



LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION QUICK REFERENCE

Arkansas Department of Commerce
Division of Workforce Services
Workforce Policy & Innovation
September 2025

KEY TERMS	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR REQUIREMENTS / DEFINITIONS	ARKANSAS AUGUST 2025 *
Employed	Have a job, full time or part time	1,373,400
Unemployed	Do not have a job but have actively looked for work within last four weeks	53,900
Civilian Labor Force (CLF)	Employed + Unemployed	1,427,200
Noninstitutionalized Civilian Population Aged 16+ (CNP16)	- Aged 16 and older (no upper age limit) - Civilian (e.g. non-military) - Not incarcerated or otherwise institutionalized	2,434,700
Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR)	Percent of Noninstitutionalized Civilian Population Aged 16+ that are either Employed or Unemployed	58.4%
Out of the Labor Force (OOLF)	Do not have a job and have not actively looked for a job within the last 4 weeks	1,006,800

* Numbers are rounded / approximated for simplification and may not sum to the total

KEY TERMS → KEY METRICS:

Civilian Labor Force (CLF) = Employed + Unemployed

Unemployment Rate = Unemployed/CLF x 100

Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) = CLF/CNP16 x 100

Out of the Labor Force (OOLF) = CNP16 - CLF

Population Components

$$\frac{\text{Employed} + \text{Unemployed} + \text{Out of Labor Force}}{\text{Noninstitutionalized Civilian Population Aged 16+}}$$

KEY METRICS EXPRESSED AS A PERCENTAGE / RATE

	U.S. August 2025	Arkansas August 2025	Arkansas Goal 2028
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	3.8%	N/A
Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR)	62.3%	58.4%	59.4%
Out of Labor Force (OOLF)	37.7%	41.6%	N/A

OUT OF LABOR FORCE (OOLF) KEY ARKANSAS AUGUST 2025 FACTS **

AGE GROUP	AR OOLF	AR % OOLF	US % OOLF
Age 16+	1,006,800	41.6%	37.7%
Age 25-54	215,900	19.5%	16.3%
Aged 55+	628,300	67.3%	61.9%
- The rate Arkansas men drop out of the labor force after age 35 is almost twice the U.S. average - Projecting based on the August 2025 Total Population growth rate, greater than 55,900 people will need to enter the Labor Force by 2028 to reach the LFPR goal of 59.4%			

** Approximations based on calculations by Arkansas Bureau of Labor Statistics office

For more information: 501-682-3394, discoverarkansas@arkansas.gov, www.discover.arkansas.gov, <https://dws.arkansas.gov/workforce-services/news-info/labor-force-data/>