

**SEPTEMBER**

**A 2 0 2 3**  
**ARKANSAS**  
**LABOR**  
**MARKET**  
**REPORT**

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Arkansas Division of  
Workforce Services



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

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

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). All estimates are based on a first quarter 2022 benchmark.

**Explanation of Terms and Concepts**

**Monthly Business**

**Survey of Employers**

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

**Technical Notes**

5,000 Arkansas business establishments are surveyed.

**Metropolitan**

**Statistical Areas**

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

**Current Population**

**Survey (CPS)**

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

**Civilian Labor Force**

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

**Employment**

An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time

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

**Unemployment**

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

**Unemployment**

**Rate**

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

**Seasonal**

**Adjustment**

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



Arkansas Division of  
**Workforce Services**





## September Spotlight

# Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

In addition to the unemployment rate, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) also calculates five additional estimates based on various definitions of 'unemployment'. These are known as Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization and are referred to as U1-U6, with U-3 as the official unemployment rate. These measures are calculated using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. Approximately 1,000 Arkansas households are in the survey each month.

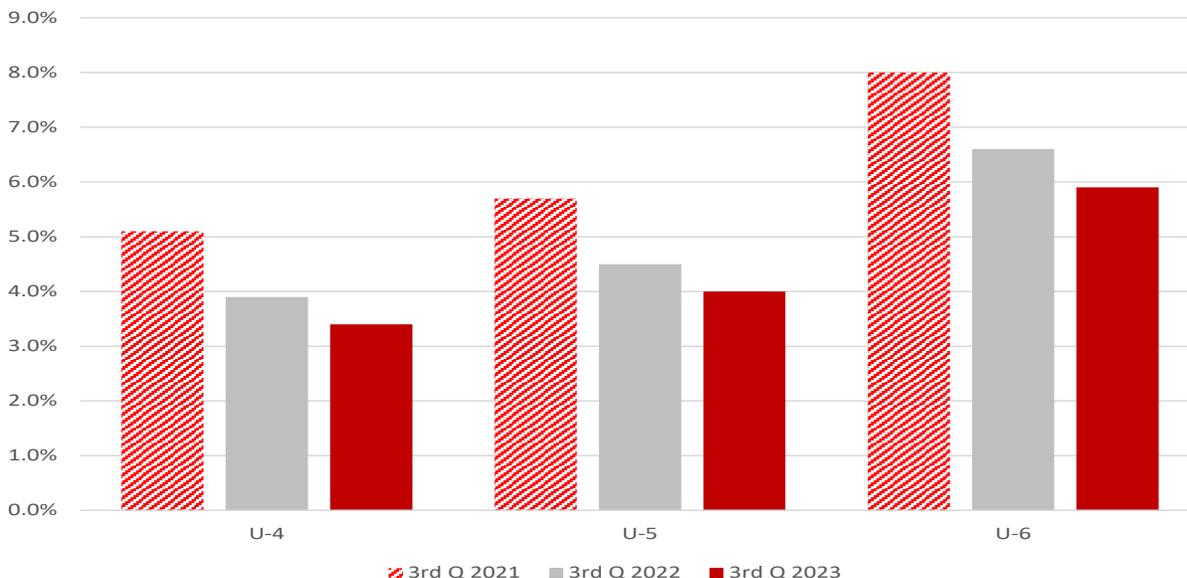
Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization					
State of Arkansas					
4th Quarter 2022 - 3rd Quarter 2023 (Average)					
U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
1.0%	1.2%	3.2%	3.4%	4.0%	5.9%

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization are available at the statewide level and are produced quarterly. Estimates are calculated using a four quarter moving average. The most recent data available is for 3rd Quarter 2023.

The following definitions are used to calculate each measure of Labor Underutilization:

- U-1 Measure:** Persons unemployed for 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force.
- U-2 Measure:** Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force.
- U-3 Measure:** Total number of unemployed persons, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate).
- U-4 Measure:** Total number of unemployed and discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.
- U-5 Measure:** Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, and all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.
- U-6 Measure:** Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, marginally attached workers, and those employed part-time for economic reasons (not by choice), as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

**Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization**  
 State of Arkansas  
 Three-Year Comparison of 3rd Quarter (Average)



State of Arkansas

**Civilian Labor Force Summary**

The Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas’ seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point, from 2.7% in August to 2.9% in September. The United States’ jobless rate remained stable at 3.8% in September.

In September, Arkansas’ civilian labor force increased by 2,798. The number of unemployed rose 2,561, as more Arkansans are actively seeking work. This pushed the labor force participation rate up one-tenth of a percentage point, to 57.8% in September. The labor force and the number of employed both remain at record high levels.

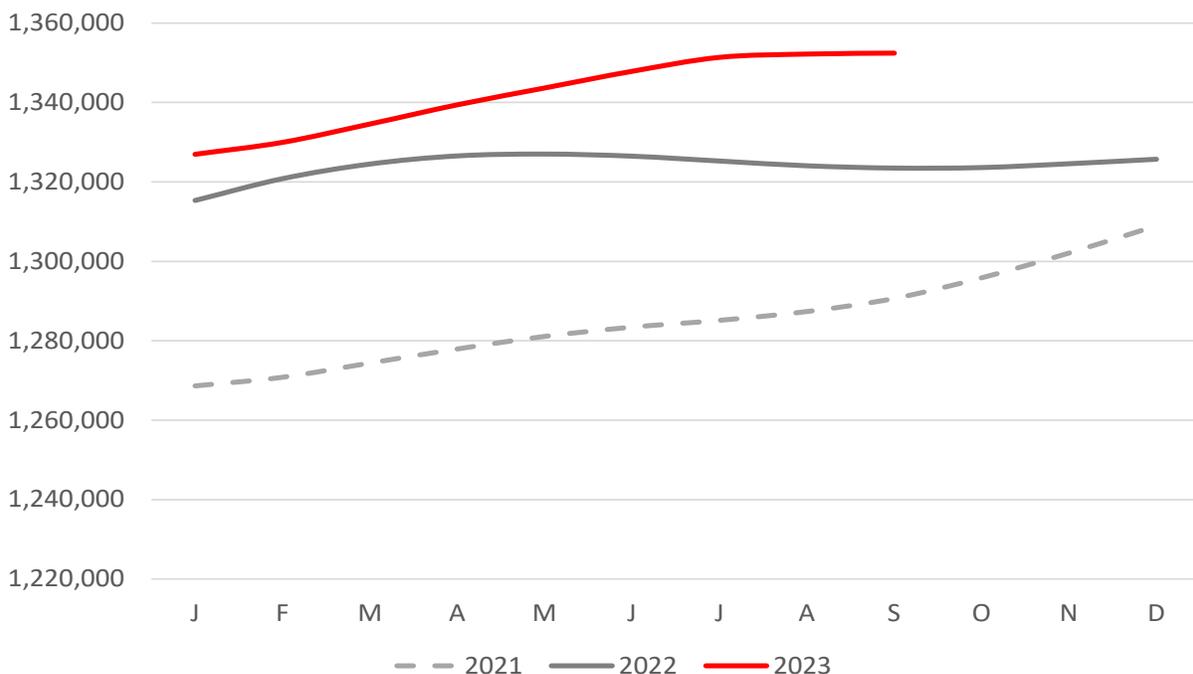
Compared to September 2022, there are 29,978 more employed and 7,698 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The States’ unemployment rate is down from 3.5% last September, while the labor force participation rate is up three-tenths of a percentage point.

**Civilian Labor Force Estimates**

	Seasonally Adjusted			Not Seasonally Adjusted			
	Sep 23	Aug 23	Sep 22	Sep 23	Aug 23	Sep 22	
Civilian Labor Force	1,392,337	1,389,539	1,371,057	Civilian Labor Force	1,397,560	1,395,255	1,375,057
Employment	1,352,437	1,352,200	1,323,459	Employment	1,352,523	1,349,153	1,330,617
Unemployment	39,900	37,339	47,598	Unemployment	45,037	46,102	44,440
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	2.7%	3.5%	Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.3%	3.2%
LF Participation Rate	57.8%	57.7%	57.5%	LF Participation Rate	58.0%	58.0%	57.7%

**Employment (Seasonally Adjusted)**

January 2021 - September 2023



## State of Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Not Seasonally Adjusted

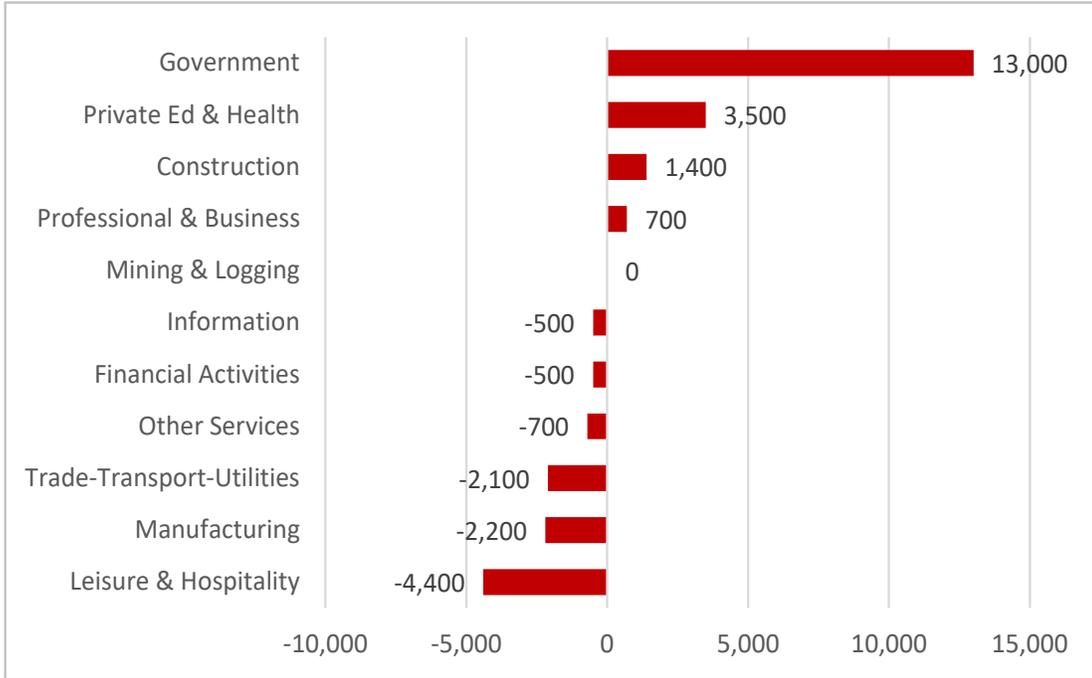
(In Thousands)

(NAICS)	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	1366.6	1358.4	1347.2	8.2	19.4
Goods Producing	233.0	233.8	228.8	-0.8	4.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	71.1	69.7	65.0	1.4	6.1
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>66.1</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>6.3</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	41.1	39.7	37.3	1.4	3.8
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>161.9</b>	<b>164.1</b>	<b>163.8</b>	<b>-2.2</b>	<b>-1.9</b>
Durable Goods	78.0	80.2	79.4	-2.2	-1.4
Nondurable Goods	83.9	83.9	84.4	0.0	-0.5
Service Providing	1133.6	1124.6	1118.4	9.0	15.2
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>267.9</b>	<b>270.0</b>	<b>270.6</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-2.7</b>
Wholesale Trade	53.8	54.6	51.3	-0.8	2.5
Retail Trade	139.6	140.9	143.4	-1.3	-3.8
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	74.5	74.5	75.9	0.0	-1.4
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>70.4</b>	<b>70.9</b>	<b>71.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Finance & Insurance	55.7	56.2	56.4	-0.5	-0.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	14.7	14.7	14.8	0.0	-0.1
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>154.0</b>	<b>153.3</b>	<b>154.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
Professional, Scientific & Technical	50.0	50.2	47.7	-0.2	2.3
Management of Companies	41.9	41.2	38.1	0.7	3.8
Administrative & Support Services	62.1	61.9	68.5	0.2	-6.4
<b>Private Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>210.2</b>	<b>206.7</b>	<b>202.1</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>8.1</b>
Private Educational Services	18.9	16.8	18.6	2.1	0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	191.3	189.9	183.5	1.4	7.8
Ambulatory Health Care	67.6	67.1	63.1	0.5	4.5
Social Assistance	39.5	39.1	37.4	0.4	2.1
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>133.1</b>	<b>137.5</b>	<b>125.1</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>8.0</b>
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	15.0	16.8	13.3	-1.8	1.7
Accommodation & Food Services	118.1	120.7	111.8	-2.6	6.3
Accommodation Services	12.2	12.6	11.4	-0.4	0.8
Food Services	105.9	108.1	100.4	-2.2	5.5
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>74.4</b>	<b>75.1</b>	<b>71.7</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>212.2</b>	<b>199.2</b>	<b>210.6</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Federal Government	21.5	21.3	20.6	0.2	0.9
State Government	77.6	73.1	77.7	4.5	-0.1
State Gov, Educational Services	31.5	26.9	31.4	4.6	0.1
State Gov, Excluding Education	46.1	46.2	46.3	-0.1	-0.2
Local Government	113.1	104.8	112.3	8.3	0.8
Local Gov, Educational Services	69.1	60.1	68.6	9.0	0.5
Local Gov, Excluding Education	44.0	44.7	43.7	-0.7	0.3

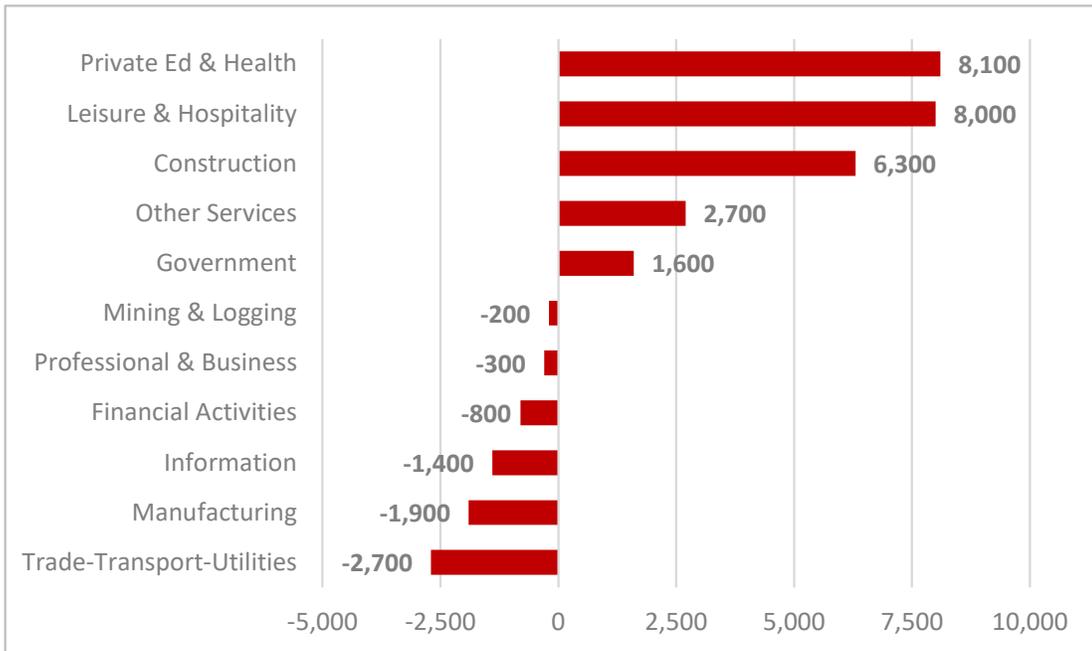
## State of Arkansas

# Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

**Monthly Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sector**  
August 2023 - September 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



**Annual Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sector**  
September 2022 - September 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



## State of Arkansas Production Workers- Hours and Earnings

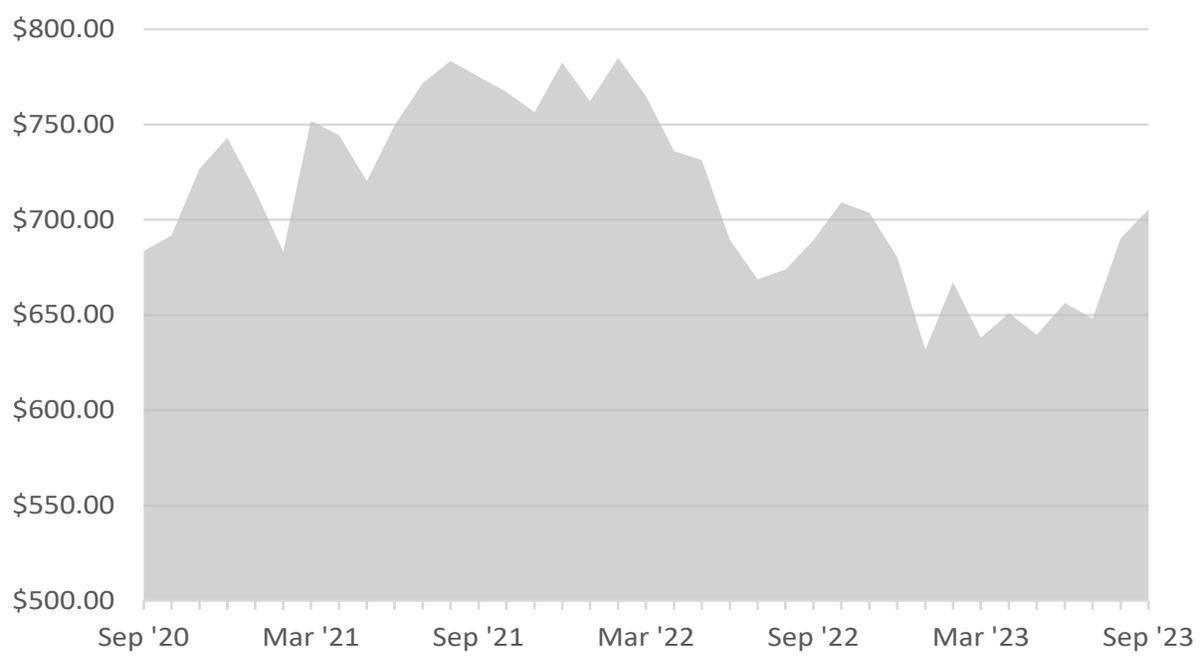
### Manufacturing

	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>
Average Weekly Hours	39.0	40.0	39.4
Average Hourly Earnings	\$21.57	\$21.26	\$20.67
Average Weekly Earnings	\$841.23	\$850.40	\$814.40

### Durable Goods and Nondurable Goods Manufacturing

Durable Goods Manufacturing				Nondurable Goods Manufacturing			
	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>		<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>
Average Weekly Hours	41.9	43.9	42.0	Average Weekly Hours	36.4	36.3	37.0
Average Hourly Earnings	\$23.67	\$23.24	\$22.68	Average Hourly Earnings	\$19.38	\$19.02	\$18.63
Average Weekly Earnings	\$991.77	\$1,020.24	\$952.56	Average Weekly Earnings	\$705.43	\$690.43	\$689.31

**Average Weekly Earnings - Nondurable Goods Manufacturing**  
September 2020 - September 2023





**Metropolitan Statistical Areas**

**Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA**

The Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA = Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, & Saline counties.

**Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

	<b>Sep 23</b>	<b>Aug 23</b>	<b>Sep 22</b>	<b>OTM</b>	<b>QTY</b>
Civilian Labor Force	365,949	367,545	359,032	-1,596	6,917
Employment	354,786	356,429	347,739	-1,643	7,047
Unemployment	11,163	11,116	11,293	47	-130
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.0%	3.1%	0.1%	0.0%

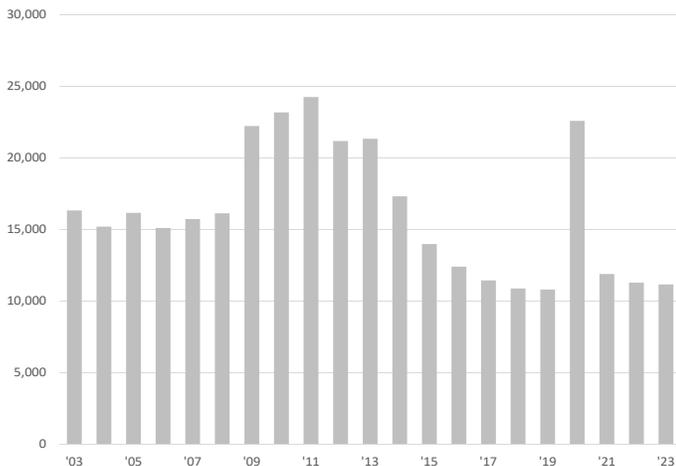
**Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

(In Thousands)

<b>NAICS</b>	<b>Sep 23</b>	<b>Aug 23</b>	<b>Sep 22</b>	<b>OTM</b>	<b>QTY</b>
Total Nonfarm	386.4	385.1	379.1	1.3	7.3
Goods Producing	40.9	40.7	39.3	0.2	1.6
Mining, Logging & Construction	21.1	20.7	19.4	0.4	1.7
Manufacturing	19.8	20.0	19.9	-0.2	-0.1
Service Providing	345.5	344.4	339.8	1.1	5.7
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	76.5	76.6	77.2	-0.1	-0.7
Wholesale Trade	18.3	18.3	17.4	0.0	0.9
Retail Trade	37.2	37.5	38.6	-0.3	-1.4
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	21.0	20.8	21.2	0.2	-0.2
Information	5.4	5.5	5.7	-0.1	-0.3
Financial Activities	24.6	24.7	24.9	-0.1	-0.3
Professional & Business Services	47.9	48.2	48.5	-0.3	-0.6
Private Education & Health Services	65.5	64.2	62.3	1.3	3.2
Leisure & Hospitality	36.9	38.6	33.6	-1.7	3.3
Other Services	19.7	19.8	18.8	-0.1	0.9
Government	69.0	66.8	68.8	2.2	0.2
Federal Government	10.3	10.1	9.9	0.2	0.4
State Government	34.1	33.2	34.4	0.9	-0.3
Local Government	24.6	23.5	24.5	1.1	0.1

**Unemployment**

September: 2003 - 2023



**Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**

September 2020 - September 2023





## Metropolitan Statistical Areas Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA = Benton, Madison, & Washington counties in Arkansas and McDonald county in Missouri.

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<b>Sep 23</b>	<b>Aug 23</b>	<b>Sep 22</b>	<b>OTM</b>	<b>QTY</b>
Civilian Labor Force	318,864	317,062	308,361	1,802	10,503
Employment	311,066	309,226	301,206	1,840	9,860
Unemployment	7,798	7,836	7,155	-38	643
Unemployment Rate	2.4%	2.5%	2.3%	-0.1%	0.1%

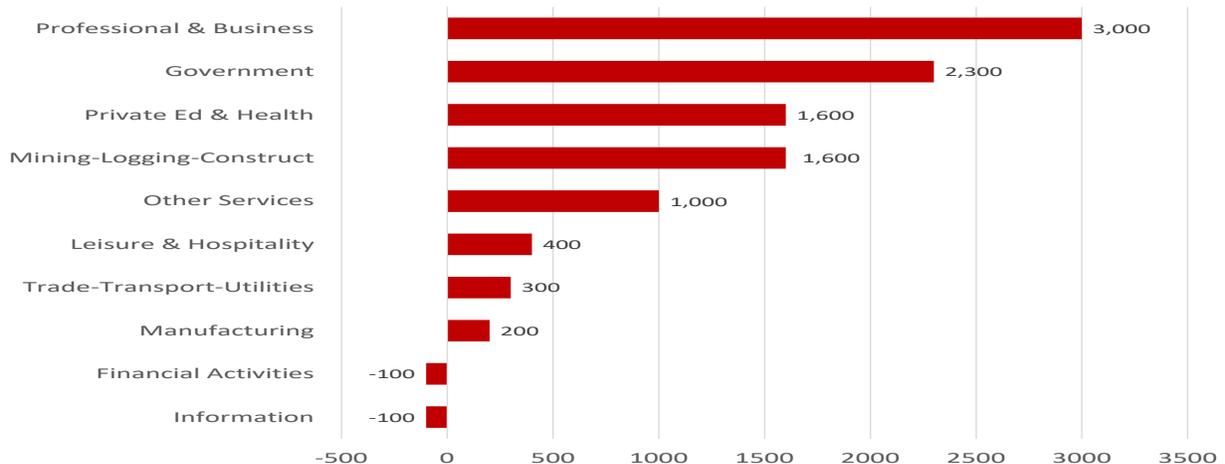
### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<b>NAICS</b>	<b>Sep 23</b>	<b>Aug 23</b>	<b>Sep 22</b>	<b>OTM</b>	<b>QTY</b>
Total Nonfarm	312.3	307.6	302.1	4.7	10.2
Goods Producing	49.0	49.2	47.2	-0.2	1.8
Mining, Logging & Construction	16.8	16.6	15.2	0.2	1.6
Manufacturing	32.2	32.6	32.0	-0.4	0.2
Service Providing	263.3	258.4	254.9	4.9	8.4
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	63.5	63.6	63.2	-0.1	0.3
Wholesale Trade	14.4	14.6	13.6	-0.2	0.8
Retail Trade	28.7	28.6	29.0	0.1	-0.3
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	20.4	20.4	20.6	0.0	-0.2
Information	2.2	2.3	2.3	-0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	10.2	10.2	10.3	0.0	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	61.2	60.5	58.2	0.7	3.0
Private Education & Health Services	35.4	34.6	33.8	0.8	1.6
Leisure & Hospitality	30.7	31.4	30.3	-0.7	0.4
Other Services	16.2	16.2	15.2	0.0	1.0
Government	43.9	39.6	41.6	4.3	2.3
Federal Government	3.2	3.1	2.9	0.1	0.3
State Government	20.5	17.5	18.9	3.0	1.6
Local Government	20.2	19.0	19.8	1.2	0.4

### Annual Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sector

September 2022 - September 2023



## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Fort Smith MSA

The Fort Smith MSA = Crawford & Sebastian counties in Arkansas & LeFlore & Sequoyah counties in Oklahoma.

#### Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	120,433	120,515	118,054	-82	2,379
Employment	115,865	116,017	114,211	-152	1,654
Unemployment	4,568	4,498	3,843	70	725
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.7%	3.3%	0.1%	0.5%

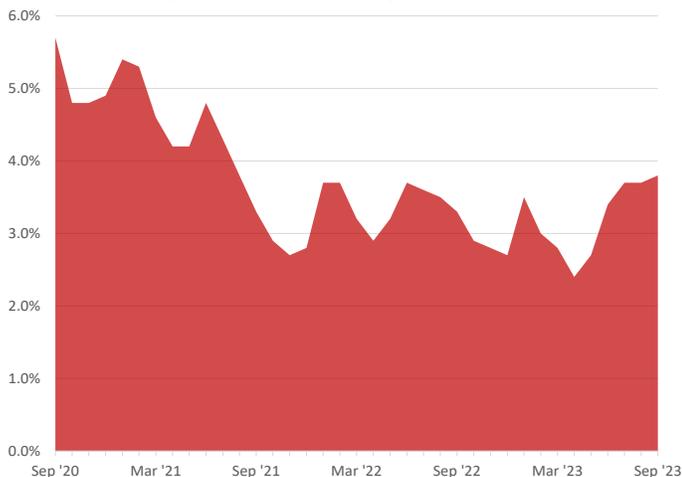
#### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	115.5	114.7	114.8	0.8	0.7
Goods Producing	24.1	24.2	24.0	-0.1	0.1
Mining, Logging & Construction	5.6	5.6	5.3	0.0	0.3
Manufacturing	18.5	18.6	18.7	-0.1	-0.2
Service Providing	91.4	90.5	90.8	0.9	0.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24.2	24.3	24.6	-0.1	-0.4
Wholesale Trade	5.0	5.0	4.7	0.0	0.3
Retail Trade	12.7	12.8	13.1	-0.1	-0.4
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6.5	6.5	6.8	0.0	-0.3
Information	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	4.2	4.2	4.2	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	11.0	11.1	11.9	-0.1	-0.9
Private Education & Health Services	18.3	18.2	17.7	0.1	0.6
Leisure & Hospitality	10.3	10.7	9.7	-0.4	0.6
Other Services	3.7	3.7	3.5	0.0	0.2
Government	18.3	16.9	17.8	1.4	0.5
Federal Government	1.4	1.4	1.3	0.0	0.1
State Government	2.3	2.1	2.4	0.2	-0.1
Local Government	14.6	13.4	14.1	1.2	0.5

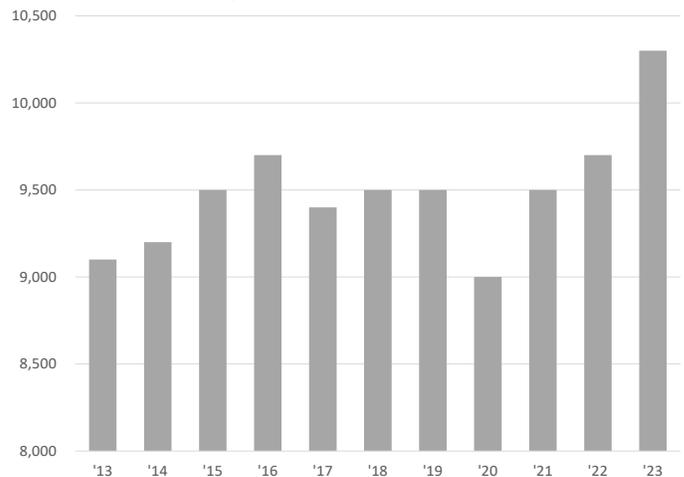
#### Unemployment Rates

September 2020 - September 2023



#### Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality

September: 2013 - 2023



## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

# Hot Springs MSA

The Hot Springs MSA = Garland County.

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	42,122	42,423	42,019	-301	103
Employment	40,593	40,914	40,449	-321	144
Unemployment	1,529	1,509	1,570	20	-41
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	3.7%	0.0%	-0.1%

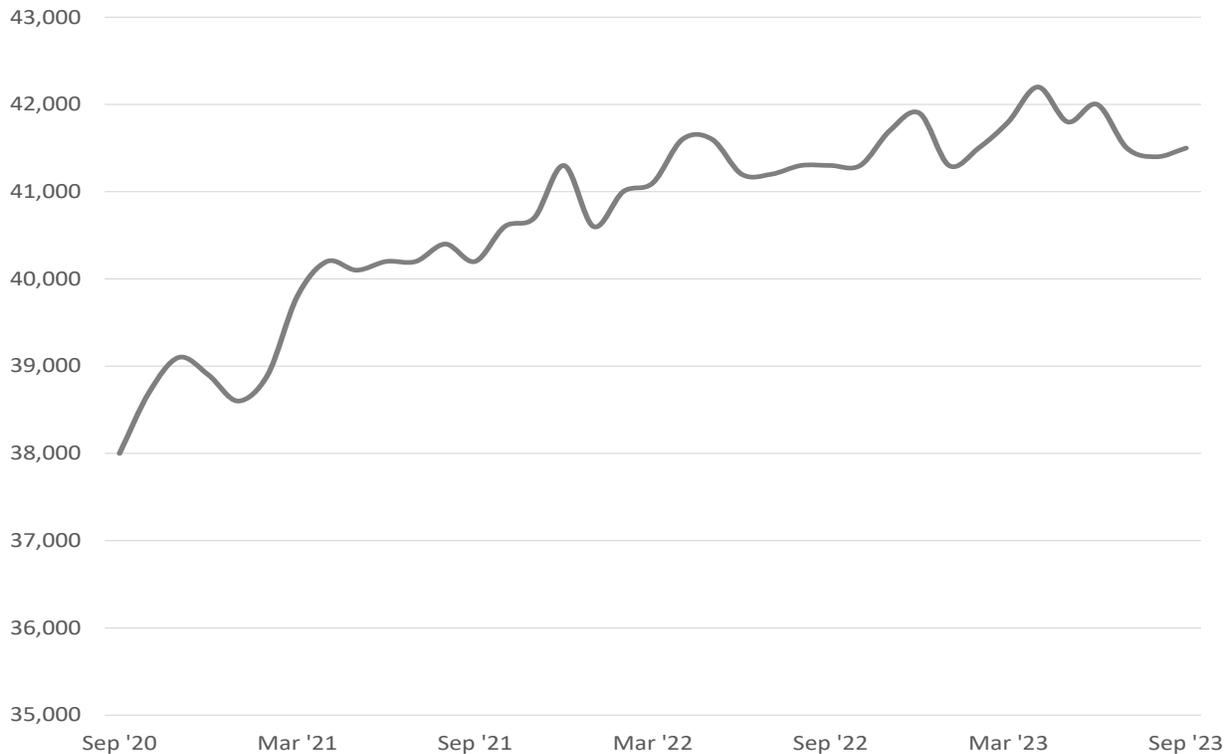
### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	41.5	41.4	41.3	0.1	0.2
Goods Producing	4.7	4.7	4.7	0.0	0.0
Service Providing	36.8	36.7	36.6	0.1	0.2
Government	4.1	3.9	4.3	0.2	-0.2

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

September 2020 - September 2023



## Metropolitan Statistical Areas Jonesboro MSA

The Jonesboro MSA = Craighead & Poinsett counties.

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

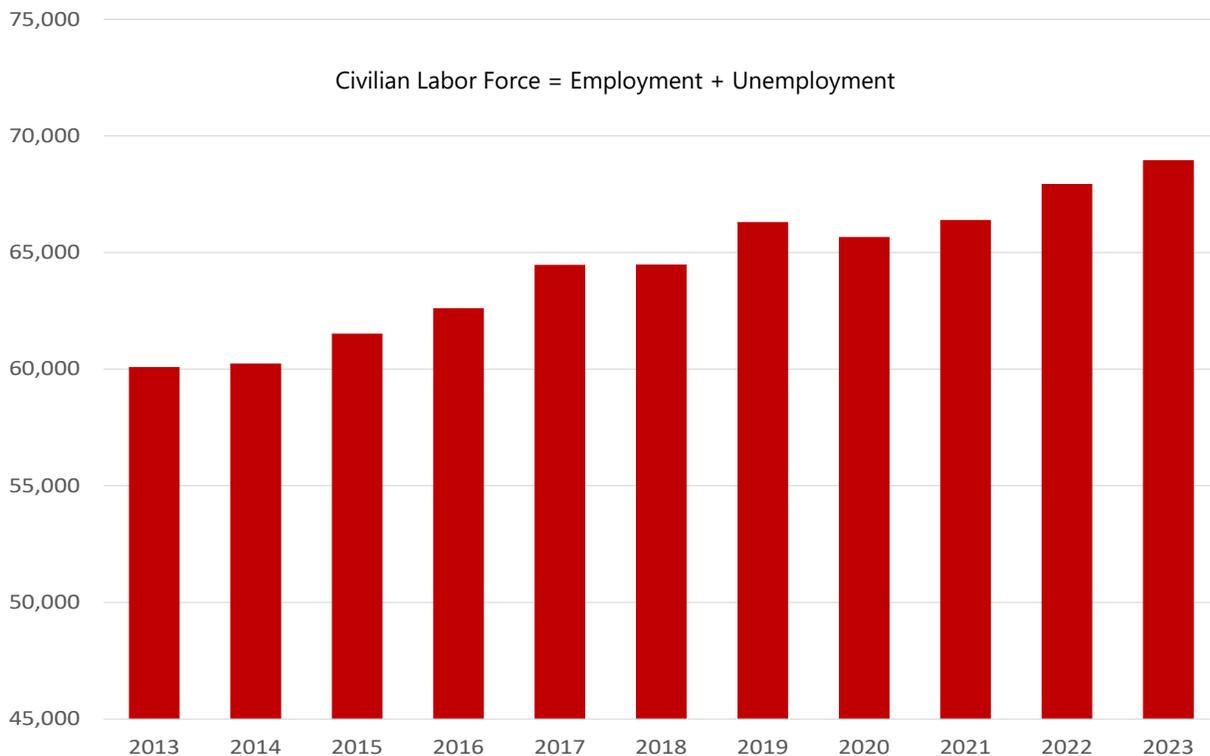
	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	68,955	69,096	67,945	-141	1,010
Employment	67,027	67,093	66,034	-66	993
Unemployment	1,928	2,003	1,911	-75	17
Unemployment Rate	2.8%	2.9%	2.8%	-0.1%	0.0%

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	65.1	64.6	64.2	0.5	0.9
Goods Producing	11.9	11.9	12.1	0.0	-0.2
Service Providing	53.2	52.7	52.1	0.5	1.1
Government	9.3	8.8	9.1	0.5	0.2

**Civilian Labor Force**  
 September: 2013 - 2023



## Metropolitan Statistical Areas Pine Bluff MSA

The Pine Bluff MSA = Cleveland, Jefferson, & Lincoln counties.

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

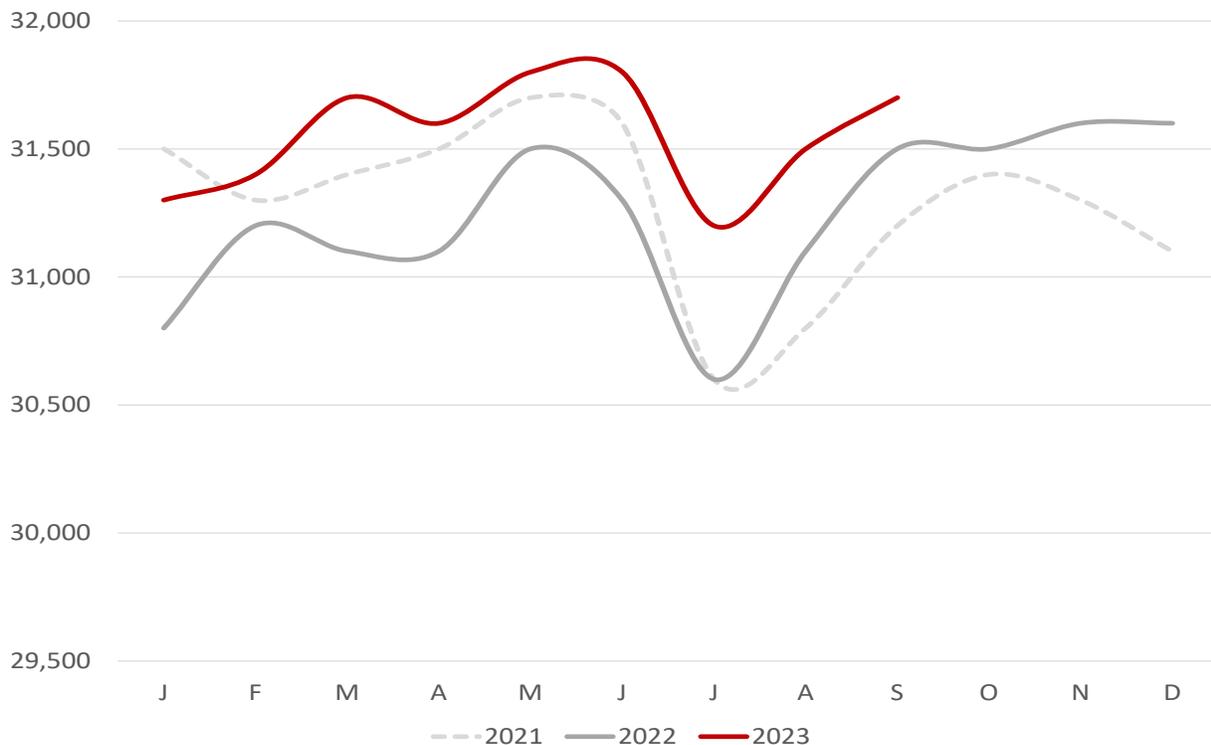
	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	32,462	32,548	32,340	-86	122
Employment	31,093	31,151	30,822	-58	271
Unemployment	1,369	1,397	1,518	-28	-149
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	4.3%	4.7%	-0.1%	-0.5%

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

(In Thousands)

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Total Nonfarm	31.7	31.5	31.5	0.2	0.2
Goods Producing	5.5	5.6	5.4	-0.1	0.1
Service Providing	26.2	25.9	26.1	0.3	0.1
Government	8.6	8.3	8.7	0.3	-0.1

**Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**  
 January 2021 - September 2023



## Metropolitan Statistical Areas

### Out-of-State MSA

#### Civilian Labor Force Estimates (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

#### Memphis, TN-MS-AR MSA

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

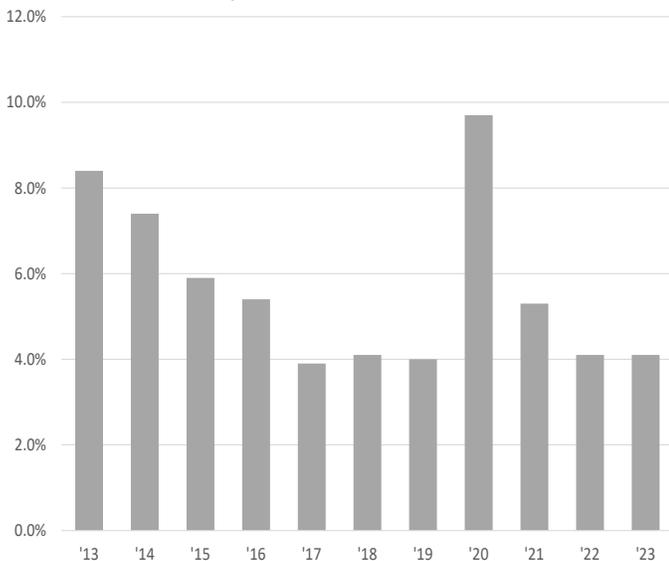
	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	624,155	622,375	627,424	1,780	-3,269
Employment	598,695	595,158	601,866	3,537	-3,171
Unemployment	25,460	27,217	25,558	-1,757	-98
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	4.4%	4.1%	-0.3%	0.0%

#### Texarkana MSA

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

	<u>Sep 23</u>	<u>Aug 23</u>	<u>Sep 22</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	63,326	63,455	62,220	-129	1,106
Employment	60,854	60,772	59,605	82	1,249
Unemployment	2,472	2,683	2,615	-211	-143
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	4.2%	4.2%	-0.3%	-0.3%

**Memphis MSA - Unemployment Rates**  
 September: 2013 - 2023



**Texarkana MSA - Employment**  
 September 2020 - September 2023



## Micropolitan Statistical Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Micro Area	September 2023				August 2023				September 2022			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkadelphia Micro	8,773	8,366	407	4.6	8,582	8,143	439	5.1	8,607	8,252	355	4.1
Batesville Micro	17,132	16,592	540	3.2	16,997	16,164	833	4.9	16,718	16,183	535	3.2
Blytheville Micro	17,081	16,336	745	4.4	17,135	16,221	914	5.3	16,492	15,729	763	4.6
Camden Micro	12,169	11,741	428	3.5	11,950	11,533	417	3.5	12,037	11,595	442	3.7
El Dorado Micro	14,977	14,322	655	4.4	14,891	14,221	670	4.5	14,838	14,157	681	4.6
Forrest City Micro	7,425	7,067	358	4.8	7,512	7,127	385	5.1	7,525	7,155	370	4.9
Harrison Micro	19,422	18,807	615	3.2	19,027	18,425	602	3.2	19,234	18,653	581	3.0
Helena-West Helena Micro	5,224	4,922	302	5.8	5,272	4,948	324	6.1	5,574	5,229	345	6.2
Hope Micro	12,667	12,219	448	3.5	12,373	11,911	462	3.7	12,966	12,548	418	3.2
Magnolia Micro	8,953	8,572	381	4.3	8,810	8,399	411	4.7	8,950	8,586	364	4.1
Malvern Micro	13,896	13,412	484	3.5	13,869	13,374	495	3.6	13,855	13,364	491	3.5
Mountain Home Micro	17,275	16,650	625	3.6	17,066	16,477	589	3.5	16,630	16,015	615	3.7
Paragould Micro	20,056	19,427	629	3.1	19,955	19,329	626	3.1	19,875	19,283	592	3.0
Russellville Micro	37,415	36,007	1,408	3.8	36,791	35,220	1,571	4.3	36,031	34,698	1,333	3.7
Searcy Micro	34,502	33,349	1,153	3.3	34,380	33,173	1,207	3.5	34,378	33,224	1,154	3.4

Arkadelphia Micro = Clark County

Batesville Micro = Independence County

Blytheville Micro = Mississippi County

Camden Micro = Calhoun & Ouachita counties

El Dorado Micro = Union County

Forrest City Micro = St. Francis County

Harrison Micro = Boone & Newton counties

Helena-West Helena Micro = Phillips County

Hope Micro = Hempstead & Nevada counties

Magnolia Micro = Columbia County

Malvern Micro = Hot Spring County

Mountain Home Micro = Baxter County

Paragould Micro = Greene County

Russellville Micro = Pope & Yell counties

Searcy Micro = White County

## City Labor Force Statistics

Not Seasonally Adjusted

City	September 2023				August 2023				September 2022			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Bella Vista	13,673	13,277	396	2.9	13,604	13,202	402	3.0	13,233	12,848	385	2.9
Benton	18,199	17,713	486	2.7	18,274	17,789	485	2.7	17,854	17,356	498	2.8
Bentonville	33,218	32,468	750	2.3	33,041	32,286	755	2.3	32,115	31,421	694	2.2
Blytheville	5,766	5,468	298	5.2	5,863	5,430	433	7.4	5,545	5,265	280	5.0
Cabot	12,311	11,962	349	2.8	12,373	12,036	337	2.7	12,087	11,745	342	2.8
Conway	35,405	34,377	1,028	2.9	35,581	34,540	1,041	2.9	34,726	33,710	1,016	2.9
El Dorado	6,484	6,163	321	5.0	6,444	6,120	324	5.0	6,437	6,092	345	5.4
Fayetteville	54,389	52,948	1,441	2.6	54,133	52,649	1,484	2.7	52,599	51,259	1,340	2.5
Fort Smith	38,999	37,499	1,500	3.8	39,046	37,529	1,517	3.9	38,449	37,297	1,152	3.0
Hot Springs	15,632	15,022	610	3.9	15,720	15,140	580	3.7	15,596	14,968	628	4.0
Jacksonville	11,911	11,427	484	4.1	11,932	11,476	456	3.8	11,646	11,194	452	3.9
Jonesboro	41,541	40,387	1,154	2.8	41,604	40,404	1,200	2.9	40,925	39,765	1,160	2.8
Little Rock	99,054	95,903	3,151	3.2	99,476	96,315	3,161	3.2	97,268	93,951	3,317	3.4
North Little Rock	30,553	29,491	1,062	3.5	30,674	29,617	1,057	3.4	30,014	28,890	1,124	3.7
Paragould	12,761	12,347	414	3.2	12,700	12,284	416	3.3	12,639	12,255	384	3.0
Pine Bluff	15,194	14,439	755	5.0	15,254	14,452	802	5.3	15,143	14,294	849	5.6
Rogers	40,749	39,832	917	2.3	40,537	39,609	928	2.3	39,427	38,547	880	2.2
Russellville	13,474	12,971	503	3.7	13,238	12,669	569	4.3	12,933	12,481	452	3.5
Searcy	10,416	10,071	345	3.3	10,386	10,018	368	3.5	10,391	10,033	358	3.4
Sherwood	16,546	16,094	452	2.7	16,614	16,163	451	2.7	16,224	15,767	457	2.8
Springdale	43,257	42,284	973	2.2	43,000	42,046	954	2.2	41,833	40,935	898	2.1
Texarkana, AR	13,002	12,534	468	3.6	13,065	12,559	506	3.9	12,799	12,295	504	3.9
Van Buren	10,416	10,029	387	3.7	10,463	10,046	417	4.0	10,275	9,982	293	2.9
West Memphis	10,110	9,694	416	4.1	10,132	9,686	446	4.4	10,112	9,651	461	4.6

## County Labor Force Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	September 2023				August 2023				September 2022			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Arkansas	9,332	9,092	240	2.6	9,409	9,178	231	2.5	9,399	9,123	276	2.9
Ashley	6,454	6,115	339	5.3	6,467	6,113	354	5.5	6,818	6,441	377	5.5
Baxter	17,275	16,650	625	3.6	17,066	16,477	589	3.5	16,630	16,015	615	3.7
Benton	158,833	154,902	3,931	2.5	157,921	154,032	3,889	2.5	153,550	149,905	3,645	2.4
Boone	16,162	15,656	506	3.1	15,814	15,326	488	3.1	16,004	15,516	488	3.0
Bradley	4,073	3,905	168	4.1	4,009	3,837	172	4.3	4,072	3,848	224	5.5
Calhoun	2,400	2,328	72	3.0	2,359	2,298	61	2.6	2,382	2,308	74	3.1
Carroll	12,764	12,397	367	2.9	12,839	12,490	349	2.7	12,836	12,469	367	2.9
Chicot	2,884	2,726	158	5.5	2,938	2,769	169	5.8	2,962	2,789	173	5.8
Clark	8,773	8,366	407	4.6	8,582	8,143	439	5.1	8,607	8,252	355	4.1
Clay	5,472	5,261	211	3.9	5,529	5,324	205	3.7	5,456	5,254	202	3.7
Cleburne	9,191	8,844	347	3.8	9,093	8,733	360	4.0	9,107	8,747	360	4.0
Cleveland	3,104	2,997	107	3.4	3,119	3,013	106	3.4	3,103	2,984	119	3.8
Columbia	8,953	8,572	381	4.3	8,810	8,399	411	4.7	8,950	8,586	364	4.1
Conway	8,422	8,108	314	3.7	8,419	8,101	318	3.8	8,357	8,053	304	3.6
Craighead	58,787	57,189	1,598	2.7	58,865	57,213	1,652	2.8	57,896	56,308	1,588	2.7
Crawford	26,635	25,668	967	3.6	26,673	25,711	962	3.6	26,377	25,546	831	3.2
Crittenden	20,690	19,865	825	4.0	20,713	19,848	865	4.2	20,609	19,777	832	4.0
Cross	6,867	6,639	228	3.3	6,948	6,726	222	3.2	6,895	6,649	246	3.6
Dallas	2,646	2,552	94	3.6	2,640	2,543	97	3.7	2,716	2,611	105	3.9
Desha	4,949	4,745	204	4.1	4,994	4,769	225	4.5	4,952	4,715	237	4.8
Drew	7,687	7,403	284	3.7	7,667	7,357	310	4.0	7,549	7,226	323	4.3
Faulkner	64,319	62,442	1,877	2.9	64,618	62,737	1,881	2.9	63,065	61,230	1,835	2.9
Franklin	7,596	7,349	247	3.3	7,613	7,360	253	3.3	7,496	7,249	247	3.3
Fulton	4,705	4,532	173	3.7	4,516	4,338	178	3.9	5,065	4,890	175	3.5
Garland	42,122	40,593	1,529	3.6	42,423	40,914	1,509	3.6	42,019	40,449	1,570	3.7
Grant	8,602	8,351	251	2.9	8,647	8,404	243	2.8	8,458	8,191	267	3.2
Greene	20,056	19,427	629	3.1	19,955	19,329	626	3.1	19,875	19,283	592	3.0
Hempstead	9,269	8,948	321	3.5	9,059	8,730	329	3.6	9,483	9,192	291	3.1
Hot Spring	13,896	13,412	484	3.5	13,869	13,374	495	3.6	13,855	13,364	491	3.5
Howard	5,239	5,047	192	3.7	5,205	5,011	194	3.7	5,343	5,166	177	3.3
Independence	17,132	16,592	540	3.2	16,997	16,164	833	4.9	16,718	16,183	535	3.2
Izard	4,580	4,372	208	4.5	4,589	4,309	280	6.1	4,607	4,394	213	4.6
Jackson	5,422	5,164	258	4.8	5,526	5,237	289	5.2	5,523	5,262	261	4.7
Jefferson	25,637	24,522	1,115	4.3	25,693	24,544	1,149	4.5	25,517	24,275	1,242	4.9
Johnson	10,071	9,673	398	4.0	9,711	9,300	411	4.2	10,089	9,693	396	3.9
Lafayette	2,253	2,153	100	4.4	2,230	2,127	103	4.6	2,333	2,232	101	4.3
Lawrence	7,066	6,819	247	3.5	6,902	6,662	240	3.5	6,968	6,724	244	3.5
Lee	2,578	2,456	122	4.7	2,623	2,496	127	4.8	2,564	2,451	113	4.4
Lincoln	3,721	3,574	147	4.0	3,736	3,594	142	3.8	3,720	3,563	157	4.2
Little River	5,265	5,083	182	3.5	5,271	5,093	178	3.4	5,178	4,976	202	3.9
Logan	8,409	8,077	332	3.9	8,459	8,112	347	4.1	8,351	8,030	321	3.8
Lonoke	34,910	33,909	1,001	2.9	35,109	34,120	989	2.8	34,261	33,295	966	2.8
Madison	8,144	7,927	217	2.7	8,132	7,931	201	2.5	7,933	7,738	195	2.5
Marion	6,370	6,123	247	3.9	6,266	6,031	235	3.8	6,413	6,173	240	3.7
Miller	18,968	18,322	646	3.4	19,037	18,358	679	3.6	18,681	17,972	709	3.8

(continued on Page 16)

## County Labor Force Statistics

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

(continued from Page 15)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

County	September 2023				August 2023				September 2022			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Mississippi	17,081	16,336	745	4.4	17,135	16,221	914	5.3	16,492	15,729	763	4.6
Monroe	2,480	2,386	94	3.8	2,517	2,418	99	3.9	2,569	2,468	101	3.9
Montgomery	2,938	2,793	145	4.9	2,983	2,845	138	4.6	2,922	2,792	130	4.4
Nevada	3,398	3,271	127	3.7	3,314	3,181	133	4.0	3,483	3,356	127	3.6
Newton	3,260	3,151	109	3.3	3,213	3,099	114	3.5	3,230	3,137	93	2.9
Ouachita	9,769	9,413	356	3.6	9,591	9,235	356	3.7	9,655	9,287	368	3.8
Perry	4,310	4,150	160	3.7	4,331	4,176	155	3.6	4,226	4,084	142	3.4
Phillips	5,224	4,922	302	5.8	5,272	4,948	324	6.1	5,574	5,229	345	6.2
Pike	4,143	4,001	142	3.4	4,182	4,041	141	3.4	4,053	3,915	138	3.4
Poinsett	10,168	9,838	330	3.2	10,231	9,880	351	3.4	10,049	9,726	323	3.2
Polk	8,024	7,740	284	3.5	8,057	7,774	283	3.5	7,942	7,671	271	3.4
Pope	29,119	28,005	1,114	3.8	28,604	27,355	1,249	4.4	27,986	26,948	1,038	3.7
Prairie	3,630	3,518	112	3.1	3,622	3,515	107	3.0	3,627	3,521	106	2.9
Pulaski	192,624	186,459	6,165	3.2	193,436	187,261	6,175	3.2	189,072	182,664	6,408	3.4
Randolph	7,263	7,016	247	3.4	7,208	6,959	249	3.5	7,220	6,988	232	3.2
St. Francis	7,425	7,067	358	4.8	7,512	7,127	385	5.1	7,525	7,155	370	4.9
Saline	61,184	59,475	1,709	2.8	61,404	59,731	1,673	2.7	59,950	58,275	1,675	2.8
Scott	4,426	4,278	148	3.3	4,407	4,266	141	3.2	4,322	4,203	119	2.8
Searcy	2,863	2,750	113	3.9	2,883	2,768	115	4.0	2,917	2,796	121	4.1
Sebastian	56,065	54,019	2,046	3.6	56,110	54,063	2,047	3.6	55,447	53,728	1,719	3.1
Sevier	5,581	5,362	219	3.9	5,559	5,346	213	3.8	5,529	5,322	207	3.7
Sharp	6,129	5,902	227	3.7	5,955	5,663	292	4.9	5,962	5,726	236	4.0
Stone	4,656	4,481	175	3.8	4,730	4,536	194	4.1	4,684	4,503	181	3.9
Union	14,977	14,322	655	4.4	14,891	14,221	670	4.5	14,838	14,157	681	4.6
Van Buren	6,130	5,900	230	3.8	6,042	5,810	232	3.8	6,049	5,798	251	4.1
Washington	140,312	136,966	3,346	2.4	139,539	136,193	3,346	2.4	135,706	132,598	3,108	2.3
White	34,502	33,349	1,153	3.3	34,380	33,173	1,207	3.5	34,378	33,224	1,154	3.4
Woodruff	2,901	2,804	97	3.3	2,902	2,810	92	3.2	2,862	2,771	91	3.2
Yell	8,296	8,002	294	3.5	8,187	7,865	322	3.9	8,045	7,750	295	3.7

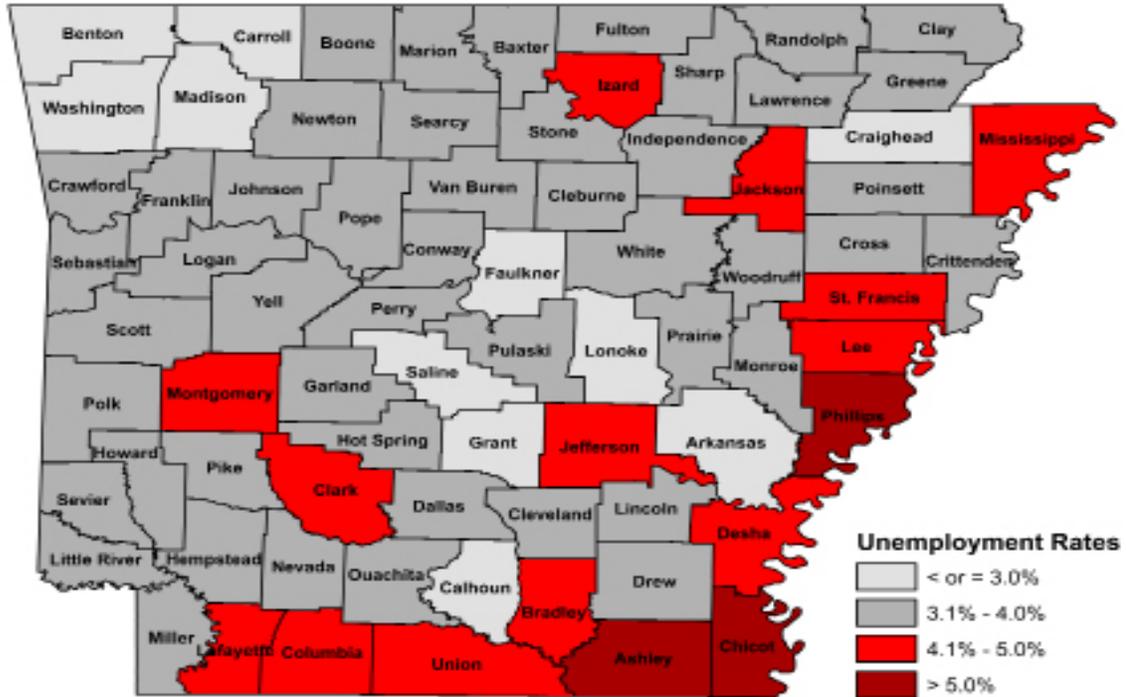
## County Labor Force Summary

Between August and September, unemployment rates decreased in 40 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Rates increased in nineteen counties, while 16 counties remained stable over the month. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 2.4% in Washington County to a high of 5.8% in Phillips County.

In September, eleven counties posted unemployment rates at or below 3%. That is down slightly from 12 counties at or below 3% last month. For the 8th month in a row, no Arkansas county had a jobless rate above 7%.

Compared to September 2022, thirty-two counties reported an unemployment rate decline while another 32 had rate increases. Eleven counties had no change over the year. Bradley County posted the largest rate decline, down one and four-tenths of a percentage point. Jobless rate increases ranged from as little as one-tenth of a percentage point to as much as five-tenths of a percentage point.

## County Unemployment Rates



## Ranked by Unemployment Rates

September 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate
1	Washington	2.4	24	Pike	3.4	47	Van Buren	3.8
2	Benton	2.5	24	Randolph	3.4	52	Clay	3.9
3	Arkansas	2.6	28	Hempstead	3.5	52	Logan	3.9
4	Craighead	2.7	28	Hot Spring	3.5	52	Marion	3.9
4	Madison	2.7	28	Lawrence	3.5	52	Searcy	3.9
6	Saline	2.8	28	Little River	3.5	52	Sevier	3.9
7	Carroll	2.9	28	Polk	3.5	57	Crittenden	4.0
7	Faulkner	2.9	28	Yell	3.5	57	Johnson	4.0
7	Grant	2.9	34	Baxter	3.6	57	Lincoln	4.0
7	Lonoke	2.9	34	Crawford	3.6	60	Bradley	4.1
11	Calhoun	3.0	34	Dallas	3.6	60	Desha	4.1
12	Boone	3.1	34	Garland	3.6	62	Columbia	4.3
12	Greene	3.1	34	Ouachita	3.6	62	Jefferson	4.3
12	Prairie	3.1	34	Sebastian	3.6	64	Lafayette	4.4
15	Independence	3.2	40	Conway	3.7	64	Mississippi	4.4
15	Poinsett	3.2	40	Drew	3.7	64	Union	4.4
15	Pulaski	3.2	40	Fulton	3.7	67	Izard	4.5
18	Cross	3.3	40	Howard	3.7	68	Clark	4.6
18	Franklin	3.3	40	Nevada	3.7	69	Lee	4.7
18	Newton	3.3	40	Perry	3.7	70	Jackson	4.8
18	Scott	3.3	40	Sharp	3.7	70	St. Francis	4.8
18	White	3.3	47	Cleburne	3.8	72	Montgomery	4.9
18	Woodruff	3.3	47	Monroe	3.8	73	Ashley	5.3
24	Cleveland	3.4	47	Pope	3.8	74	Chicot	5.5
24	Miller	3.4	47	Stone	3.8	75	Phillips	5.8

## Local Workforce Development Areas Civilian Labor Force Estimates

Not Seasonally Adjusted

LWDA	September 2023				August 2023				September 2022			
	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate	CLF	Emp	Unemp	Rate
Central (minus LR)	260,093	252,286	7,807	3.0	261,230	253,467	7,763	3.0	255,276	247,502	7,774	3.0
City of Little Rock	99,054	95,903	3,151	3.2	99,476	96,315	3,161	3.2	97,268	93,951	3,317	3.4
Eastern	42,784	40,949	1,835	4.3	43,068	41,145	1,923	4.5	43,167	41,261	1,906	4.4
North Central	95,348	91,940	3,408	3.6	94,730	90,773	3,957	4.2	94,955	91,498	3,457	3.6
Northeast	125,893	121,886	4,007	3.2	125,825	121,588	4,237	3.4	123,956	120,012	3,944	3.2
Northwest	365,983	356,522	9,461	2.6	363,673	354,347	9,326	2.6	355,219	346,347	8,872	2.5
Southeast	76,443	73,430	3,013	3.9	76,679	73,578	3,101	4.0	76,550	73,155	3,395	4.4
Southwest	88,718	85,373	3,345	3.8	87,966	84,542	3,424	3.9	88,571	85,165	3,406	3.8
West Central	132,090	127,103	4,987	3.8	131,291	126,114	5,177	3.9	130,159	125,300	4,859	3.7
Western	111,155	107,131	4,024	3.6	111,319	107,286	4,033	3.6	109,935	106,427	3,508	3.2

