\$33,350
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	1,518	\$43,320
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary	1,389	\$33,300
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	1,011	\$52,540
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	779	\$37,000
Medical Assistants	769	\$38,060
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	672	\$47,900
Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics and Installers	533	\$50,010
Dental Assistants	452	\$40,730
Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	365	\$30,480
Physical Therapist Assistants	328	\$64,020
Computer User Support Specialists	295	\$51,890
Firefighters	253	\$43,870
Medical Records Specialists	170	\$46,430

### Basic Skill

SOC Title	Total Annual Openings	May 2024 Mean Wage
Fast Food and Counter Workers	10,107	\$27,010
Cashiers	5,987	\$27,720
Stockers and Order Fillers	4,907	\$34,920
Retail Salespersons	4,811	\$33,070
Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	4,054	N/A
Waiters and Waitresses	3,832	\$29,380
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	3,544	\$35,530
Office Clerks, General	3,522	\$39,320
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	3,311	\$27,520
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	2,768	\$31,580
Customer Service Representatives	2,597	\$40,530
Cooks, Restaurant	2,186	\$30,970
Receptionists and Information Clerks	1,986	\$33,740
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	1,753	\$35,910
Childcare Workers	1,670	\$27,600

Source: Division of Workforce Services

“High Skill” occupations include occupations requiring at least a bachelor’s degree. This also includes occupations requiring a master’s degree or a doctoral or professional degree.

“Moderate Skill” occupations include occupations requiring an associate degree, postsecondary non-degree award or some college with no degree.

“Basic Skill” occupations include occupations requiring either a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education.



# Arkansas

## Wages

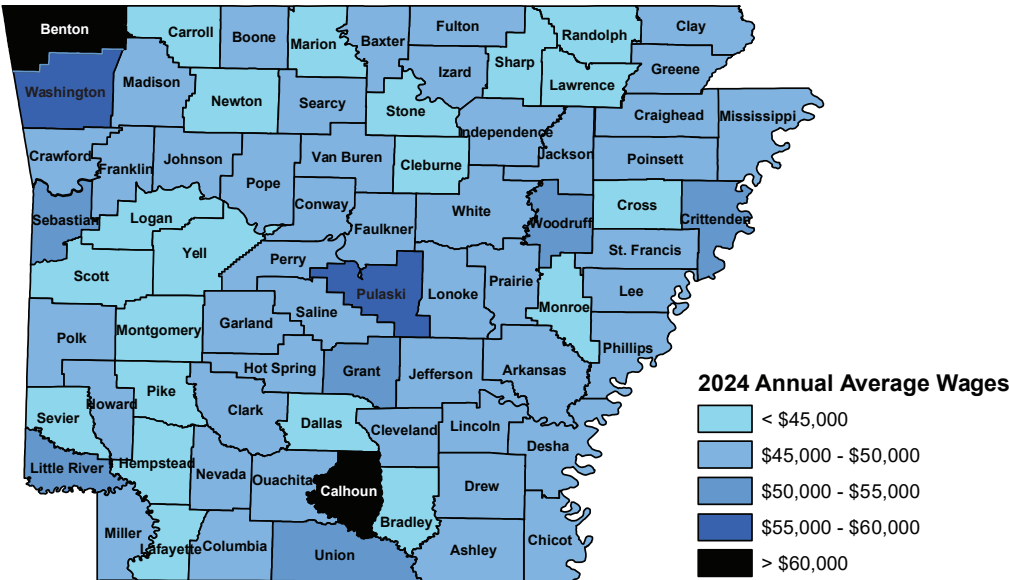


**Material Moving Workers** was estimated to have the most employees across the state with 73,180 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$36,687. **Food and Beverage Serving Workers** was the second largest occupation with 59,590 employed, earning an average wage of \$27,927.

**Dermatologists** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$390,732. **Physicians, Pathologists,** with an average annual salary of \$250,093, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$28,481 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$43,861, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$65,371 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 1,288,810 estimated employees with hourly wage data, 85,118 made less than \$12 an hour while 380,887 made more than \$27 an hour. Employees making between \$17 and \$21.99 totaled 281,243.



*\*Source: Occupational Employment Statistics*

### State of Arkansas Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Material Moving Workers	73,180	\$36,687	\$28,683	\$40,688
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	59,590	\$27,927	\$23,510	\$30,135
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	55,380	\$100,926	\$58,533	\$122,123
Motor Vehicle Operators	52,100	\$50,835	\$30,869	\$60,818
Business Operations Specialists	50,580	\$74,842	\$40,646	\$91,939
Information and Record Clerks	47,080	\$38,482	\$28,876	\$43,286
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	40,610	\$54,364	\$42,936	\$60,077
Construction Trades Workers	39,480	\$46,235	\$33,672	\$52,517
Top Executives	38,450	\$92,652	\$36,497	\$120,730
Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	38,250	\$30,328	\$25,378	\$32,803

*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey*

# Arkansas

## Wages



### State of Arkansas Occupations Paying the Most

Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Dermatologists	\$390,732
Physicians, Pathologists	\$250,093
Ophthalmologists, Except Pediatric	\$249,139
Physicians, All Other	\$247,875
Psychiatrists	\$215,360
Dentists, All Other Specialists	\$188,921
Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates	\$181,800
Dentists, General	\$178,290
Chief Executives	\$177,458
Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	\$160,211
Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers	\$158,599
Public Relations Managers	\$158,473
Medical Dosimetrists	\$157,777
Natural Sciences Managers	\$156,216
Sales Managers	\$147,845
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$140,792
Physicists	\$139,969
Nurse Anesthetists	\$138,735
Podiatrists	\$136,463
Marketing Managers	\$135,603
Purchasing Managers	\$135,593
Compensation and Benefits Managers	\$134,907
Lawyers	\$134,858
Physical Scientists, All Other	\$133,864
Pharmacists	\$132,093

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



# Arkansas

## Wages



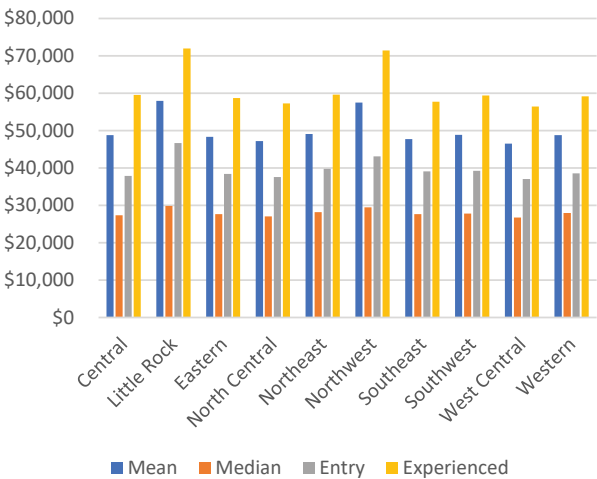
### State of Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

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

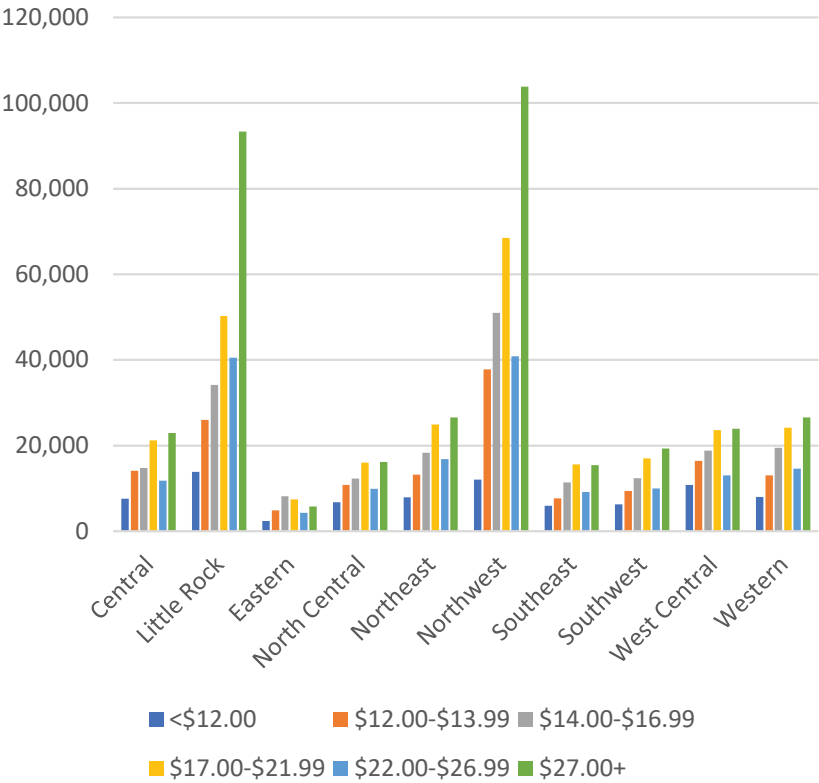
Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$53,074	\$28,481	\$41,020	\$65,371
0-49 Employees	\$49,239	\$26,281	\$36,845	\$60,717
50-99 Employees	\$49,570	\$27,326	\$37,677	\$60,692
100-249 Employees	\$51,210	\$29,852	\$40,796	\$61,888
250-499 Employees	\$53,017	\$30,879	\$43,861	\$64,086
500+ Employees	\$64,002	\$34,839	\$51,642	\$78,583

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

#### WDA Wages for Employers of All Sizes



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



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

Total	1,288,810
<\$12.00	85,118
\$12.00-\$13.99	158,111
\$14.00-\$16.99	205,855
\$17.00-\$21.99	281,243
\$22.00-\$26.99	177,596
\$27.00+	380,887

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Arkansas

## Wages

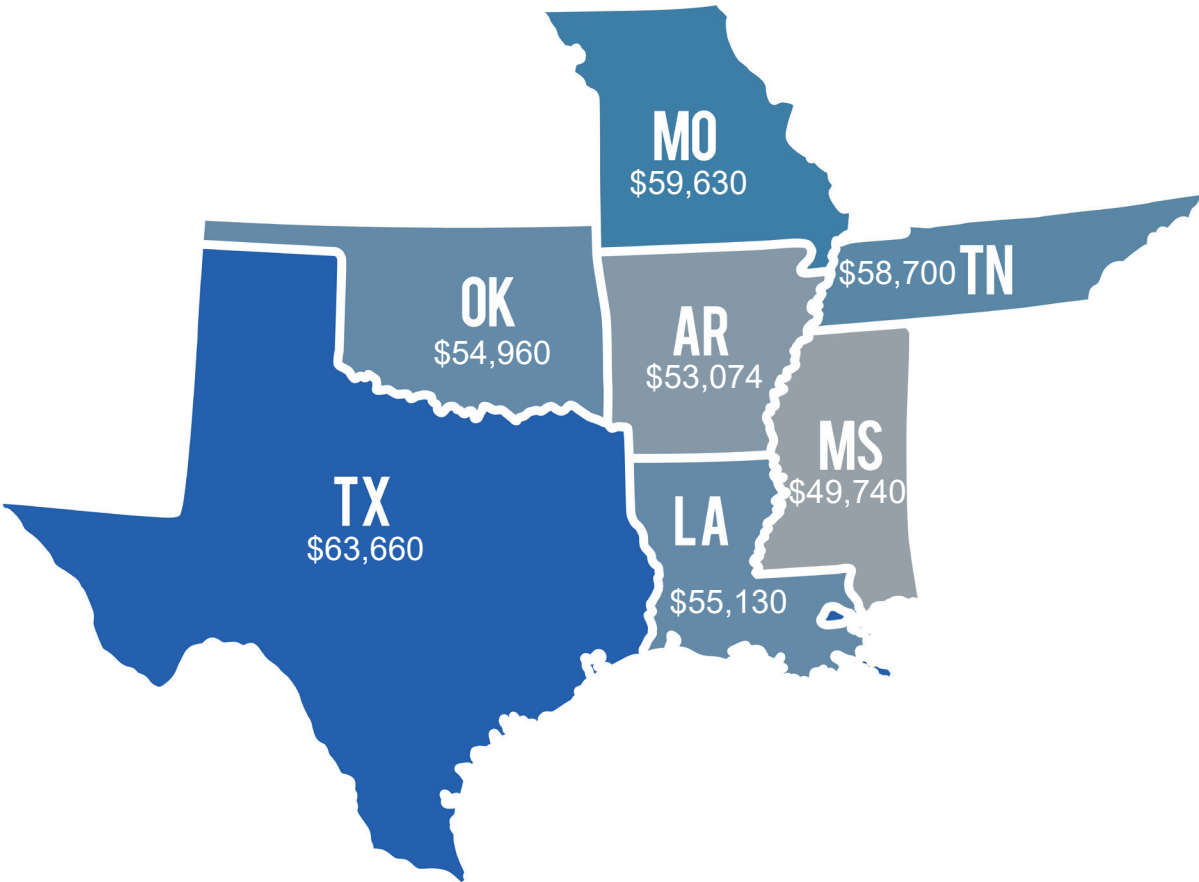


Average Wages of States Surrounding Arkansas

State	Mean Hourly Wage	Mean Annual Wage
Arkansas	\$25.52	\$53,074
Louisiana	\$26.50	\$55,130
Mississippi	\$23.91	\$49,740
Missouri	\$28.67	\$59,630
Oklahoma	\$26.43	\$54,960
Tennessee	\$28.22	\$58,700
Texas	\$30.60	\$63,660

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

Average Annual Wages for Surrounding States





# Arkansas

## Wages

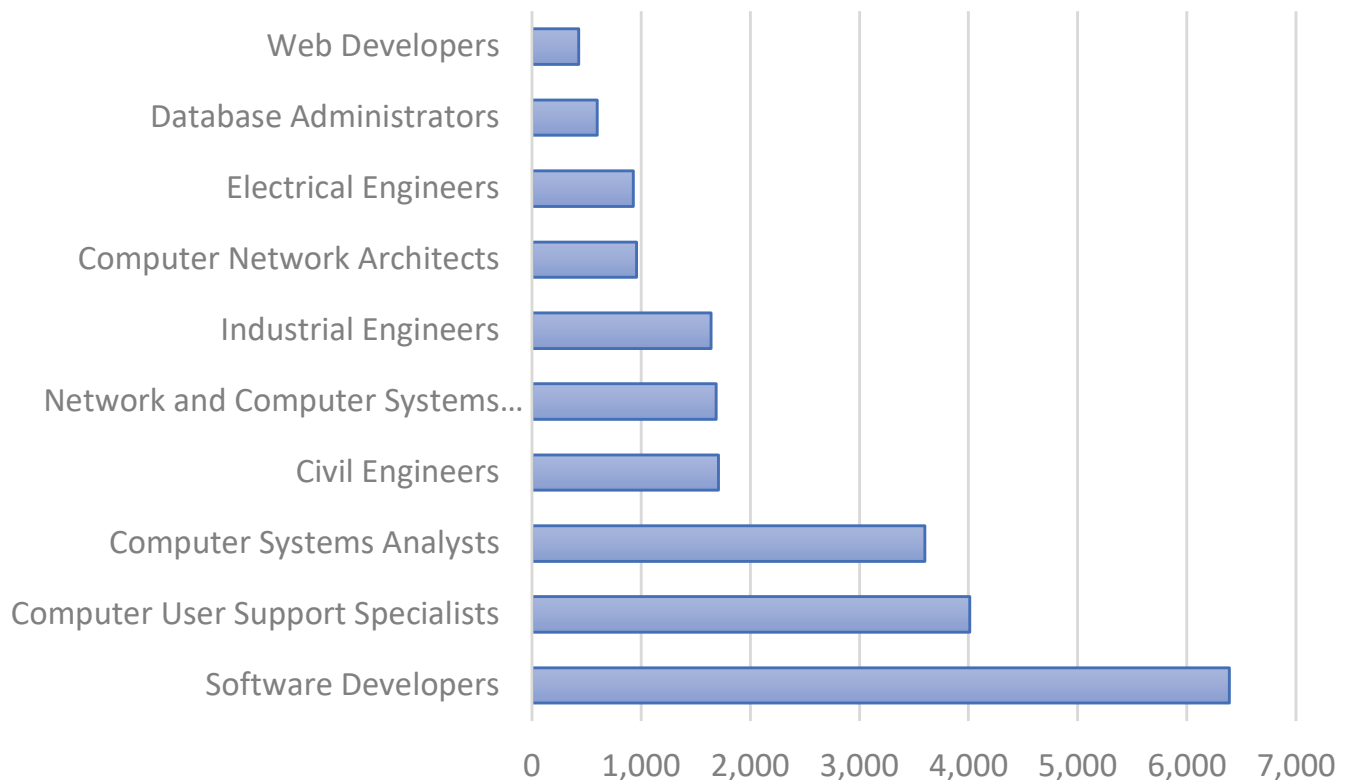


### State of Arkansas Employment and Wages for Select STEM Occupations

Occupation	Employment	Mean Hourly Wage
Software Developers	6,390	\$48.26
Computer User Support Specialists	4,010	\$24.95
Computer Systems Analysts	3,600	\$33.80
Civil Engineers	1,710	\$42.43
Network and Computer Systems Administrators	1,690	\$40.23
Industrial Engineers	1,640	\$47.72
Computer Network Architects	960	\$58.25
Electrical Engineers	930	\$47.10
Database Administrators	600	\$39.80
Web Developers	430	\$24.84

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

### STEM Employment in Arkansas



# Arkansas

## Industry



**Restaurants and Other Eating Places** is projected to be the top growing industry in Arkansas, gaining 3,807 new jobs between 2024 and 2026, increasing its overall workforce in the state to 98,622. **Veneer, Plywood, and Engineered Wood Product Manufacturing** could see a 33.57 percent rise in jobs, becoming the fastest growing industry in the state. Truck Transportation is estimated to see a difficult outlook between 2024 and 2026, losing an estimated 1,476 jobs, or 4.60 percent of the workforce, decreasing employment to 30,617. **Water Transportation** is slated to be the fastest declining industry, cutting 23.08 percent of its already small workforce. **Education and Health Services** is predicted to be the top growing supersector, adding an estimated 10,108 jobs during the projection period, an increase of 3.13 percent.

### Top 5 Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
102500	Education and Health Services	322,437	332,545	<b>10,108</b>	3.13%
102400	Professional and Business Services	158,813	164,651	<b>5,838</b>	3.68%
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	125,167	129,988	<b>4,821</b>	3.85%
101200	Construction	64,725	68,835	<b>4,110</b>	6.35%
102100	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	266,452	269,021	<b>2,569</b>	0.96%

### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
722500	Restaurants and Other Eating Places	94,815	98,622	<b>3,807</b>	4.02%
551000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	38,859	40,942	<b>2,083</b>	5.36%
238200	Building Equipment Contractors	23,477	25,447	<b>1,970</b>	8.39%
999300	Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	42,311	43,709	<b>1,398</b>	3.30%
622100	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	55,705	57,086	<b>1,381</b>	2.48%
611100	Elementary and Secondary Schools	78,729	80,107	<b>1,378</b>	1.75%
999100	Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	16,453	17,828	<b>1,375</b>	8.36%
621300	Offices of Other Health Practitioners	12,638	13,880	<b>1,242</b>	9.83%
423000	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	28,793	30,013	<b>1,220</b>	4.24%
624100	Individual and Family Services	23,645	24,828	<b>1,183</b>	5.00%

# Arkansas

## Industry



### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
321200	Veneer, Plywood, and Engineered Wood Product Manufacturing	2,008	2,682	674	<b>33.57%</b>
713100	Amusement Parks and Arcades	313	384	71	<b>22.68%</b>
237900	Other Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	957	1,138	181	<b>18.91%</b>
611700	Educational Support Services	843	994	151	<b>17.91%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	1,414	1,663	249	<b>17.61%</b>
481200	Nonscheduled Air Transportation	118	137	19	<b>16.10%</b>
712000	Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions	906	1,041	135	<b>14.90%</b>
561200	Facilities Support Services	981	1,127	146	<b>14.88%</b>
331200	Steel Product Manufacturing from Purchased Steel	2,261	2,586	325	<b>14.37%</b>
541700	Scientific Research and Development Services	1,131	1,287	156	<b>13.79%</b>

### Top 10 Decline

484000	Truck Transportation	32,093	30,617	<b>-1,476</b>	-4.60%
813100	Religious Organizations	29,243	28,174	<b>-1,069</b>	-3.66%
999200	State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	31,495	30,916	<b>-579</b>	-1.84%
336300	Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing	4,952	4,505	<b>-447</b>	-9.03%
336200	Motor Vehicle Body and Trailer Manufacturing	2,263	1,828	<b>-435</b>	-19.22%
112000	Animal Production and Aquaculture	6,864	6,456	<b>-408</b>	-5.94%
335300	Electrical Equipment Manufacturing	2,805	2,407	<b>-398</b>	-14.19%
522000	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	19,604	19,215	<b>-389</b>	-1.98%
561400	Business Support Services	6,932	6,578	<b>-354</b>	-5.11%
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	3,522	3,188	<b>-334</b>	-9.48%

### Top 10 Fastest Decline

483000	Water Transportation	26	20	-6	<b>-23.08%</b>
533000	Lessors of Nonfinancial Intangible Assets (except Copyrighted Works)	31	25	-6	<b>-19.35%</b>
336200	Motor Vehicle Body and Trailer Manufacturing	2,263	1,828	-435	<b>-19.22%</b>
237200	Land Subdivision	75	61	-14	<b>-18.67%</b>
335300	Electrical Equipment Manufacturing	2,805	2,407	-398	<b>-14.19%</b>
331300	Alumina and Aluminum Production and Processing	898	778	-120	<b>-13.36%</b>
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	3,522	3,188	-334	<b>-9.48%</b>
513100	Newspaper, Periodical, Book, and Directory Publishers	1,386	1,255	-131	<b>-9.45%</b>
458200	Shoe Retailers	935	849	-86	<b>-9.20%</b>
336300	Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing	4,952	4,505	-447	<b>-9.03%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software



# Arkansas

## Occupations



**Fast Food and Counter Workers** is predicted to be the top growing occupation in the state, adding 1,643 new jobs between 2024 and 2026, bringing its employment to a level of 40,836. **Roustabouts, Oil and Gas** is slated to increase its workforce by 12.39 percent, becoming the fastest growing occupation in the state. **Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers** is estimated to be the top declining occupation, losing 561 jobs statewide. **Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers** is slated to be the fastest declining occupation, driving down the employment 15.72 percent to 461. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is predicted to be the top growing major group, adding 4,095 new jobs, increasing from 109,931 in 2024 to 114,026 in 2026.

### Top 5 Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	109,931	114,026	<b>4,095</b>	3.73%	9,371	12,243	2,048	23,662
11-0000	Management Occupations	145,985	149,643	<b>3,658</b>	2.51%	5,335	7,088	1,829	14,252
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	97,734	101,123	<b>3,389</b>	3.47%	2,897	2,698	1,694	7,289
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	59,141	62,226	<b>3,085</b>	5.22%	1,851	3,214	1,542	6,607
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	80,321	82,860	<b>2,539</b>	3.16%	2,288	4,092	1,270	7,650

### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	39,193	40,836	<b>1,643</b>	4.19%	4,222	5,063	822	10,107
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	35,883	37,022	<b>1,139</b>	3.17%	816	2,109	570	3,495
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	18,579	19,633	<b>1,054</b>	5.67%	1,486	1,298	527	3,311
29-1141	Registered Nurses	30,196	31,080	<b>884</b>	2.93%	895	680	442	2,017
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	27,892	28,705	<b>813</b>	2.91%	1,674	2,827	406	4,907
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	11,796	12,523	<b>727</b>	6.16%	804	1,018	364	2,186
47-2111	Electricians	8,498	9,176	<b>678</b>	7.98%	262	510	339	1,111
47-2061	Construction Laborers	12,329	12,951	<b>622</b>	5.05%	388	665	311	1,364
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	7,373	7,916	<b>543</b>	7.36%	190	349	272	811
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	18,876	19,410	<b>534</b>	2.83%	1,136	1,534	267	2,937

# Arkansas

## Occupations



### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
47-5071	Roustabouts, Oil and Gas	218	245	27	<b>12.39%</b>	6	17	14	37
47-4061	Rail-Track Laying and Maintenance Equipment Operators	86	96	10	<b>11.63%</b>	2	4	5	11
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	3,382	3,770	388	<b>11.47%</b>	73	81	194	348
43-4181	Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	225	250	25	<b>11.11%</b>	10	15	12	37
47-5013	Service Unit Operators, Oil and Gas	326	362	36	<b>11.04%</b>	9	25	18	52
49-3043	Rail Car Repairers	335	370	35	<b>10.45%</b>	10	18	18	46
39-7010	Tour and Travel Guides	339	374	35	<b>10.32%</b>	34	49	18	101
15-2051	Data Scientists	340	374	34	<b>10.00%</b>	8	13	17	38
29-2091	Orthotists and Prosthetists	93	102	9	<b>9.68%</b>	3	4	4	11
17-3011	Architectural and Civil Drafters	971	1,059	88	<b>9.06%</b>	29	52	44	125

### Top 10 Decline

53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	36,660	36,099	<b>-561</b>	-1.53%	1,487	2,213	-280	3,420
21-2011	Clergy	8,897	8,618	<b>-279</b>	-3.14%	370	388	-140	618
45-2093	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals	4,014	3,775	<b>-239</b>	-5.95%	244	350	-120	474
43-3071	Tellers	4,485	4,286	<b>-199</b>	-4.44%	179	260	-100	339
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	20,451	20,270	<b>-181</b>	-0.89%	1,036	1,651	-90	2,597
41-2011	Cashiers	31,921	31,787	<b>-134</b>	-0.42%	2,900	3,154	-67	5,987
51-2021	Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	547	461	<b>-86</b>	-15.72%	22	30	-43	9
51-9196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	1,990	1,910	<b>-80</b>	-4.02%	62	138	-40	160
51-9041	Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	1,155	1,085	<b>-70</b>	-6.06%	36	73	-35	74
51-5112	Printing Press Operators	1,781	1,714	<b>-67</b>	-3.76%	70	116	-34	152

### Top 10 Fastest Decline

51-2021	Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	547	461	-86	<b>-15.72%</b>	22	30	-43	9
51-5111	Prepress Technicians and Workers	212	196	-16	<b>-7.55%</b>	10	14	-8	16
51-6062	Textile Cutting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	74	69	-5	<b>-6.76%</b>	4	5	-2	7
27-1023	Floral Designers	374	350	-24	<b>-6.42%</b>	24	20	-12	32
51-9041	Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	1,155	1,085	-70	<b>-6.06%</b>	36	73	-35	74
51-5113	Print Binding and Finishing Workers	248	233	-15	<b>-6.05%</b>	14	14	-8	20
27-3023	News Analysts, Reporters, and Journalists	235	221	-14	<b>-5.96%</b>	10	12	-7	15
45-2093	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals	4,014	3,775	-239	<b>-5.95%</b>	244	350	-120	474
43-9071	Office Machine Operators, Except Computer	191	182	-9	<b>-4.71%</b>	11	14	-4	21
43-4141	New Accounts Clerks	545	520	-25	<b>-4.59%</b>	14	30	-12	32

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

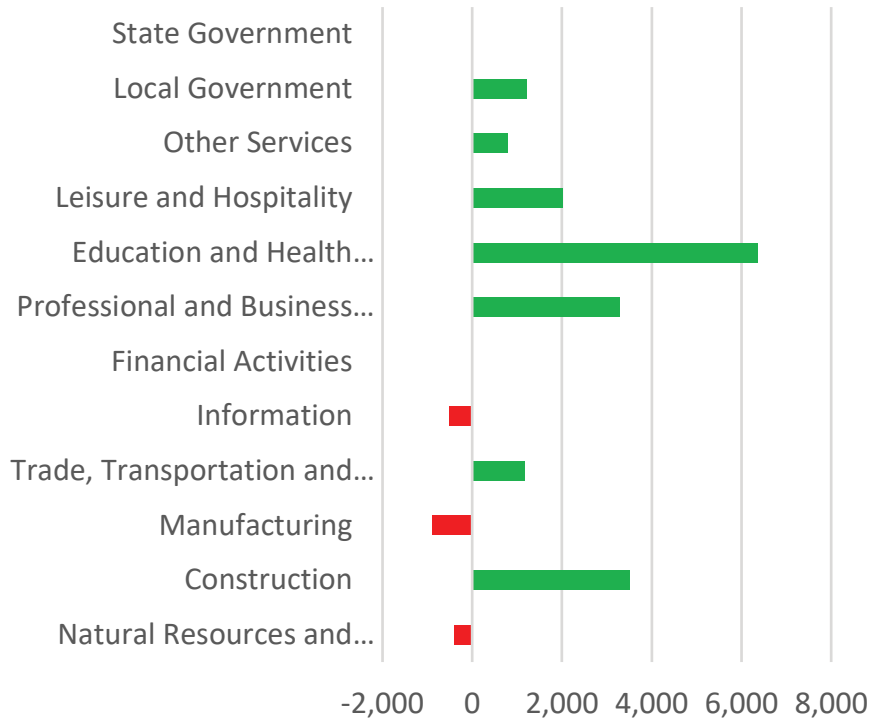
# Arkansas

## Covered Employment and Earnings



According to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Report, Arkansas' covered employment increased by 1.3 percent from 2023 to 2024. This translates to 16,521 jobs gained. Of all the major North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) industry supersector groups, just under half lost jobs during the reference period. **Education and Health Services** gained the most at 6,355 jobs. **Construction** had the fastest growth, increasing 5.6 percent.

Overall, average weekly earnings in 2024 for the state was \$1,153. The average weekly earnings range from a low of \$444 in **Leisure and Hospitality** to a high of \$1,676 in **Professional and Business Services**.



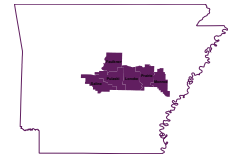
NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,257,043</b>	<b>1,273,564</b>	<b>16,521</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>\$1,153</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	15,663	15,263	-400	-2.6%	\$1,114
Construction	63,344	66,862	3,518	5.6%	\$1,266
Manufacturing	162,834	161,950	-884	-0.5%	\$1,178
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	265,509	266,670	1,161	0.4%	\$1,055
Information	12,804	12,290	-514	-4.0%	\$1,600
Financial Activities	55,854	55,849	-5	-0.0%	\$1,451
Professional and Business Services	157,228	160,510	3,282	2.1%	\$1,676
Education and Health Services	193,467	199,822	6,355	3.3%	\$1,060
Leisure and Hospitality	127,512	129,535	2,023	1.6%	\$444
Other Services	28,024	28,805	781	2.8%	\$898
Local Government	109,740	110,965	1,225	1.1%	\$923
State Government	65,064	65,043	-21	-0.0%	\$1,170

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

Note: Items do not necessarily add to total because of rounding. Because of industry code changes between years, substantial employment and wage shifts among industries are anticipated.

# Central Arkansas

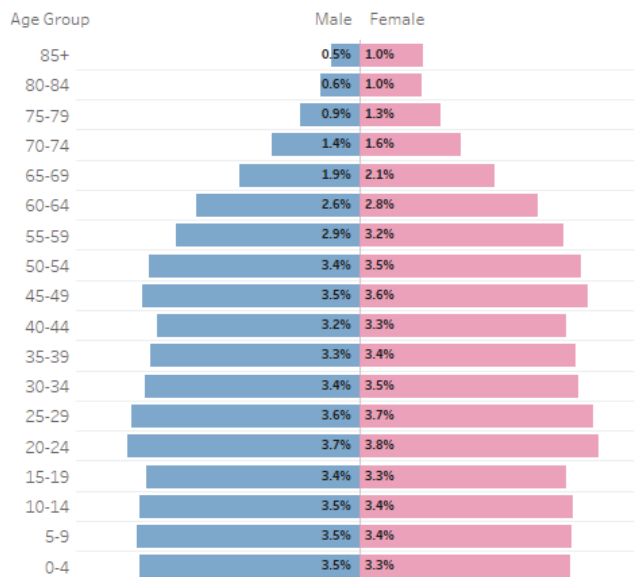
## Local Workforce Development Area



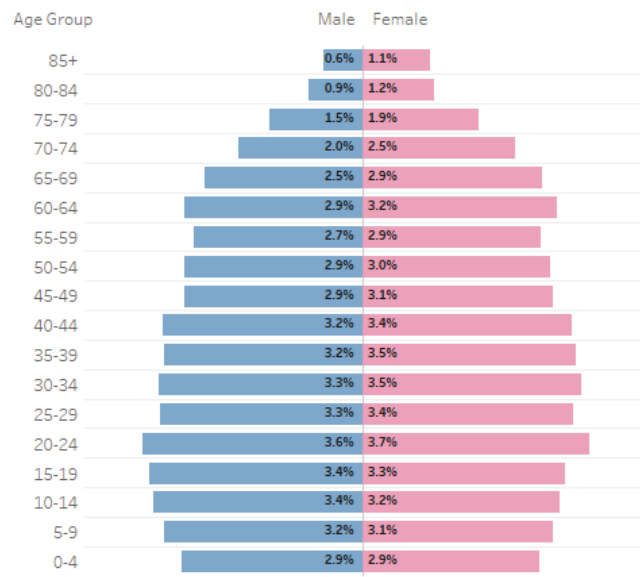
The Central Arkansas LWDA includes a large portion of the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area and six counties: Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Saline, and Pulaski County, excluding Little Rock.

### Population Pyramids for Central Arkansas

**2010** Pop: **496,851**



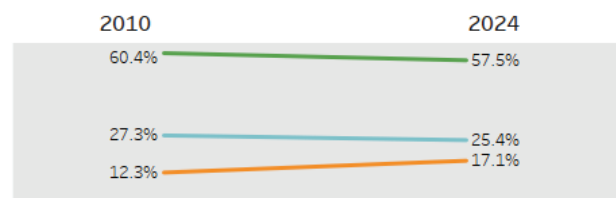
**2024** Pop: **550,038**



#### Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	61,133	93,907
Adults 20-64	300,241	316,536
Under 20	135,477	139,595
Total	496,851	550,038

#### Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)

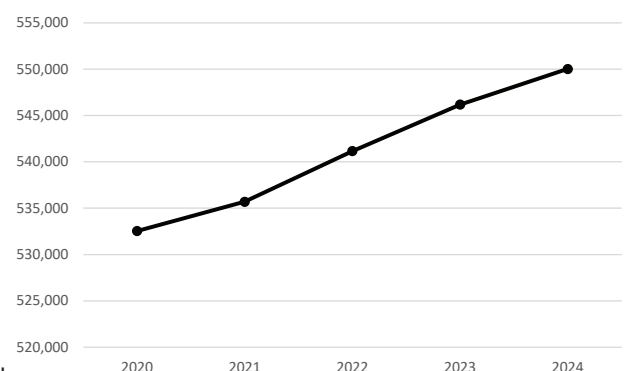


Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

### Central Arkansas LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
532,544	535,702	541,161	546,184	550,037

### Central Arkansas Population Progression



### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

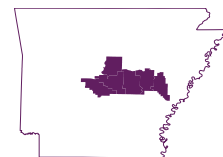
Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

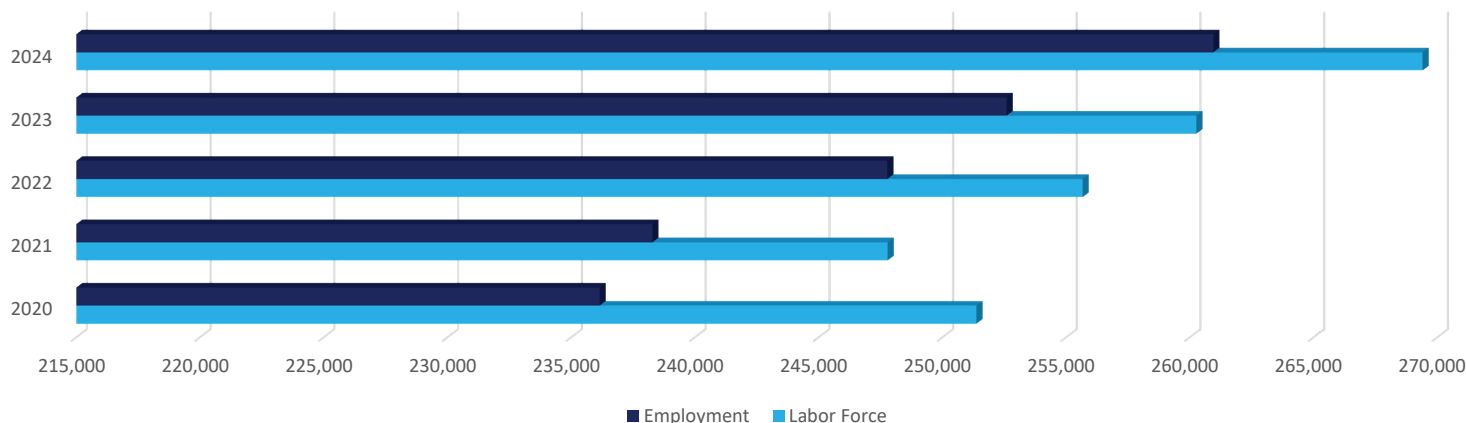


The LWDA saw an increase in the labor force of 9,147 to 269,411 from 2023 to 2024, and the labor force increased by 18,033 over the 2020 to 2024 period. Employment increased by 8,352 between 2023 and 2024, and increased by 24,803 over the five-year period. The LWDA has seen an fluctuation in unemployment over the same time periods. From 2023 to 2024, unemployment increased by 795, but from 2020 to 2024, unemployment decreased by 6,770. The LWDA's unemployment rate dropped by 3.0 percent over the five-year period. In 2025, the unemployment rate fluctuated, settling at 3.9 percent in July 2025.

#### Central Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	251,378	247,793	255,674	260,264	269,411
Employment	236,151	238,287	247,782	252,602	260,954
Unemployment	15,227	9,506	7,892	7,662	8,457
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	3.8%	3.1%	2.9%	3.1%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



#### Central Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\*

Year	Month	Central Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	3.5%	3.6%
2025	February	3.8%	3.6%
2025	March	3.4%	3.7%
2025	April	3.0%	3.7%
2025	May	3.2%	3.7%
2025	June	3.8%	3.7%
2025	July	3.9% <sup>†</sup>	3.7%**

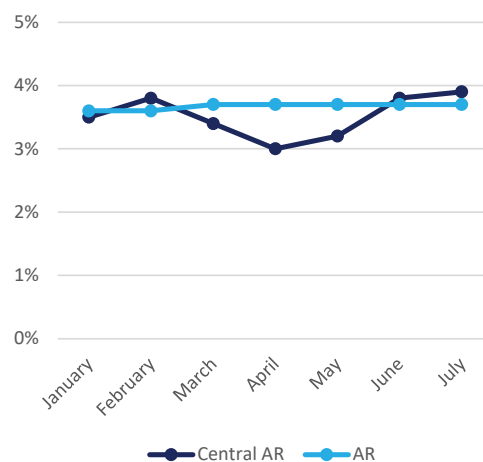
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

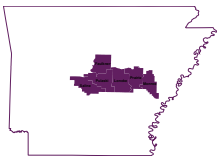
#### Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025



# Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages

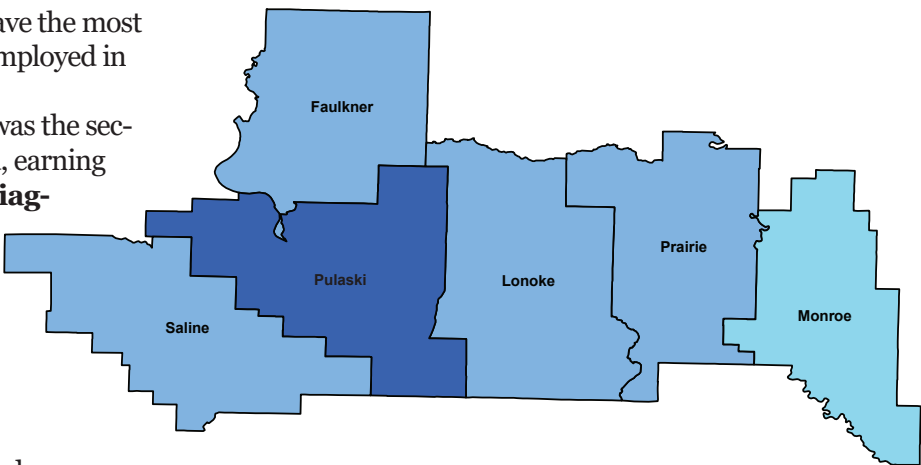


**Retail Sales Workers** was estimated to have the most employees in Central Arkansas with 6,320 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$31,444. **Food and Beverage Serving Workers** was the second largest occupation with 6,300 employed, earning an average wage of \$28,105. **Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners**, with an estimated employment of 3,690, had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning \$108,416 annually.

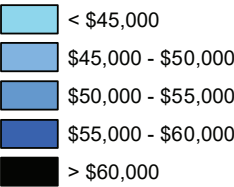
**Physicians, All Other** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$283,742. **Family Medicine Physicians**, with an average annual salary of \$279,605, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$27,337 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$40,747, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$59,533 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 92,460 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 7,575 made less than \$12 an hour while 22,982 made more than \$27 an hour. Employees making between \$17 and \$21.99 totaled 21,232. *Note: Wage data for Central Arkansas LWDA does not include Pulaski County.*



2024 Annual Average Wages



*\*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey*

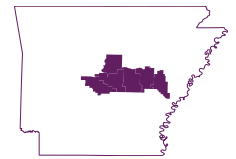
### Central Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Retail Sales Workers	6,320	\$31,444	\$24,955	\$34,688
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	6,300	\$28,105	\$23,493	\$30,412
Material Moving Workers	4,180	\$34,024	\$27,939	\$37,067
Construction Trades Workers	3,940	\$45,448	\$34,425	\$50,959
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	3,800	\$54,858	\$43,302	\$60,636
Information and Record Clerks	3,720	\$37,707	\$29,177	\$41,972
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	3,690	\$108,416	\$59,757	\$132,745
Fast Food and Counter Workers	3,600	\$27,625	\$23,946	\$29,465
Motor Vehicle Operators	3,120	\$45,968	\$30,443	\$53,730
Cooks and Food Preparation Workers	3,080	\$29,300	\$24,642	\$31,629

*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey*

# Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Wages



### Central Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

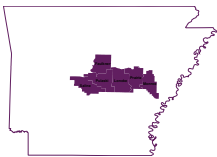
Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Physicians, All Other	\$283,742
Family Medicine Physicians	\$279,605
Dentists, General	\$188,715
Chief Executives	\$152,763
Computer Network Architects	\$142,323
Clinical and Counseling Psychologists	\$136,201
Lawyers	\$129,663
Pharmacists	\$128,796
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$123,929
Financial Managers	\$120,169
Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	\$115,895
Sales Managers	\$112,616
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$111,682
Nurse Practitioners	\$111,489
Operations Specialties Managers	\$110,273
Chiropractors	\$109,670
Natural Sciences Managers	\$109,627
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	\$108,416
Industrial Production Managers	\$107,663
Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	\$106,770
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$104,162
Veterinarians	\$103,260
Personal Financial Advisors	\$101,709
Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$101,685
Purchasing Managers	\$101,594

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages

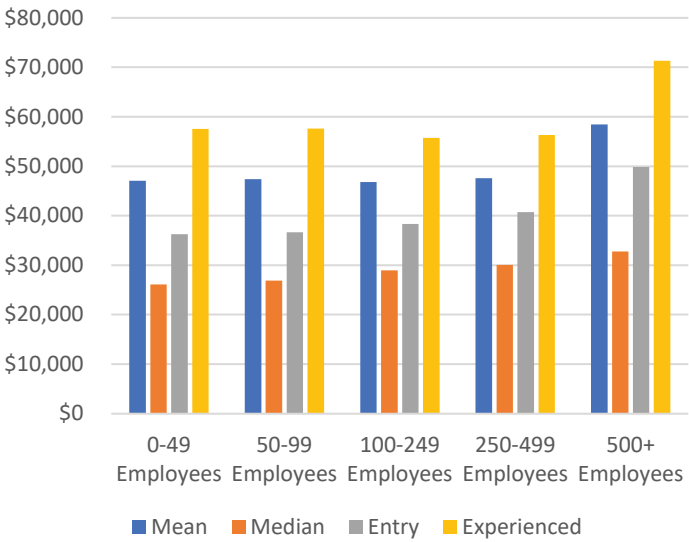


### Central Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

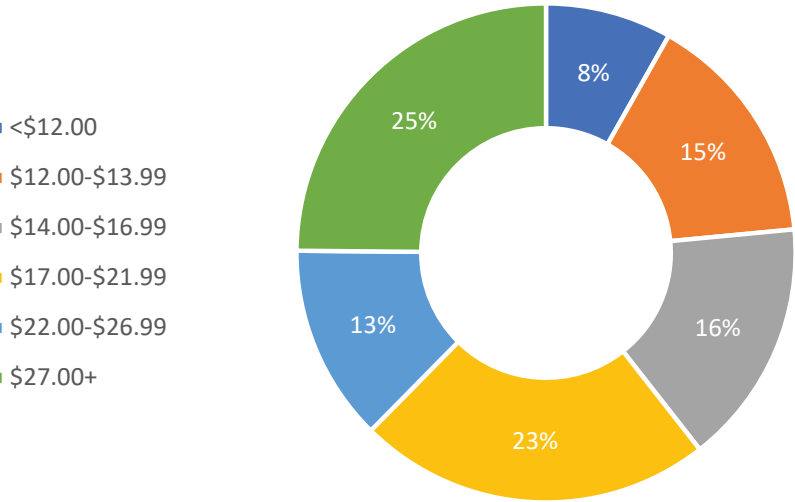
Central Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$48,801	\$27,337	\$37,868	\$59,533
0-49 Employees	\$47,064	\$26,117	\$36,243	\$57,537
50-99 Employees	\$47,372	\$26,850	\$36,623	\$57,634
100-249 Employees	\$46,800	\$28,982	\$38,350	\$55,708
250-499 Employees	\$47,552	\$30,069	\$40,747	\$56,294
500+ Employees	\$58,480	\$32,736	\$49,847	\$71,352

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



### Central Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate



Central Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate

Total	92,460
<\$12.00	7,575
\$12.00-\$13.99	14,143
\$14.00-\$16.99	14,738
\$17.00-\$21.99	21,232
\$22.00-\$26.99	11,790
\$27.00+	22,982

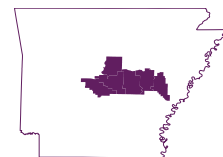
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



# Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Ambulatory Healthcare Services is slated to add 513 new jobs between 2024 and 2026, becoming the top growing industry in Central Arkansas, moving employment to 9,541. Educational Support Services is projected to raise employment levels by 43.14 percent, becoming the fastest growing industry, moving employment to 73. On the negative side of the job market, Religious Organizations is predicted to cut 355 jobs, becoming the top declining industry, while Grantmaking and Giving Services could see a 34.62 percent reduction, becoming the fastest declining industry. The **Education and Health Services** supersector leads the area, with 1,673 new jobs, moving employment to 42,014.

### Top Growing Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
102500	Education and Health Services	40,341	42,014	<b>1,673</b>	4.15%
102100	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	41,410	43,030	<b>1,620</b>	3.91%
101200	Construction	12,108	12,658	<b>550</b>	4.54%
102800	Government	15,373	15,882	<b>509</b>	3.31%
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	20,011	20,432	<b>421</b>	2.10%

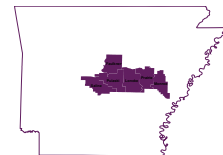
### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	9,028	9,541	<b>513</b>	5.68%
444000	Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	2,285	2,775	<b>490</b>	21.44%
238000	Specialty Trade Contractors	8,113	8,534	<b>421</b>	5.19%
999100	Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	5,199	5,591	<b>392</b>	7.54%
722000	Food Services and Drinking Places	17,446	17,832	<b>386</b>	2.21%
611100	Elementary and Secondary Schools	9,869	10,186	<b>317</b>	3.21%
445000	Food and Beverage Retailers	2,828	3,136	<b>308</b>	10.89%
622100	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	4,496	4,766	<b>270</b>	6.01%
424000	Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,905	3,173	<b>268</b>	9.23%
541000	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	6,044	6,290	<b>246</b>	4.07%

# Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
611700	Educational Support Services	51	73	22	<b>43.14%</b>
444000	Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	2,285	2,775	490	<b>21.44%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	160	188	28	<b>17.50%</b>
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	457	532	75	<b>16.41%</b>
221000	Utilities	633	705	72	<b>11.37%</b>
445000	Food and Beverage Retailers	2,828	3,136	308	<b>10.89%</b>
314000	Textile Product Mills	28	31	3	<b>10.71%</b>
424000	Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	2,905	3,173	268	<b>9.23%</b>
562000	Waste Management and Remediation Services	806	870	64	<b>7.94%</b>
332000	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2,589	2,788	199	<b>7.69%</b>

#### Top 10 Decline

813100	Religious Organizations	5,578	5,223	<b>-355</b>	-6.36%
524100	Insurance Carriers	1,490	1,284	<b>-206</b>	-13.83%
999200	State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	3,565	3,458	<b>-107</b>	-3.00%
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	588	502	<b>-86</b>	-14.63%
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	267	189	<b>-78</b>	-29.21%
551000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,105	1,030	<b>-75</b>	-6.79%
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	208	136	<b>-72</b>	-34.62%
561000	Administrative and Support Services	7,997	7,934	<b>-63</b>	-0.79%
457000	Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	2,042	1,983	<b>-59</b>	-2.89%
517000	Telecommunications	389	332	<b>-57</b>	-14.65%

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

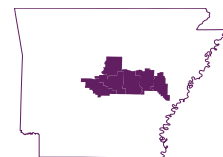
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	208	136	-72	<b>-34.62%</b>
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	267	189	-78	<b>-29.21%</b>
513000	Publishing Industries	123	96	-27	<b>-21.95%</b>
517000	Telecommunications	389	332	-57	<b>-14.65%</b>
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	588	502	-86	<b>-14.63%</b>
524100	Insurance Carriers	1,490	1,284	-206	<b>-13.83%</b>
611600	Other Schools and Instruction	446	394	-52	<b>-11.66%</b>
112000	Animal Production and Aquaculture	435	388	-47	<b>-10.80%</b>
327000	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	568	528	-40	<b>-7.04%</b>
551000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,105	1,030	-75	<b>-6.79%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Stockers and Order Fillers is estimated to be the top growing occupation, adding 265 jobs between 2024 and 2026. Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood is anticipated to be the fastest growing occupation, raising employment levels 15.56 percent to 52. On the negative side of the labor market, Clergy could be the top declining occupation during the 2024-2026 projection period, with a loss of 98 jobs, a 5.91 percent drop. Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers, is slated to lose 12 percent of its workforce during the same period, becoming the fastest declining occupation. **Transportation and Material Moving Occupations** is projected to gain 870 jobs from first quarter 2024 to first quarter 2026, becoming the top growing major group in Central Arkansas.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	19,724	20,594	<b>870</b>	4.41%	955	1,518	435	2,908
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	12,904	13,525	<b>621</b>	4.81%	390	363	310	1,063
41-0000	Sales and Related Occupations	18,124	18,617	<b>493</b>	2.72%	1,067	1,402	246	2,715
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	9,983	10,450	<b>467</b>	4.68%	308	548	234	1,090
11-0000	Management Occupations	16,342	16,792	<b>450</b>	2.75%	532	824	225	1,581

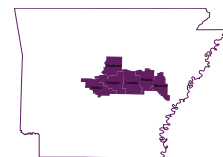
#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	4,516	4,781	<b>265</b>	5.87%	275	464	132	871
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	5,155	5,401	<b>246</b>	4.77%	333	431	123	887
29-1141	Registered Nurses	3,481	3,659	<b>178</b>	5.11%	104	80	89	273
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	6,843	7,009	<b>166</b>	2.43%	731	876	83	1,690
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	4,831	4,991	<b>160</b>	3.31%	110	284	80	474
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	2,496	2,650	<b>154</b>	6.17%	200	174	77	451
53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	4,888	5,022	<b>134</b>	2.74%	202	302	67	571
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	2,913	3,026	<b>113</b>	3.88%	136	248	56	440
47-2111	Electricians	1,686	1,795	<b>109</b>	6.47%	52	100	54	206
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	2,961	3,046	<b>85</b>	2.87%	178	241	42	461

# Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
51-7041	Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood	45	52	7	<b>15.56%</b>	2	4	4	10
49-3043	Rail Car Repairers	55	62	7	<b>12.73%</b>	2	3	4	9
27-1026	Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers	238	268	30	<b>12.61%</b>	11	16	15	42
53-4011	Locomotive Engineers	231	259	28	<b>12.12%</b>	6	14	14	34
49-3053	Outdoor Power Equipment and Other Small Engine Mechanics	46	51	5	<b>10.87%</b>	2	2	2	6
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	352	389	37	<b>10.51%</b>	8	8	18	34
49-9051	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	183	200	17	<b>9.29%</b>	4	10	8	22
29-1071	Physician Assistants	98	107	9	<b>9.18%</b>	2	3	4	9
39-1014	First-line Supervisors of Entertainment And Recreation Workers, Except Gambling Services	44	48	4	<b>9.09%</b>	2	3	2	7
51-8012	Power Distributors and Dispatchers	25	27	2	<b>8.00%</b>	1	2	1	4

#### Top 10 Decline

21-2011	Clergy	1,659	1,561	<b>-98</b>	-5.91%	68	71	-49	90
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	2,179	2,146	<b>-33</b>	-1.51%	116	119	-16	219
25-2011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	1,330	1,298	<b>-32</b>	-2.41%	56	88	-16	128
43-3071	Tellers	508	486	<b>-22</b>	-4.33%	20	30	-11	39
49-2022	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	175	154	<b>-21</b>	-12.00%	5	11	-10	6
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	2,893	2,874	<b>-19</b>	-0.66%	147	234	-10	371
43-9041	Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	278	259	<b>-19</b>	-6.83%	10	14	-10	14
25-3021	Self-Enrichment Teachers	204	194	<b>-10</b>	-4.90%	12	12	-5	19
35-2011	Cooks, Fast Food	651	641	<b>-10</b>	-1.54%	42	54	-5	91
51-9196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	234	227	<b>-7</b>	-2.99%	8	16	-4	20

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

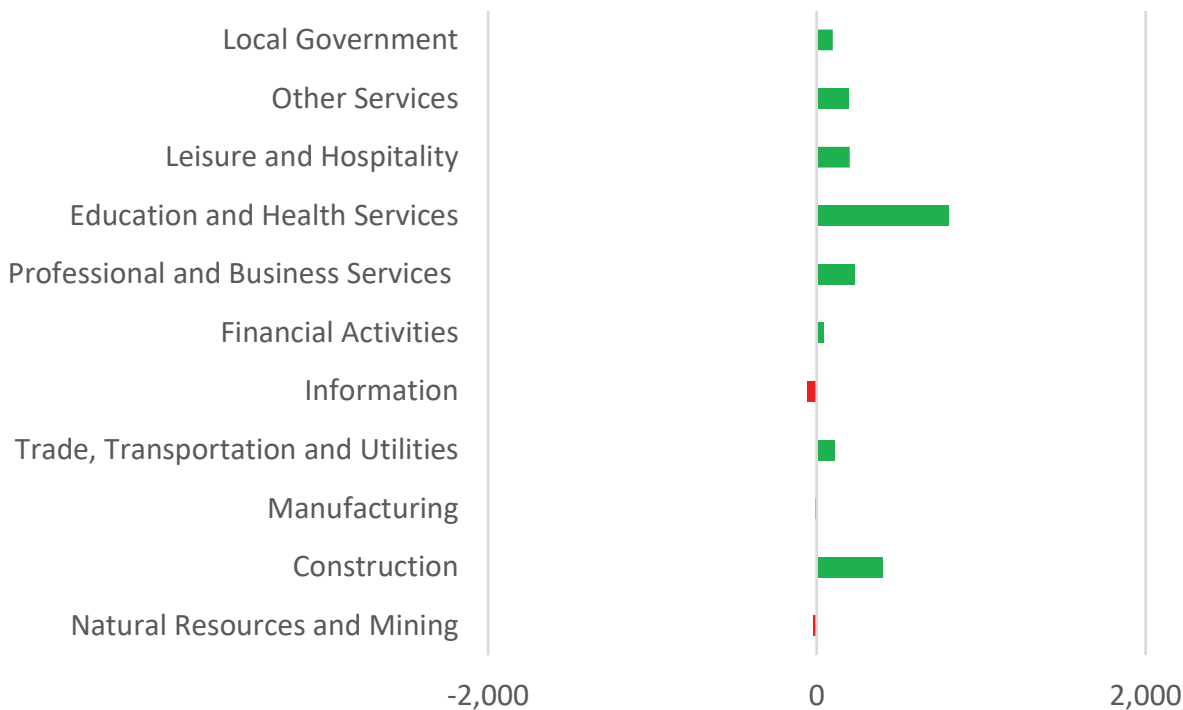
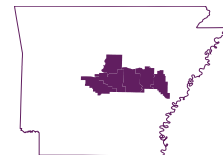
49-2022	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	175	154	-21	<b>-12.00%</b>	5	11	-10	6
43-9041	Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	278	259	-19	<b>-6.83%</b>	10	14	-10	14
21-2011	Clergy	1,659	1,561	-98	<b>-5.91%</b>	68	71	-49	90
25-3021	Self-Enrichment Teachers	204	194	-10	<b>-4.90%</b>	12	12	-5	19
43-3071	Tellers	508	486	-22	<b>-4.33%</b>	20	30	-11	39
51-2041	Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	142	136	-6	<b>-4.23%</b>	5	10	-3	12
13-2051	Financial and Investment Analysts	130	125	-5	<b>-3.85%</b>	2	6	-2	6
51-9196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	234	227	-7	<b>-2.99%</b>	8	16	-4	20
25-2011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	1,330	1,298	-32	<b>-2.41%</b>	56	88	-16	128
43-9021	Data Entry Keyers	224	219	-5	<b>-2.23%</b>	10	14	-2	22

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software



# Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Covered Employment and Earnings

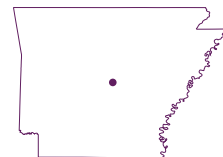


NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>89,466</b>	<b>91,395</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>\$1,045</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	1,011	990	-21	-2.1%	\$1,068
Construction	7,241	7,644	403	5.6%	\$1,176
Manufacturing	6,391	6,291	-11	-0.2%	\$1,164
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	18,320	18,429	109	0.6%	\$801
Information	1,775	1,714	-61	-3.4%	\$1,923
Financial Activities	3,493	3,539	46	1.3%	\$1,242
Professional and Business Services	6,974	7,205	231	3.3%	\$1,126
Education and Health Services	16,037	16,840	803	5.0%	\$936
Leisure and Hospitality	12,207	12,406	199	1.6%	\$403
Other Services	2,377	2,571	194	8.2%	\$793
Local Government	9,724	9,821	97	1.0%	\$940
State Government	3,916	3,945	29	0.7%	\$964

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages  
Note: Central Arkansas LWDA does not include Pulaski County for this data set.

# City of Little Rock

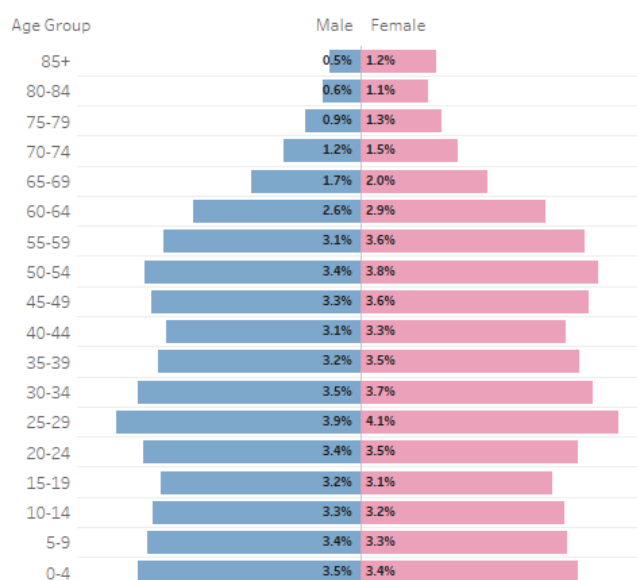
## Local Workforce Development Area



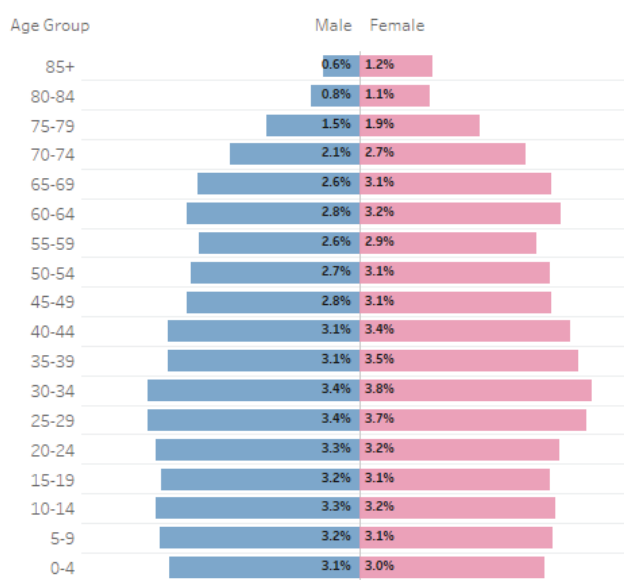
The City of Little Rock Local Workforce Development Area's (LWDA) population increased by 932 between 2023 and 2024, bringing the population to 204,774. The City of Little Rock's population grew by 2,183 between 2020 and 2024. The area is the county seat of Pulaski County and includes part of the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area.

### Population Pyramids for City of Little Rock

**2010** Pop: **193,973**



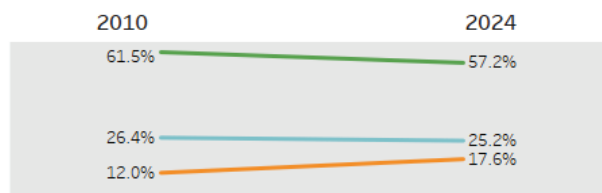
**2024** Pop: **204,773**



#### Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	23,306	36,086
Adults 20-64	119,387	117,066
Under 20	51,280	51,621
Total	193,973	204,773

#### Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics:2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

### Little Rock LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
202,591	201,998	202,864	203,842	204,774

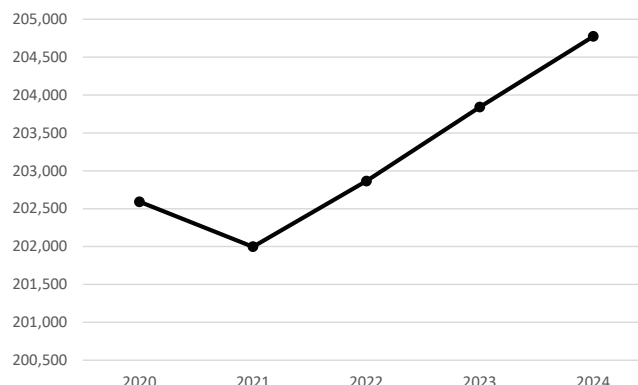
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

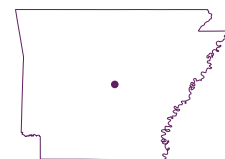
### Little Rock Population Progression



# City of Little Rock

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

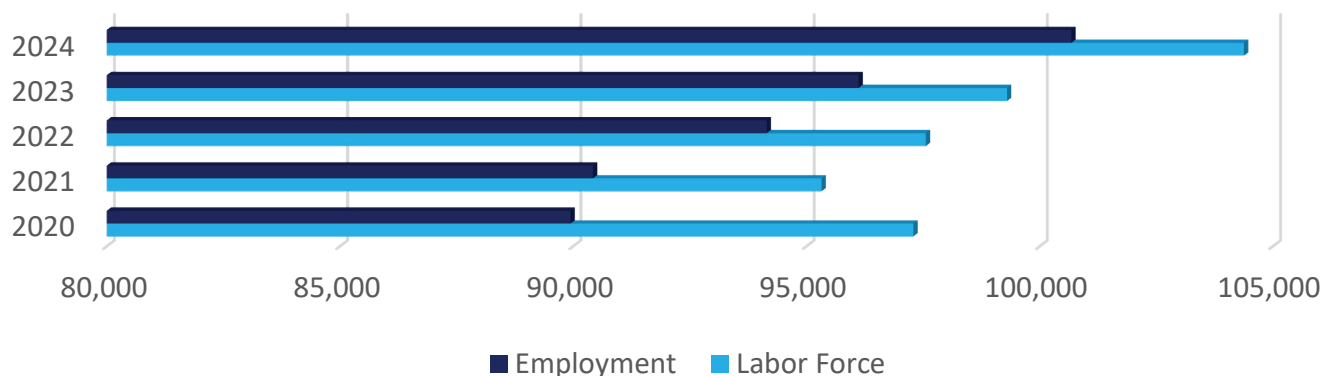


The labor force increased in the LWDA by 5,077 from 2023 to 2024, and saw an increase of 7,087 between 2020 and 2024. Employment increased by 4,563 from 2023 to 2024, and increased by 10,737 from 2020 to 2024. Unemployment and the unemployment rate increased between 2023 to 2024, with unemployment increasing by 511 and the unemployment rate increasing by 0.3 percent to 3.5 percent in 2024. The unemployment rate fluctuated from 2020 to 2024, but ultimately settled at 3.5 percent in 2024, 4.1 percent lower than 2020. The area unemployment rate fluctuated from January 2025 through July 2025, settling to 4.3 percent in July 2025.

#### Little Rock Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	97,292	95,325	97,560	99,302	104,379
Employment	89,942	90,424	94,149	96,116	100,679
Unemployment	7,350	4,901	3,411	3,189	3,700
Unemployment Rate	7.6%	5.1%	3.5%	3.2%	3.5%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



#### Little Rock Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\*

Year	Month	Little Rock Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	3.8%	3.6%
2025	February	4.1%	3.6%
2025	March	3.7%	3.7%
2025	April	3.3%	3.7%
2025	May	3.5%	3.7%
2025	June	4.1%	3.7%
2025	July	4.3% <sup>†</sup>	3.7%**

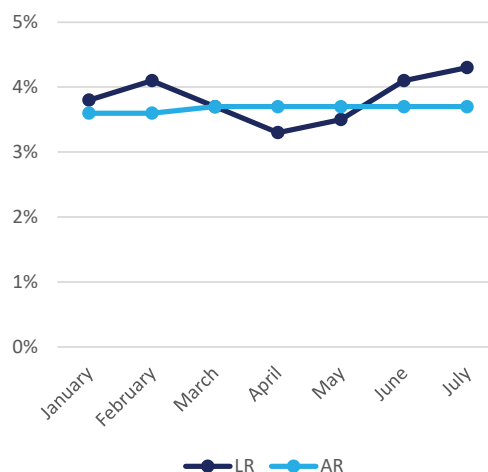
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

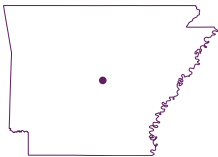
#### Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025



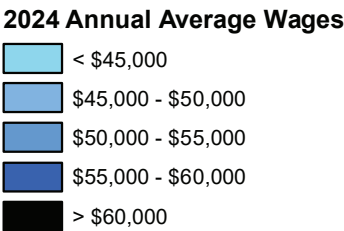
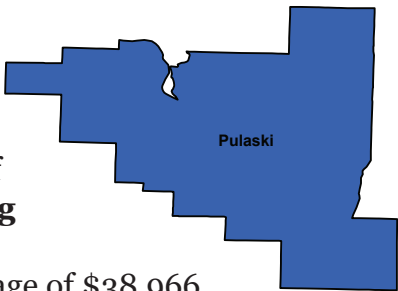
# City of Little Rock

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



**Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners** was estimated to have the most employees in Little Rock with 17,510 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$98,261, giving it the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations. **Material Moving Workers** is the second largest occupation with 14,080 employed, earning an average wage of \$38,966.



*\*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services  
May 2025 Wage Survey*

**Physicians, All Other** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$224,588. **Radiologists**, with an average annual salary of \$207,362, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$29,840 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$46,515, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$71,969 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 258,170 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 93,340 made more than \$27 an hour while 13,893 made less than \$12 an hour. Employees making between \$17 and \$21.99 totaled 50,263. *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

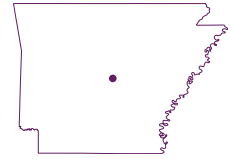
Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	17,510	\$98,261	\$60,123	\$117,329
Material Moving Workers	14,080	\$38,966	\$29,307	\$43,796
Retail Sales Workers	12,600	\$32,328	\$25,047	\$35,968
Business Operations Specialists	12,440	\$71,485	\$42,913	\$85,770
Information and Record Clerks	10,900	\$40,219	\$29,858	\$45,399
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	10,140	\$28,444	\$23,539	\$30,896
Motor Vehicle Operators	10,010	\$53,395	\$32,260	\$63,962
Registered Nurses	9,810	\$81,707	\$61,860	\$91,631
Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	7,820	\$31,479	\$25,663	\$34,387
Other Management Occupations	7,490	\$94,353	\$49,873	\$116,594

*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey*



# City of Little Rock

## Local Workforce Development Area Wages



### City of Little Rock LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

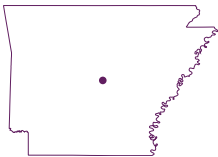
Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Physicians, All Other	\$224,588
Radiologists	\$207,362
Chief Executives	\$206,835
Psychiatrists	\$199,142
Dentists, General	\$194,909
Dentists, All Other Specialists	\$194,850
Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	\$189,517
Nurse Anesthetists	\$172,947
Physicists	\$146,626
Education Administrators, Postsecondary	\$145,683
Computer Hardware Engineers	\$140,848
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$139,020
Lawyers	\$137,283
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$131,075
Industrial Production Managers	\$129,586
Pharmacists	\$128,173
Financial Managers	\$127,684
Airline Pilots, Copilots, and Flight Engineers	\$127,412
Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	\$126,942
Postsecondary Teachers	\$125,522
Sales Managers	\$123,774
Personal Financial Advisors	\$121,939
Power Distributors and Dispatchers	\$120,818
Optometrists	\$120,596
Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	\$120,550

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# City of Little Rock

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages

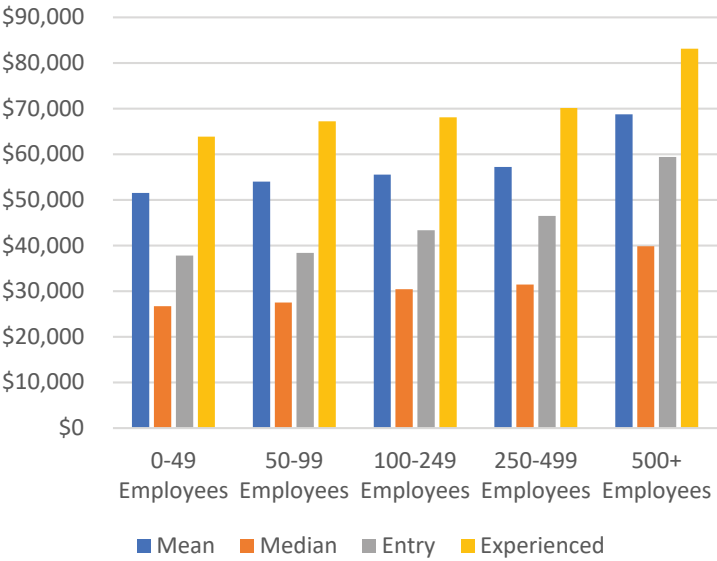


### Little Rock Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

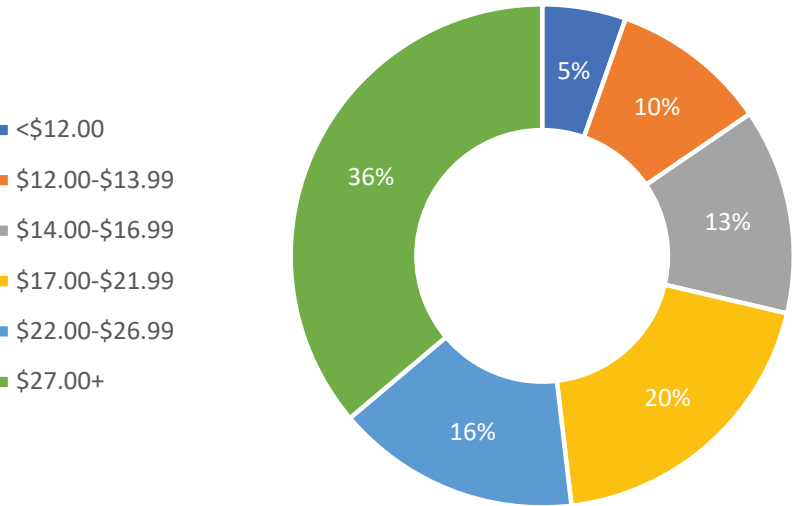
Little Rock Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$57,926	\$29,840	\$46,679	\$71,969
0-49 Employees	\$51,498	\$26,724	\$37,775	\$63,885
50-99 Employees	\$53,970	\$27,485	\$38,411	\$67,213
100-249 Employees	\$55,520	\$30,395	\$43,330	\$68,082
250-499 Employees	\$57,217	\$31,448	\$46,515	\$70,102
500+ Employees	\$68,729	\$39,862	\$59,434	\$83,163

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



### Little Rock Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate



Little Rock Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate

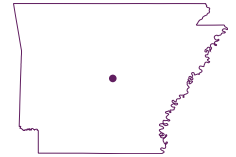
Total	258,170
<\$12.00	13,893
\$12.00-\$13.99	26,004
\$14.00-\$16.99	34,134
\$17.00-\$21.99	50,263
\$22.00-\$26.99	40,536
\$27.00+	93,340

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# City of Little Rock

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Insurance Carriers is predicted to be the top growing industry, increasing employment by 879 jobs, to a total employment of 15,703. Wood Product Manufacturing is slated to be the fastest growing industry, expected to grow by 366.27 percent between 2024 and 2026. On the negative side of the economy, Social Advocacy Organizations is forecast to be the top and fastest declining industry in the City of Little Rock WDA, cutting an estimated 470 jobs, or 24.42 percent of its workforce. **Manufacturing** is projected to be the top growing supersector, increasing its workforce by 1,211 jobs, a gain of 17.03 percent.

### Top Growing Industry Supersectors

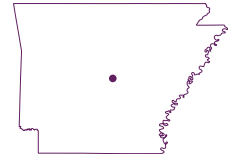
NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
101300	Manufacturing	7,113	8,324	<b>1,211</b>	17.03%
102500	Education and Health Services	57,666	58,504	<b>838</b>	1.45%
102300	Financial Activities	24,167	24,806	<b>639</b>	2.64%
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	14,540	15,095	<b>555</b>	3.82%
101200	Construction	5,835	6,062	<b>227</b>	3.89%

### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
524100	Insurance Carriers	14,824	15,703	<b>879</b>	5.93%
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	11,176	11,811	<b>635</b>	5.68%
722000	Food Services and Drinking Places	11,316	11,783	<b>467</b>	4.13%
999100	Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	3,694	4,044	<b>350</b>	9.47%
624000	Social Assistance	6,100	6,435	<b>335</b>	5.49%
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	83	387	<b>304</b>	366.27%
551000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	4,881	5,090	<b>209</b>	4.28%
999300	Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	5,151	5,342	<b>191</b>	3.71%
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	1,762	1,937	<b>175</b>	9.93%
237000	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	1,346	1,509	<b>163</b>	12.11%

# City of Little Rock

## Local Workforce Development Area Industry



### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	83	387	304	<b>366.27%</b>
111000	Crop Production	178	252	74	<b>41.57%</b>
332000	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	633	772	139	<b>21.96%</b>
611700	Educational Support Services	61	73	12	<b>19.67%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	192	226	34	<b>17.71%</b>
488000	Support Activities for Transportation	692	785	93	<b>13.44%</b>
237000	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	1,346	1,509	163	<b>12.11%</b>
485000	Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	712	785	73	<b>10.25%</b>
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	1,762	1,937	175	<b>9.93%</b>
999100	Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	3,694	4,044	350	<b>9.47%</b>

### Top 10 Decline

813300	Social Advocacy Organizations	1,925	1,455	<b>-470</b>	-24.42%
999200	State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	11,079	10,731	<b>-348</b>	-3.14%
813100	Religious Organizations	3,076	2,894	<b>-182</b>	-5.92%
561000	Administrative and Support Services	10,019	9,851	<b>-168</b>	-1.68%
484000	Truck Transportation	1,852	1,704	<b>-148</b>	-7.99%
522000	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	2,921	2,799	<b>-122</b>	-4.18%
323000	Printing and Related Support Activities	484	383	<b>-101</b>	-20.87%
524200	Agencies, Brokerages, and Other Insurance Related Activities	1,894	1,800	<b>-94</b>	-4.96%
513000	Publishing Industries	596	525	<b>-71</b>	-11.91%
449000	Furniture, Home Furnishings, Electronics, and Appliance Retailers	907	864	<b>-43</b>	-4.74%

### Top 10 Fastest Decline

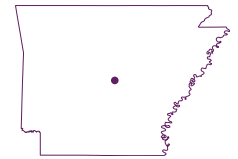
813300	Social Advocacy Organizations	1,925	1,455	-470	<b>-24.42%</b>
323000	Printing and Related Support Activities	484	383	-101	<b>-20.87%</b>
513000	Publishing Industries	596	525	-71	<b>-11.91%</b>
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	272	246	-26	<b>-9.56%</b>
484000	Truck Transportation	1,852	1,704	-148	<b>-7.99%</b>
813100	Religious Organizations	3,076	2,894	-182	<b>-5.92%</b>
339000	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	174	164	-10	<b>-5.75%</b>
517000	Telecommunications	577	545	-32	<b>-5.55%</b>
518000	Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Services	273	259	-14	<b>-5.13%</b>
524200	Agencies, Brokerages, and Other Insurance Related Activities	1,894	1,800	-94	<b>-4.96%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# City of Little Rock

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Home Health and Personal Care Aides leads the City of Little Rock WDA in numeric growth, adding 199 jobs, a 7.36 percent gain, between 2024 and 2026, moving employment to 2,902. Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders could increase by 41.75 percent to a level of 146, becoming the fastest growing occupation in the area. On the negative side of the local economy, Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators is slated to be the top declining occupation in the area, losing 69 jobs, or 4.63 percent of its workforce, while Print Binding and Finishing Workers is slated to cut 21.15 percent of its workforce, becoming the fastest declining occupation in the City of Little Rock WDA. **Production Occupations** is anticipated to be the top growing major group, raising employment by 744 new jobs between 2024 and 2026 to a level of 8,129.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
51-0000	Production Occupations	7,385	8,129	744	10.07%	314	524	372	1,210
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations Occupations	20,441	20,923	482	2.36%	563	994	241	1,798
11-0000	Management Occupations	19,132	19,604	472	2.47%	497	969	236	1,702
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	12,343	12,812	469	3.80%	1,045	1,374	234	2,653
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	22,451	22,719	268	1.19%	644	576	134	1,354

#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

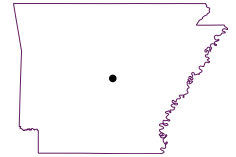
SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	2,703	2,902	199	7.36%	218	190	100	508
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	4,023	4,197	174	4.33%	434	520	87	1,041
13-1031	Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	3,806	3,969	163	4.28%	86	174	82	342
43-9041	Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	3,400	3,541	141	4.15%	126	179	70	375
29-1141	Registered Nurses	7,923	8,059	136	1.72%	234	178	68	480
51-2090	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	815	939	124	15.21%	34	60	62	156
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	2,684	2,805	121	4.51%	92	121	60	273
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	1,980	2,097	117	5.91%	50	93	58	201
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	1,452	1,546	94	6.47%	99	126	47	272
13-2053	Insurance Underwriters	1,923	2,015	92	4.78%	56	84	46	186



# City of Little Rock

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
51-9124	Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	103	146	43	<b>41.75%</b>	4	8	22	34
53-4011	Locomotive Engineers	50	68	18	<b>36.00%</b>	2	3	9	14
51-2028	Electrical, Electronic, & Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, & Finishers	160	216	56	<b>35.00%</b>	8	12	28	48
53-4031	Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters	38	51	13	<b>34.21%</b>	1	3	6	10
51-9161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	39	50	11	<b>28.21%</b>	2	3	6	11
51-4041	Machinists	95	115	20	<b>21.05%</b>	4	6	10	20
39-7010	Tour and Travel Guides	29	35	6	<b>20.69%</b>	3	4	3	10
17-3023	Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technologists and Technicians	96	113	17	<b>17.71%</b>	4	5	8	17
51-4081	Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	195	228	33	<b>16.92%</b>	8	13	16	37
45-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers	26	30	4	<b>15.38%</b>	2	2	2	6

#### Top 10 Decline

53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	1,491	1,422	<b>-69</b>	-4.63%	44	98	-34	108
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	1,887	1,830	<b>-57</b>	-3.02%	100	102	-28	174
21-2011	Clergy	980	933	<b>-47</b>	-4.80%	40	42	-24	58
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	3,616	3,570	<b>-46</b>	-1.27%	183	292	-23	452
53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	2,749	2,703	<b>-46</b>	-1.67%	112	166	-23	255
43-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	2,634	2,597	<b>-37</b>	-1.40%	97	150	-18	229
43-3071	Tellers	487	454	<b>-33</b>	-6.78%	19	28	-16	31
33-9032	Security Guards	1,530	1,504	<b>-26</b>	-1.70%	75	118	-13	180
51-5112	Printing Press Operators	210	184	<b>-26</b>	-12.38%	8	13	-13	8
43-3031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	2,118	2,097	<b>-21</b>	-0.99%	124	114	-10	228

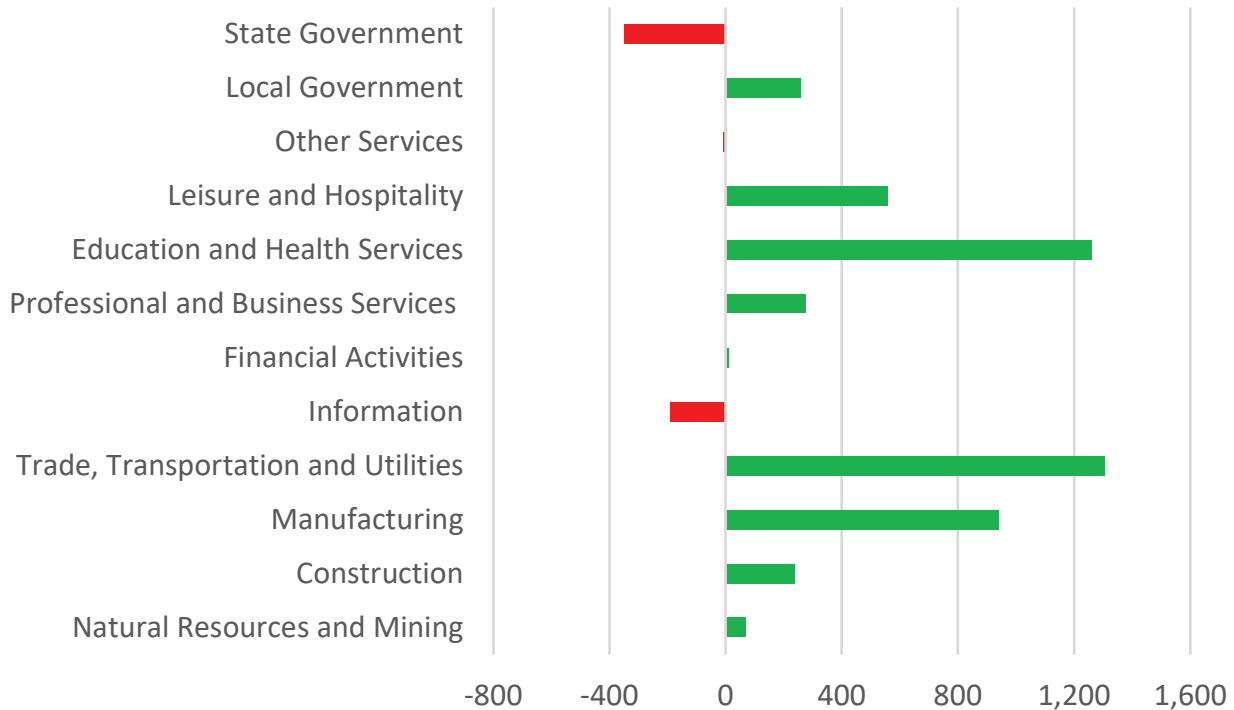
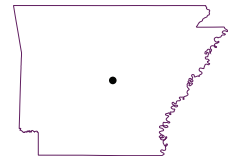
#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

51-5113	Print Binding and Finishing Workers	52	41	-11	<b>-21.15%</b>	3	2	-6	0
51-5111	Prepress Technicians and Workers	35	28	-7	<b>-20.00%</b>	2	2	-4	0
51-5112	Printing Press Operators	210	184	-26	<b>-12.38%</b>	8	13	-13	8
19-4061	Social Science Research Assistants	46	41	-5	<b>-10.87%</b>	1	4	-2	3
43-4141	New Accounts Clerks	70	65	-5	<b>-7.14%</b>	2	4	-2	4
31-1133	Psychiatric Aides	273	254	-19	<b>-6.96%</b>	13	25	-10	28
39-3031	Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers	116	108	-8	<b>-6.90%</b>	14	17	-4	27
43-3071	Tellers	487	454	-33	<b>-6.78%</b>	19	28	-16	31
27-3041	Editors	125	118	-7	<b>-5.60%</b>	4	6	-4	6
49-2022	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	242	230	-12	<b>-4.96%</b>	7	16	-6	17

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# City of Little Rock

## Local Workforce Development Area Covered Employment and Earnings

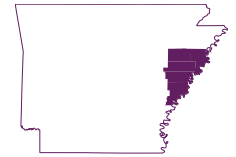


NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>247,154</b>	<b>251,527</b>	<b>4,373</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>\$1,254</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	733	804	71	9.7%	\$1,535
Construction	10,630	10,870	240	2.3%	\$1,371
Manufacturing	12,357	13,299	942	7.6%	\$1,356
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	54,886	56,191	1,305	2.4%	\$1,086
Information	2,645	2,456	-189	-7.1%	\$1,423
Financial Activities	17,617	17,628	11	0.0%	\$1,752
Professional and Business Services	33,994	34,269	275	0.8%	\$1,325
Education and Health Services	43,513	44,774	1,261	2.9%	\$1,211
Leisure and Hospitality	22,635	23,193	558	2.5%	\$472
Other Services	6,852	6,843	-9	-0.1%	\$1,006
Local Government	14,315	14,575	260	1.8%	\$1,082
State Government	26,977	26,625	-352	-1.3%	\$1,434

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages  
Note: City of Little Rock LWDA includes all of Pulaski County for this data set.

# Eastern Arkansas

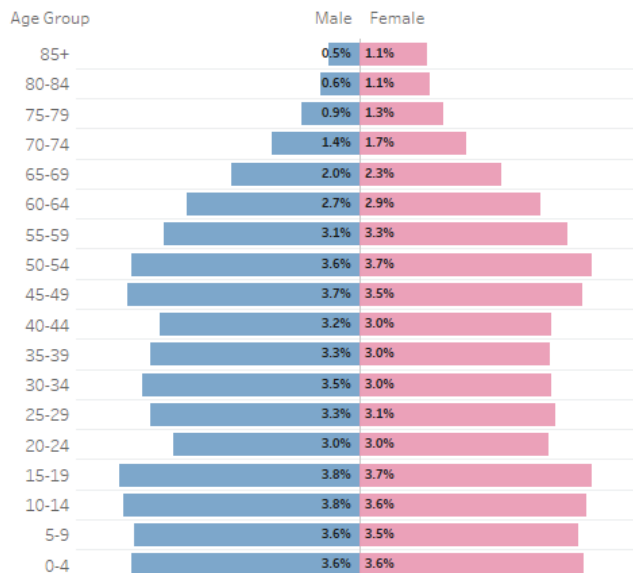
## Local Workforce Development Area



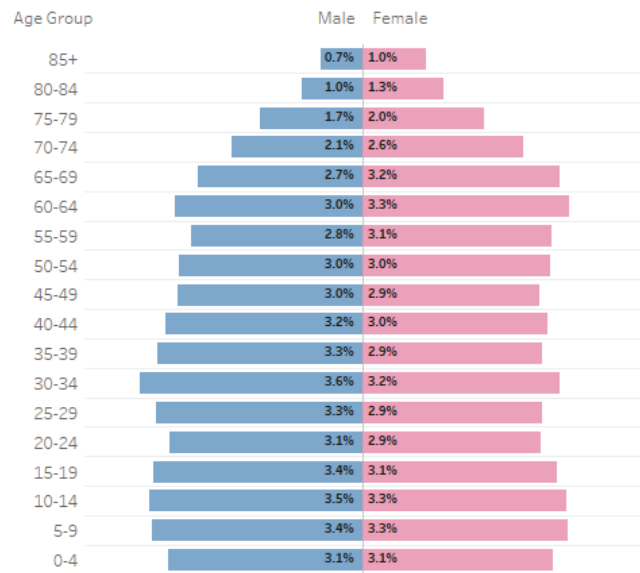
The Eastern Arkansas LWDA includes five counties: Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Phillips, and Saint Francis. With Tennessee bordering to the east, Crittenden County is part of the Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area.

### Population Pyramids for Eastern Arkansas

**2010** Pop: **129,085**



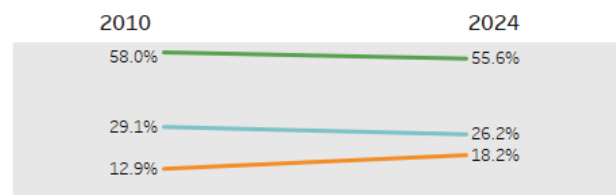
**2024** Pop: **107,414**



#### Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	16,671	19,552
Adults 20-64	74,839	59,669
Under 20	37,575	28,193
Total	129,085	107,414

#### Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



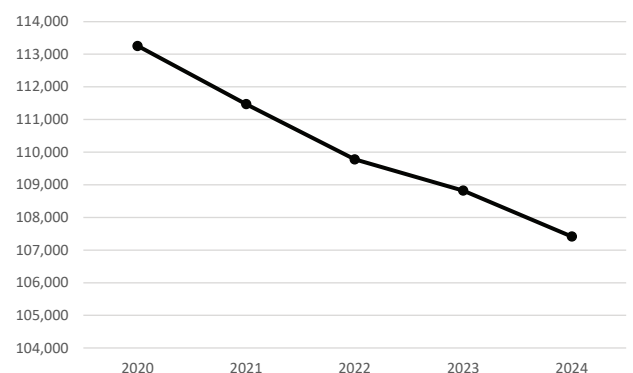
Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics:2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

### Eastern Arkansas LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
113,254	111,470	109,781	108,822	107,414

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Eastern Arkansas Population Progression



### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Eastern Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

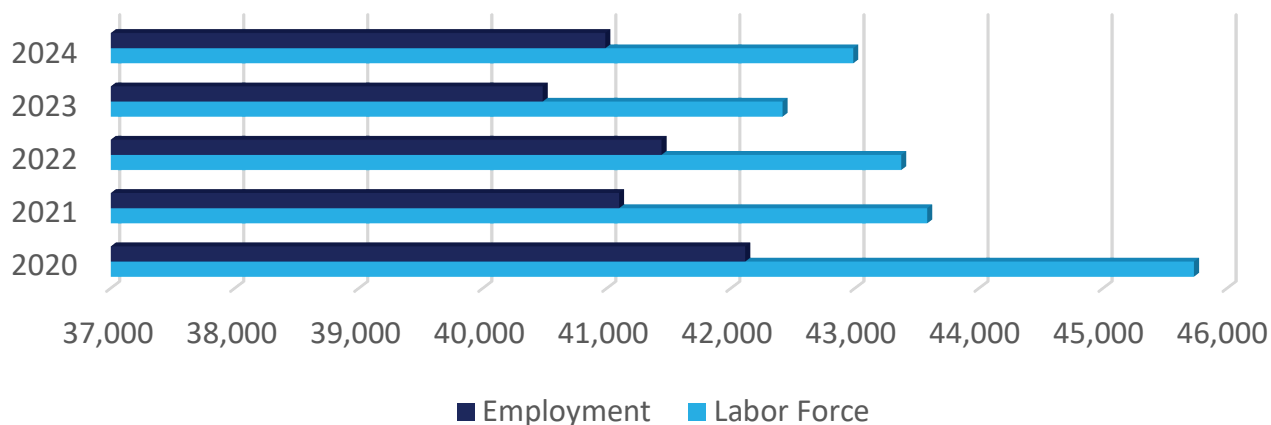


The labor force in the Eastern Arkansas LWDA increased by 570 to 42,987 in 2024 from 2023, but has decreased by 2,747 from 2020 to 2024. Employment increased from 2023 to 2024, gaining 505 workers to 40,988. Unemployment saw a slight increase from 2023 to 2024, having 65 more unemployed, bringing the unemployment rate from 4.6 percent to 4.7 percent. Since the beginning of 2025, the unemployment rate fluctuated from 5.6 percent in January, ending July 2025 at 6.0 percent.

**Eastern Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	45,734	43,583	43,374	42,417	42,987
Employment	42,116	41,099	41,441	40,483	40,988
Unemployment	3,618	2,484	1,933	1,934	1,999
Unemployment Rate	7.9%	5.7%	4.5%	4.6%	4.7%

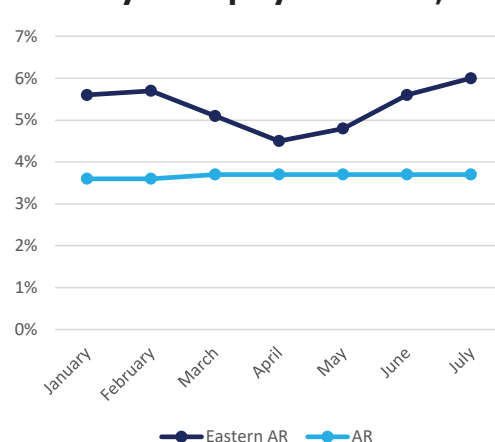
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



**Eastern Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\***

Year	Month	Eastern Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	5.6%	3.6%
2025	February	5.7%	3.6%
2025	March	5.1%	3.7%
2025	April	4.5%	3.7%
2025	May	4.8%	3.7%
2025	June	5.6%	3.7%
2025	July	6.0%†	3.7%**

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025**



Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

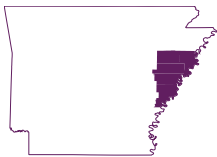
\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

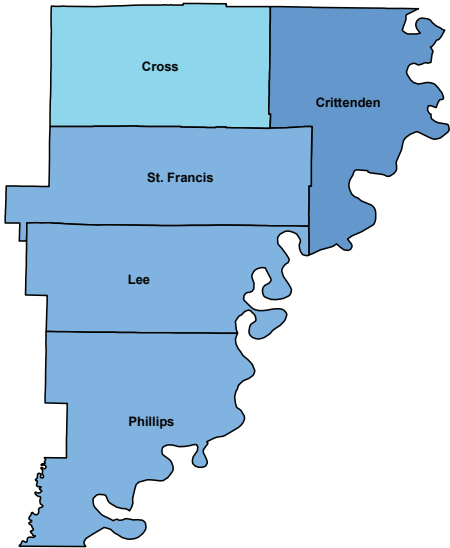
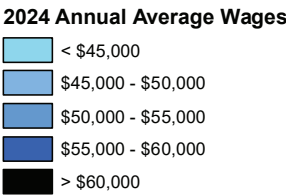
# Eastern Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



**Retail Sales Workers** was estimated to have the most employees in Eastern Arkansas with 2,130 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$30,485. **Material Moving Workers** was the second largest occupation with 1,980 employed, earning an average wage of \$35,844. **Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners**, with an estimated employment of 1,080, had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning \$100,247 annually.



*\*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services  
May 2025 Wage Survey*

**Physicians, All Other** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$248,965. **Dentists, General**, with an average annual salary of \$164,584, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$27,655 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$48,029, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$58,716 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 32,830 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 2,374 made less than \$12 an hour while 7,402 made \$17 to \$21.99 an hour. Employees making more than \$27 an hour totaled 5,789.

### Eastern Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Retail Sales Workers	2,130	\$30,485	\$24,398	\$33,528
Material Moving Workers	1,980	\$35,844	\$28,405	\$39,563
Motor Vehicle Operators	1,860	\$56,702	\$32,265	\$68,920
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	1,660	\$27,677	\$23,858	\$29,586
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	1,570	\$52,426	\$42,263	\$57,508
Cashiers	1,290	\$27,702	\$23,946	\$29,580
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,260	\$64,113	\$38,313	\$77,013
Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	1,190	\$28,837	\$23,987	\$31,262
Fast Food and Counter Workers	1,150	\$26,796	\$23,904	\$28,243
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	1,080	\$100,247	\$55,089	\$122,827

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



# Eastern Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Wages



### Eastern Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

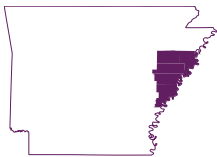
Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Physicians, All Other	\$248,965
Dentists, General	\$164,584
Pharmacists	\$135,368
Nurse Practitioners	\$124,460
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$122,690
Sales Managers	\$120,398
Financial Managers	\$117,760
Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	\$117,655
Chief Executives	\$115,933
Lawyers	\$114,939
Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	\$113,264
Civil Engineers	\$109,715
Operations Specialties Managers	\$107,350
Industrial Production Managers	\$107,088
First-Line Supervisors of Non-Retail Sales Workers	\$104,558
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$103,773
Facilities Managers	\$101,448
Occupational Therapists	\$100,947
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	\$100,247
Administrative Services Managers	\$96,505
Financial Examiners	\$96,427
Physical Therapists	\$95,119
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$94,763
Medical and Health Services Managers	\$94,193
Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	\$92,210

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Eastern Arkansas

Local Workforce Development Area

Wages

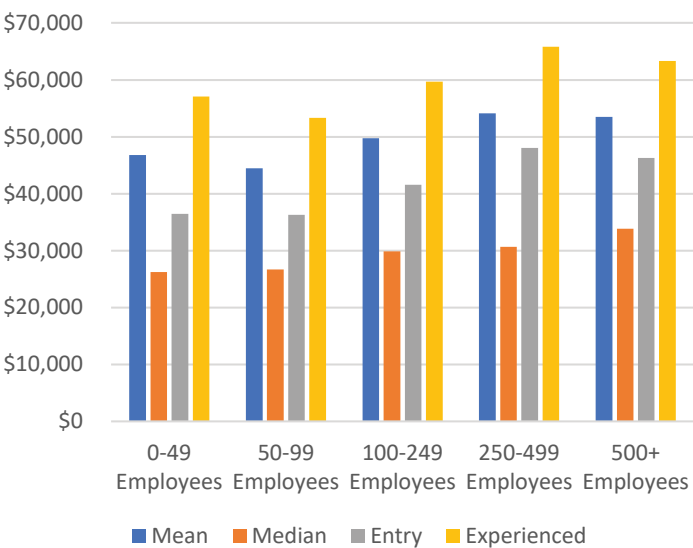


## Eastern Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

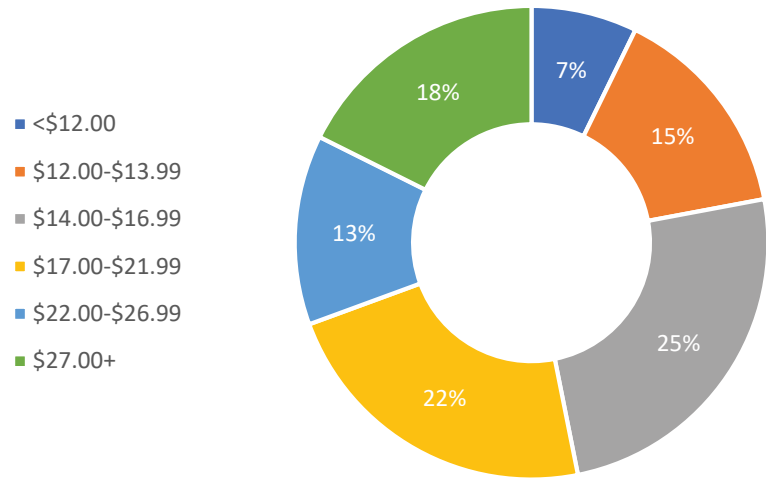
Eastern Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$48,362	\$27,655	\$38,414	\$58,716
0-49 Employees	\$46,800	\$26,266	\$36,480	\$57,067
50-99 Employees	\$44,452	\$26,678	\$36,283	\$53,339
100-249 Employees	\$49,741	\$29,894	\$41,549	\$59,664
250-499 Employees	\$54,120	\$30,683	\$48,029	\$65,839
500+ Employees	\$53,503	\$33,871	\$46,268	\$63,320

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



## Eastern Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate



Eastern Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate

Total	32,830
<\$12.00	2,374
\$12.00-\$13.99	4,865
\$14.00-\$16.99	8,144
\$17.00-\$21.99	7,402
\$22.00-\$26.99	4,256
\$27.00+	5,789

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Eastern Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Warehousing and Storage is projected to be the top and fastest growing industry, increasing employment by 162 jobs to an employment level of 381, a 73.97 percent increase. On the negative side of the job market, Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods is predicted to lose 41 jobs, becoming the top declining industry, while Machinery Manufacturing is projected to lose 23.38 percent of its workforce between 2024 and 2026. **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** is estimated to be the top growing supersector in the Eastern Arkansas WDA, gaining 147 new jobs between first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2026.

### Top Growing Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
102100	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	8,465	8,612	147	1.74%
102500	Education and Health Services	8,678	8,743	65	0.75%
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	4,203	4,225	22	0.52%
102800	Government	3,908	3,927	19	0.49%
102200	Information	93	99	6	6.45%

### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
493000	Warehousing and Storage	219	381	162	73.97%
423000	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	1,021	1,108	87	8.52%
624000	Social Assistance	1,656	1,728	72	4.35%
623000	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	1,061	1,099	38	3.58%
999300	Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	1,924	1,962	38	1.98%
455000	General Merchandise Retailers	1,330	1,347	17	1.28%
484000	Truck Transportation	1,428	1,442	14	0.98%
814000	Private Households	92	105	13	14.13%
492000	Couriers and Messengers	74	84	10	13.51%
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	51	60	9	17.65%

# Eastern Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
493000	Warehousing and Storage	219	381	162	<b>73.97%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	51	60	9	<b>17.65%</b>
517000	Telecommunications	32	37	5	<b>15.63%</b>
814000	Private Households	92	105	13	<b>14.13%</b>
492000	Couriers and Messengers	74	84	10	<b>13.51%</b>
516000	Broadcasting and Content Providers	30	34	4	<b>13.33%</b>
524100	Insurance Carriers	48	53	5	<b>10.42%</b>
423000	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	1,021	1,108	87	<b>8.52%</b>
485000	Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	84	88	4	<b>4.76%</b>
237000	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	155	162	7	<b>4.52%</b>

#### Top 10 Decline

424000	Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	859	818	<b>-41</b>	-4.77%
457000	Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	745	706	<b>-39</b>	-5.23%
811000	Repair and Maintenance	392	355	<b>-37</b>	-9.44%
333000	Machinery Manufacturing	154	118	<b>-36</b>	-23.38%
325000	Chemical Manufacturing	334	299	<b>-35</b>	-10.48%
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	1,861	1,828	<b>-33</b>	-1.77%
456000	Health and Personal Care Retailers	248	222	<b>-26</b>	-10.48%
111000	Crop Production	1,481	1,457	<b>-24</b>	-1.62%
522000	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	522	500	<b>-22</b>	-4.21%
813100	Religious Organizations	724	703	<b>-21</b>	-2.90%

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

333000	Machinery Manufacturing	154	118	-36	<b>-23.38%</b>
458000	Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	98	81	-17	<b>-17.35%</b>
812000	Personal and Laundry Services	116	103	-13	<b>-11.21%</b>
456000	Health and Personal Care Retailers	248	222	-26	<b>-10.48%</b>
325000	Chemical Manufacturing	334	299	-35	<b>-10.48%</b>
524200	Agencies, Brokerages, and Other Insurance Related Activities	106	95	-11	<b>-10.38%</b>
811000	Repair and Maintenance	392	355	-37	<b>-9.44%</b>
236000	Construction of Buildings	76	69	-7	<b>-9.21%</b>
327000	Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	79	74	-5	<b>-6.33%</b>
551000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	117	110	-7	<b>-5.98%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Eastern Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Home Health and Personal Care Aides is predicted to be the top growing occupation in the Eastern Arkansas WDA between 2024 and 2026, adding 58 jobs, increasing its workforce to 918 jobs. Conveyor Operators and Tenders is estimated to be the fastest growing occupation, increasing employment by 15.63 percent, to a level of 37. On the negative side of the labor market, Cashiers could see a drop of 43 jobs, or 3.40 percent of its workforce, while Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders is expected to lose 12.77 percent of its workforce, becoming the fastest declining occupation. **Transportation and Material Moving Occupations** is forecast to be the top growing major group for the 2024-2026 projection period, with 129 new jobs, moving employment to 4,524.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	4,395	4,524	129	2.94%	216	326	64	606
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	1,522	1,583	61	4.01%	104	116	30	250
39-0000	Personal Care and Service Occupations	1,025	1,042	17	1.66%	66	108	8	182
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	1,173	1,181	8	0.68%	71	88	4	163
33-0000	Protective Service Occupations	1,358	1,365	7	0.52%	49	78	4	131

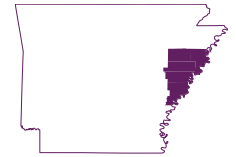
#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	860	918	58	6.74%	69	60	29	158
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	553	604	51	9.22%	26	48	26	100
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	829	860	31	3.74%	50	84	16	150
53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	162	177	15	9.26%	5	12	8	25
39-9011	Childcare Workers	435	444	9	2.07%	32	43	4	79
45-2091	Agricultural Equipment Operators	101	110	9	8.91%	6	10	4	20
49-3041	Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	108	117	9	8.33%	3	6	4	13
39-9032	Recreation Workers	77	85	8	10.39%	6	11	4	21
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	345	352	7	2.03%	20	28	4	52
41-4012	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	332	339	7	2.11%	10	19	4	33



# Eastern Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area



### Occupations

#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
53-7011	Conveyor Operators and Tenders	32	37	5	<b>15.63%</b>	1	2	2	5
39-9032	Recreation Workers	77	85	8	<b>10.39%</b>	6	11	4	21
53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	162	177	15	<b>9.26%</b>	5	12	8	25
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	553	604	51	<b>9.22%</b>	26	48	26	100
45-2091	Agricultural Equipment Operators	101	110	9	<b>8.91%</b>	6	10	4	20
49-3041	Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	108	117	9	<b>8.33%</b>	3	6	4	13
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	860	918	58	<b>6.74%</b>	69	60	29	158
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	95	101	6	<b>6.32%</b>	2	2	3	7
43-9041	Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	50	53	3	<b>6.00%</b>	2	2	2	6
29-1127	Speech-Language Pathologists	39	41	2	<b>5.13%</b>	1	1	1	3

#### Top 10 Decline

41-2011	Cashiers	1,263	1,220	<b>-43</b>	-3.40%	113	123	-22	214
51-2090	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	442	403	<b>-39</b>	-8.82%	16	29	-20	25
11-9013	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	1,481	1,453	<b>-28</b>	-1.89%	100	55	-14	141
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	527	508	<b>-19</b>	-3.61%	32	42	-10	64
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	619	602	<b>-17</b>	-2.75%	33	38	-8	63
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	419	407	<b>-12</b>	-2.86%	15	26	-6	35
51-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	285	275	<b>-10</b>	-3.51%	9	17	-5	21
53-7064	Packers and Packagers, Hand	183	173	<b>-10</b>	-5.46%	10	15	-5	20
43-3071	Tellers	135	126	<b>-9</b>	-6.67%	6	8	-4	10
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	458	449	<b>-9</b>	-1.97%	24	25	-4	45

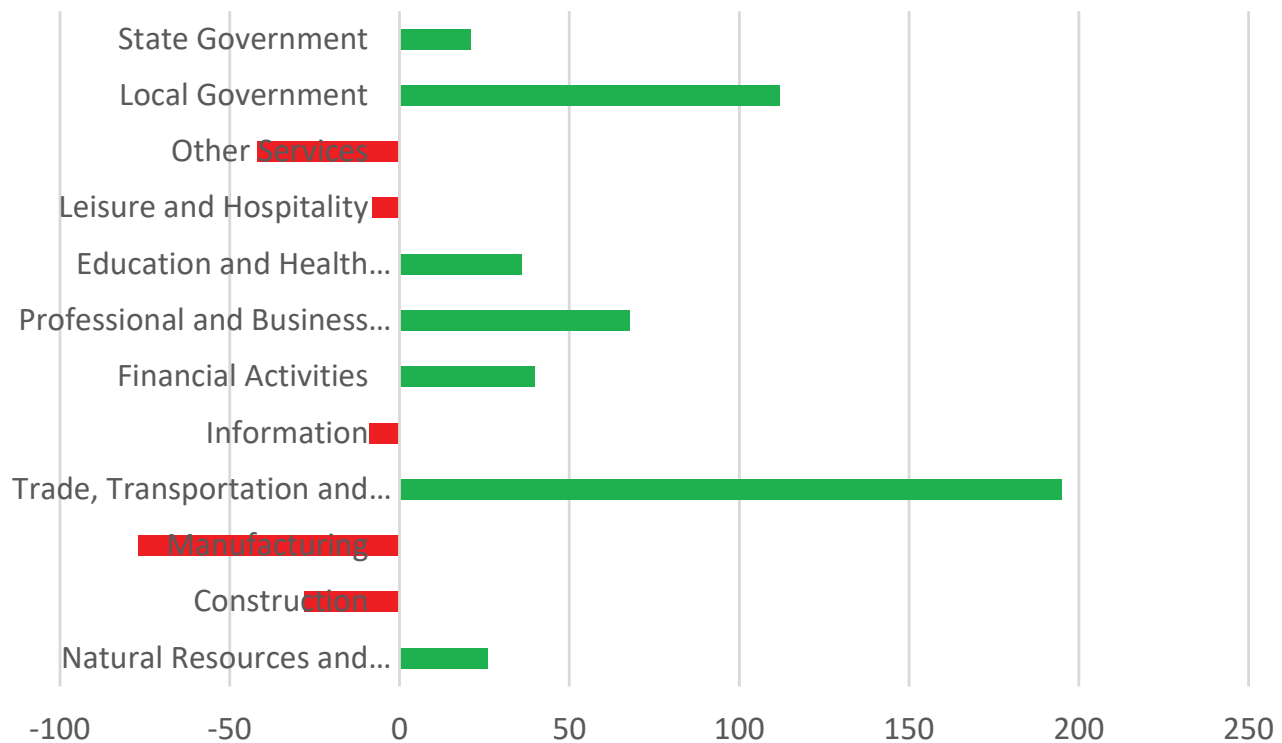
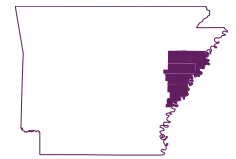
#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

51-9011	Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	47	41	-6	<b>-12.77%</b>	2	3	-3	2
49-3021	Automotive Body and Related Repairers	47	42	-5	<b>-10.64%</b>	2	2	-2	2
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	66	60	-6	<b>-9.09%</b>	2	3	-3	2
51-2090	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	442	403	-39	<b>-8.82%</b>	16	29	-20	25
51-9023	Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	57	52	-5	<b>-8.77%</b>	2	4	-2	4
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	106	98	-8	<b>-7.55%</b>	2	7	-4	5
43-3071	Tellers	135	126	-9	<b>-6.67%</b>	6	8	-4	10
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	146	138	-8	<b>-5.48%</b>	5	8	-4	9
53-7064	Packers and Packagers, Hand	183	173	-10	<b>-5.46%</b>	10	15	-5	20
51-4031	Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	103	98	-5	<b>-4.85%</b>	4	6	-2	8

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Eastern Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Covered Employment and Earnings

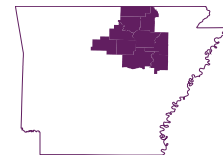


NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,676</b>	<b>33,010</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>\$891</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	1,091	1,117	26	2.4%	\$896
Construction	692	664	-28	-4.0%	\$1,101
Manufacturing	3,573	3,496	-77	-2.2%	\$1,103
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	8,444	8,639	195	2.3%	\$932
Information	94	85	-9	-9.6%	\$935
Financial Activities	1,107	1,147	40	3.6%	\$1,010
Professional and Business Services	1,280	1,348	68	5.3%	\$990
Education and Health Services	5,595	5,631	36	0.6%	\$834
Leisure and Hospitality	4,324	4,316	-8	-0.2%	\$474
Other Services	649	607	-42	-6.5%	\$731
Local Government	4,145	4,257	112	2.7%	\$840
State Government	1,682	1,703	21	1.2%	\$851

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

# North Central Arkansas

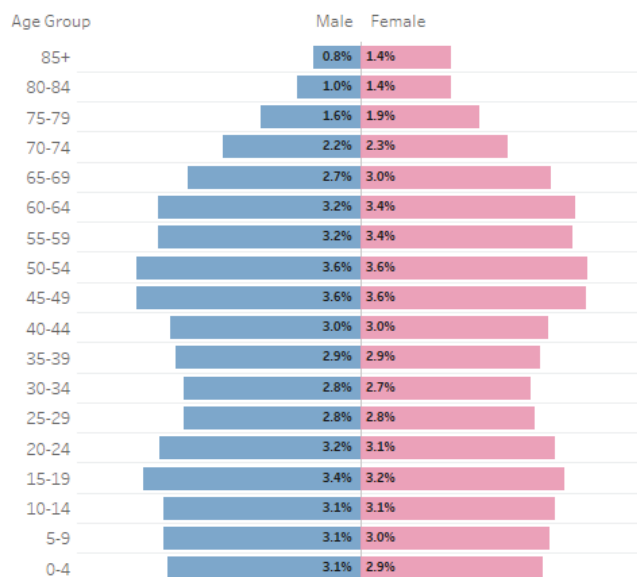
## Local Workforce Development Area



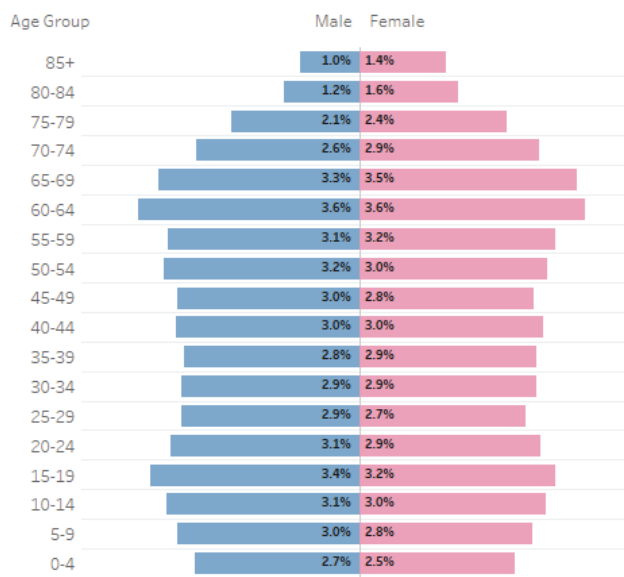
The North Central Arkansas LWDA consists of 10 counties: Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, White, and Woodruff, with the state of Missouri bordering the area to the north.

### Population Pyramids for North Central Arkansas

**2010** Pop: 238,334



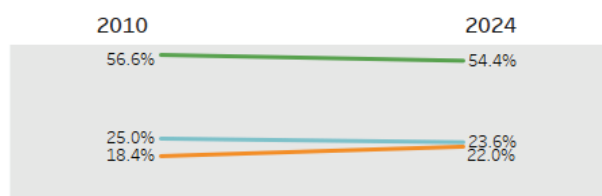
**2024** Pop: 239,467



#### Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	43,835	52,590
Adults 20-64	134,913	130,305
Under 20	59,586	56,572
Total	238,334	239,467

#### Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



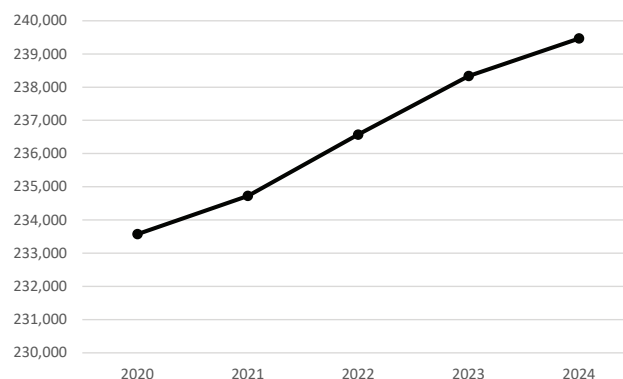
Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

### North Central Arkansas LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
233,573	234,725	236,574	238,336	239,467

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### North Central Arkansas Population Progression



### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

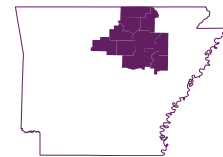
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# North Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

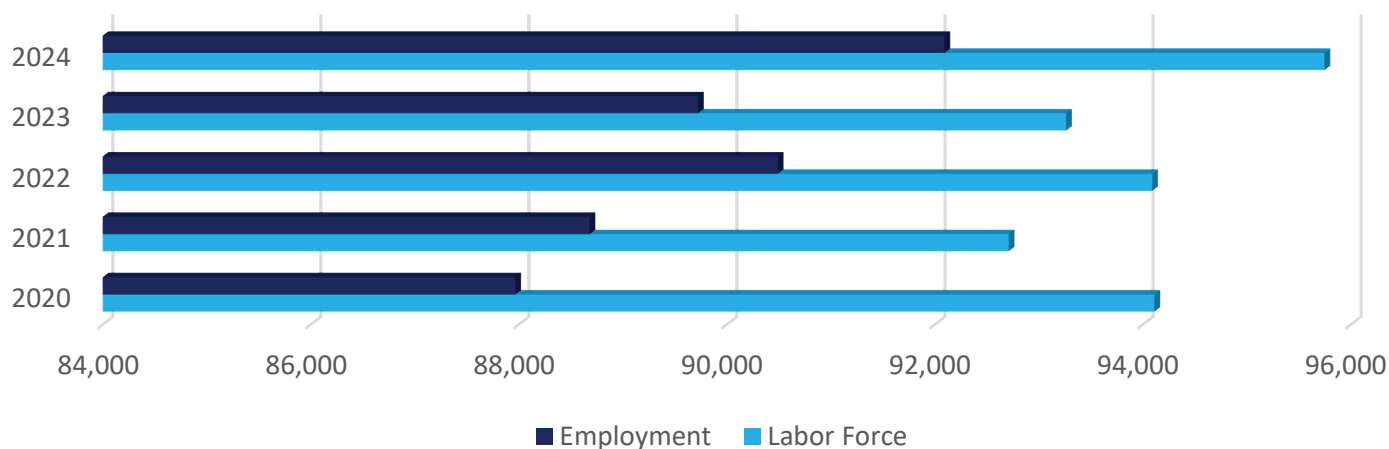


The North Central Arkansas LWDA labor force increased by 2,484 from 2023 to 2024 and increased by 1,635 between 2020 and 2024. Employment increased by 2,369 and unemployment increased by 115 from 2023 to 2024. The unemployment rate stayed at 3.8 percent from 2023 to 2024. The unemployment rate fluctuated in 2025, but ended at 4.6 percent in July.

**North Central Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	94,112	92,711	94,091	93,263	95,747
Employment	87,968	88,682	90,491	89,724	92,093
Unemployment	6,144	4,029	3,600	3,539	3,654
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	4.3%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



**North Central Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\***

Year	Month	North Central Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	4.4%	3.6%
2025	February	4.7%	3.6%
2025	March	4.0%	3.7%
2025	April	3.5%	3.7%
2025	May	3.7%	3.7%
2025	June	4.5%	3.7%
2025	July	4.6% <sup>†</sup>	3.7%**

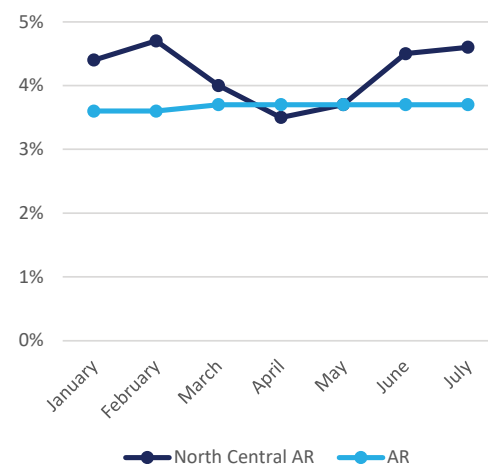
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

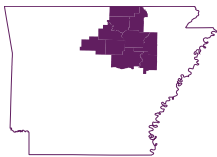
**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025**



# North Central Arkansas

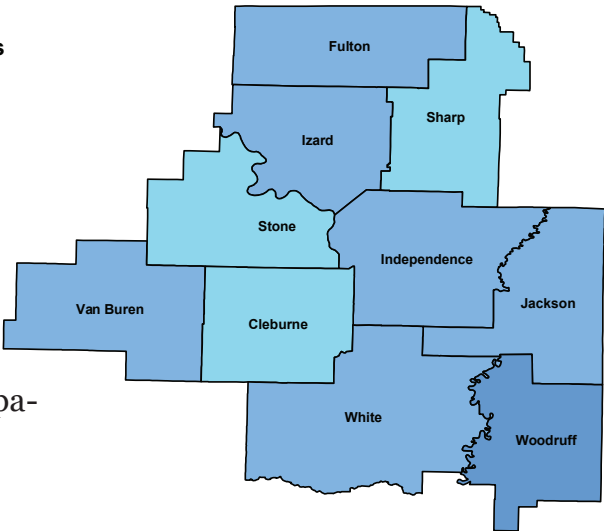
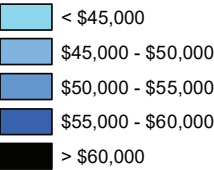
## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



**Retail Sales Workers** was estimated to be tied with having the most employees in North Central Arkansas with 4,590 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$29,856. **Material Moving Workers** was tied for the largest occupation with 4,590 employed, earning an average wage of \$37,598. **Healthcare Diagnosing or Testing Practitioners**, with an estimated employment of 3,140, had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning \$100,996 annually.

2024 Annual Average Wages



\*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services  
May 2025 Wage Survey

**Family Medicine Physicians** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$298,798. **Physicians, All Other**, with an average annual salary of \$207,232, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$27,045 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$41,459, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$57,267 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 71,910 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 6,748 made less than \$12 an hour while 16,013 made \$17 to \$21.99 an hour. Employees making more than \$27 an hour totaled 16,218.

### North Central Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Retail Sales Workers	4,590	\$29,856	\$24,078	\$32,746
Material Moving Workers	4,590	\$37,598	\$28,221	\$42,286
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	3,530	\$26,728	\$23,353	\$28,416
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	3,140	\$100,996	\$57,124	\$122,932
Motor Vehicle Operators	3,010	\$52,753	\$30,066	\$64,097
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	2,910	\$51,358	\$42,435	\$55,820
Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	2,660	\$29,468	\$25,228	\$31,588
Fast Food and Counter Workers	2,470	\$25,984	\$23,425	\$27,263
Cashiers	2,330	\$26,695	\$23,564	\$28,261
Information and Record Clerks	2,320	\$35,787	\$27,184	\$40,088

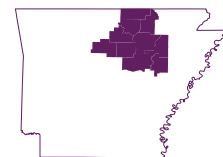
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



# North Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



#### North Central Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

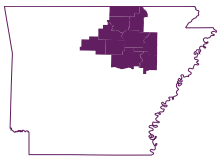
Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Family Medicine Physicians	\$298,798
Physicians, All Other	\$207,232
General Internal Medicine Physicians	\$168,545
Natural Sciences Managers	\$158,122
Dentists, General	\$151,915
Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates	\$137,686
Chief Executives	\$133,187
Pharmacists	\$131,911
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$131,696
Optometrists	\$131,427
Lawyers	\$130,684
Computer Network Architects	\$125,588
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$120,243
Physician Assistants	\$112,461
Nurse Practitioners	\$110,385
Sales Managers	\$110,254
Industrial Production Managers	\$109,870
Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	\$107,659
Human Resources Managers	\$106,124
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$105,729
Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	\$105,724
Marketing Managers	\$104,361
Purchasing Managers	\$103,761
Commercial Pilots	\$103,608
Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	\$103,592

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# North Central Arkansas

Local Workforce Development Area

## Wages

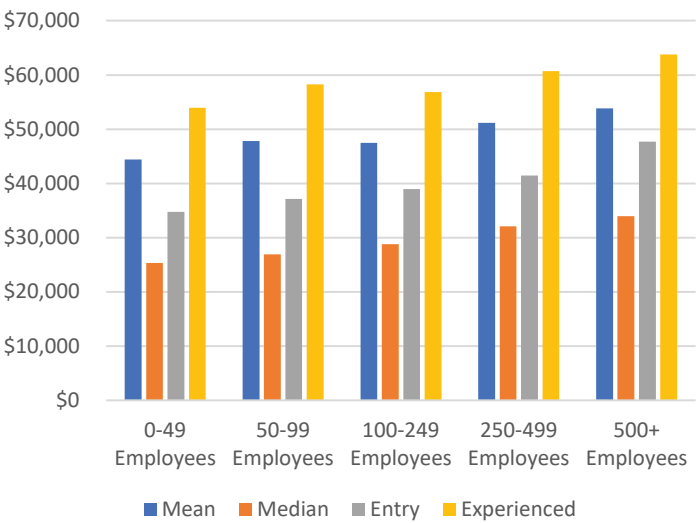


### North Central Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

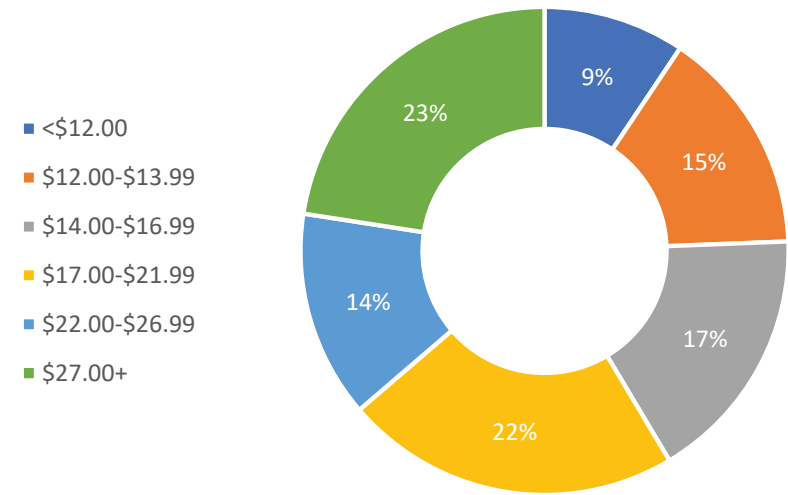
North Central Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$47,193	\$27,045	\$37,587	\$57,267
0-49 Employees	\$44,419	\$25,344	\$34,757	\$53,956
50-99 Employees	\$47,823	\$26,913	\$37,135	\$58,279
100-249 Employees	\$47,489	\$28,785	\$38,955	\$56,842
250-499 Employees	\$51,173	\$32,068	\$41,459	\$60,725
500+ Employees	\$53,840	\$33,985	\$47,729	\$63,767

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



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



North Central Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate

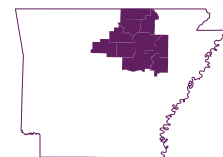
Total	71,910
<\$12.00	6,748
\$12.00-\$13.99	10,783
\$14.00-\$16.99	12,271
\$17.00-\$21.99	16,013
\$22.00-\$26.99	9,877
\$27.00+	16,218

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# North Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Food Services and Drinking Places is predicted to be the top growing industry in North Central Arkansas, gaining 655 new jobs between 2024 and 2026. Significant growth is expected for Grantmaking and Giving Services, becoming the fastest growing industry in the area with an estimated increase of 182.82 percent growth. On the negative side of the labor market, Truck Transportation is expected to experience a loss of 137 jobs, moving employment from 1,537 in 2024 to 1,400 in 2026. Publishing Industries could see a 20.69 percent reduction in jobs between 2024 and 2026. **Leisure and Hospitality** is estimated to be the top growing supersector, adding 657 jobs to the labor force, moving employment to 7,485.

### Top Growing Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	6,828	7,485	657	9.62%
102500	Education and Health Services	22,207	22,695	488	2.20%
102400	Professional and Business Services	4,841	5,248	407	8.41%
102700	Other Services (except Government)	3,677	4,011	334	9.08%
102800	Government	5,466	5,610	144	2.63%

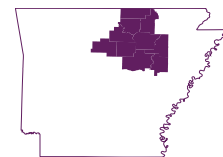
### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
722000	Food Services and Drinking Places	5,933	6,588	655	11.04%
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	163	461	298	182.82%
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	4,771	5,042	271	5.68%
541000	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,532	1,762	230	15.01%
455000	General Merchandise Retailers	3,207	3,383	176	5.49%
623000	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	2,667	2,777	110	4.12%
333000	Machinery Manufacturing	1,266	1,372	106	8.37%
561000	Administrative and Support Services	2,757	2,862	105	3.81%
624000	Social Assistance	2,245	2,350	105	4.68%
999300	Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	3,102	3,196	94	3.03%

# North Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	163	461	298	<b>182.82%</b>
213000	Support Activities for Mining	192	226	34	<b>17.71%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	46	54	8	<b>17.39%</b>
541000	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,532	1,762	230	<b>15.01%</b>
551000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	392	450	58	<b>14.80%</b>
611500	Technical and Trade Schools	32	36	4	<b>12.50%</b>
722000	Food Services and Drinking Places	5,933	6,588	655	<b>11.04%</b>
562000	Waste Management and Remediation Services	160	174	14	<b>8.75%</b>
333000	Machinery Manufacturing	1,266	1,372	106	<b>8.37%</b>
611600	Other Schools and Instruction	50	53	3	<b>6.00%</b>

#### Top 10 Decline

484000	Truck Transportation	1,537	1,400	<b>-137</b>	-8.91%
457000	Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	1,116	1,037	<b>-79</b>	-7.08%
622200	Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals	915	851	<b>-64</b>	-6.99%
522000	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,551	1,503	<b>-48</b>	-3.09%
237000	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	457	418	<b>-39</b>	-8.53%
524100	Insurance Carriers	144	117	<b>-27</b>	-18.75%
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	365	343	<b>-22</b>	-6.03%
331000	Primary Metal Manufacturing	742	722	<b>-20</b>	-2.70%
812000	Personal and Laundry Services	405	385	<b>-20</b>	-4.94%
517000	Telecommunications	173	159	<b>-14</b>	-8.09%

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

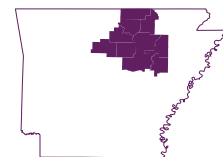
513000	Publishing Industries	58	46	<b>-12</b>	<b>-20.69%</b>
524100	Insurance Carriers	144	117	<b>-27</b>	<b>-18.75%</b>
814000	Private Households	72	60	<b>-12</b>	<b>-16.67%</b>
323000	Printing and Related Support Activities	72	65	<b>-7</b>	<b>-9.72%</b>
484000	Truck Transportation	1,537	1,400	<b>-137</b>	<b>-8.91%</b>
237000	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	457	418	<b>-39</b>	<b>-8.53%</b>
517000	Telecommunications	173	159	<b>-14</b>	<b>-8.09%</b>
457000	Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	1,116	1,037	<b>-79</b>	<b>-7.08%</b>
622200	Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals	915	851	<b>-64</b>	<b>-6.99%</b>
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	365	343	<b>-22</b>	<b>-6.03%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# North Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Fast Food and Counter Workers is projected to be the top growing occupation in North Central Arkansas, adding 294 new jobs, increasing employment to 2,036. Bartenders is slated to be the fastest growing occupation, increasing by 16.13 percent, for a total employment of 72. On the negative side of the labor market, Heavy and Tractor Trailer Truck Drivers is predicted to lose 91 jobs, or 4.73 percent of its workforce, to become the top declining occupation. Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters is forecast to cut 30.95 percent of its local workforce by March 2026. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** leads all major groups in job growth, estimated to increase its workforce by 61 new jobs, a gain of 9.16 percent between first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2026.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	6,693	7,306	<b>613</b>	9.16%	596	768	306	1,670
11-0000	Management Occupations	11,334	11,626	<b>292</b>	2.58%	550	506	146	1,202
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support Occupations	9,297	9,545	<b>248</b>	2.67%	462	584	124	1,170
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	3,602	3,773	<b>171</b>	4.75%	228	294	86	608
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	6,122	6,281	<b>159</b>	2.60%	184	176	80	440

#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

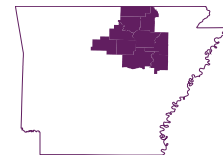
SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	2,742	3,036	<b>294</b>	10.72%	305	366	147	818
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	1,971	2,159	<b>188</b>	9.54%	46	120	94	260
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	993	1,112	<b>119</b>	11.98%	56	58	60	174
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	625	706	<b>81</b>	12.96%	44	56	40	140
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	800	875	<b>75</b>	9.38%	68	104	38	210
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	1,544	1,616	<b>72</b>	4.66%	85	99	36	220
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	1,093	1,163	<b>70</b>	6.40%	88	76	35	199
35-1012	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	690	753	<b>63</b>	9.13%	34	70	32	136
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	1,865	1,927	<b>62</b>	3.32%	112	190	31	333
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	1,824	1,880	<b>56</b>	3.07%	117	152	28	297



# North Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
35-3011	Bartenders	62	72	10	<b>16.13%</b>	4	8	5	17
29-1131	Veterinarians	50	58	8	<b>16.00%</b>	1	0	4	5
29-2056	Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	26	30	4	<b>15.38%</b>	1	2	2	5
31-9096	Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Care-takers	114	129	15	<b>13.16%</b>	6	16	8	30
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	207	234	27	<b>13.04%</b>	4	5	14	23
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	625	706	81	<b>12.96%</b>	44	56	40	140
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	993	1,112	119	<b>11.98%</b>	56	58	60	174
15-1252	Software Developers	76	85	9	<b>11.84%</b>	2	3	4	9
23-2011	Paralegals and Legal Assistants	51	57	6	<b>11.76%</b>	2	4	3	9
17-2112	Industrial Engineers	43	48	5	<b>11.63%</b>	1	2	2	5

#### Top 10 Decline

53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,924	1,833	<b>-91</b>	-4.73%	77	114	-46	145
53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	663	624	<b>-39</b>	-5.88%	20	43	-20	43
41-2011	Cashiers	2,337	2,301	<b>-36</b>	-1.54%	211	230	-18	423
43-3071	Tellers	309	292	<b>-17</b>	-5.50%	12	18	-8	22
51-7011	Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	42	29	<b>-13</b>	-30.95%	3	4	-6	1
43-5111	Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping	79	70	<b>-9</b>	-11.39%	4	6	-4	6
47-5022	Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators, Surface Mining	32	26	<b>-6</b>	-18.75%	2	2	-3	1
49-2022	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	59	53	<b>-6</b>	-10.17%	2	4	-3	3
49-9052	Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers	61	55	<b>-6</b>	-9.84%	2	4	-3	3
51-6031	Sewing Machine Operators	63	58	<b>-5</b>	-7.94%	4	3	-2	5

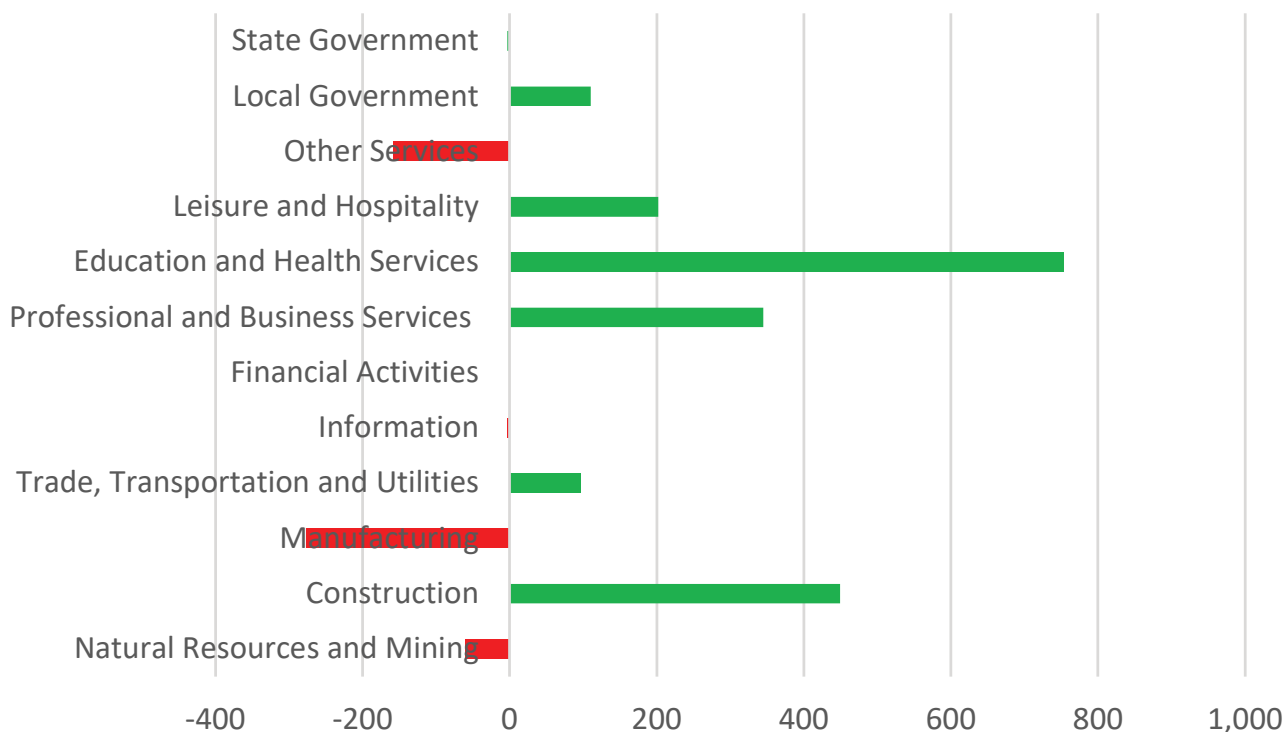
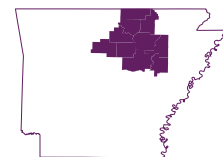
#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

51-7011	Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	42	29	-13	<b>-30.95%</b>	3	4	-6	1
47-5051	Rock Splitters, Quarry	15	11	-4	<b>-26.67%</b>	1	1	-2	0
47-5022	Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators, Surface Mining	32	26	-6	<b>-18.75%</b>	2	2	-3	1
43-5111	Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping	79	70	-9	<b>-11.39%</b>	4	6	-4	6
49-2022	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	59	53	-6	<b>-10.17%</b>	2	4	-3	3
49-9052	Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers	61	55	-6	<b>-9.84%</b>	2	4	-3	3
51-6031	Sewing Machine Operators	63	58	-5	<b>-7.94%</b>	4	3	-2	5
53-7051	Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	663	624	-39	<b>-5.88%</b>	20	43	-20	43
43-3071	Tellers	309	292	-17	<b>-5.50%</b>	12	18	-8	22
43-5032	Dispatchers, Except Police, Fire, and Ambulance	96	91	-5	<b>-5.21%</b>	3	6	-2	7

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# North Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Covered Employment and Earnings



NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,474</b>	<b>71,927</b>	<b>1,453</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>\$891</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	1,573	1,512	-61	-3.9%	\$1,112
Construction	2,729	3,178	449	16.5%	\$1,027
Manufacturing	9,784	9,507	-277	-2.8%	\$1,039
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	15,404	15,501	97	0.6%	\$849
Information	394	391	-3	-0.8%	\$929
Financial Activities	2,825	2,824	-1	-0.0%	\$1,091
Professional and Business Services	4,367	4,712	345	7.9%	\$865
Education and Health Services	13,889	14,643	754	5.4%	\$979
Leisure and Hospitality	6,861	7,063	202	2.9%	\$367
Other Services	1,591	1,432	-159	-10.0%	\$787
Local Government	8,474	8,584	110	1.3%	\$789
State Government	2,583	2,580	-3	-0.1%	\$858

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

# Northeast Arkansas

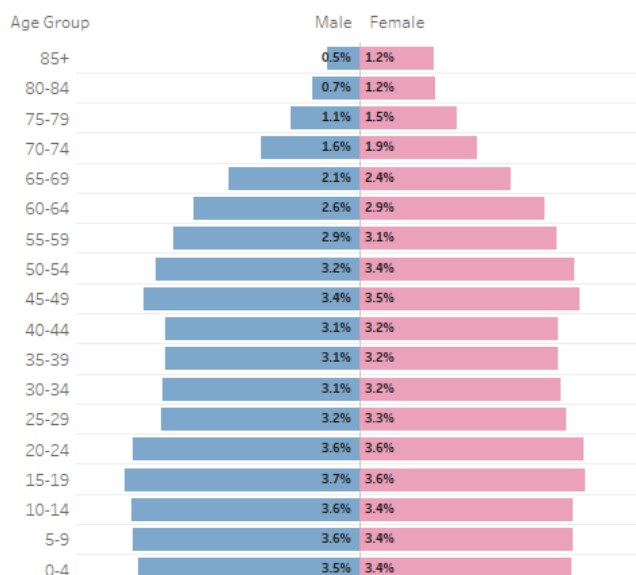
## Local Workforce Development Area



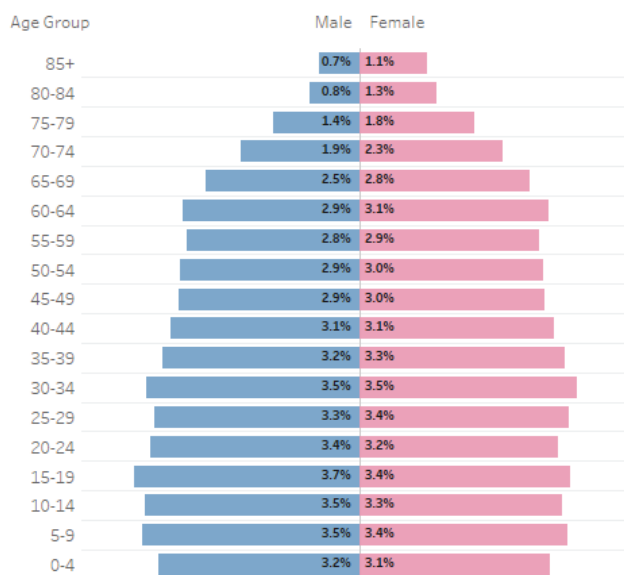
The Northeast Arkansas LWDA consists of the Jonesboro Metropolitan Statistical Area and seven counties: Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, and Randolph. Both Missouri and Tennessee border the area.

### Population Pyramids for Northeast Arkansas

**2010** Pop: **261,386**



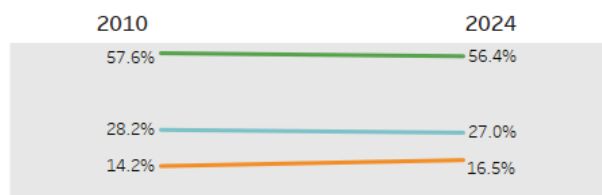
**2024** Pop: **272,632**



#### Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	37,173	45,051
Adults 20-64	150,615	153,861
Under 20	73,598	73,720
Total	261,386	272,632

#### Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



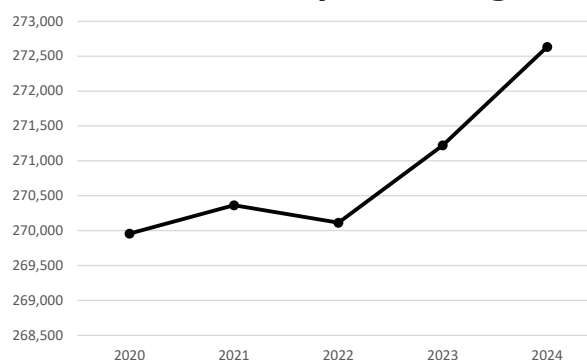
Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

### Northeast Arkansas LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
269,956	270,363	270,113	271,222	272,632

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Northeast Arkansas Population Progression



### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

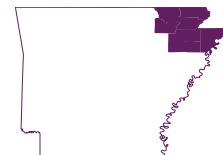
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Northeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

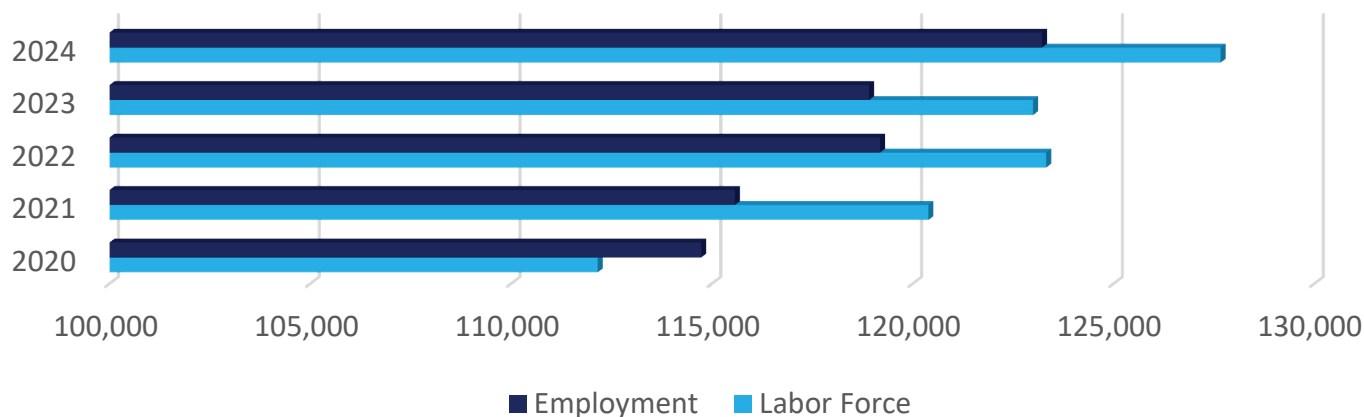


The Northeast Arkansas LWDA labor force increased to 127,666 in 2024, or by 4,670 since 2023, and increased over the 2020-2024 period by 15,509. Employment increased by 4,307 and unemployment increased by 363 from 2023 to 2024. The unemployment rate rose to 3.5 percent, an increase of 0.2 percent from 2023 to 2024. The area's unemployment rate ended at 4.5% by July 2025.

**Northeast Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	112,157	120,390	123,323	122,996	127,666
Employment	114,735	115,574	119,186	118,912	123,219
Unemployment	7,422	4,816	4,137	4,084	4,447
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	4.0%	3.4%	3.3%	3.5%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



**Northeast Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\***

Year	Month	Northeast Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	4.0%	3.6%
2025	February	4.2%	3.6%
2025	March	3.7%	3.7%
2025	April	3.3%	3.7%
2025	May	3.6%	3.7%
2025	June	4.4%	3.7%
2025	July	4.5% <sup>†</sup>	3.7%**

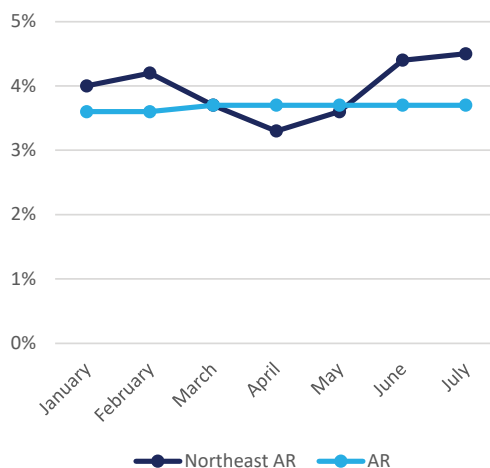
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

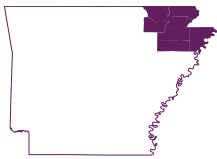
†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025**

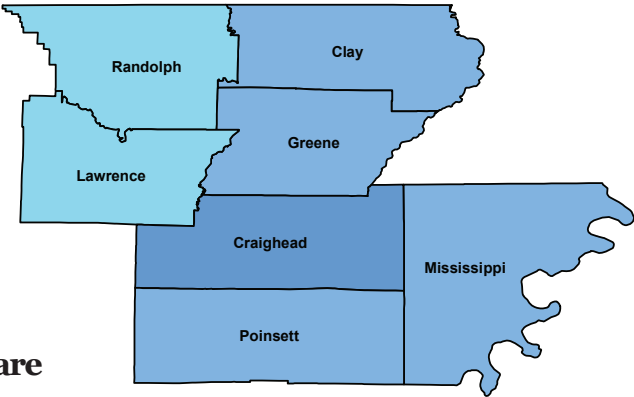
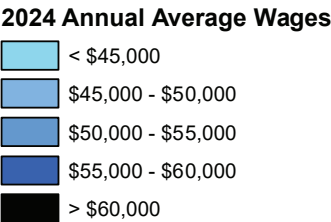


# Northeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Wages



**Material Moving Workers** was estimated to have the most employees in Northeast Arkansas with 6,710 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$37,400. **Retail Sales Workers** was the second largest occupation with 5,980 employed, earning an average wage of \$30,617. **Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners**, with an estimated employment of 4,920, had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning \$99,408 annually.



*\*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services  
May 2025 Wage Survey*

**Family Medicine Physicians** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$298,798. **Physicians, All Other**, with an average annual salary of \$207,232, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$28,184 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$45,067, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$59,604 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 107,740 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 7,885 made less than \$12 an hour while 24,904 made \$17 to \$21.99 an hour. Employees making more than \$27 an hour totaled 26,599.

### Northeast Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

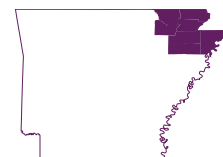
Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Material Moving Workers	6,710	\$37,400	\$28,805	\$41,698
Retail Sales Workers	5,980	\$30,617	\$24,372	\$33,740
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	4,920	\$99,408	\$59,347	\$119,439
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers	4,740	\$45,365	\$35,555	\$50,270
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	4,720	\$27,529	\$23,478	\$29,554
Construction Trades Workers	4,480	\$46,797	\$33,951	\$53,220
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	3,650	\$52,081	\$42,337	\$56,953
Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	3,530	\$30,220	\$25,582	\$32,538
Information and Record Clerks	3,520	\$36,330	\$28,482	\$40,254
Motor Vehicle Operators	3,500	\$47,037	\$29,836	\$55,637

*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey*

# Northeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



#### Northeast Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Family Medicine Physicians	\$298,798
Physicians, All Other	\$207,232
General Internal Medicine Physicians	\$168,545
Natural Sciences Managers	\$158,122
Dentists, General	\$151,915
Judges, Magistrate Judges, and Magistrates	\$137,686
Chief Executives	\$133,187
Pharmacists	\$131,911
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$131,696
Optometrists	\$131,427
Lawyers	\$130,684
Computer Network Architects	\$125,588
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$120,243
Physician Assistants	\$112,461
Nurse Practitioners	\$110,385
Sales Managers	\$110,254
Industrial Production Managers	\$109,870
Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	\$107,659
Human Resources Managers	\$106,124
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$105,729
Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	\$105,724
Marketing Managers	\$104,361
Purchasing Managers	\$103,761
Commercial Pilots	\$103,608
Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	\$103,592

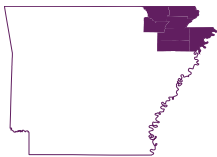
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



# Northeast Arkansas

Local Workforce Development Area

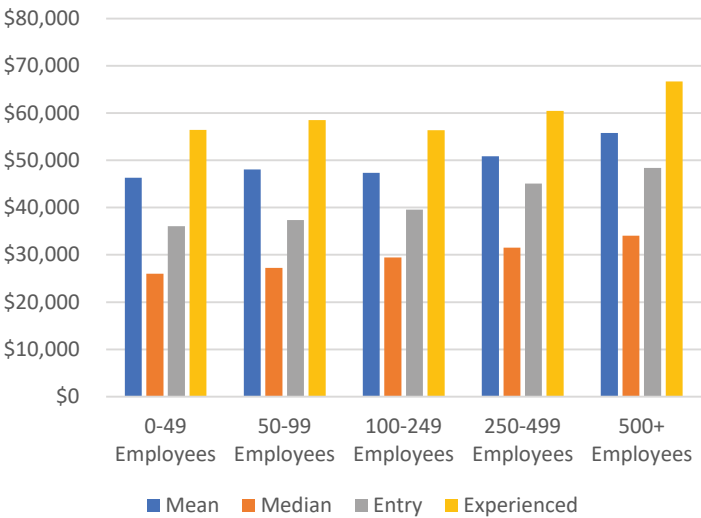
Wages



## Northeast Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

Northeast Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

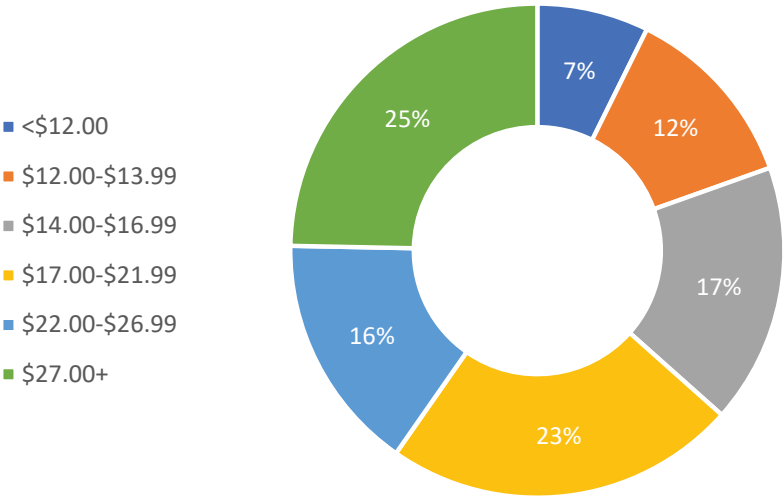
Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$49,131	\$28,184	\$39,780	\$59,604
0-49 Employees	\$46,288	\$26,018	\$36,093	\$56,423
50-99 Employees	\$48,085	\$27,245	\$37,384	\$58,506
100-249 Employees	\$47,382	\$29,432	\$39,550	\$56,356
250-499 Employees	\$50,828	\$31,511	\$45,067	\$60,486
500+ Employees	\$55,805	\$34,060	\$48,388	\$66,677



Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

## Northeast Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate

Northeast Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate



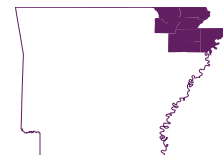
Total	107,740
<\$12.00	7,885
\$12.00-\$13.99	13,184
\$14.00-\$16.99	18,342
\$17.00-\$21.99	24,904
\$22.00-\$26.99	16,826
\$27.00+	26,599

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Northeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Food Services and Drinking Places is predicted to be the top growing industry, adding 416 jobs between 2024 and 2026, moving employment to 8,970. Grantmaking and Giving Services is set to increase its workforce by 81.10 percent, becoming the fastest growing industry in Northeast Arkansas, moving employment to 230. On the negative side of the labor market, Transportation Equipment Manufacturing is projected to lose the most jobs, cutting 254 jobs from its workforce, dropping its employment levels to 3,076. Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries could see a drop of 28 percent, becoming the fastest declining industry in the area. **Education and Health Services** is slated to rise by 1,270 employees, to become the top growing supersector, moving its employment levels to 31,789.

### Top Growing Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
102500	Education and Health Services	30,519	31,789	<b>1,270</b>	4.16%
101200	Construction	4,794	5,275	<b>481</b>	10.03%
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	9,771	10,226	<b>455</b>	4.66%
102400	Professional and Business Services	7,284	7,525	<b>241</b>	3.31%
102100	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	20,069	20,156	<b>87</b>	0.43%

### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
722000	Food Services and Drinking Places	8,554	8,970	<b>416</b>	4.86%
624000	Social Assistance	4,094	4,492	<b>398</b>	9.72%
238000	Specialty Trade Contractors	3,502	3,883	<b>381</b>	10.88%
331000	Primary Metal Manufacturing	4,622	4,987	<b>365</b>	7.90%
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	6,159	6,509	<b>350</b>	5.68%
622100	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	6,069	6,312	<b>243</b>	4.00%
541000	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,886	2,086	<b>200</b>	10.60%
999300	Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	4,241	4,362	<b>121</b>	2.85%
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	127	230	<b>103</b>	81.10%
423000	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	2,341	2,432	<b>91</b>	3.89%

# Northeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	127	230	103	<b>81.10%</b>
611700	Educational Support Services	25	44	19	<b>76.00%</b>
518000	Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Services	29	45	16	<b>55.17%</b>
339000	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	135	186	51	<b>37.78%</b>
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	175	223	48	<b>27.43%</b>
513000	Publishing Industries	145	175	30	<b>20.69%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	29	34	5	<b>17.24%</b>
517000	Telecommunications	339	391	52	<b>15.34%</b>
611600	Other Schools and Instruction	135	154	19	<b>14.07%</b>
813300	Social Advocacy Organizations	70	79	9	<b>12.86%</b>

#### Top 10 Decline

336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,330	3,076	<b>-254</b>	-7.63%
333000	Machinery Manufacturing	2,935	2,798	<b>-137</b>	-4.67%
813100	Religious Organizations	1,557	1,422	<b>-135</b>	-8.67%
311000	Food Manufacturing	4,048	3,924	<b>-124</b>	-3.06%
335000	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	416	325	<b>-91</b>	-21.88%
531000	Real Estate	855	792	<b>-63</b>	-7.37%
562000	Waste Management and Remediation Services	435	393	<b>-42</b>	-9.66%
484000	Truck Transportation	1,354	1,318	<b>-36</b>	-2.66%
457000	Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers	1,148	1,114	<b>-34</b>	-2.96%
112000	Animal Production and Aquaculture	618	591	<b>-27</b>	-4.37%

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

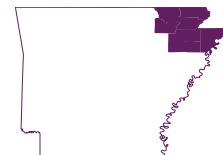
512000	Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries	75	54	-21	<b>-28.00%</b>
814000	Private Households	106	81	-25	<b>-23.58%</b>
335000	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	416	325	-91	<b>-21.88%</b>
562000	Waste Management and Remediation Services	435	393	-42	<b>-9.66%</b>
813100	Religious Organizations	1,557	1,422	-135	<b>-8.67%</b>
322000	Paper Manufacturing	174	159	-15	<b>-8.62%</b>
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	3,330	3,076	-254	<b>-7.63%</b>
531000	Real Estate	855	792	-63	<b>-7.37%</b>
999100	Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	286	270	-16	<b>-5.59%</b>
333000	Machinery Manufacturing	2,935	2,798	-137	<b>-4.67%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Northeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Home Health and Personal Care Aides is projected to be the top growing occupation in Northeast Arkansas between 2024 and 2026, adding 166 jobs, increasing its workforce to 1,719 jobs. Fundraisers is expected to be the fastest growing occupation, increasing the workforce by 72.97 percent. On the reverse side of the economy, Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators could see a reduction of 113 jobs, or 4.23 percent of its workforce, becoming the top declining occupation in the area, while Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders is slated to be the fastest declining occupation, cutting 11.63 percent from its workforce between 2024 and 2026. **Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations** is anticipated to be the top growing major group in Northeast Arkansas, adding 510 jobs to the local economy between first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2025, an increase of 5.63 percent.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	9,065	9,575	510	5.63%	272	258	255	785
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	9,136	9,529	393	4.30%	788	1,018	196	2,002
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	4,772	5,097	325	6.81%	148	263	162	573
11-0000	Management Occupations	10,828	11,146	318	2.94%	424	518	159	1,101
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	4,991	5,307	316	6.33%	318	406	158	882

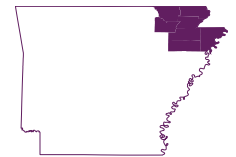
#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	1,553	1,719	166	10.69%	127	111	83	321
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	3,372	3,535	163	4.83%	364	437	82	883
29-1141	Registered Nurses	2,651	2,755	104	3.92%	79	60	52	191
47-2111	Electricians	1,020	1,115	95	9.31%	32	62	48	142
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	2,493	2,587	94	3.77%	57	147	47	251
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	1,941	2,014	73	3.76%	118	158	36	312
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	875	937	62	7.09%	60	76	31	167
47-2061	Construction Laborers	884	946	62	7.01%	28	48	31	107
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	650	708	58	8.92%	17	31	29	77
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	1,373	1,424	51	3.71%	114	173	26	313

# Northeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
13-1131	Fundraisers	37	64	27	<b>72.97%</b>	2	2	14	18
49-9052	Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers	111	126	15	<b>13.51%</b>	4	7	8	19
49-2022	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	126	142	16	<b>12.70%</b>	4	9	8	21
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	358	403	45	<b>12.57%</b>	8	8	22	38
51-7042	Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing	58	65	7	<b>12.07%</b>	2	4	4	10
29-1131	Veterinarians	42	47	5	<b>11.90%</b>	1	0	2	3
21-1023	Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers	115	128	13	<b>11.30%</b>	4	4	6	14
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	1,553	1,719	166	<b>10.69%</b>	127	111	83	321
31-9096	Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers	96	106	10	<b>10.42%</b>	5	14	5	24
17-1011	Architects, Except Landscape and Naval	50	55	5	<b>10.00%</b>	1	2	2	5

#### Top 10 Decline

51-2090	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	2,670	2,557	<b>-113</b>	-4.23%	100	179	-56	223
41-2011	Cashiers	2,891	2,851	<b>-40</b>	-1.38%	262	284	-20	526
21-2011	Clergy	482	445	<b>-37</b>	-7.68%	20	20	-18	22
51-4121	Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	1,189	1,170	<b>-19</b>	-1.60%	32	84	-10	106
51-2028	Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	228	214	<b>-14</b>	-6.14%	10	14	-7	17
51-5112	Printing Press Operators	276	262	<b>-14</b>	-5.07%	11	18	-7	22
43-3071	Tellers	348	334	<b>-14</b>	-4.02%	14	20	-7	27
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	1,119	1,106	<b>-13</b>	-1.16%	60	62	-6	116
43-5071	Shipping, Receiving, and Inventory Clerks	808	796	<b>-12</b>	-1.49%	28	48	-6	70
51-9061	Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	566	555	<b>-11</b>	-1.94%	22	42	-6	58

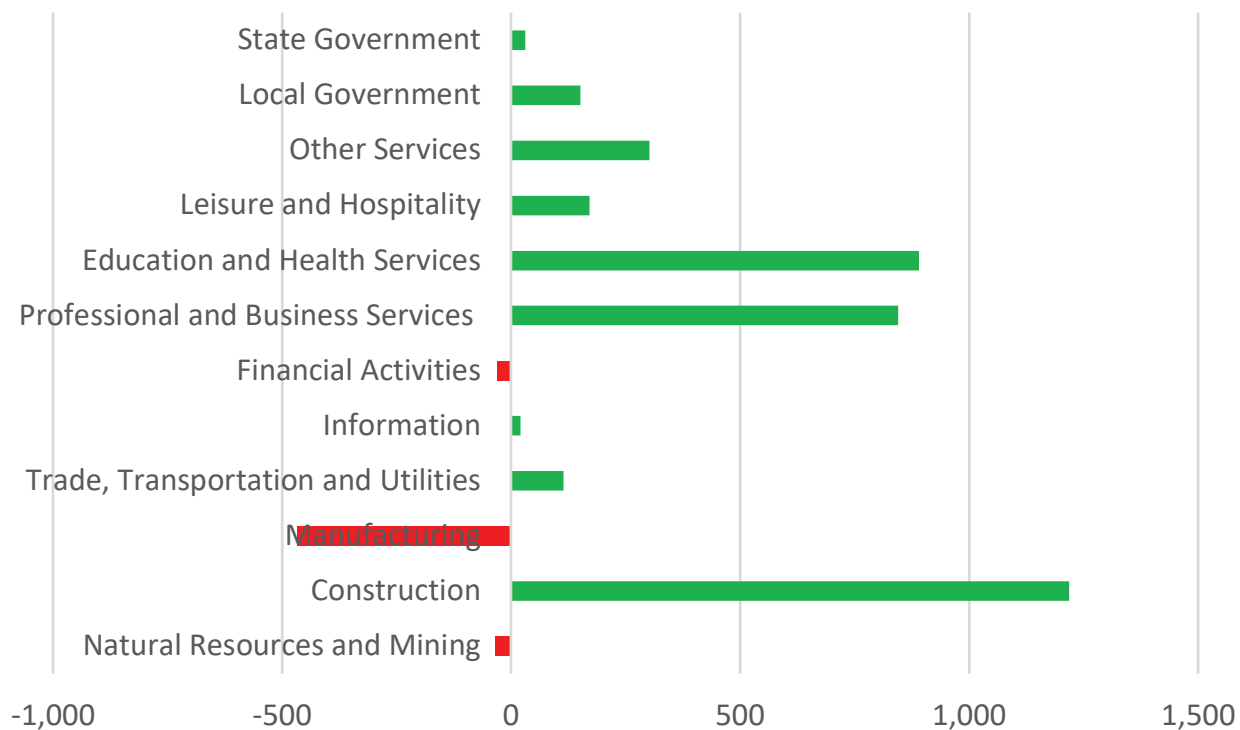
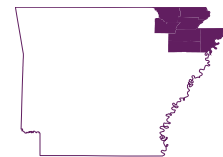
#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

51-9196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	86	76	-10	<b>-11.63%</b>	2	6	-5	3
21-2011	Clergy	482	445	-37	<b>-7.68%</b>	20	20	-18	22
51-2028	Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	228	214	-14	<b>-6.14%</b>	10	14	-7	17
51-9161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	185	175	-10	<b>-5.41%</b>	6	12	-5	13
13-1031	Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	155	147	-8	<b>-5.16%</b>	4	6	-4	6
51-5112	Printing Press Operators	276	262	-14	<b>-5.07%</b>	11	18	-7	22
51-9021	Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	115	110	-5	<b>-4.35%</b>	4	8	-2	10
51-2041	Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	185	177	-8	<b>-4.32%</b>	6	13	-4	15
51-2090	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	2,670	2,557	-113	<b>-4.23%</b>	100	179	-56	223
43-3071	Tellers	348	334	-14	<b>-4.02%</b>	14	20	-7	27

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Northeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Covered Employment and Earnings



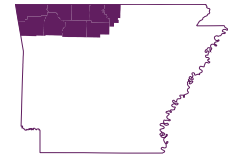
NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,363</b>	<b>108,573</b>	<b>3,210</b>	<b>3.0%</b>	<b>\$1,026</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	1,976	1,941	-35	-1.8%	\$1,029
Construction	4,707	5,925	1,218	25.9%	\$1,359
Manufacturing	22,184	21,718	-466	-2.1%	\$1,386
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	20,036	20,150	114	0.6%	\$896
Information	692	712	20	2.9%	\$1,188
Financial Activities	3,351	3,320	-31	-0.9%	\$1,199
Professional and Business Services	7,049	7,894	845	12.0%	\$1,023
Education and Health Services	18,300	19,190	890	4.9%	\$1,066
Leisure and Hospitality	9,912	10,083	171	1.7%	\$412
Other Services	1,812	2,114	302	16.7%	\$884
Local Government	11,383	11,534	151	1.3%	\$880
State Government	3,961	3,992	31	0.8%	\$990

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



# Northwest Arkansas

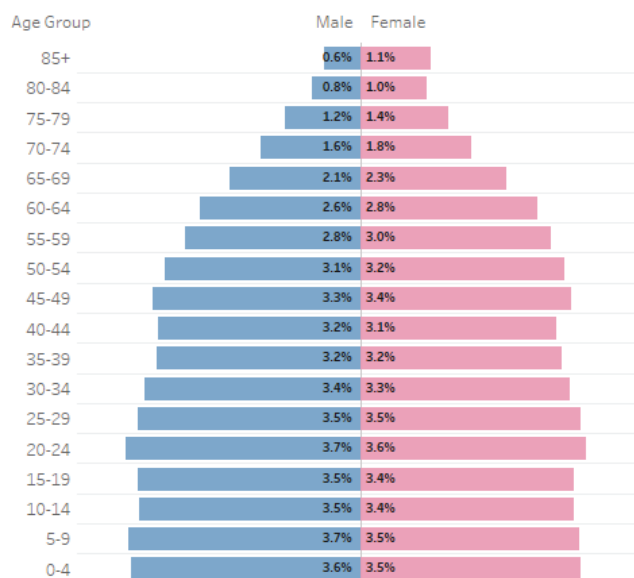
## Local Workforce Development Area



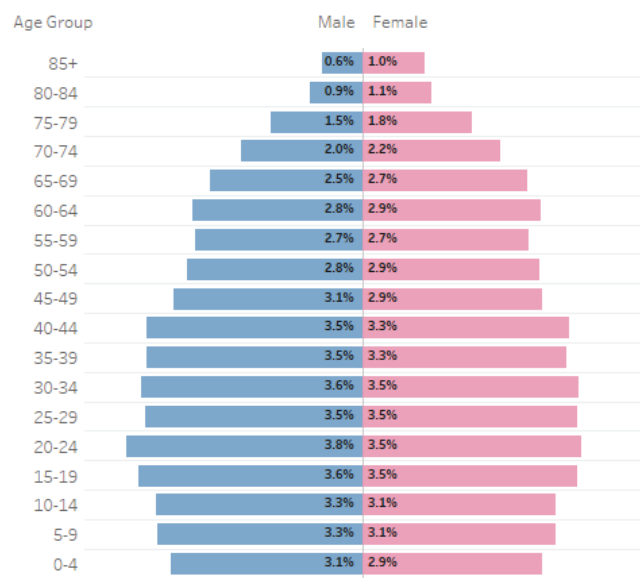
The Northwest Arkansas LWDA consists of nine counties: Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy, and Washington. The area borders two states, Missouri to the north and Oklahoma to the west. The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes McDonald County in Missouri, is located within this LWDA.

### Population Pyramids for Northwest Arkansas

**2010** Pop: **581,408**



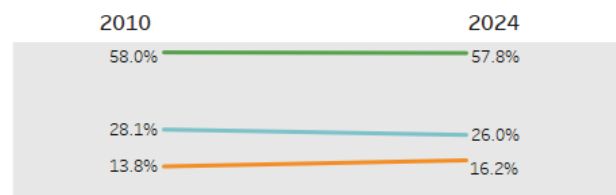
**2024** Pop: **748,681**



#### Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	80,436	121,368
Adults 20-64	337,380	432,369
Under 20	163,592	194,944
Total	581,408	748,681

#### Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



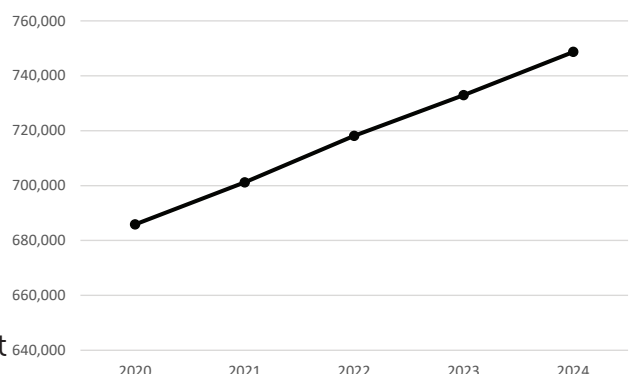
Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

### Northwest Arkansas LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
685,864	701,180	718,114	732,947	748,708

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Northwest Arkansas Population Progression



### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

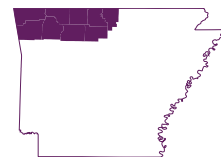
2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# Northwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

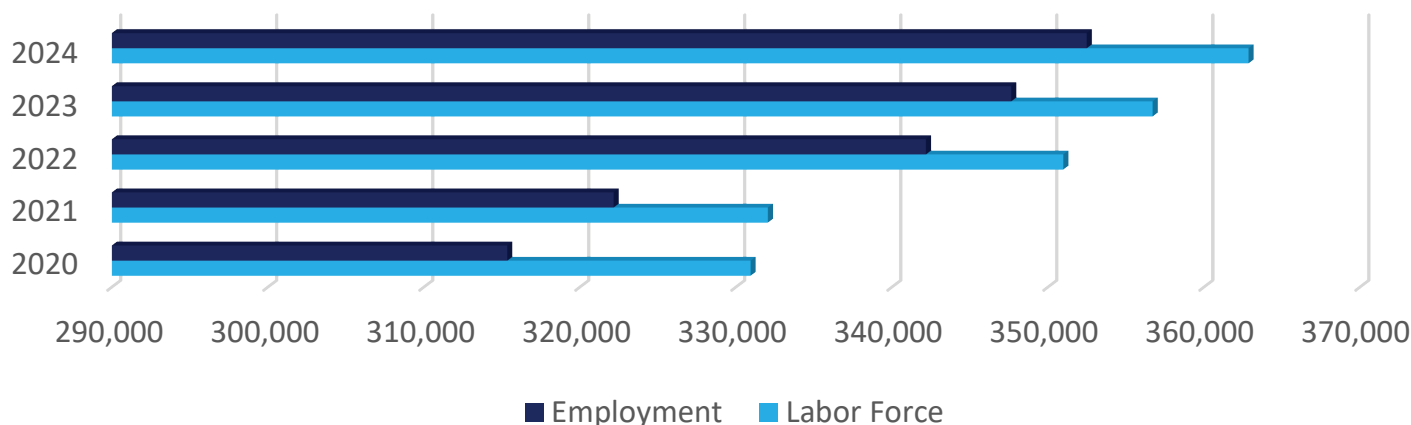


The Northwest Arkansas LWDA labor force and employment increased from 2023 to 2024, with the labor force gaining 6,150 to 362,870 and employment increasing by 4,838 to 352,497. Unemployment increased by 1,312 to 10,373 in 2023, but has seen an decrease of 5,221 since 2020. The unemployment rate rose by 0.4 percent from 2023 to 2024 to 2.9 percent. The area's unemployment rate fluctuated from 2020, but ultimately settled at 2.9 in 2024. The unemployment rate ended July 2025 at 3.6 percent.

#### Northwest Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	330,952	332,059	350,997	356,720	362,870
Employment	315,358	322,170	342,190	347,659	352,497
Unemployment	15,594	9,889	8,807	9,061	10,373
Unemployment Rate	4.7%	3.0%	2.5%	2.5%	2.9%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



#### Northwest Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\*

Year	Month	Northwest Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	3.3%	3.6%
2025	February	3.5%	3.6%
2025	March	3.1%	3.7%
2025	April	2.7%	3.7%
2025	May	2.9%	3.7%
2025	June	3.5%	3.7%
2025	July	3.6%†	3.7%**

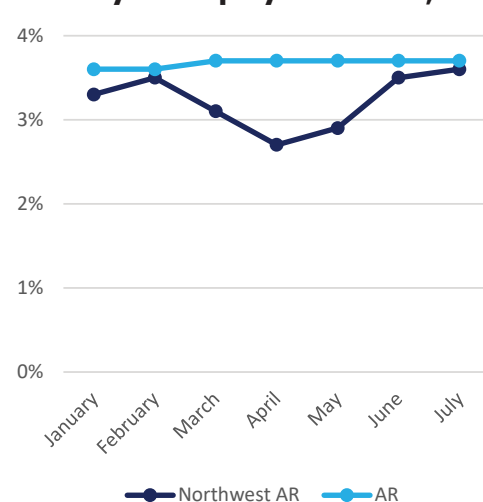
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

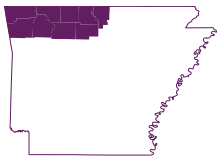
#### Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025



# Northwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

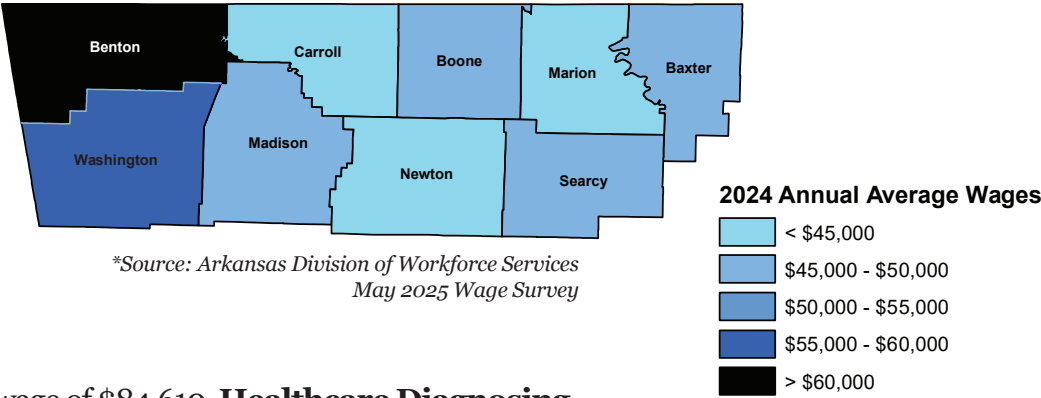
### Wages



#### Material Moving

**Workers** was estimated to have the most employees in Northwest Arkansas with 16,970 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$36,213. **Business Operations Specialists** was the second largest

occupation with 16,790 employed, earning an average wage of \$84,610. **Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners**, with an estimated employment of 11,380, had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning \$111,623 annually.



*\*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services  
May 2025 Wage Survey*

**Dermatologists** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$461,502. **Radiologists**, with an average annual salary of \$275,136, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$29,519 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$44,422, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$71,472 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 314,070 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 103,847 made more than \$27 an hour while 12,071 made less than \$12 an hour. Employees making between \$17 and \$21.99 totaled 68,501.

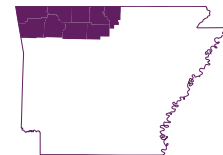
### Northwest Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Material Moving Workers	16,970	\$36,213	\$29,436	\$39,601
Business Operations Specialists	16,790	\$84,610	\$45,956	\$103,937
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	16,700	\$29,290	\$24,829	\$31,520
Retail Sales Workers	16,380	\$32,429	\$25,648	\$35,819
Motor Vehicle Operators	13,610	\$51,574	\$30,848	\$61,937
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	11,380	\$111,623	\$63,366	\$135,751
Information and Record Clerks	11,050	\$39,593	\$29,836	\$44,472
Fast Food and Counter Workers	10,070	\$28,342	\$24,994	\$30,016
Construction Trades Workers	9,930	\$47,904	\$35,476	\$54,117
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	9,660	\$58,342	\$44,508	\$65,260

*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey*

# Northwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Wages



### Northwest Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

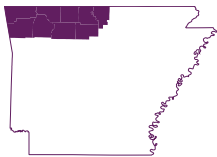
Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Dermatologists	\$461,502
Radiologists	\$275,136
Physicians, All Other	\$274,082
Ophthalmologists, Except Pediatric	\$265,996
Chief Executives	\$261,132
Physicians, Pathologists	\$247,112
Family Medicine Physicians	\$215,096
Natural Sciences Managers	\$205,543
Animal Scientists	\$205,038
Sales Managers	\$192,294
Public Relations Managers	\$190,366
Compensation and Benefits Managers	\$188,452
Dentists, General	\$184,194
Purchasing Managers	\$178,020
Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	\$177,292
Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	\$172,167
Lawyers	\$169,244
Marketing Managers	\$162,214
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$160,394
Anesthesiologists	\$159,163
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$157,590
Financial Managers	\$157,571
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$153,366
Human Resources Managers	\$152,381
Operations Specialties Managers	\$150,967

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Northwest Arkansas

Local Workforce Development Area

## Wages

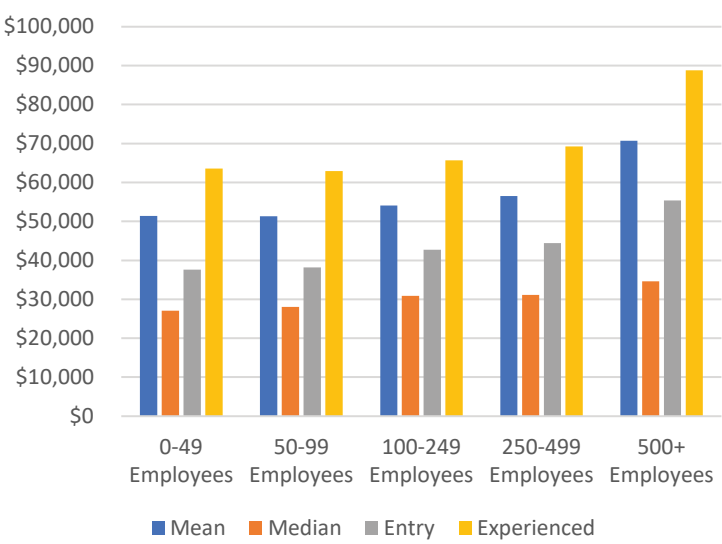


### Northwest Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

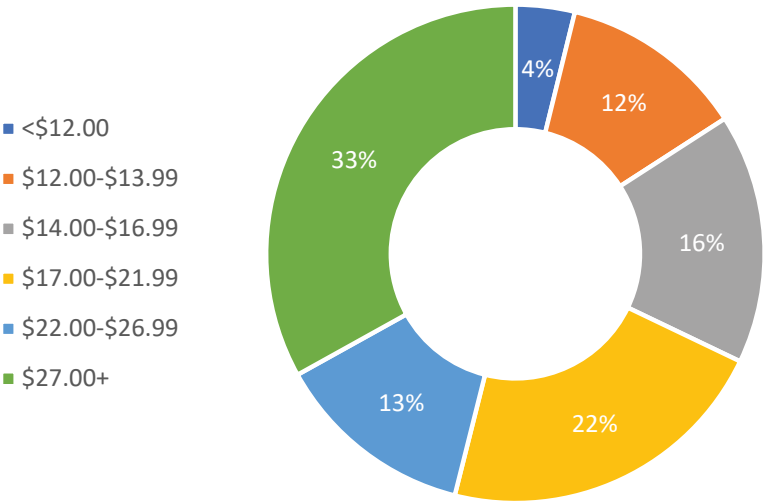
Northwest Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$57,487	\$29,519	\$43,118	\$71,472
0-49 Employees	\$51,436	\$27,109	\$37,615	\$63,599
50-99 Employees	\$51,287	\$28,064	\$38,151	\$62,898
100-249 Employees	\$54,113	\$30,918	\$42,765	\$65,711
250-499 Employees	\$56,540	\$31,148	\$44,422	\$69,236
500+ Employees	\$70,732	\$34,631	\$55,417	\$88,782

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



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



Northwest Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate

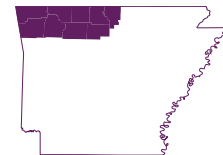
Total	314,070
<\$12.00	12,071
\$12.00-\$13.99	37,796
\$14.00-\$16.99	50,970
\$17.00-\$21.99	68,501
\$22.00-\$26.99	40,885
\$27.00+	103,847

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Northwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Food Services and Drinking Places is slated to add 1,768 jobs between 2024 and 2026, becoming the top growing industry in the Northwest Arkansas WDA, moving employment to 29,684. Support Activities for Mining is projected to increase its workforce by 41.18 percent, becoming the fastest growing industry. On the negative side of the economy, Truck Transportation could see a loss of 712 jobs between 2024 and 2026, becoming the top declining industry in the area. Grantmaking and Giving Services is forecast to be the fastest declining industry in Northwest Arkansas, cutting 26.29 percent of its workforce. **Education and Health Services** leads all supersectors in Northwest Arkansas in numeric change, with 3,871 new jobs, a 5.51 percent gain, moving employment from 70,287 in 2024 to 74,158 in 2026.

### Top Growing Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
102500	Education and Health Services	70,287	74,158	<b>3,871</b>	5.51%
102400	Professional and Business Services	55,162	57,805	<b>2,643</b>	4.79%
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	34,554	36,773	<b>2,219</b>	6.42%
101200	Construction	17,468	19,115	<b>1,647</b>	9.43%
102100	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	66,699	67,578	<b>879</b>	1.32%

### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

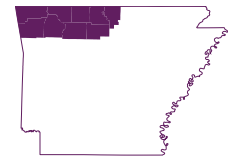
NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
722000	Food Services and Drinking Places	27,916	29,684	<b>1,768</b>	6.33%
551000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	26,401	28,061	<b>1,660</b>	6.29%
238000	Specialty Trade Contractors	12,138	13,393	<b>1,255</b>	10.34%
311000	Food Manufacturing	17,836	18,630	<b>794</b>	4.45%
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	13,908	14,698	<b>790</b>	5.68%
611100	Elementary and Secondary Schools	18,133	18,888	<b>755</b>	4.16%
541000	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	15,365	16,036	<b>671</b>	4.37%
624000	Social Assistance	8,064	8,564	<b>500</b>	6.20%
813300	Social Advocacy Organizations	937	1,319	<b>382</b>	40.77%
622100	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	9,967	10,345	<b>378</b>	3.79%



# Northwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
213000	Support Activities for Mining	34	48	14	<b>41.18%</b>
813300	Social Advocacy Organizations	937	1,319	382	<b>40.77%</b>
622300	Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals	638	831	193	<b>30.25%</b>
711000	Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related Industries	463	564	101	<b>21.81%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	339	399	60	<b>17.70%</b>
322000	Paper Manufacturing	1,063	1,246	183	<b>17.22%</b>
712000	Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions	696	809	113	<b>16.24%</b>
611200	Junior Colleges	1,868	2,147	279	<b>14.94%</b>
611500	Technical and Trade Schools	215	247	32	<b>14.88%</b>
999100	Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	2,584	2,946	362	<b>14.01%</b>

#### Top 10 Decline

484000	Truck Transportation	12,107	11,395	<b>-712</b>	-5.88%
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	1,491	1,099	<b>-392</b>	-26.29%
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,409	2,113	<b>-296</b>	-12.29%
112000	Animal Production and Aquaculture	2,364	2,116	<b>-248</b>	-10.49%
813100	Religious Organizations	6,946	6,760	<b>-186</b>	-2.68%
449000	Furniture, Home Furnishings, Electronics, and Appliance Retailers	1,651	1,575	<b>-76</b>	-4.60%
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	1,048	973	<b>-75</b>	-7.16%
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	1,124	1,062	<b>-62</b>	-5.52%
522000	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	4,023	3,974	<b>-49</b>	-1.22%
513000	Publishing Industries	489	445	<b>-44</b>	-9.00%

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

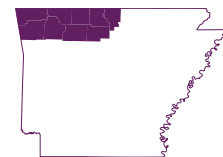
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	1,491	1,099	<b>-392</b>	<b>-26.29%</b>
315000	Apparel Manufacturing	87	74	<b>-13</b>	<b>-14.94%</b>
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	2,409	2,113	<b>-296</b>	<b>-12.29%</b>
112000	Animal Production and Aquaculture	2,364	2,116	<b>-248</b>	<b>-10.49%</b>
513000	Publishing Industries	489	445	<b>-44</b>	<b>-9.00%</b>
212000	Mining (except Oil and Gas)	82	75	<b>-7</b>	<b>-8.54%</b>
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	1,048	973	<b>-75</b>	<b>-7.16%</b>
484000	Truck Transportation	12,107	11,395	<b>-712</b>	<b>-5.88%</b>
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	1,124	1,062	<b>-62</b>	<b>-5.52%</b>
517000	Telecommunications	624	591	<b>-33</b>	<b>-5.29%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Northwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Fast Food and Counter Workers is slated to be the top growing occupation in Northwest Arkansas between 2024 and 2026, increasing its workforce by 655 jobs to 10,714. Environmental Engineers is projected to be the fastest growing occupation, increasing employment by 22.45 percent to 60 jobs. On the negative side of the local economy, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers could see a loss of 387 jobs between 2024 and 2026, becoming the top declining occupation, while Fundraising Managers could be the fastest declining occupation, estimated to experience a 17.16 percent reduction in its local workforce. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is predicted to be the top growing major group, adding 1,803 new jobs during the projection period to a total employment of 31,294.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

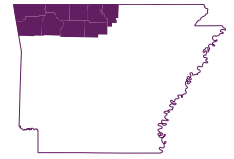
SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	29,491	31,294	<b>1,803</b>	6.11%	2,532	3,316	902	6,750
11-0000	Management Occupations	35,306	36,589	<b>1,283</b>	3.63%	1,277	1,739	642	3,658
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	19,517	20,662	<b>1,145</b>	5.87%	584	534	572	1,690
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	14,086	15,180	<b>1,094</b>	7.77%	442	766	547	1,755
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library Occupations	22,677	23,757	<b>1,080</b>	4.76%	929	1,085	540	2,554

#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	10,059	10,714	<b>655</b>	6.51%	1,096	1,314	328	2,738
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	8,492	8,854	<b>362</b>	4.26%	194	502	181	877
29-1141	Registered Nurses	6,354	6,677	<b>323</b>	5.08%	190	144	162	496
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	3,356	3,644	<b>288</b>	8.58%	232	293	144	669
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	3,510	3,798	<b>288</b>	8.21%	284	248	144	676
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	6,965	7,233	<b>268</b>	3.85%	420	709	134	1,263
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	4,954	5,215	<b>261</b>	5.27%	412	630	130	1,172
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	8,259	8,505	<b>246</b>	2.98%	529	684	123	1,336
47-2111	Electricians	2,169	2,400	<b>231</b>	10.65%	68	132	116	316
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	3,811	4,039	<b>228</b>	5.98%	233	314	114	661

# Northwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area



### Occupations

#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
17-2081	Environmental Engineers	49	60	11	<b>22.45%</b>	2	2	6	10
43-4181	Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	70	82	12	<b>17.14%</b>	3	5	6	14
25-1071	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	65	76	11	<b>16.92%</b>	2	2	6	10
25-4012	Curators	43	50	7	<b>16.28%</b>	2	2	4	8
25-1072	Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	189	217	28	<b>14.81%</b>	8	7	14	29
25-1041	Agricultural Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary	30	34	4	<b>13.33%</b>	1	1	2	4
49-9011	Mechanical Door Repairers	77	87	10	<b>12.99%</b>	3	4	5	12
25-1194	Career/Technical Education Teachers, Postsecondary	234	264	30	<b>12.82%</b>	10	9	15	34
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	643	721	78	<b>12.13%</b>	14	16	39	69
39-7010	Tour and Travel Guides	182	204	22	<b>12.09%</b>	18	26	11	55

#### Top 10 Decline

53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	13,023	12,636	<b>-387</b>	-2.97%	524	780	-194	1,110
45-2093	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals	1,328	1,189	<b>-139</b>	-10.47%	79	113	-70	122
51-2090	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	2,537	2,489	<b>-48</b>	-1.89%	96	172	-24	244
51-4081	Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	388	340	<b>-48</b>	-12.37%	13	22	-24	11
21-2011	Clergy	2,090	2,047	<b>-43</b>	-2.06%	87	92	-22	157
51-4021	Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	312	269	<b>-43</b>	-13.78%	10	20	-22	8
43-3071	Tellers	910	874	<b>-36</b>	-3.96%	36	53	-18	71
51-2028	Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	411	384	<b>-27</b>	-6.57%	18	24	-14	28
51-2051	Fiberglass Laminators and Fabricators	252	227	<b>-25</b>	-9.92%	9	16	-12	13
11-2033	Fundraising Managers	134	111	<b>-23</b>	-17.16%	6	6	-12	0

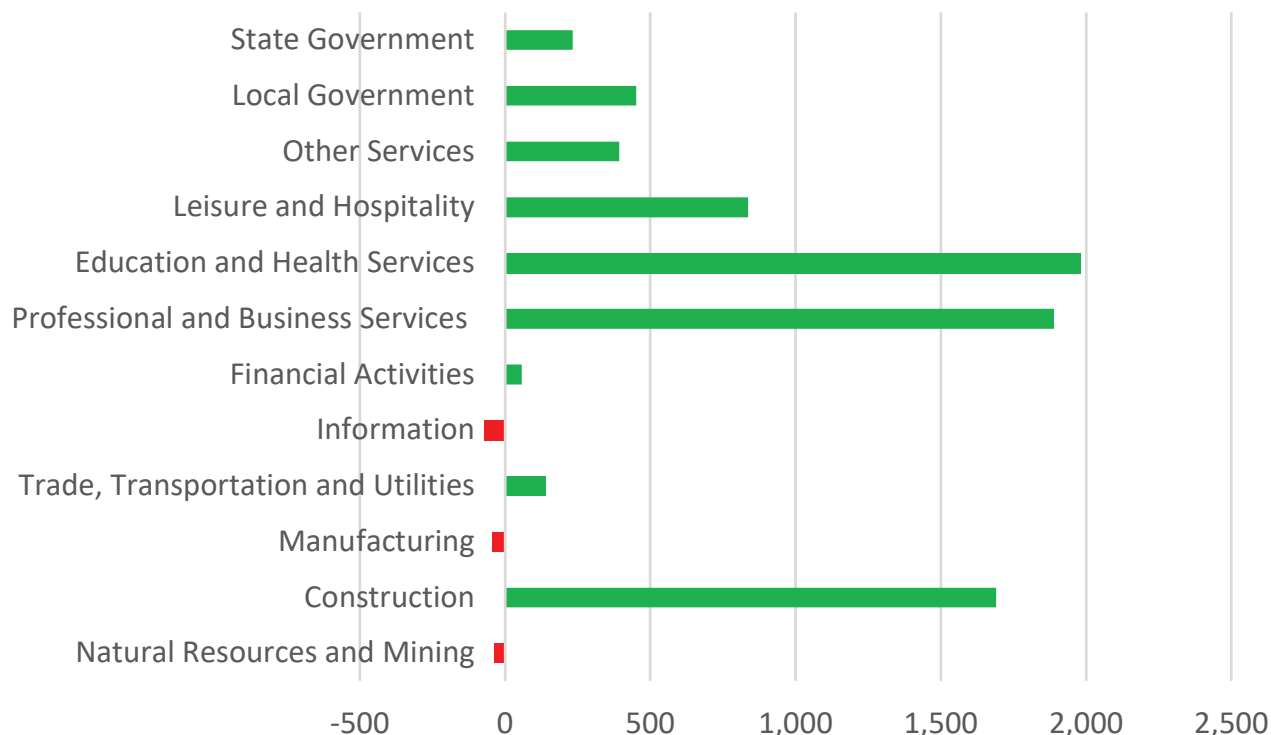
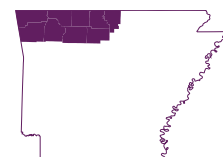
#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

11-2033	Fundraising Managers	134	111	-23	<b>-17.16%</b>	6	6	-12	0
51-4021	Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	312	269	-43	<b>-13.78%</b>	10	20	-22	8
51-4081	Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	388	340	-48	<b>-12.37%</b>	13	22	-24	11
51-4033	Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, & Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, & Tenders, Metal & Plastic	136	121	-15	<b>-11.03%</b>	5	8	-8	5
45-2093	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals	1,328	1,189	-139	<b>-10.47%</b>	79	113	-70	122
51-2051	Fiberglass Laminators and Fabricators	252	227	-25	<b>-9.92%</b>	9	16	-12	13
45-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers	138	126	-12	<b>-8.70%</b>	6	12	-6	12
13-1131	Fundraisers	207	192	-15	<b>-7.25%</b>	6	9	-8	7
15-1242	Database Administrators	119	111	-8	<b>-6.72%</b>	3	4	-4	3
51-2028	Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	411	384	-27	<b>-6.57%</b>	18	24	-14	28

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Northwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Covered Employment and Earnings

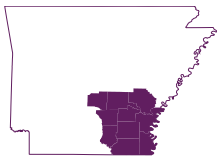


NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>304,683</b>	<b>312,206</b>	<b>7,523</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>\$1,220</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	1,643	1,604	-39	-2.4%	\$1,192
Construction	16,615	18,305	1,690	10.2%	\$1,273
Manufacturing	36,500	36,455	-45	-0.1%	\$1,038
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	67,034	67,175	141	0.2%	\$1,167
Information	2,391	2,321	-70	-2.9%	\$1,444
Financial Activities	10,523	10,581	58	0.6%	\$1,415
Professional and Business Services	54,690	56,580	1,890	3.5%	\$2,453
Education and Health Services	39,523	41,506	1,983	5.0%	\$1,087
Leisure and Hospitality	35,677	36,514	837	2.3%	\$461
Other Services	6,429	6,822	393	6.1%	\$890
Local Government	24,069	24,521	452	1.9%	\$993
State Government	9,589	9,822	233	2.4%	\$1,227

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

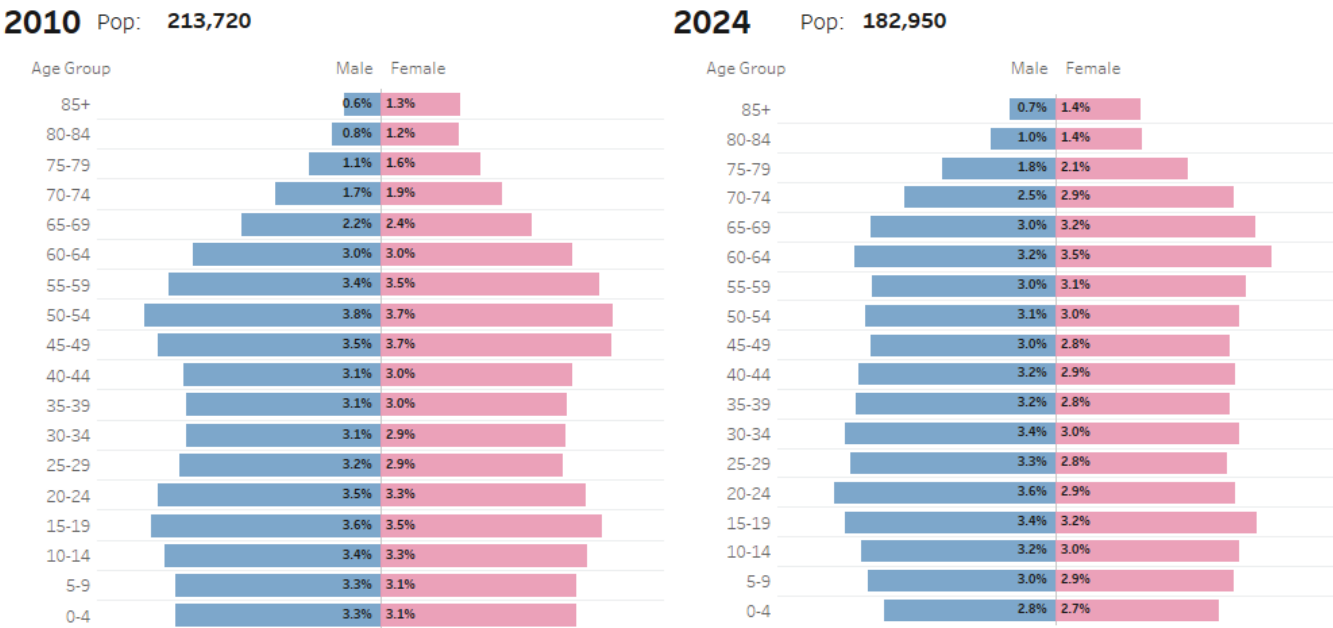
# Southeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area



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.

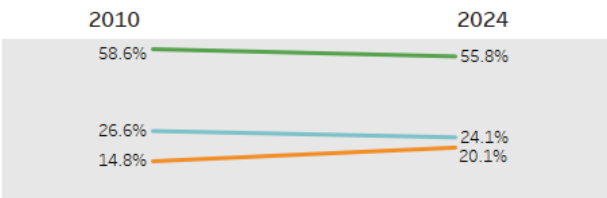
### Population Pyramids for Southeast Arkansas



Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	31,610	36,786
Adults 20-64	125,231	102,016
Under 20	56,879	44,148
Total	213,720	182,950

Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



*Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics:2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.*

### Southeast LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
191,418	188,525	185,345	183,955	182,950

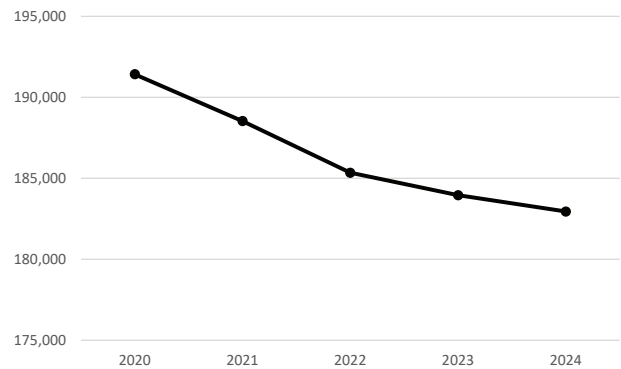
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

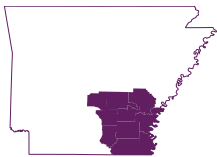
### Southeast Arkansas Population Progression



# Southeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

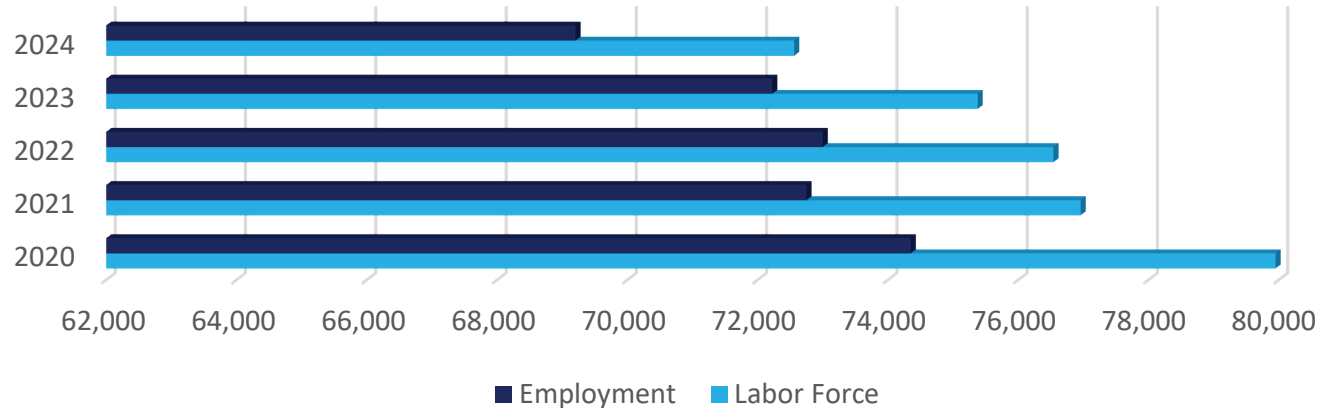


Southeast Arkansas saw a decrease in the labor force of 2,815 to 72,562 from 2023 to 2024, and employment decreased by 3,020 to 69,204 for the same time period. Both the labor force and employment have decreased since 2020 by 7,389 and 5,148 respectively. Unemployment increased by 205 to 3,358 from 2023 to 2024 and the unemployment rate increased to 4.6 percent in 2024. After starting at 5.4 percent in January 2025, the unemployment rate fluctuated, ultimately settling to 5.8 percent in July 2025.

Southeast Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	79,951	76,960	76,542	75,377	72,562
Employment	74,352	72,750	72,999	72,224	69,204
Unemployment	5,599	4,210	3,543	3,153	3,358
Unemployment Rate	7.0%	5.5%	4.6%	4.2%	4.6%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



Southeast Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\*

Year	Month	Southeast Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	5.4%	3.6%
2025	February	5.6%	3.6%
2025	March	5.1%	3.7%
2025	April	4.5%	3.7%
2025	May	4.8%	3.7%
2025	June	5.5%	3.7%
2025	July	5.8%†	3.7%**

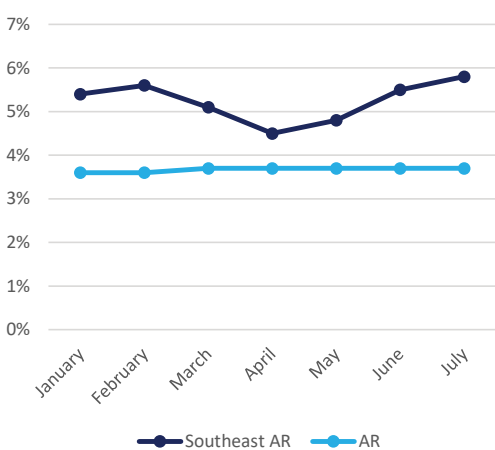
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025

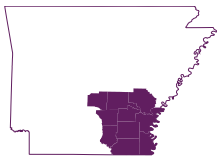




# Southeast Arkansas

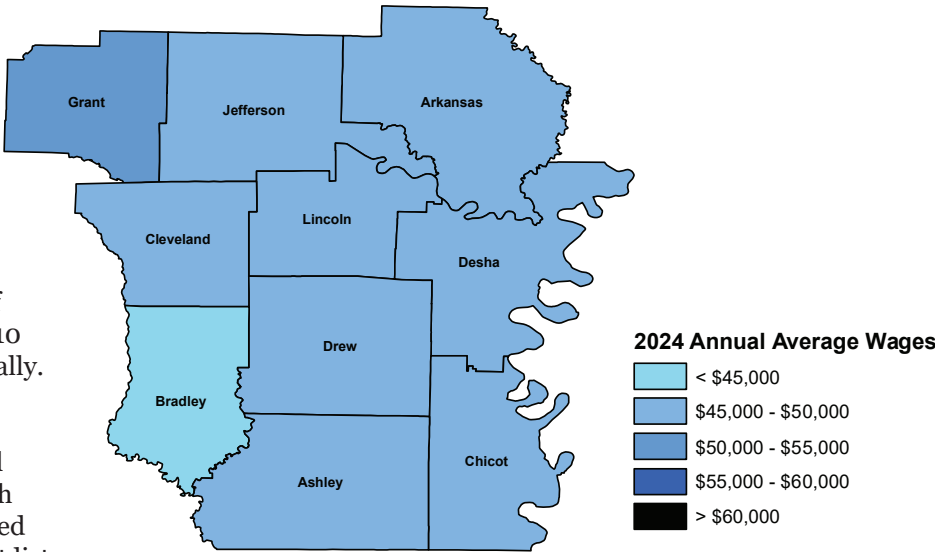
## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



**Material Moving Workers** was estimated to have the most employees in Southeast Arkansas with 3,830 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$35,372. **Other Production Occupations** was the second largest occupation with 3,780 employed, earning an average wage of \$43,116. **Health-care Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners**, with an estimated employment of 2,110, had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning \$97,678 annually.

**Physicians, All Other** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$311,938. **Chief Executives**, with an average annual salary of \$139,376, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.



*\*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services  
May 2025 Wage Survey*

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$27,641 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$38,167, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$57,729 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 65,240 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 5,924 made less than \$12 an hour while 15,593 made \$17 to \$21.99 an hour. Employees making more than \$27 an hour totaled 15,422.

### Southeast Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Material Moving Workers	3,830	\$35,372	\$27,625	\$39,245
Other Production Occupations	3,780	\$43,116	\$32,543	\$48,403
Retail Sales Workers	3,340	\$29,256	\$23,696	\$32,036
Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	2,640	\$28,759	\$24,252	\$31,013
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	2,550	\$50,851	\$41,295	\$55,629
Other Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	2,440	\$53,574	\$34,382	\$63,169
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	2,430	\$25,987	\$23,344	\$27,309
Information and Record Clerks	2,190	\$36,304	\$28,392	\$40,261
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	2,110	\$97,678	\$57,054	\$117,990
Motor Vehicle Operators	2,100	\$45,320	\$29,015	\$53,473

*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey*

# Southeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Wages



### Southeast Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

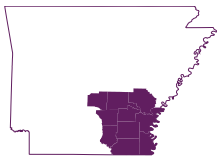
Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Physicians, All Other	\$311,938
Chief Executives	\$139,376
Natural Sciences Managers	\$138,249
Pharmacists	\$133,780
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$132,847
Medical Scientists, Except Epidemiologists	\$132,115
Chemists	\$117,608
Industrial Production Managers	\$117,478
Microbiologists	\$115,615
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$115,607
Sales Managers	\$115,550
Physical Scientists	\$114,539
Nurse Practitioners	\$109,197
Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	\$105,229
Air Transportation Workers	\$104,285
Operations Specialties Managers	\$104,085
Life Scientists	\$103,349
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$103,328
Financial Managers	\$103,226
Biological Scientists, All Other	\$101,194
Occupational Therapists	\$100,471
Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	\$100,333
Human Resources Managers	\$100,060
Purchasing Managers	\$99,462
Food Scientists and Technologists	\$99,358

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Southeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages

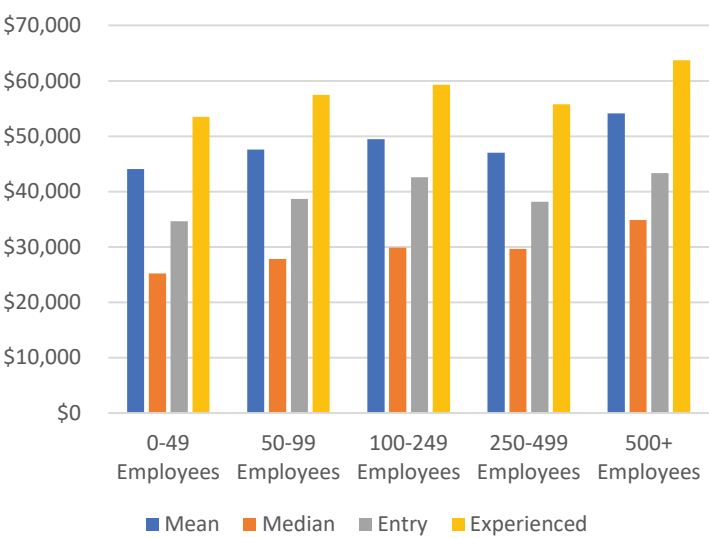


### Southeast Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

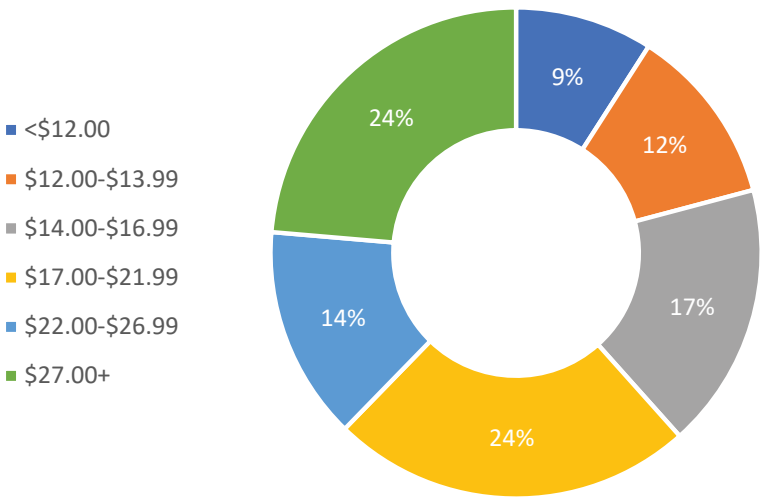
Southeast Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$47,700	\$27,641	\$39,079	\$57,729
0-49 Employees	\$44,087	\$25,252	\$34,668	\$53,505
50-99 Employees	\$47,602	\$27,834	\$38,676	\$57,486
100-249 Employees	\$49,471	\$29,874	\$42,581	\$59,269
250-499 Employees	\$47,048	\$29,653	\$38,167	\$55,745
500+ Employees	\$54,130	\$34,894	\$43,343	\$63,749

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



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



Southeast Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate

Total	65,240
<\$12.00	5,924
\$12.00-\$13.99	7,690
\$14.00-\$16.99	11,432
\$17.00-\$21.99	15,593
\$22.00-\$26.99	9,179
\$27.00+	15,422

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Southeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Food Manufacturing is projected to be the top growing industry in Southeast Arkansas, increasing its workforce by 242 new jobs, a 6.46 percent gain. Private Households is predicted to be the fastest growing industry, raising its employment levels by 29.28 percent between 2024 and 2026. On the negative side of the local economy, Paper Manufacturing could be the top declining industry with a loss of 282 employees, or 12.21 percent of its workforce. Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers is slated to be the fastest declining industry, cutting its workforce by 58 percent. **Construction** is anticipated to be the top growing supersector, adding 88 jobs between 2024 and 2026, a 4.06 percent rise in employment and one of only three supersectors to experience growth.

#### Top Growing Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
101200	Construction	2,169	2,257	88	4.06%
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	5,313	5,348	35	0.66%
102700	Other Services (except Government)	2,906	2,915	9	0.31%

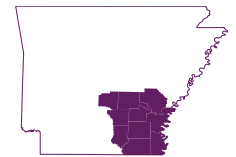
#### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
311000	Food Manufacturing	3,749	3,991	242	6.46%
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	2,696	2,849	153	5.68%
237000	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	754	849	95	12.60%
332000	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,487	1,559	72	4.84%
999300	Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	2,907	2,972	65	2.24%
814000	Private Households	181	234	53	29.28%
423000	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	841	876	35	4.16%
562000	Waste Management and Remediation Services	90	115	25	27.78%
455000	General Merchandise Retailers	2,176	2,199	23	1.06%
813100	Religious Organizations	1,689	1,709	20	1.18%

# Southeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
814000	Private Households	181	234	53	<b>29.28%</b>
562000	Waste Management and Remediation Services	90	115	25	<b>27.78%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	57	67	10	<b>17.54%</b>
237000	Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	754	849	95	<b>12.60%</b>
611500	Technical and Trade Schools	86	94	8	<b>9.30%</b>
311000	Food Manufacturing	3,749	3,991	242	<b>6.46%</b>
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	2,696	2,849	153	<b>5.68%</b>
113132	Forestry	39	41	2	<b>5.13%</b>
332000	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,487	1,559	72	<b>4.84%</b>
551000	Management of Companies and Enterprises	333	348	15	<b>4.50%</b>

#### Top 10 Decline

322000	Paper Manufacturing	2,309	2,027	-282	<b>-12.21%</b>
624000	Social Assistance	2,352	2,194	<b>-158</b>	-6.72%
561000	Administrative and Support Services	1,717	1,575	<b>-142</b>	-8.27%
999200	State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	3,766	3,645	<b>-121</b>	-3.21%
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	505	416	<b>-89</b>	-17.62%
111000	Crop Production	1,436	1,370	<b>-66</b>	-4.60%
325000	Chemical Manufacturing	271	205	<b>-66</b>	-24.35%
484000	Truck Transportation	775	713	<b>-62</b>	-8.00%
611100	Elementary and Secondary Schools	5,091	5,033	<b>-58</b>	-1.14%
458000	Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	211	161	<b>-50</b>	-23.70%

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	50	21	-29	<b>-58.00%</b>
524100	Insurance Carriers	54	31	-23	<b>-42.59%</b>
325000	Chemical Manufacturing	271	205	-66	<b>-24.35%</b>
458000	Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	211	161	-50	<b>-23.70%</b>
516000	Broadcasting and Content Providers	26	21	-5	<b>-19.23%</b>
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	505	416	-89	<b>-17.62%</b>
812000	Personal and Laundry Services	277	238	-39	<b>-14.08%</b>
112000	Animal Production and Aquaculture	344	301	-43	<b>-12.50%</b>
322000	Paper Manufacturing	2,309	2,027	-282	<b>-12.21%</b>
513000	Publishing Industries	41	36	-5	<b>-12.20%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Southeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners is projected to lead Southeast Arkansas in numeric change, growing by 20 jobs, reaching an employment level of 435. Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors could see a 13.68 percent increase in staffing, moving from 95 jobs in 2024 to 108 in 2026. On the reverse side of the labor market, Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agriculture Managers is anticipated to be the top declining occupation, losing 142 jobs, or 4.84 percent of its workforce. Fundraising Managers could see a 30.43 percent reduction in its local workforce by first quarter of 2026. **Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations** is estimated to be one of only two growing major groups in the area during the 2024-2026 projection period, with 18 new jobs, moving employment to 3,957.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	3,939	3,957	18	0.46%	116	112	9	237
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	2,592	2,600	8	0.31%	80	138	4	222

#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

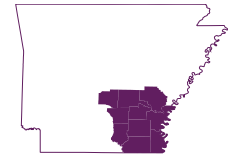
SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
37-2012	Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	435	455	20	4.60%	32	32	10	74
47-2073	Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators	405	419	14	3.46%	12	22	7	41
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	359	372	13	3.62%	9	16	6	31
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	121	134	13	10.74%	2	3	6	11
53-7081	Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors	95	108	13	13.68%	4	8	6	18
47-2061	Construction Laborers	501	512	11	2.20%	16	26	6	48
51-9012	Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	210	221	11	5.24%	6	15	6	27
13-2052	Personal Financial Advisors	84	94	10	11.90%	2	4	5	11
31-9092	Medical Assistants	187	197	10	5.35%	8	16	5	29
51-9021	Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	166	175	9	5.42%	5	12	4	21



# Southeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
53-7081	Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors	95	108	13	<b>13.68%</b>	4	8	6	18
41-3031	Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents	65	73	8	<b>12.31%</b>	2	3	4	9
13-2052	Personal Financial Advisors	84	94	10	<b>11.90%</b>	2	4	5	11
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	121	134	13	<b>10.74%</b>	2	3	6	11
49-9012	Control and Valve Installers and Repairers, Except Mechanical Door	73	78	5	<b>6.85%</b>	2	4	2	8
43-6011	Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants	67	71	4	<b>5.97%</b>	3	4	2	9
31-9091	Dental Assistants	105	111	6	<b>5.71%</b>	5	9	3	17
51-3092	Food Batchmakers	35	37	2	<b>5.71%</b>	2	3	1	6
29-2042	Emergency Medical Technicians	54	57	3	<b>5.56%</b>	2	3	2	7
51-9021	Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	166	175	9	<b>5.42%</b>	5	12	4	21

#### Top 10 Decline

11-9013	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	2,931	2,789	<b>-142</b>	-4.84%	196	107	-71	232
41-2011	Cashiers	1,845	1,775	<b>-70</b>	-3.79%	164	179	-35	308
51-9196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	489	430	<b>-59</b>	-12.07%	14	32	-30	16
33-3012	Correctional Officers and Jailers	1,499	1,440	<b>-59</b>	-3.94%	48	82	-30	100
53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,305	1,247	<b>-58</b>	-4.44%	52	78	-29	101
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	1,184	1,137	<b>-47</b>	-3.97%	74	95	-24	145
45-2092	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	798	752	<b>-46</b>	-5.76%	48	70	-23	95
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	1,381	1,339	<b>-42</b>	-3.04%	74	85	-21	138
51-2090	Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators	930	889	<b>-41</b>	-4.41%	35	62	-20	77
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	1,317	1,278	<b>-39</b>	-2.96%	101	88	-20	169

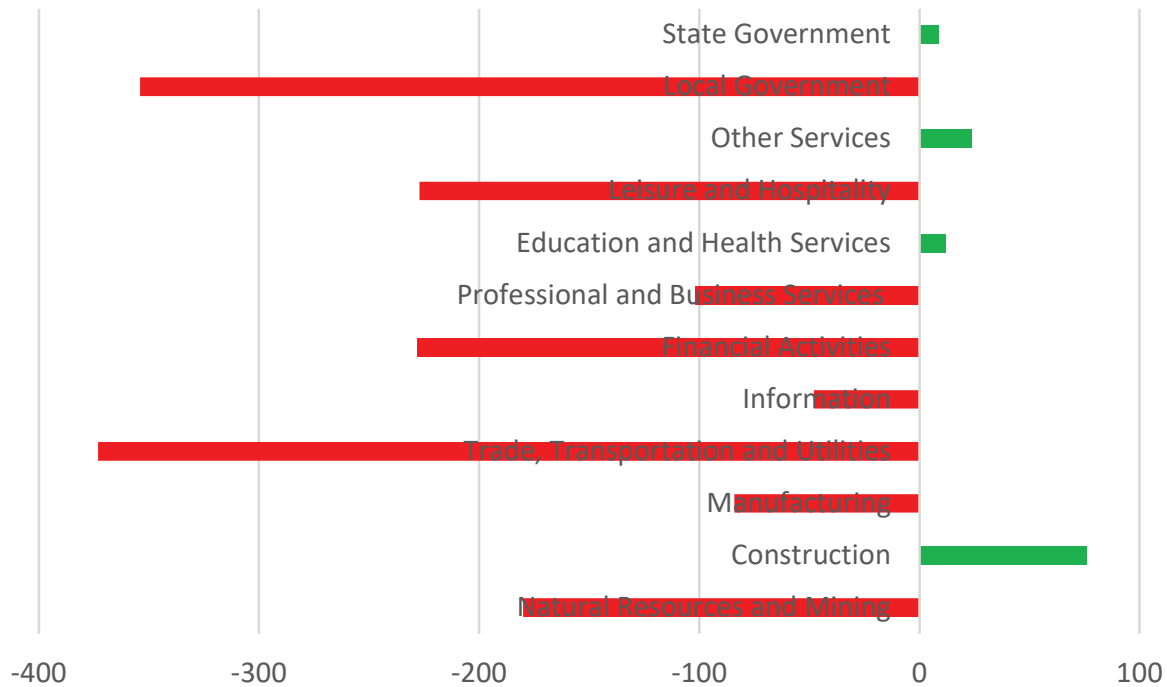
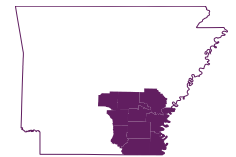
#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

11-2033	Fundraising Managers	23	16	-7	<b>-30.43%</b>	2	2	-4	0
43-9041	Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	26	20	-6	<b>-23.08%</b>	2	2	-3	1
51-9011	Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	136	109	-27	<b>-19.85%</b>	6	7	-14	0
39-4031	Morticians, Undertakers, and Funeral Arrangers	34	28	-6	<b>-17.65%</b>	1	2	-3	0
45-2093	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals	208	182	-26	<b>-12.50%</b>	12	18	-13	17
51-9196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	489	430	-59	<b>-12.07%</b>	14	32	-30	16
51-5112	Printing Press Operators	69	62	-7	<b>-10.14%</b>	2	4	-4	2
51-9032	Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	69	62	-7	<b>-10.14%</b>	2	4	-4	2
51-9161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	178	162	-16	<b>-8.99%</b>	5	11	-8	8
43-9021	Data Entry Keysers	67	61	-6	<b>-8.96%</b>	3	4	-3	4

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Southeast Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Covered Employment and Earnings

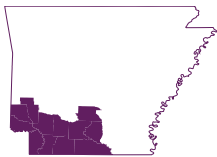


NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,357</b>	<b>63,882</b>	<b>-1,475</b>	<b>-2.3%</b>	<b>\$925</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	2,221	2,041	-180	-8.1%	\$989
Construction	2,127	2,203	76	3.6%	\$1,180
Manufacturing	13,900	13,816	-84	-0.6%	\$1,192
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,697	11,324	-373	-3.2%	\$859
Information	262	214	-48	-18.3%	\$905
Financial Activities	2,401	2,173	-228	-9.5%	\$1,110
Professional and Business Services	3,260	3,158	-102	-3.1%	\$1,004
Education and Health Services	9,593	9,605	12	0.1%	\$918
Leisure and Hospitality	5,506	5,279	-227	-4.1%	\$480
Other Services	1,027	1,051	24	2.3%	\$754
Local Government	7,924	7,570	-354	-4.5%	\$810
State Government	5,439	5,448	9	0.2%	\$902

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

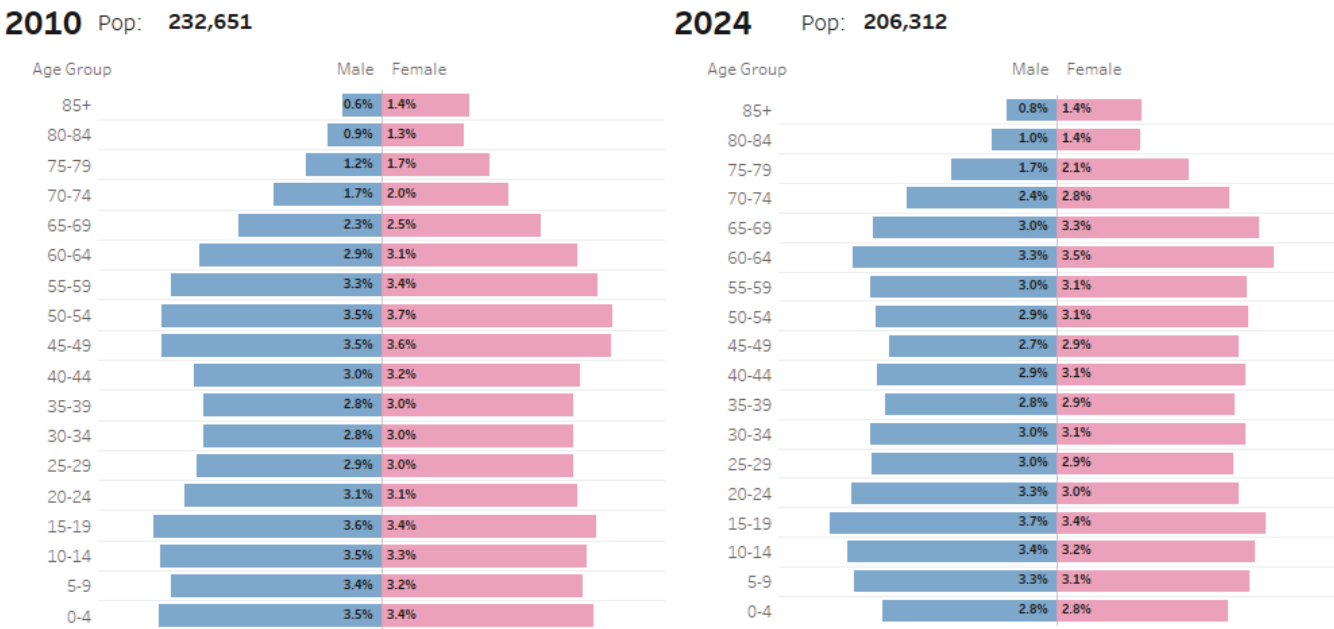
# Southwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area



Twelve counties are located within the Southwest Arkansas LWDA region: Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, and Union. Oklahoma is to the west, Texas is to the southwest, and Louisiana is to the south. Miller County is part of the Texarkana AR/TX Metropolitan Statistical Area.

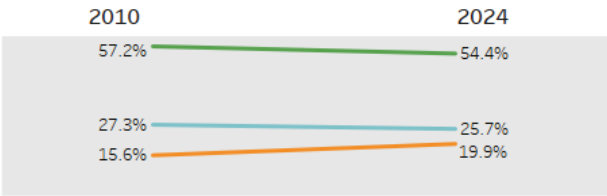
### Population Pyramids for Southwest Arkansas



Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	36,265	41,109
Adults 20-64	132,976	112,263
Under 20	63,410	52,940
Total	232,651	206,312

Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics:2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

### Southwest Arkansas LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
213,659	211,485	209,254	208,109	206,312

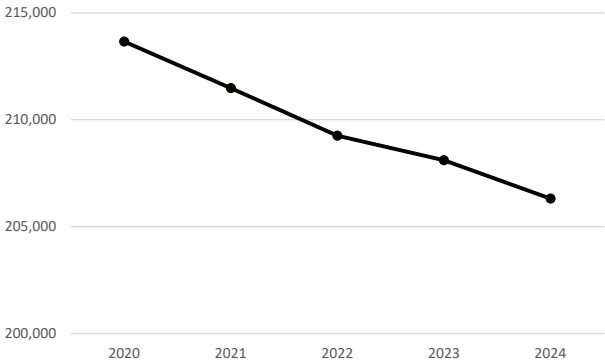
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

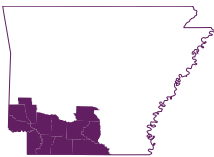
### Southwest Arkansas Population Progression



# Southwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

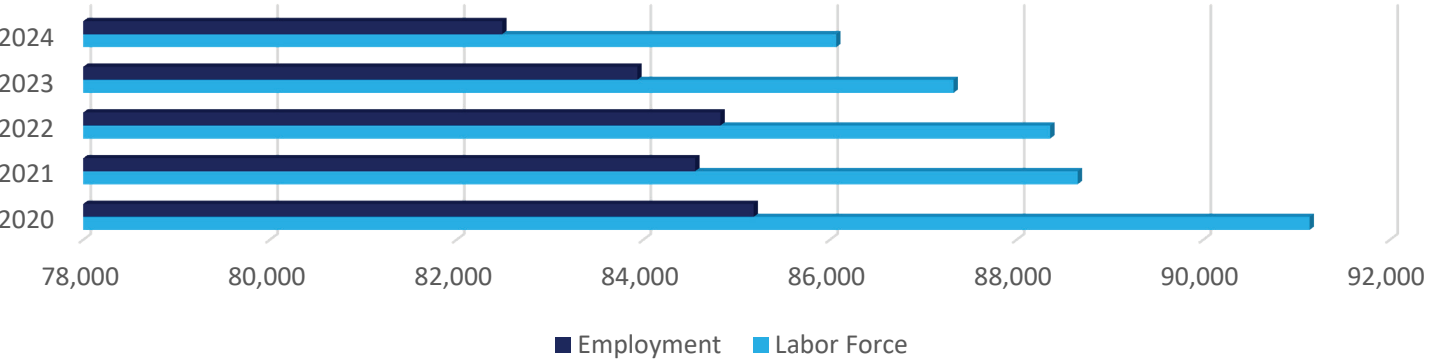


The Southwest Arkansas LWDA labor force decreased from 2023 to 2024 by 1,257 to 86,068, while employment decreased by 1,447 to 82,490. Over the five-year period from 2020 to 2024, the area has seen a decrease of 5,072 in the labor force and decrease of 2,694 in employment. Unemployment increased by 190 from 2023 to 2024, but decreased by 2,378 over the five-year period. The unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percent from 2023 to 2024 to 4.2 percent. After various fluctuations in the unemployment rate during 2025, the rate settled at 5.2 percent in July 2025.

Southwest Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	91,140	88,656	88,361	87,325	86,068
Employment	85,184	84,557	84,828	83,937	82,490
Unemployment	5,956	4,099	3,533	3,388	3,578
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	4.6%	4.0%	3.9%	4.2%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



Southwest Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\*

Year	Month	Southwest Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	4.5%	3.6%
2025	February	4.8%	3.6%
2025	March	4.3%	3.7%
2025	April	3.8%	3.7%
2025	May	4.0%	3.7%
2025	June	4.9%	3.7%
2025	July	5.2%†	3.7%**

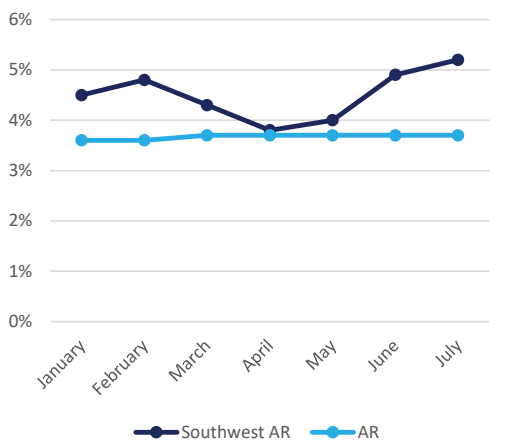
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

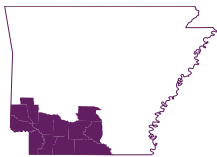
Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025



# Southwest Arkansas

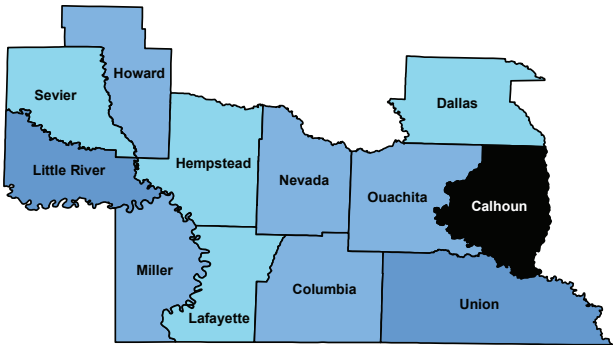
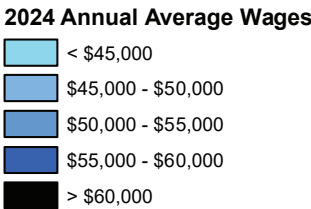
## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



### Material Moving Workers

was estimated to have the most employees in Southwest Arkansas with 5,220 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$36,305. **Other Production Occupations** was the second largest occupation with 4,450 employed, earning an average wage of \$49,418. **Other Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations** had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations at \$57,579 annually.



*\*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services  
May 2025 Wage Survey*

**Physicians, All Other** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$311,222. **Family Medicine Physicians**, with an average annual salary of \$231,959, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$27,796 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$43,467, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$59,364 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 74,420 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 6,259 made less than \$12 an hour while 19,307 made more than \$27 an hour. Employees making between \$17 and \$21.99 totaled 17,042.

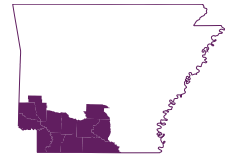
### Southwest Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Material Moving Workers	5,220	\$36,305	\$28,303	\$40,306
Other Production Occupations	4,450	\$49,418	\$34,277	\$56,989
Retail Sales Workers	3,900	\$29,675	\$23,912	\$32,556
Motor Vehicle Operators	3,690	\$48,594	\$31,123	\$57,329
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	3,000	\$25,918	\$23,313	\$27,221
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	2,990	\$50,447	\$41,230	\$55,056
Other Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	2,700	\$57,579	\$35,015	\$68,861
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	2,470	\$51,417	\$34,245	\$60,003
Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	2,390	\$29,224	\$24,811	\$31,431
Cashiers	2,240	\$26,678	\$23,561	\$28,237

*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey*

# Southwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Wages



### Southwest Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Physicians, All Other	\$311,222
Family Medicine Physicians	\$231,959
Dentists, General	\$149,749
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$147,033
Chief Executives	\$134,631
Petroleum Engineers	\$134,253
Pharmacists	\$133,497
Industrial Production Managers	\$130,831
Marketing Managers	\$116,869
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$115,767
Operations Specialties Managers	\$115,166
Optometrists	\$114,582
Environmental Engineers	\$114,148
Facilities Managers	\$113,917
Purchasing Managers	\$112,795
Transportation, Storage, and Distribution Managers	\$112,665
Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	\$111,811
Sales Managers	\$111,093
Financial Managers	\$111,025
Lawyers	\$110,701
Personal Financial Advisors	\$109,670
Chemical Engineers	\$105,872
Nurse Practitioners	\$105,711
Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	\$104,800
Veterinarians	\$103,827

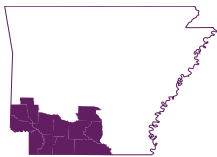
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



# Southwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages

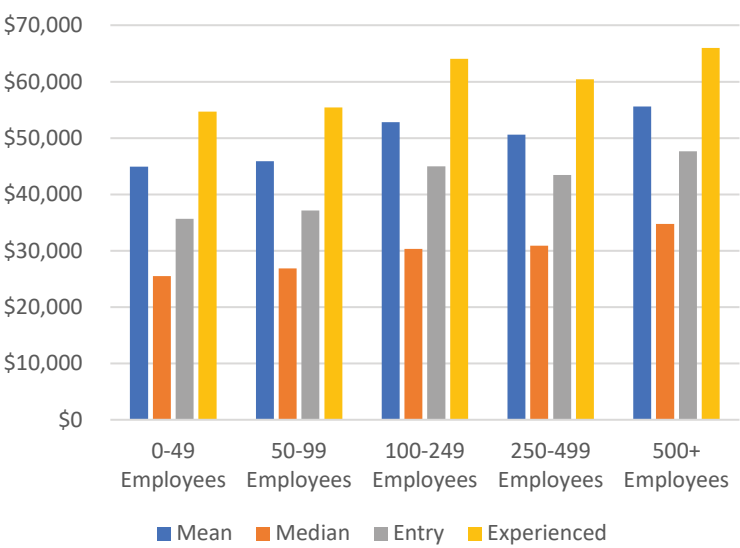


### Southwest Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

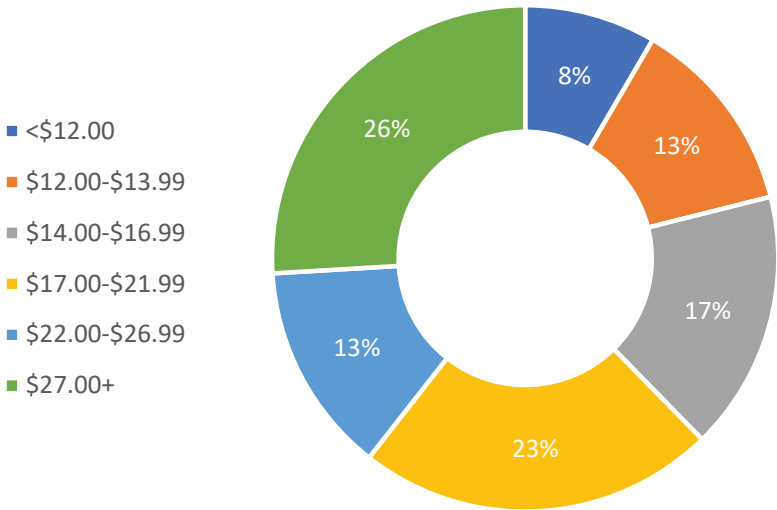
Southwest Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$48,842	\$27,796	\$39,277	\$59,364
0-49 Employees	\$44,948	\$25,483	\$35,663	\$54,681
50-99 Employees	\$45,902	\$26,860	\$37,139	\$55,423
100-249 Employees	\$52,836	\$30,336	\$44,999	\$64,085
250-499 Employees	\$50,600	\$30,923	\$43,467	\$60,438
500+ Employees	\$55,602	\$34,771	\$47,633	\$66,018

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



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



Southwest Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate

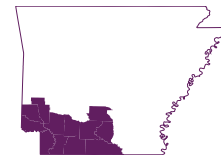
Total	74,420
<\$12.00	6,259
\$12.00-\$13.99	9,431
\$14.00-\$16.99	12,352
\$17.00-\$21.99	17,042
\$22.00-\$26.99	10,029
\$27.00+	19,307

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Southwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Wood Product Manufacturing is estimated to be the top growing industry in Southwest Arkansas, adding 349 jobs, for an employment level of 3,031. Crop Production could raise employment levels by 19.67 percent, moving from 183 jobs in 2024 to 219 jobs in 2026. On the negative side of the labor market, Machinery Manufacturing is expected to lose its entire local workforce, losing 277 jobs, becoming the top and fastest declining industry. **Manufacturing** is estimated to be the top growing supersector, despite its mixed local outlook, with a projected net gain of 153 new jobs between 2024 and 2026, a 0.82 percent rise in employment to a level of 18,826.

### Top Growing Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
101300	Manufacturing	18,673	18,826	153	0.82%
101100	Natural Resources and Mining	2,438	2,566	128	5.25%
102800	Government	5,793	5,852	59	1.02%
102400	Professional and Business Services	4,733	4,773	40	0.85%

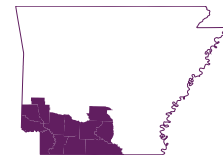
### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	2,682	3,031	349	13.01%
311000	Food Manufacturing	4,580	4,741	161	3.52%
423000	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	1,301	1,433	132	10.15%
332000	Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2,650	2,762	112	4.23%
213000	Support Activities for Mining	637	739	102	16.01%
624000	Social Assistance	2,133	2,233	100	4.69%
623000	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	2,807	2,900	93	3.31%
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	1,692	1,777	85	5.02%
999300	Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	3,383	3,453	70	2.07%
455000	General Merchandise Retailers	2,777	2,832	55	1.98%

# Southwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
111000	Crop Production	183	219	36	<b>19.67%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	81	95	14	<b>17.28%</b>
213000	Support Activities for Mining	637	739	102	<b>16.01%</b>
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	2,682	3,031	349	<b>13.01%</b>
423000	Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	1,301	1,433	132	<b>10.15%</b>
814000	Private Households	158	174	16	<b>10.13%</b>
622200	Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals	382	412	30	<b>7.85%</b>
493000	Warehousing and Storage	172	185	13	<b>7.56%</b>
562000	Waste Management and Remediation Services	789	832	43	<b>5.45%</b>
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	1,692	1,777	85	<b>5.02%</b>

#### Top 10 Decline

333000	Machinery Manufacturing	277	0	<b>-277</b>	<b>-100.00%</b>
322000	Paper Manufacturing	813	658	<b>-155</b>	<b>-19.07%</b>
484000	Truck Transportation	1,859	1,706	<b>-153</b>	<b>-8.23%</b>
445000	Food and Beverage Retailers	1,084	988	<b>-96</b>	<b>-8.86%</b>
622100	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	1,461	1,373	<b>-88</b>	<b>-6.02%</b>
326000	Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	2,629	2,554	<b>-75</b>	<b>-2.85%</b>
813300	Social Advocacy Organizations	415	351	<b>-64</b>	<b>-15.42%</b>
424000	Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	561	502	<b>-59</b>	<b>-10.52%</b>
522000	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,236	1,184	<b>-52</b>	<b>-4.21%</b>
524200	Agencies, Brokerages, and Other Insurance Related Activities	255	214	<b>-41</b>	<b>-16.08%</b>

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

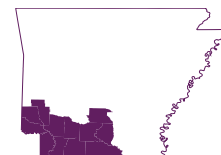
333000	Machinery Manufacturing	277	0	<b>-277</b>	<b>-100.00%</b>
524100	Insurance Carriers	88	48	<b>-40</b>	<b>-45.45%</b>
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	38	24	<b>-14</b>	<b>-36.84%</b>
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	36	25	<b>-11</b>	<b>-30.56%</b>
458000	Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	180	141	<b>-39</b>	<b>-21.67%</b>
323000	Printing and Related Support Activities	47	37	<b>-10</b>	<b>-21.28%</b>
322000	Paper Manufacturing	813	658	<b>-155</b>	<b>-19.07%</b>
339000	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	75	61	<b>-14</b>	<b>-18.67%</b>
513000	Publishing Industries	76	62	<b>-14</b>	<b>-18.42%</b>
524200	Agencies, Brokerages, and Other Insurance Related Activities	255	214	<b>-41</b>	<b>-16.08%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Southwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand is projected to be the top growing occupation in Southwest Arkansas between 2024 and 2026, adding 72 jobs, increasing its workforce to 2,285 jobs. Roustabouts, Oil and Gas could be the fastest growing occupation, gaining 14.49 percent, moving from 138 jobs in 2024 to 158 jobs in 2026. On the negative side of the labor market, Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers could see a decline of 92 jobs, or 2.66 percent of its local workforce, becoming the top declining occupation. Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks could see a 32.56 percent reduction in its local workforce, becoming the fastest declining occupation. **Transportation and Material Moving Occupations** is forecast to be the top growing major group for the 2024-2026 projection period, with 122 new jobs, a 1.23 percent gain, moving employment above the 10,000 mark.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	9,931	10,053	122	1.23%	470	742	61	1,273
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	2,952	3,062	110	3.73%	191	233	55	479
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	3,931	3,999	68	1.73%	122	215	34	371
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	4,449	4,497	48	1.08%	158	220	24	402
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	1,368	1,413	45	3.29%	84	122	22	228

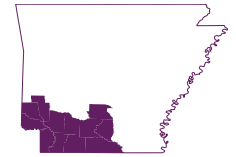
#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	2,213	2,285	72	3.25%	103	188	36	327
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	1,087	1,153	66	6.07%	87	76	33	196
51-7041	Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood	411	462	51	12.41%	14	34	26	74
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	1,188	1,219	31	2.61%	72	96	16	184
51-7042	Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing	249	280	31	12.45%	8	20	16	44
51-3022	Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	709	735	26	3.67%	32	54	13	99
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	1,467	1,492	25	1.70%	88	148	12	248
47-5071	Roustabouts, Oil and Gas	138	158	20	14.49%	4	11	10	25
47-5013	Service Unit Operators, Oil and Gas	119	135	16	13.45%	4	9	8	21
49-3042	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	160	176	16	10.00%	5	8	8	21

# Southwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
47-5071	Roustabouts, Oil and Gas	138	158	20	<b>14.49%</b>	4	11	10	25
47-5013	Service Unit Operators, Oil and Gas	119	135	16	<b>13.45%</b>	4	9	8	21
51-7042	Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing	249	280	31	<b>12.45%</b>	8	20	16	44
51-7041	Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood	411	462	51	<b>12.41%</b>	14	34	26	74
49-3041	Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians	34	38	4	<b>11.76%</b>	1	2	2	5
49-3042	Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines	160	176	16	<b>10.00%</b>	5	8	8	21
45-4023	Log Graders and Scalers	37	40	3	<b>8.11%</b>	2	3	2	7
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	160	171	11	<b>6.88%</b>	4	4	6	14
53-7073	Wellhead Pumpers	78	83	5	<b>6.41%</b>	2	6	2	10
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	1,087	1,153	66	<b>6.07%</b>	87	76	33	196

#### Top 10 Decline

11-9013	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	3,464	3,372	<b>-92</b>	-2.66%	234	128	-46	316
41-2011	Cashiers	2,303	2,221	<b>-82</b>	-3.56%	206	224	-41	389
53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	2,389	2,319	<b>-70</b>	-2.93%	96	143	-35	204
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	1,679	1,621	<b>-58</b>	-3.45%	89	103	-29	163
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	1,295	1,261	<b>-34</b>	-2.63%	80	104	-17	167
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	150	117	<b>-33</b>	-22.00%	8	8	-16	0
43-3071	Tellers	341	319	<b>-22</b>	-6.45%	14	20	-11	23
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	1,203	1,181	<b>-22</b>	-1.83%	64	66	-11	119
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	1,820	1,800	<b>-20</b>	-1.10%	40	104	-10	134
43-3031	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	648	629	<b>-19</b>	-2.93%	38	34	-10	62

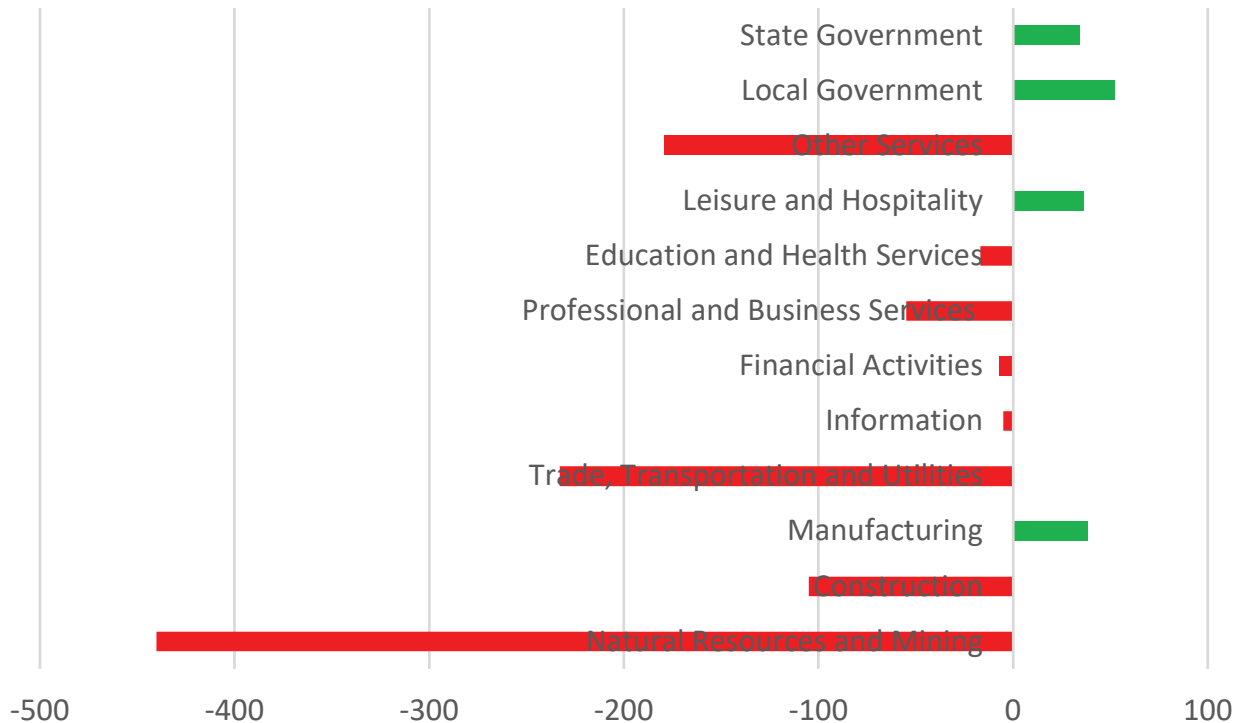
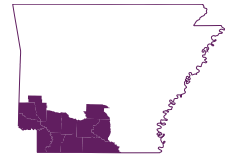
#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

43-9041	Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks	43	29	-14	<b>-32.56%</b>	4	4	-7	1
25-1011	Business Teachers, Postsecondary	47	35	-12	<b>-25.53%</b>	3	3	-6	0
51-9161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	59	46	-13	<b>-22.03%</b>	3	4	-6	1
41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	150	117	-33	<b>-22.00%</b>	8	8	-16	0
25-1121	Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary	26	21	-5	<b>-19.23%</b>	1	2	-2	1
51-8013	Power Plant Operators	63	54	-9	<b>-14.29%</b>	2	4	-4	2
49-2022	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	87	78	-9	<b>-10.34%</b>	2	6	-4	4
25-1071	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	54	49	-5	<b>-9.26%</b>	2	2	-2	2
43-4081	Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	171	159	-12	<b>-7.02%</b>	10	16	-6	20
51-4041	Machinists	199	186	-13	<b>-6.53%</b>	8	12	-6	14

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Southwest Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Covered Employment and Earnings



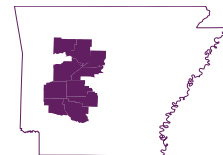
NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,369</b>	<b>73,929</b>	<b>-440</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>	<b>\$989</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	2,032	1,927	-105	-5.2%	\$1,164
Construction	3,121	3,159	38	1.2%	\$1,224
Manufacturing	19,252	19,019	-233	-1.2%	\$1,324
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	13,712	13,707	-5	-0.0%	\$866
Information	386	379	-7	-1.8%	\$1,174
Financial Activities	2,349	2,294	-55	-2.3%	\$1,099
Professional and Business Services	4,594	4,577	-17	-0.4%	\$1,389
Education and Health Services	9,518	9,554	36	0.4%	\$845
Leisure and Hospitality	6,014	5,835	-179	-3.0%	\$363
Other Services	1,406	1,458	52	3.7%	\$728
Local Government	8,687	8,721	34	0.4%	\$825
State Government	3,298	3,299	1	0.0%	\$864

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



# West Central Arkansas

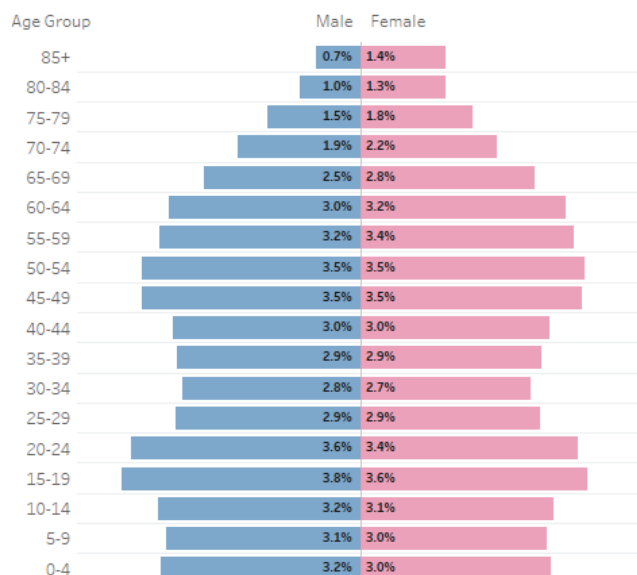
## Local Workforce Development Area



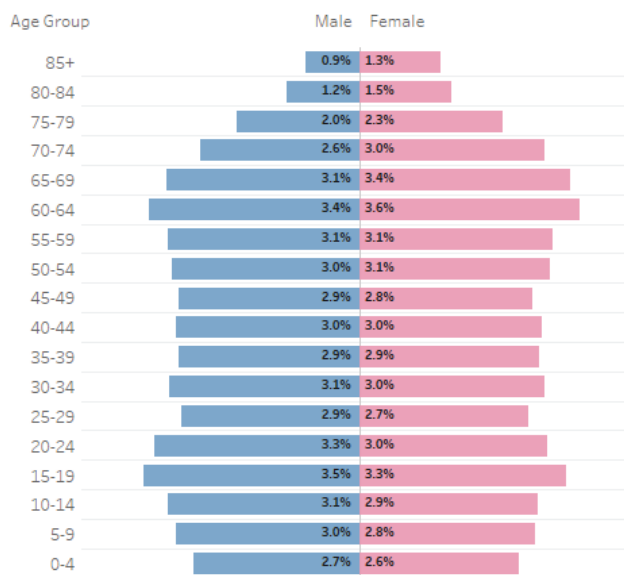
The West Central Arkansas LWDA consists of 10 counties: Clark, Conway, Garland, Hot Spring, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Pope, and Yell; with the Hot Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area located within the LWDA.

### Population Pyramids for West Central Arkansas

**2010** Pop: **314,471**



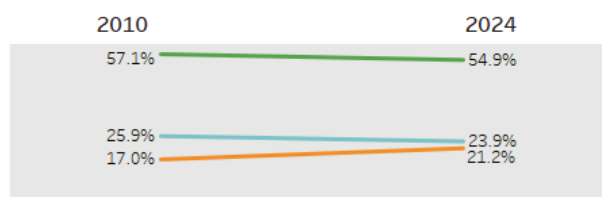
**2024** Pop: **315,480**



#### Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	53,479	66,990
Adults 20-64	179,545	173,144
Under 20	81,447	75,346
Total	314,471	315,480

#### Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics: 2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

### West Central Arkansas LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
313,448	314,102	314,581	315,171	315,480

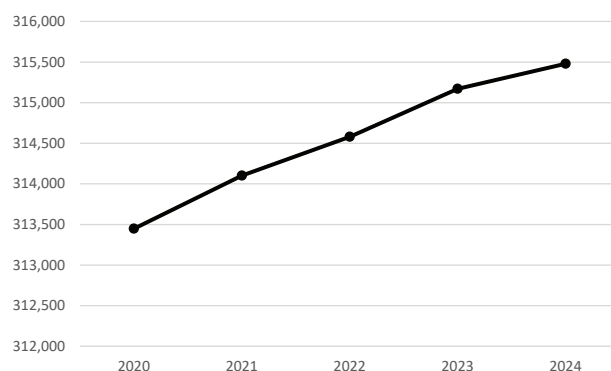
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

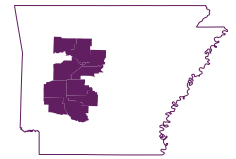
### West Central Arkansas Population Progression



# West Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

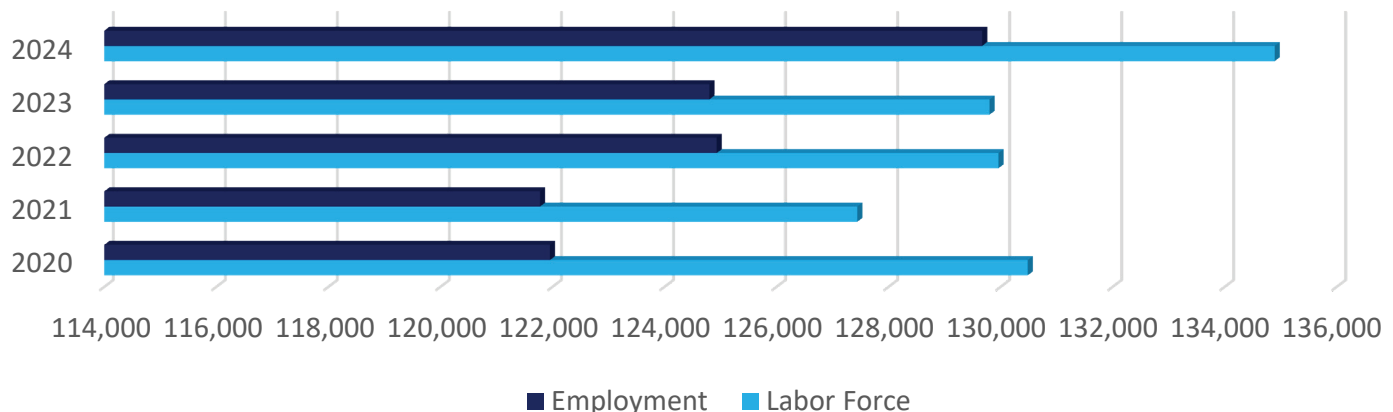


In 2024, the labor force and employment increased in the West Central Arkansas LWDA. The labor force increased by 5,091 to a total of 134,894, while employment increased 4,869 to a total of 129,672. The labor force increased by 4,409 from 2020 to 2024 and employment increased by 7,716. Unemployment increased from 2023 to 2024 by 222 to 5,222. The unemployment rate stayed at 3.9 percent. The unemployment rate fluctuated through 2025, but ended at 4.9 percent in July.

**West Central Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	130,485	127,442	129,963	129,803	134,894
Employment	121,956	121,780	124,933	124,803	129,672
Unemployment	8,529	5,662	5,030	5,000	5,222
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	4.4%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



**West Central Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\***

Year	Month	West Central Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	4.3%	3.6%
2025	February	4.6%	3.6%
2025	March	4.0%	3.7%
2025	April	3.5%	3.7%
2025	May	3.9%	3.7%
2025	June	4.7%	3.7%
2025	July	4.9%†	3.7%**

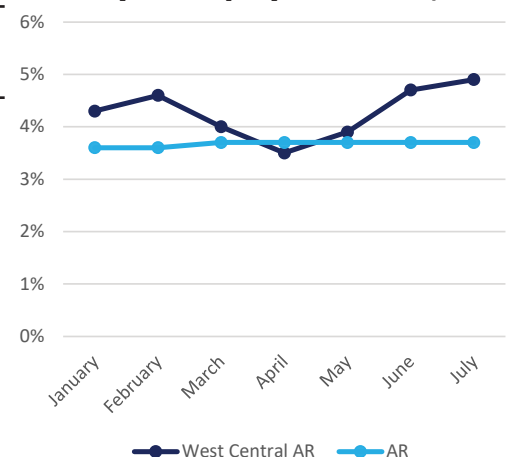
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

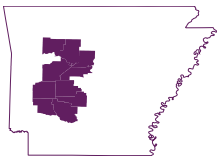
**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025**



# West Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



**Material Moving Workers** was estimated to have the most employees in West Central Arkansas with 7,160 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$36,667. **Retail Sales Workers** was the second largest occupation with 6,730 employed, earning an average wage of \$29,779. **Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners**, with an estimated employment of 3,930, had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning \$100,079 annually.

**Physicians, All Other** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$259,073. **General Internal Medicine Physicians**, with an average annual salary of \$209,163, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$26,786 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$41,067, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$56,437 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 106,710 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 10,844 made less than \$12 an hour while 23,947 made more than \$27 an hour. Employees making between \$17 and \$21.99 totaled 23,615.

### West Central Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

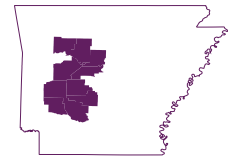
Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Material Moving Workers	7,160	\$36,667	\$28,549	\$40,726
Retail Sales Workers	6,730	\$29,779	\$24,004	\$32,667
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	6,090	\$26,746	\$23,121	\$28,559
Preschool, Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and Special Education Teachers	4,200	\$52,657	\$42,859	\$57,556
Motor Vehicle Operators	3,950	\$47,969	\$30,058	\$56,924
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	3,930	\$100,079	\$56,307	\$121,965
Fast Food and Counter Workers	3,870	\$25,856	\$23,236	\$27,167
Information and Record Clerks	3,560	\$35,080	\$26,872	\$39,184
Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	3,370	\$29,379	\$24,760	\$31,689
Cashiers	3,370	\$26,939	\$23,489	\$28,663

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# West Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



#### West Central Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

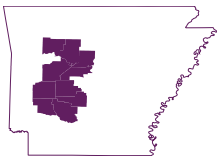
Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Physicians, All Other	\$259,073
General Internal Medicine Physicians	\$209,163
Radiologists	\$178,577
Dentists, General	\$166,617
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$148,420
Chief Executives	\$140,515
Optometrists	\$137,417
Pharmacists	\$130,385
Computer Network Architects	\$122,958
Training and Development Managers	\$117,764
Lawyers	\$116,986
Pediatricians, General	\$116,885
Nurse Practitioners	\$114,368
Power Distributors and Dispatchers	\$112,887
Sales Managers	\$110,796
Industrial Production Managers	\$109,891
Health and Safety Engineers, Except Mining Safety Engineers and Inspectors	\$109,656
Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	\$107,894
Physician Assistants	\$105,891
Personal Financial Advisors	\$105,492
Environmental Engineers	\$102,558
Facilities Managers	\$101,546
Postmasters and Mail Superintendents	\$100,523
Financial Managers	\$100,296
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	\$100,079

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# West Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages

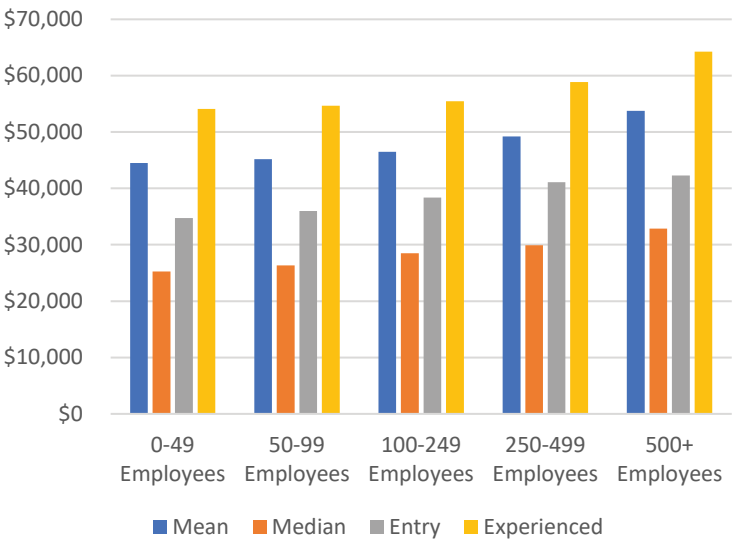


### West Central Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

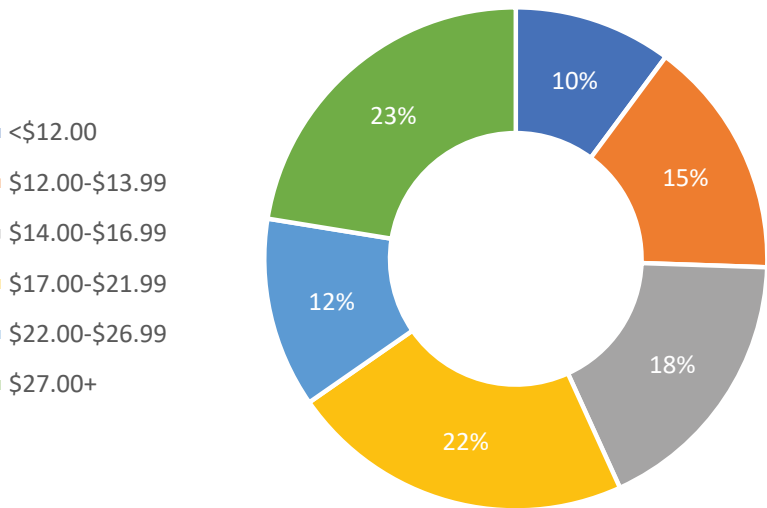
West Central Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$46,553	\$26,786	\$37,052	\$56,437
0-49 Employees	\$44,489	\$25,245	\$34,728	\$54,111
50-99 Employees	\$45,198	\$26,308	\$35,991	\$54,643
100-249 Employees	\$46,471	\$28,503	\$38,373	\$55,456
250-499 Employees	\$49,213	\$29,897	\$41,067	\$58,871
500+ Employees	\$53,781	\$32,875	\$42,288	\$64,234

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



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



West Central Arkansas Number of Employees by Hourly Wage Rate

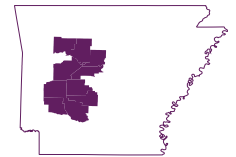
Total	106,710
<\$12.00	10,844
\$12.00-\$13.99	16,404
\$14.00-\$16.99	18,856
\$17.00-\$21.99	23,615
\$22.00-\$26.99	13,044
\$27.00+	23,947

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# West Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Ambulatory Health Care Services is predicted to be the top growing industry, adding 344 new jobs, increasing employment levels to 6,388. Civic and Social Organizations is slated to be the fastest growing industry in West Central Arkansas, raising employment by 17.82 percent. On the negative side of the labor market, Transportation Equipment Manufacturing is projected to be the top declining industry, cutting 197 jobs from the workforce, while Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing could see a significant loss of jobs, cutting 65.06 percent of its workforce between first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2026. **Education and Health Services** is projected to be the top growing supersector, experiencing a net gain of 597 jobs between 2024 and 2026, a 2.10 percent rise in employment.

### Top 5 Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
102500	Education and Health Services	28,368	28,965	597	2.10%
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	14,375	14,734	359	2.50%
101200	Construction	4,797	5,073	276	5.75%
102400	Professional and Business Services	7,598	7,800	202	2.66%
102200	Information	864	947	83	9.61%

### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

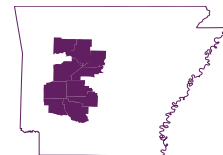
NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	6,044	6,388	344	5.69%
722000	Food Services and Drinking Places	10,674	11,001	327	3.06%
238000	Specialty Trade Contractors	3,453	3,707	254	7.36%
611100	Elementary and Secondary Schools	8,081	8,237	156	1.93%
455000	General Merchandise Retailers	4,200	4,347	147	3.50%
623000	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	3,256	3,394	138	4.24%
999300	Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	4,087	4,217	130	3.18%
311000	Food Manufacturing	6,242	6,342	100	1.60%
541000	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,306	2,404	98	4.25%
562000	Waste Management and Remediation Services	565	648	83	14.69%



# West Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	202	238	36	<b>17.82%</b>
562000	Waste Management and Remediation Services	565	648	83	<b>14.69%</b>
512000	Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries	169	186	17	<b>10.06%</b>
323000	Printing and Related Support Activities	104	114	10	<b>9.62%</b>
333000	Machinery Manufacturing	726	783	57	<b>7.85%</b>
238000	Specialty Trade Contractors	3,453	3,707	254	<b>7.36%</b>
813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	226	242	16	<b>7.08%</b>
611600	Other Schools and Instruction	136	145	9	<b>6.62%</b>
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	6,044	6,388	344	<b>5.69%</b>
611200	Junior Colleges	854	902	48	<b>5.62%</b>

#### Top 10 Decline

336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	1,113	916	<b>-197</b>	-17.70%
813100	Religious Organizations	2,418	2,265	<b>-153</b>	-6.33%
624000	Social Assistance	3,753	3,617	<b>-136</b>	-3.62%
611300	Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	2,468	2,357	<b>-111</b>	-4.50%
999200	State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals	2,324	2,241	<b>-83</b>	-3.57%
813300	Social Advocacy Organizations	670	589	<b>-81</b>	-12.09%
112000	Animal Production and Aquaculture	1,049	973	<b>-76</b>	-7.24%
444000	Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	1,236	1,175	<b>-61</b>	-4.94%
316000	Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing	83	29	<b>-54</b>	-65.06%
484000	Truck Transportation	1,958	1,912	<b>-46</b>	-2.35%

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

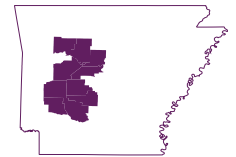
316000	Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing	83	29	-54	<b>-65.06%</b>
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	56	46	-10	<b>-17.86%</b>
336000	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	1,113	916	-197	<b>-17.70%</b>
335000	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	60	50	-10	<b>-16.67%</b>
814000	Private Households	133	112	-21	<b>-15.79%</b>
513000	Publishing Industries	114	100	-14	<b>-12.28%</b>
813300	Social Advocacy Organizations	670	589	-81	<b>-12.09%</b>
523000	Securities, Commodity Contracts, and Other Financial Investments and Related Activities	162	146	-16	<b>-9.88%</b>
112000	Animal Production and Aquaculture	1,049	973	-76	<b>-7.24%</b>
458000	Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	487	453	-34	<b>-6.98%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# West Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Fast Food and Counter Workers is estimated to be the top growing occupation, with a gain of 125 jobs, moving employment to 4,044. Career/Technical Education Teachers, Postsecondary is predicted to be the fastest growing occupation in the West Central Arkansas WDA, with a 14.95 percent increase. On the reverse side of the labor market, Cashiers is slated to be the top declining occupation, losing 62 jobs, dropping employment to 1,351. Animal Control Workers is anticipated to be the fastest declining occupation, losing an estimated 10.81 percent of its workforce. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is projected to be the top growing major group for the 2024-2026 projection period, with 321 new jobs, moving employment to 11,672.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	11,351	11,672	<b>321</b>	2.83%	963	1,257	160	2,380
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	7,169	7,466	<b>297</b>	4.14%	212	202	148	562
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	4,915	5,115	<b>200</b>	4.07%	154	266	100	520
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	12,428	12,620	<b>192</b>	1.54%	616	958	96	1,670
11-0000	Management Occupations	12,917	13,054	<b>137</b>	1.06%	541	606	68	1,215

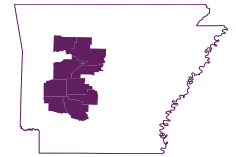
#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	3,919	4,044	<b>125</b>	3.19%	420	504	62	986
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	2,839	2,928	<b>89</b>	3.13%	170	288	44	502
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	1,309	1,379	<b>70</b>	5.35%	89	112	35	236
29-1141	Registered Nurses	1,967	2,032	<b>65</b>	3.30%	58	44	32	134
47-2111	Electricians	636	687	<b>51</b>	8.02%	20	38	26	84
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	374	420	<b>46</b>	12.30%	8	9	23	40
47-2061	Construction Laborers	1,063	1,109	<b>46</b>	4.33%	34	57	23	114
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	1,817	1,861	<b>44</b>	2.42%	109	148	22	279
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	502	541	<b>39</b>	7.77%	13	24	20	57
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	2,913	2,950	<b>37</b>	1.27%	66	170	18	254

# West Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
25-1194	Career/Technical Education Teachers, Postsecondary	107	123	16	<b>14.95%</b>	4	4	8	16
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	374	420	46	<b>12.30%</b>	8	9	23	40
39-9032	Recreation Workers	164	181	17	<b>10.37%</b>	12	23	8	43
29-2053	Psychiatric Technicians	39	43	4	<b>10.26%</b>	2	2	2	6
33-9092	Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers	63	69	6	<b>9.52%</b>	10	9	3	22
31-2021	Physical Therapist Assistants	141	154	13	<b>9.22%</b>	7	14	6	27
47-3013	Helpers--Electricians	36	39	3	<b>8.33%</b>	1	3	2	6
11-3012	Administrative Services Managers	74	80	6	<b>8.11%</b>	2	4	3	9
47-2111	Electricians	636	687	51	<b>8.02%</b>	20	38	26	84
29-1071	Physician Assistants	51	55	4	<b>7.84%</b>	1	2	2	5

#### Top 10 Decline

41-2011	Cashiers	3,413	3,351	<b>-62</b>	-1.82%	308	335	-31	612
45-2093	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals	597	551	<b>-46</b>	-7.71%	36	52	-23	65
21-2011	Clergy	746	707	<b>-39</b>	-5.23%	30	32	-20	42
39-9011	Childcare Workers	814	779	<b>-35</b>	-4.30%	57	78	-18	117
25-2011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	568	540	<b>-28</b>	-4.93%	24	37	-14	47
43-6014	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	1,302	1,274	<b>-28</b>	-2.15%	69	71	-14	126
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	2,750	2,729	<b>-21</b>	-0.76%	173	224	-10	387
43-4051	Customer Service Representatives	1,537	1,516	<b>-21</b>	-1.37%	78	124	-10	192
11-9013	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	4,944	4,928	<b>-16</b>	-0.32%	338	184	-8	514
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,414	1,398	<b>-16</b>	-1.13%	51	86	-8	129

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

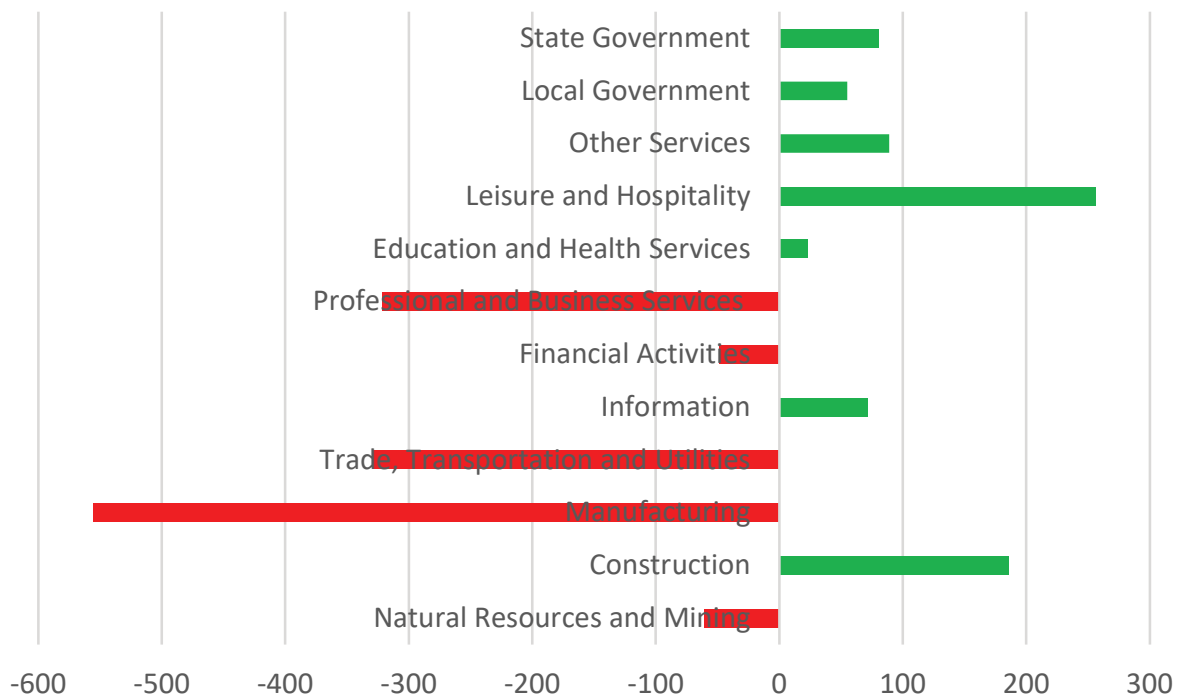
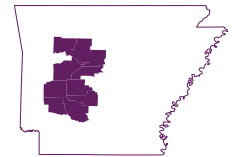
33-9011	Animal Control Workers	74	66	<b>-8</b>	<b>-10.81%</b>	3	4	-4	3
45-2093	Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals	597	551	<b>-46</b>	<b>-7.71%</b>	36	52	-23	65
11-9031	Education and Childcare Administrators, Preschool and Daycare	113	107	<b>-6</b>	<b>-5.31%</b>	2	4	-3	3
21-2011	Clergy	746	707	<b>-39</b>	<b>-5.23%</b>	30	32	-20	42
13-1031	Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators	96	91	<b>-5</b>	<b>-5.21%</b>	2	4	-2	4
25-2011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	568	540	<b>-28</b>	<b>-4.93%</b>	24	37	-14	47
43-5051	Postal Service Clerks	125	119	<b>-6</b>	<b>-4.80%</b>	6	5	-3	8
43-5052	Postal Service Mail Carriers	318	303	<b>-15</b>	<b>-4.72%</b>	11	12	-8	15
39-9011	Childcare Workers	814	779	<b>-35</b>	<b>-4.30%</b>	57	78	-18	117
51-4072	Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	267	257	<b>-10</b>	<b>-3.75%</b>	10	16	-5	21

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# West Central Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Covered Employment and Earnings



NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>106,598</b>	<b>106,043</b>	<b>-555</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>\$908</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	2,164	2,103	-61	-2.8%	\$1,003
Construction	4,734	4,920	186	3.9%	\$1,080
Manufacturing	16,274	15,718	-556	-3.4%	\$1,063
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	21,994	21,665	-329	-1.5%	\$902
Information	737	809	72	9.8%	\$835
Financial Activities	3,509	3,460	-49	-1.4%	\$1,142
Professional and Business Services	7,540	7,218	-322	-4.3%	\$972
Education and Health Services	17,186	17,209	23	0.1%	\$974
Leisure and Hospitality	14,447	14,703	256	1.8%	\$447
Other Services	2,298	2,387	89	3.9%	\$717
Local Government	11,406	11,461	55	0.5%	\$903
State Government	4,309	4,390	81	1.9%	\$852

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

# Western Arkansas

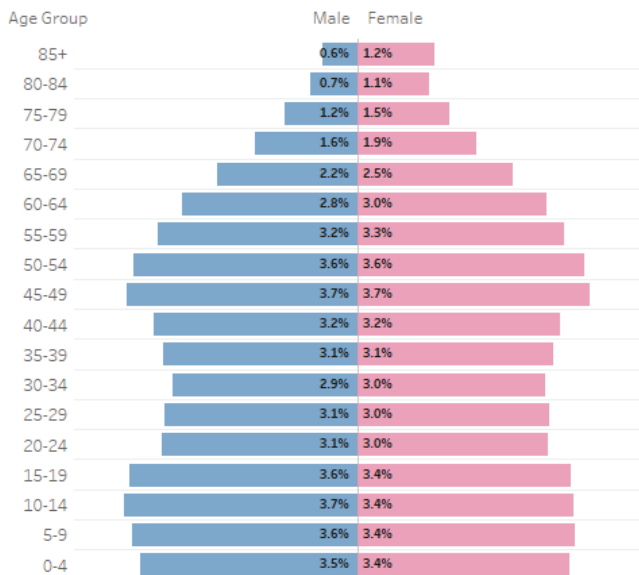
## Local Workforce Development Area



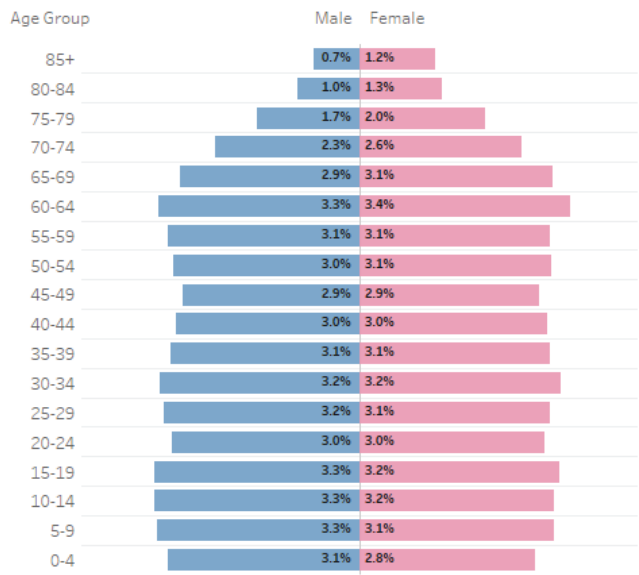
The Western Arkansas LWDA consists of six counties: Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, and Sebastian; and is bordered to the west by the state of Oklahoma. The Arkansas portion of the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area is located in the Western Arkansas LWDA.

### Population Pyramids for Western Arkansas

2010 Pop: 260,085



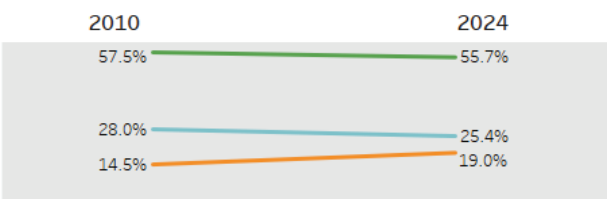
2024 Pop: 260,607



#### Age Group Population Distribution

	2010	2024
Adults 65+	37,640	49,403
Adults 20-64	149,673	145,046
Under 20	72,772	66,158
Total	260,085	260,607

#### Percentage of Population for Children (Under 20), Adults (24-64), and Older Adults (65+)



Prepared by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Labor Market Information using data from U.S. Census Bureau, County Population by Characteristics:2010-2019 and 2020-2024. Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin. Vintage 2024. Release date, June 2025.

### Western Arkansas LWDA Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
255,217	256,341	257,800	259,144	260,607

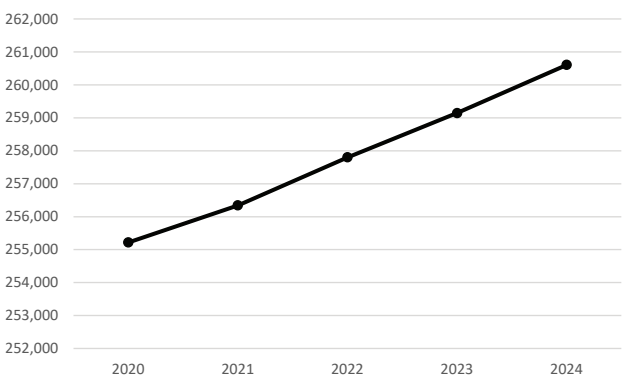
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### State of Arkansas Population 2020-2024

2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
3,011,542	3,025,891	3,045,637	3,067,732	3,088,354

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Western Arkansas Population Progression



# Western Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Employment/Labor Force/Unemployment

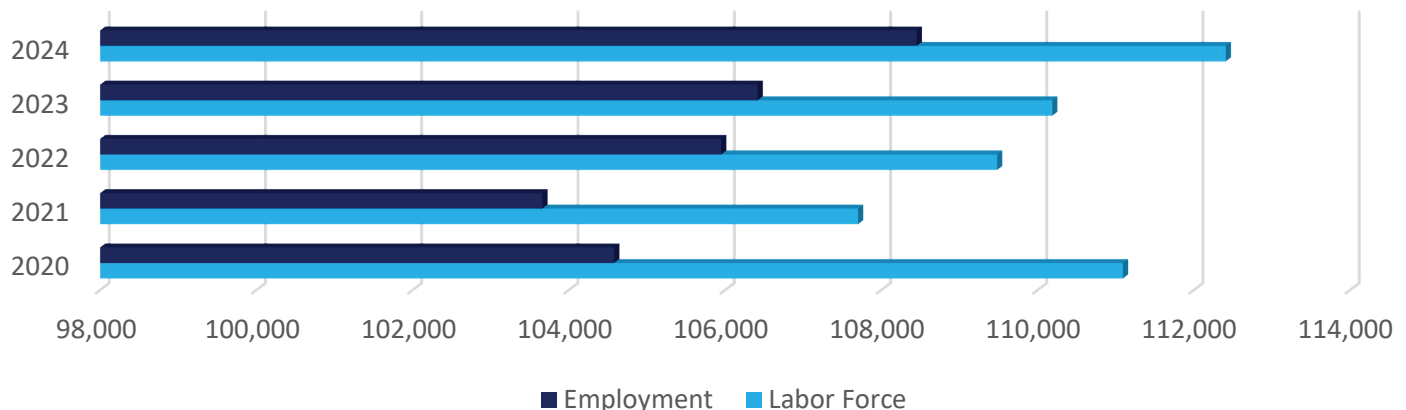


The Western Arkansas LWDA labor force increased 112,410 to 112,410 and employment increased by 2,036 to 108,454 from 2023 to 2024. Over the 2020-2024 period, the labor force increased by 1,316 while employment increased by 3,873. Unemployment and the unemployment rate both fluctuated from 2020 to 2024. Unemployment ultimately increased by 184 to 3,956 unemployed, while the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percent to 3.5 percent. The area's unemployment rate fluctuated through 20205, ending at 4.2 percent in July.

**Western Arkansas LWDA 2020-2024 Labor Force/Employment**

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Labor Force	111,094	107,703	109,484	110,190	112,410
Employment	104,581	103,662	105,951	106,418	108,454
Unemployment	6,513	4,041	3,533	3,772	3,956
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	3.8%	3.2%	3.4%	3.5%

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services



**Western Arkansas and State Unemployment Rate\***

Year	Month	Western Arkansas Unemployment Rate	AR Unemployment Rate
2025	January	3.9%	3.6%
2025	February	4.2%	3.6%
2025	March	3.7%	3.7%
2025	April	3.3%	3.7%
2025	May	3.5%	3.7%
2025	June	4.1%	3.7%
2025	July	4.2% <sup>†</sup>	3.7%**

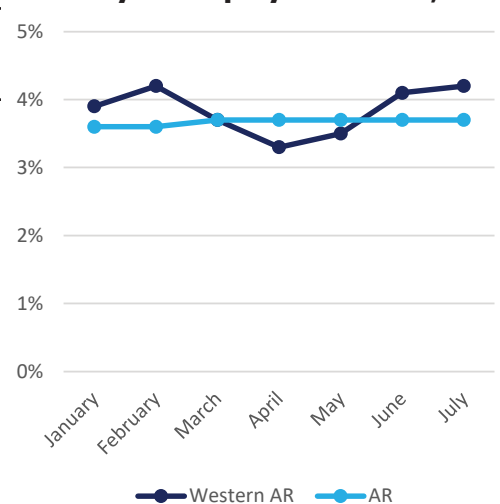
Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services Local Area Unemployment Statistics

\*Not Seasonally Adjusted, Not Preliminary

\*\*Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

†Not Seasonally Adjusted, Preliminary

**Monthly Unemployment Rate, 2025**





# Western Arkansas

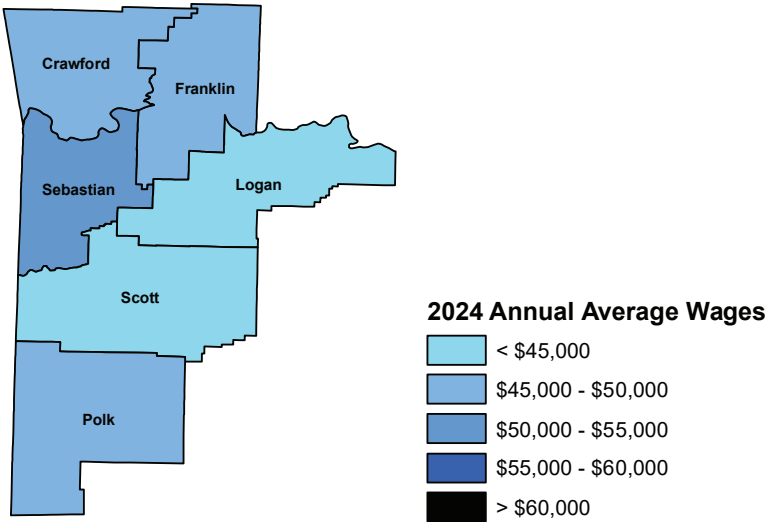
## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



**Material Moving Workers** was estimated to have the most employees in Western Arkansas with 6,600 employed in 2024 with an average wage of \$35,229. **Retail Sales Workers** was the second largest occupation with 6,130 employed, earning an average wage of \$30,168. **Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners**, with an estimated employment of 4,090, had the highest average wage of the 10 largest occupations, earning \$91,975 annually.

**Physicians, All Other** topped the Occupations Paying the Most list with an annual salary of \$210,591. **Dentists, General**, with an average annual salary of \$169,870, ranked second on the Occupations Paying the Most list.



*\*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services  
May 2025 Wage Survey*

The entry wage estimate for employers of all sizes was \$27,947 for 2024. The median wage estimate for employers with 250-499 employees was \$39,711, while wages for experienced workers averaged \$59,174 for employers in all size categories.

Of the 105,870 estimated employees in the area with hourly wage data, 8,018 made less than \$12 an hour while 26,542 made more than \$27 an hour. Employees making between \$17 and \$21.99 an hour totaled 24,181.

### Western Arkansas LWDA Wages of 10 Largest Occupations

Occupation	Estimated Employment	Average Wage	Entry Wage	Experienced Wage
Material Moving Workers	6,600	\$35,229	\$28,510	\$38,588
Retail Sales Workers	6,130	\$30,168	\$24,101	\$33,202
Motor Vehicle Operators	5,140	\$53,689	\$31,169	\$64,949
Food and Beverage Serving Workers	4,790	\$27,001	\$23,168	\$28,918
Other Production Occupations	4,560	\$41,538	\$32,123	\$46,245
Healthcare Diagnosing or Treating Practitioners	4,090	\$91,975	\$56,742	\$109,592
Information and Record Clerks	3,780	\$38,209	\$29,410	\$42,608
Food Processing Workers	3,730	\$35,412	\$28,474	\$38,880
Home Health and Personal Care Aides; and Nursing Assistants, Orderlies, and Psychiatric Aides	3,550	\$30,010	\$25,887	\$32,072
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,480	\$59,947	\$35,122	\$72,360

*Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey*

# Western Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages



#### Western Arkansas LWDA Occupations Paying the Most

Occupation	Average Annual Salary
Physicians, All Other	\$210,591
Dentists, General	\$169,870
Family Medicine Physicians	\$165,144
Chief Executives	\$143,546
Air Transportation Workers	\$141,972
Natural Sciences Managers	\$140,717
Pharmacists	\$132,267
Computer Network Architects	\$126,779
Architectural and Engineering Managers	\$125,864
Public Relations Managers	\$120,707
Administrative Law Judges, Adjudicators, and Hearing Officers	\$120,427
Financial Managers	\$117,263
Sales Managers	\$116,911
Physician Assistants	\$116,774
Nurse Practitioners	\$113,688
Purchasing Managers	\$112,911
Computer and Information Systems Managers	\$111,716
Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	\$110,956
Operations Specialties Managers	\$110,126
Veterinarians	\$108,835
Lawyers	\$107,536
Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	\$107,496
Personal Financial Advisors	\$106,684
Human Resources Managers	\$106,387
Industrial Production Managers	\$106,123

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Western Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Wages

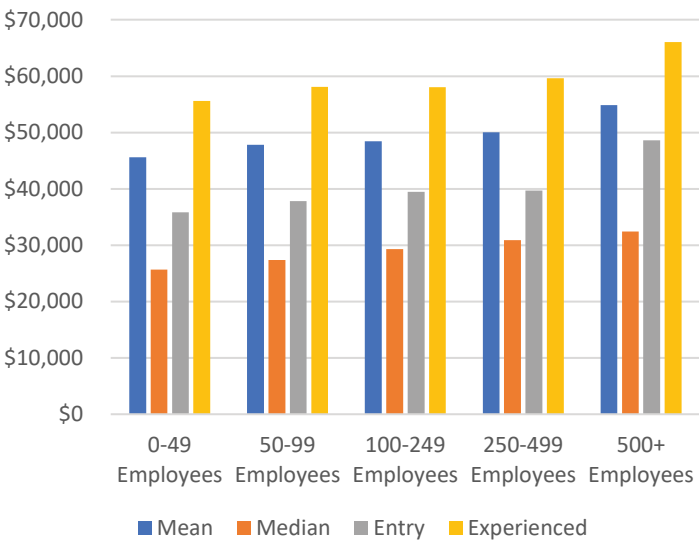


### Western Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

#### Western Arkansas Wage Estimates by Employer Size

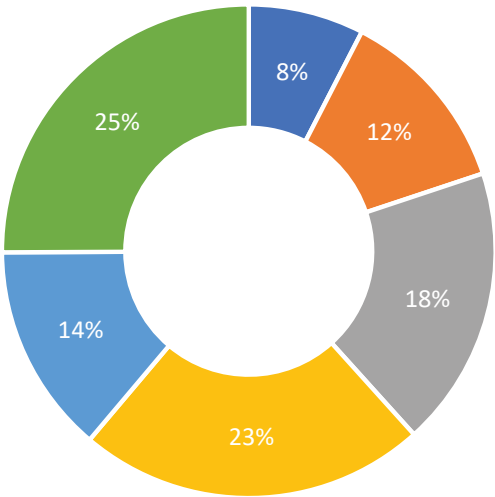
Employer size	Mean	Entry	Median	Exper.
All Sizes	\$48,765	\$27,947	\$38,538	\$59,174
0-49 Employees	\$45,620	\$25,699	\$35,824	\$55,581
50-99 Employees	\$47,850	\$27,379	\$37,809	\$58,085
100-249 Employees	\$48,466	\$29,339	\$39,458	\$58,029
250-499 Employees	\$50,064	\$30,904	\$39,711	\$59,644
500+ Employees	\$54,840	\$32,426	\$48,616	\$66,047

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey



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

- <\$12.00
- \$12.00-\$13.99
- \$14.00-\$16.99
- \$17.00-\$21.99
- \$22.00-\$26.99
- \$27.00+



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

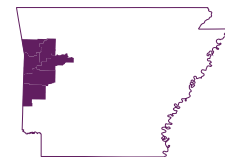
Total	105,870
<\$12.00	8,018
\$12.00-\$13.99	13,046
\$14.00-\$16.99	19,505
\$17.00-\$21.99	24,181
\$22.00-\$26.99	14,578
\$27.00+	26,542

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, May 2025 Wage Survey

# Western Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



Food Manufacturing leads the Western Arkansas WDA region in numeric growth, adding an anticipated 341 new jobs, and moving employment levels to 9,895. Mining (except Oil and Gas) is slated to be the fastest growing industry, increasing its workforce by 30.67 percent. On the negative side of the labor market, Truck Transportation could see a reduction of 234 jobs, 6.60 percent of its workforce, between first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2026. Grantmaking and Giving Services is predicted to be the fastest declining industry, declining by 47.22 percent. **Education and Health Services** is forecast to be the top growing supersector, adding 1,128 jobs between 2024 and 2026, a 4.46 percent rise in employment.

### Top Growing Industry Supersectors

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
102500	Education and Health Services	25,318	26,446	<b>1,128</b>	4.46%
101300	Manufacturing	22,168	22,586	<b>418</b>	1.89%
102800	Government	6,386	6,677	<b>291</b>	4.56%
101200	Construction	4,523	4,790	<b>267</b>	5.90%
102600	Leisure and Hospitality	9,263	9,396	<b>133</b>	1.44%

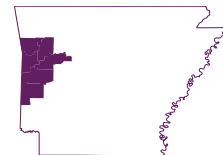
### Top Industries - Top 10 Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
311000	Food Manufacturing	9,554	9,895	<b>341</b>	3.57%
621000	Ambulatory Health Care Services	5,534	5,848	<b>314</b>	5.67%
622100	General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	4,042	4,280	<b>238</b>	5.89%
238000	Specialty Trade Contractors	2,903	3,113	<b>210</b>	7.23%
999100	Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	1,144	1,317	<b>173</b>	15.12%
611100	Elementary and Secondary Schools	7,007	7,176	<b>169</b>	2.41%
221000	Utilities	1,071	1,225	<b>154</b>	14.38%
333000	Machinery Manufacturing	1,250	1,397	<b>147</b>	11.76%
624000	Social Assistance	2,674	2,812	<b>138</b>	5.16%
623000	Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	2,756	2,866	<b>110</b>	3.99%

# Western Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Industry



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

NAICS Code	NAICS Title	2024 Estimated Employment	2026 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
212000	Mining (except Oil and Gas)	225	294	69	<b>30.67%</b>
611700	Educational Support Services	40	51	11	<b>27.50%</b>
813400	Civic and Social Organizations	163	192	29	<b>17.79%</b>
999100	Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	1,144	1,317	173	<b>15.12%</b>
221000	Utilities	1,071	1,225	154	<b>14.38%</b>
712000	Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions	37	42	5	<b>13.51%</b>
512000	Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries	87	98	11	<b>12.64%</b>
321000	Wood Product Manufacturing	809	908	99	<b>12.24%</b>
333000	Machinery Manufacturing	1,250	1,397	147	<b>11.76%</b>
316000	Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing	107	117	10	<b>9.35%</b>

#### Top 10 Decline

484000	Truck Transportation	3,548	3,314	<b>-234</b>	-6.60%
561000	Administrative and Support Services	4,748	4,557	<b>-191</b>	-4.02%
456000	Health and Personal Care Retailers	694	585	<b>-109</b>	-15.71%
335000	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	2,530	2,465	<b>-65</b>	-2.57%
522000	Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,507	1,444	<b>-63</b>	-4.18%
337000	Furniture and Related Product Manufacturing	770	718	<b>-52</b>	-6.75%
322000	Paper Manufacturing	1,714	1,672	<b>-42</b>	-2.45%
444000	Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers	1,120	1,080	<b>-40</b>	-3.57%
458000	Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers	646	607	<b>-39</b>	-6.04%
813100	Religious Organizations	1,974	1,935	<b>-39</b>	-1.98%

#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

813200	Grantmaking and Giving Services	72	38	<b>-34</b>	<b>-47.22%</b>
425000	Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers	107	75	<b>-32</b>	<b>-29.91%</b>
213000	Support Activities for Mining	107	80	<b>-27</b>	<b>-25.23%</b>
814000	Private Households	103	78	<b>-25</b>	<b>-24.27%</b>
513000	Publishing Industries	53	41	<b>-12</b>	<b>-22.64%</b>
456000	Health and Personal Care Retailers	694	585	<b>-109</b>	<b>-15.71%</b>
339000	Miscellaneous Manufacturing	241	204	<b>-37</b>	<b>-15.35%</b>
115000	Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry	59	50	<b>-9</b>	<b>-15.25%</b>
517000	Telecommunications	190	168	<b>-22</b>	<b>-11.58%</b>
611600	Other Schools and Instruction	91	83	<b>-8</b>	<b>-8.79%</b>

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Western Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



Home Health and Personal Care Aides is projected to be the top growing occupation in Western Arkansas between 2024 and 2026, adding 136 jobs, increasing its workforce to 2,164 jobs. Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers is predicted to be the fastest growing occupation, gaining 16.39 percent, moving from 122 jobs in 2024 to 142 jobs in 2026. On the negative side of the labor market, Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers is forecast to lose 127 jobs, becoming the top declining occupation, while Print Binding and Finishing Workers is slated to cut 15 percent of its workforce, becoming the fastest declining occupation. **Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations** is anticipated to be the top growing major group, increasing its workforce by 350 jobs, a gain of 4.54 percent between 2024 and 2026.

#### Top Growing Major Occupational Groups

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	7,715	8,065	<b>350</b>	4.54%	232	219	175	626
31-0000	Healthcare Support Occupations	5,236	5,530	<b>294</b>	5.61%	341	419	147	907
47-0000	Construction and Extraction Occupations	4,404	4,610	<b>206</b>	4.68%	134	240	103	477
51-0000	Production Occupations	14,911	15,085	<b>174</b>	1.17%	613	1,039	87	1,739
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	5,606	5,772	<b>166</b>	2.96%	200	282	83	565

#### Top Occupations - Top 10 Growth

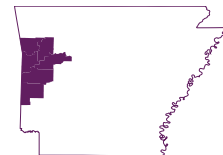
SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
31-1120	Home Health and Personal Care Aides	2,028	2,164	<b>136</b>	6.71%	163	142	68	373
29-1141	Registered Nurses	2,539	2,660	<b>121</b>	4.77%	76	58	60	194
51-3022	Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	2,420	2,506	<b>86</b>	3.55%	111	183	43	337
53-7065	Stockers and Order Fillers	2,527	2,601	<b>74</b>	2.93%	152	256	37	445
31-1131	Nursing Assistants	1,560	1,623	<b>63</b>	4.04%	94	128	32	254
35-3023	Fast Food and Counter Workers	3,171	3,222	<b>51</b>	1.61%	338	404	26	768
49-9041	Industrial Machinery Mechanics	869	912	<b>43</b>	4.95%	30	39	22	91
11-1021	General and Operations Managers	2,690	2,731	<b>41</b>	1.52%	60	157	20	237
11-9111	Medical and Health Services Managers	462	502	<b>40</b>	8.66%	12	22	20	54
29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	995	1,035	<b>40</b>	4.02%	39	40	20	99



# Western Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area

### Occupations



#### Top 10 Fastest Growth

SOC Code	SOC Title	Employment		Change		Annual Openings			
		2024 Est.	2026 Proj.	Numeric	Percent	Exits	Transfers	Change	Total
49-9051	Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers	122	142	20	<b>16.39%</b>	3	7	10	20
15-1254	Web Developers	34	39	5	<b>14.71%</b>	0	2	2	4
47-5022	Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators, Surface Mining	34	39	5	<b>14.71%</b>	2	2	2	6
27-4011	Audio and Video Technicians	35	40	5	<b>14.29%</b>	1	2	2	5
19-4021	Biological Technicians	37	42	5	<b>13.51%</b>	1	4	2	7
19-4071	Forest and Conservation Technicians	75	85	10	<b>13.33%</b>	2	8	5	15
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	266	299	33	<b>12.41%</b>	6	6	16	28
29-1071	Physician Assistants	35	39	4	<b>11.43%</b>	0	1	2	3
49-9012	Control and Valve Installers and Repairers, Except Mechanical Door	84	93	9	<b>10.71%</b>	3	4	4	11
29-2032	Diagnostic Medical Sonographers	39	43	4	<b>10.26%</b>	1	1	2	4

#### Top 10 Decline

53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,536	3,409	<b>-127</b>	-3.59%	142	211	-64	289
41-2011	Cashiers	2,749	2,702	<b>-47</b>	-1.71%	248	270	-24	494
11-9013	Farmers, Ranchers, & Other Agricultural Managers	3,963	3,921	<b>-42</b>	-1.06%	270	148	-21	397
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	2,808	2,779	<b>-29</b>	-1.03%	176	228	-14	390
43-3071	Tellers	409	381	<b>-28</b>	-6.85%	16	24	-14	26
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	369	351	<b>-18</b>	-4.88%	12	20	-9	23
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,163	1,145	<b>-18</b>	-1.55%	42	71	-9	104
51-9161	Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators	410	397	<b>-13</b>	-3.17%	12	26	-6	32
51-4072	Molding, Coremaking, & Casting Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders, Metal & Plastic	221	210	<b>-11</b>	-4.98%	8	13	-6	15
51-9196	Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	347	337	<b>-10</b>	-2.88%	11	24	-5	30

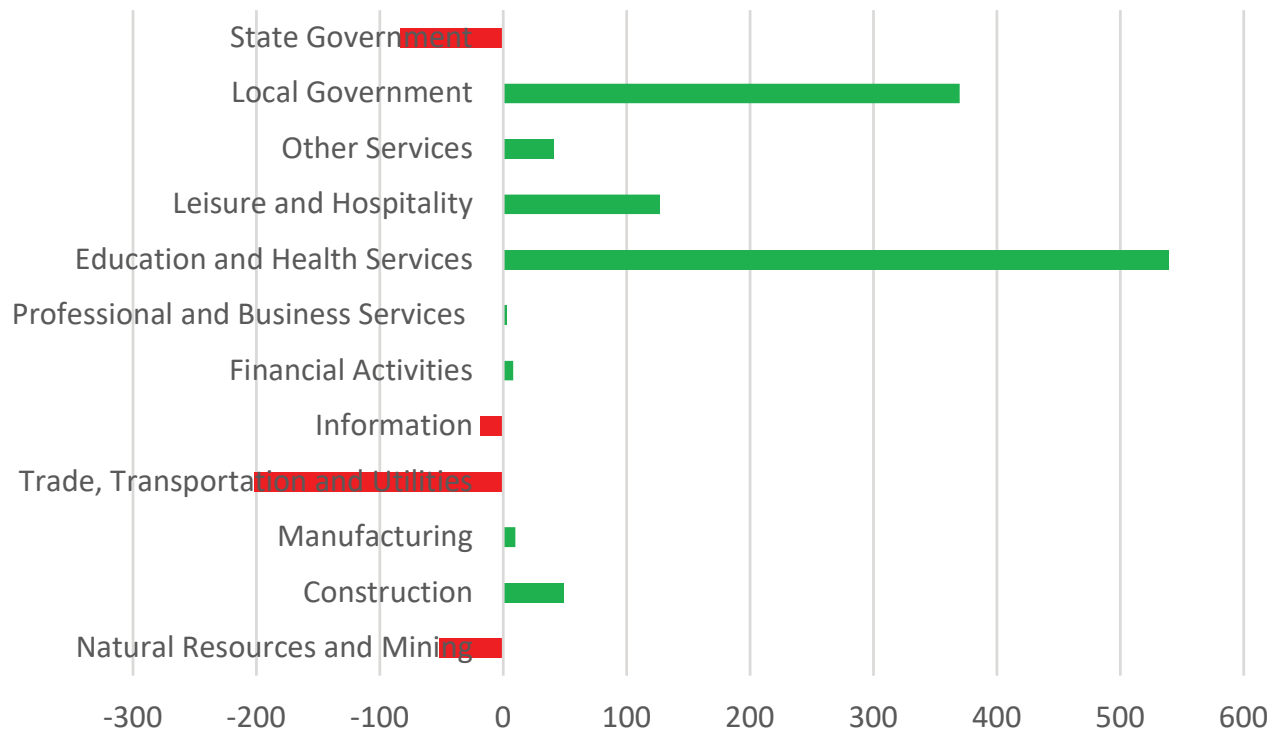
#### Top 10 Fastest Decline

51-5113	Print Binding and Finishing Workers	40	34	-6	<b>-15.00%</b>	2	2	-3	1
27-3011	Broadcast Announcers & Radio Disc Jockeys	48	42	-6	<b>-12.50%</b>	2	2	-3	1
49-2022	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	79	70	-9	<b>-11.39%</b>	2	5	-4	3
43-3071	Tellers	409	381	-28	<b>-6.85%</b>	16	24	-14	26
51-4072	Molding, Coremaking, & Casting Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders, Metal & Plastic	221	210	-11	<b>-4.98%</b>	8	13	-6	15
29-2052	Pharmacy Technicians	369	351	-18	<b>-4.88%</b>	12	20	-9	23
51-7011	Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	125	119	-6	<b>-4.80%</b>	4	7	-3	8
43-9021	Data Entry Keyers	131	125	-6	<b>-4.58%</b>	6	8	-3	11
45-2092	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	186	179	-7	<b>-3.76%</b>	12	16	-4	24
43-4131	Loan Interviewers and Clerks	161	155	-6	<b>-3.73%</b>	5	8	-3	10

Source: Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Projections Suite Software

# Western Arkansas

## Local Workforce Development Area Covered Employment and Earnings



NAICS Industry	2023 Annual Average Covered Employment	2024 Annual Average Covered Employment	2023-2024 Numeric Change	2023-2024 Percent Change	2024 Average Weekly Earnings
<b>Total</b>	<b>103,717</b>	<b>104,426</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>\$1,056</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	962	910	-52	-5.4%	\$1,307
Construction	4,610	4,659	49	1.1%	\$1,087
Manufacturing	22,190	22,200	10	0.0%	\$1,094
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	22,580	22,378	-202	-0.9%	\$929
Information	1,046	1,027	-19	-1.8%	\$1,832
Financial Activities	3,493	3,501	8	0.2%	\$1,207
Professional and Business Services	9,243	9,246	3	0.0%	\$1,140
Education and Health Services	15,736	16,275	539	3.4%	\$1,119
Leisure and Hospitality	9,477	9,604	127	1.3%	\$403
Other Services	2,181	2,140	41	1.9%	\$801
Local Government	9,554	9,924	370	3.9%	\$893
State Government	2,645	2,562	-83	-3.1%	\$862

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





**Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Governor**  
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