



PRESS RELEASE

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Arkansas' employment continues to rise as unemployment falls to 4.1% in June

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (July 21, 2026) Today, the Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.2% in May to 4.1% in June. At 4.2%, the United States' jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point between May and June.

The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) ranked 3rd highest in the US for percent growth of nonfarm payroll jobs, with jobs growing by 2.9% between June 2025 and June 2026.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 1,919 in June, as the number of employed rose by 2,830. The size of the labor force and employment both remain at record high levels, as Arkansas' labor force participation rose to 59.2% in June.
- Compared to June 2025, there are 23,603 more employed in Arkansas. The number of unemployed and the unemployment rate are both up slightly. Growth in the labor force and the working-age population pushed Arkansas' labor force participation rate up seven-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs declined by 5,800 between May and June, a typical seasonal decrease. Losses were related in large part to the start of summer break at schools, with Government (-5,900) and Private Education and Health Services (-3,000) posting the largest declines. Seasonal hiring occurred in Construction (+1,400) and Leisure and Hospitality (+1,200).
- Compared to June 2025, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 10,000. The largest gains were in Leisure and Hospitality (+3,900), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+3,600), Private Education and Health Services (+2,400), and Professional and Business Services (+2,300). Losses occurred in Financial Activities (-1,400) and Government (-1,200).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	June 2026	May 2026	June 2025	Change from May 2026	Change from June 2025
Civilian Labor Force	1,457,656	1,455,737	1,431,816	1,919	25,840
Employment	1,398,001	1,395,171	1,374,398	2,830	23,603
Unemployment	59,655	60,566	57,418	-911	2,237
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.2%	4.0%	-0.1%	0.1%
Labor Force Participation Rate	59.2%	59.1%	58.5%	0.1%	0.7%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. More information about the data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm>

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	June 2026	May 2026	June 2025	Change from May 2026	Change from June 2025
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1346.0	1351.8	1336.0	-5.8	10.0
Goods Producing	232.4	230.1	231.8	2.3	0.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	72.7	71.2	72.1	1.5	0.6
Mining & Logging	4.8	4.7	4.8	0.1	0.0
Construction	67.9	66.5	67.3	1.4	0.6
Specialty Trade Contractors	42.2	41.7	42.2	0.5	0.0
Manufacturing	159.7	158.9	159.7	0.8	0.0
Durable Goods	75.5	75.0	75.4	0.5	0.1
Nondurable Goods	84.2	83.9	84.3	0.3	-0.1
Service Providing	1113.6	1121.7	1104.2	-8.1	9.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	273.0	273.6	269.4	-0.6	3.6
Wholesale Trade	54.4	54.5	54.0	-0.1	0.4
Retail Trade	144.5	145.1	142.2	-0.6	2.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	74.1	74.0	73.2	0.1	0.9
Information	12.1	11.9	12.0	0.2	0.1
Financial Activities	58.6	58.8	60.0	-0.2	-1.4
Finance & Insurance	43.5	43.5	44.5	0.0	-1.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.1	15.3	15.5	-0.2	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	167.0	167.1	164.7	-0.1	2.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	53.6	53.8	52.2	-0.2	1.4
Management of Companies	43.6	42.9	42.8	0.7	0.8
Administrative & Support Services	69.8	70.4	69.7	-0.6	0.1
Private Education & Health Services	209.0	212.0	206.6	-3.0	2.4
Educational Services	16.7	20.3	16.4	-3.6	0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	192.3	191.7	190.2	0.6	2.1
Ambulatory Health Care	70.4	69.9	69.1	0.5	1.3
Social Assistance	40.9	40.8	40.5	0.1	0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	139.1	137.9	135.2	1.2	3.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	17.5	16.4	16.3	1.1	1.2
Accommodation & Food Services	121.6	121.5	118.9	0.1	2.7
Accommodation Services	11.4	11.0	11.3	0.4	0.1
Food Services	110.2	110.5	107.6	-0.3	2.6
Other Services	52.7	52.4	53.0	0.3	-0.3
Government	202.1	208.0	203.3	-5.9	-1.2
Federal Government	20.2	20.2	21.3	0.0	-1.1
State Government	67.2	71.0	67.9	-3.8	-0.7
State Government, Educational Services	22.6	26.8	23.0	-4.2	-0.4
State Government, Excluding Education	44.6	44.2	44.9	0.4	-0.3
Local Government	114.7	116.8	114.1	-2.1	0.6
Local Government, Educational Services	66.9	70.3	66.9	-3.4	0.0
Local Government, Excluding Education	47.8	46.5	47.2	1.3	0.6

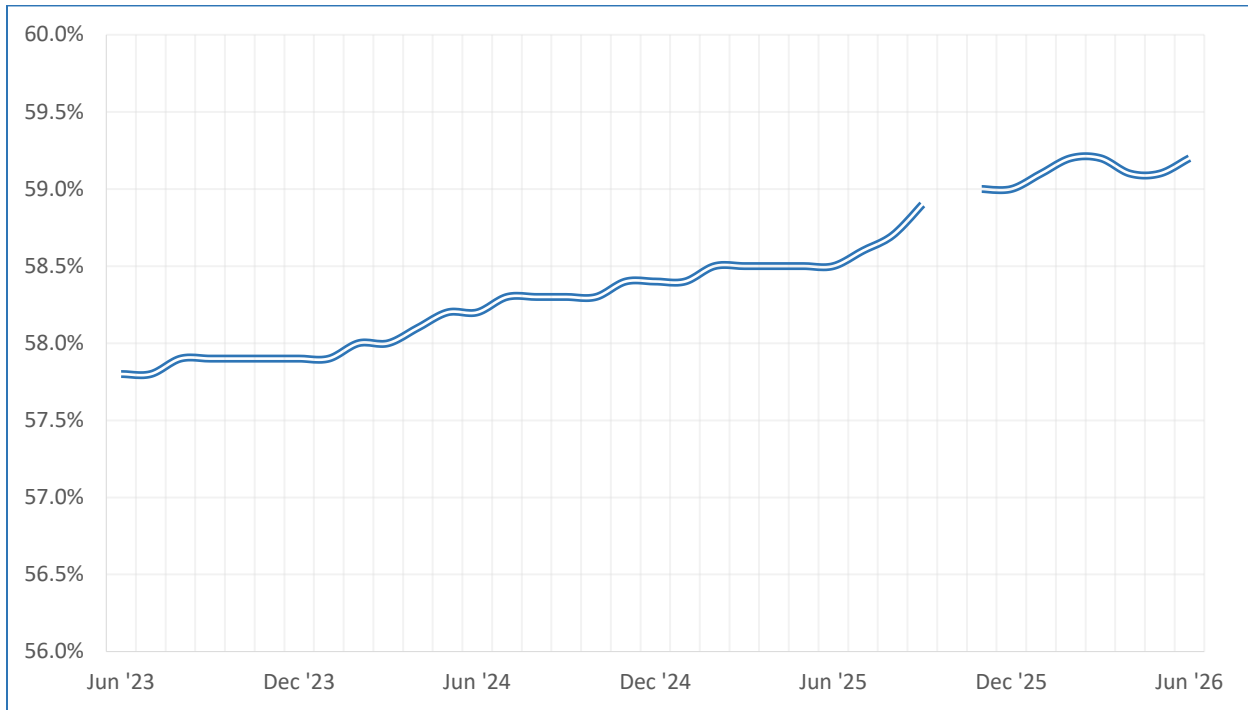
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2025 benchmark.

Notes: Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

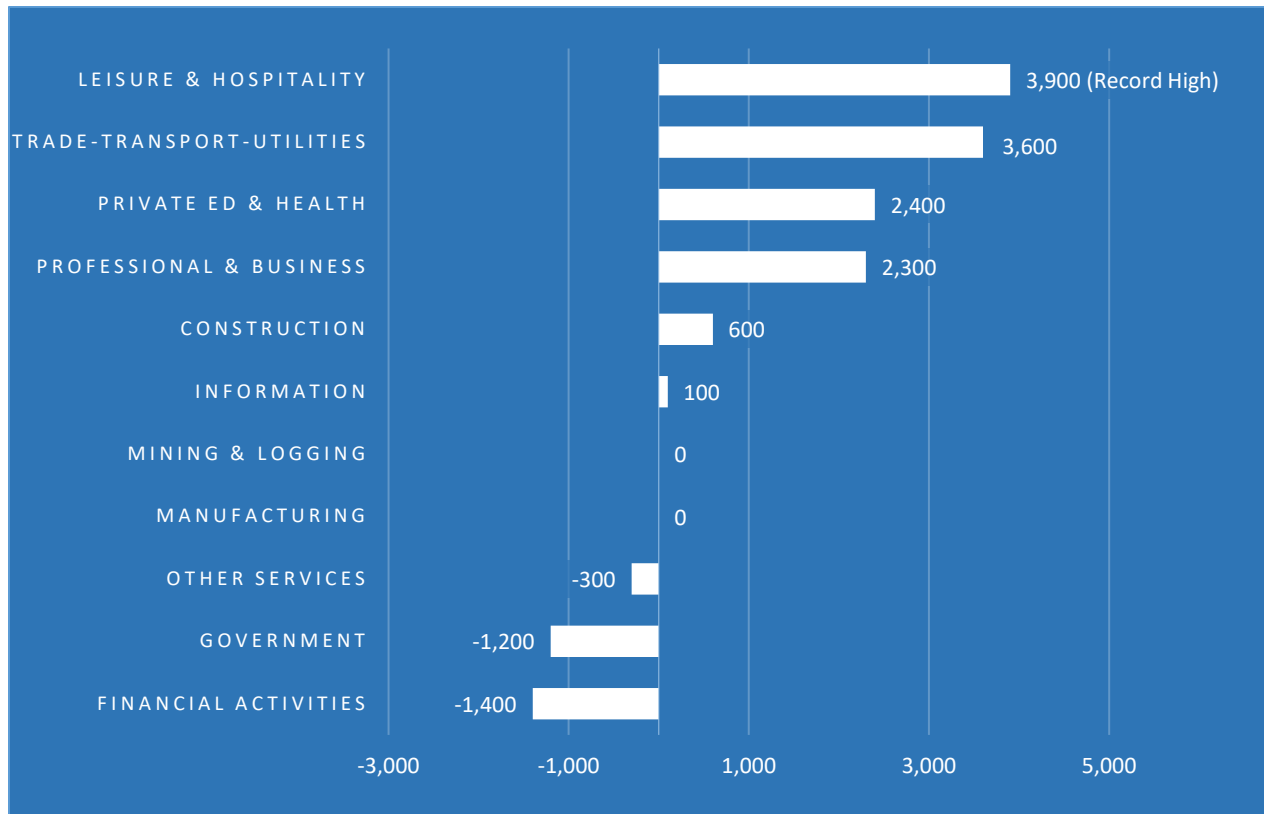
Labor Force Participation Rates in Arkansas (Seasonally Adjusted)

June 2023 – June 2026

Data for October 2025 is not available due to a lapse in Federal appropriations



Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors June 2025 to June 2026 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at www.discover.arkansas.gov



About the Arkansas Department of Commerce

The mission of the Arkansas Department of Commerce is to champion the economic health of every Arkansas citizen and business. Its divisions and regulatory boards include the Waterways Commission, Economic Development Commission, Division of Aeronautics, Workforce Connections, Division of Reemployment, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, and Development Finance Authority.



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

About Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making.

About Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

The LAUS program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, States, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence.

About Current Employment Statistics (CES)

The CES program produces detailed industry estimates of employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. CES State and Metro Area produces data for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.