



PRESS RELEASE

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Arkansas' unemployment rate increases to 3.8% in August

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Sep. 19, 2025) Today, the Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.7% in July to 3.8% in August. At 4.3%, the United States' jobless rate also rose one-tenth of a percentage point between July and August.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- Arkansas' civilian labor force increased by 2,480, a result of 1,683 more employed and 797 additional unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work. The gains were enough to push the unemployment rate up one-tenth of a percentage point in August, while the labor force participation rate remained stable at 58.4%.
- Compared to August 2024, the number of employed in the State has grown by 8,665. There are 4,889 more unemployed actively seeking employment, as the unemployment rate is up three-tenths of a percentage point. Arkansas' labor force participation rate is up one-tenth of a percentage point over the year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 4,900 in August. Gains were mostly seasonal and related to the start of the 2025-2026 school year. Government added 3,700 jobs, mostly in local government-educational services (+2,900). Jobs in Private Education and Health Services rose by 1,500, with expansions in both Private Educational Services (+900) and in Health Care and Social Assistance (+600).
- Compared to August 2024, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 21,700. The largest growth was posted in Private Education and Health Services (+8,700), Leisure and Hospitality (+5,200), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+4,100), and Manufacturing (+2,700). The greatest loss was in Construction, down 1,900 jobs.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	Change from July 2025	Change from August 2024
Civilian Labor Force	1,427,207	1,424,727	1,413,653	2,480	13,554
Employment	1,373,355	1,371,672	1,364,690	1,683	8,665
Unemployment	53,852	53,055	48,963	797	4,889
Unemployment Rate	3.8%	3.7%	3.5%	0.1%	0.3%
Labor Force Participation Rate	58.4%	58.4%	58.3%	0.0%	0.1%

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>

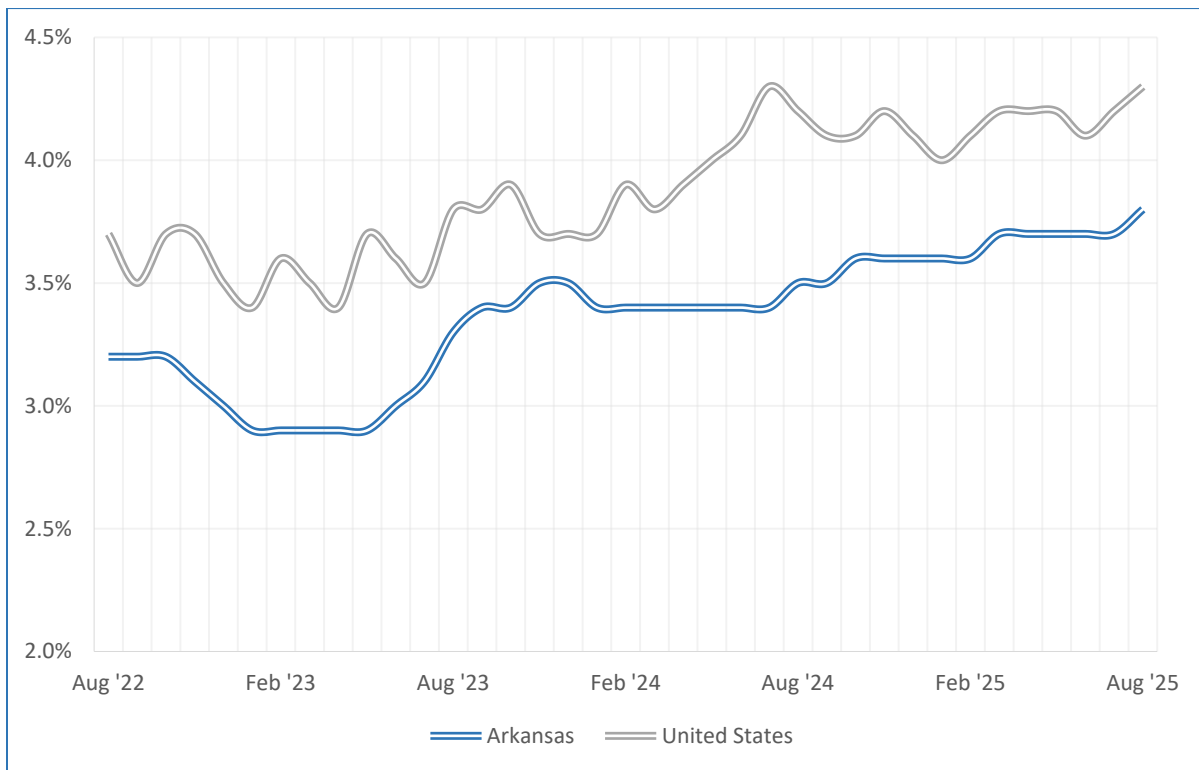
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	August 2025	July 2025	August 2024	Change from July 2025	Change from August 2024
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1378.6	1373.7	1356.9	4.9	21.7
Goods Producing	236.2	235.9	235.4	0.3	0.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	71.3	70.9	73.2	0.4	-1.9
Mining & Logging	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	66.1	65.7	68.0	0.4	-1.9
Specialty Trade Contractors	41.2	41.4	42.5	-0.2	-1.3
Manufacturing	164.9	165.0	162.2	-0.1	2.7
Durable Goods	78.5	78.7	77.1	-0.2	1.4
Nondurable Goods	86.4	86.3	85.1	0.1	1.3
Service Providing	1142.4	1137.8	1121.5	4.6	20.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	273.2	272.8	269.1	0.4	4.1
Wholesale Trade	53.4	54.0	53.4	-0.6	0.0
Retail Trade	146.4	146.2	143.5	0.2	2.9
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	73.4	72.6	72.2	0.8	1.2
Information	11.8	12.0	12.2	-0.2	-0.4
Financial Activities	71.4	70.9	70.0	0.5	1.4
Finance & Insurance	56.0	55.7	54.3	0.3	1.7
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.4	15.2	15.7	0.2	-0.3
Professional & Business Services	160.8	161.4	158.6	-0.6	2.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	53.3	53.6	51.3	-0.3	2.0
Management of Companies	41.7	41.7	40.0	0.0	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	65.8	66.1	67.3	-0.3	-1.5
Private Education & Health Services	221.5	220.0	212.8	1.5	8.7
Educational Services	17.8	16.9	17.3	0.9	0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	203.7	203.1	195.5	0.6	8.2
Ambulatory Health Care	72.0	71.7	67.9	0.3	4.1
Social Assistance	43.8	42.8	40.1	1.0	3.7
Leisure & Hospitality	136.3	137.2	131.1	-0.9	5.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	15.2	15.9	14.9	-0.7	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	121.1	121.3	116.2	-0.2	4.9
Accommodation Services	11.8	11.9	11.5	-0.1	0.3
Food Services	109.3	109.4	104.7	-0.1	4.6
Other Services	65.5	65.3	65.9	0.2	-0.4
Government	201.9	198.2	201.8	3.7	0.1
Federal Government	21.1	21.3	21.9	-0.2	-0.8
State Government	73.2	71.3	73.1	1.9	0.1
State Government, Educational Services	27.2	25.3	27.0	1.9	0.2
State Government, Excluding Education	46.0	46.0	46.1	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	107.6	105.6	106.8	2.0	0.8
Local Government, Educational Services	61.0	58.1	60.6	2.9	0.4
Local Government, Excluding Education	46.6	47.5	46.2	-0.9	0.4

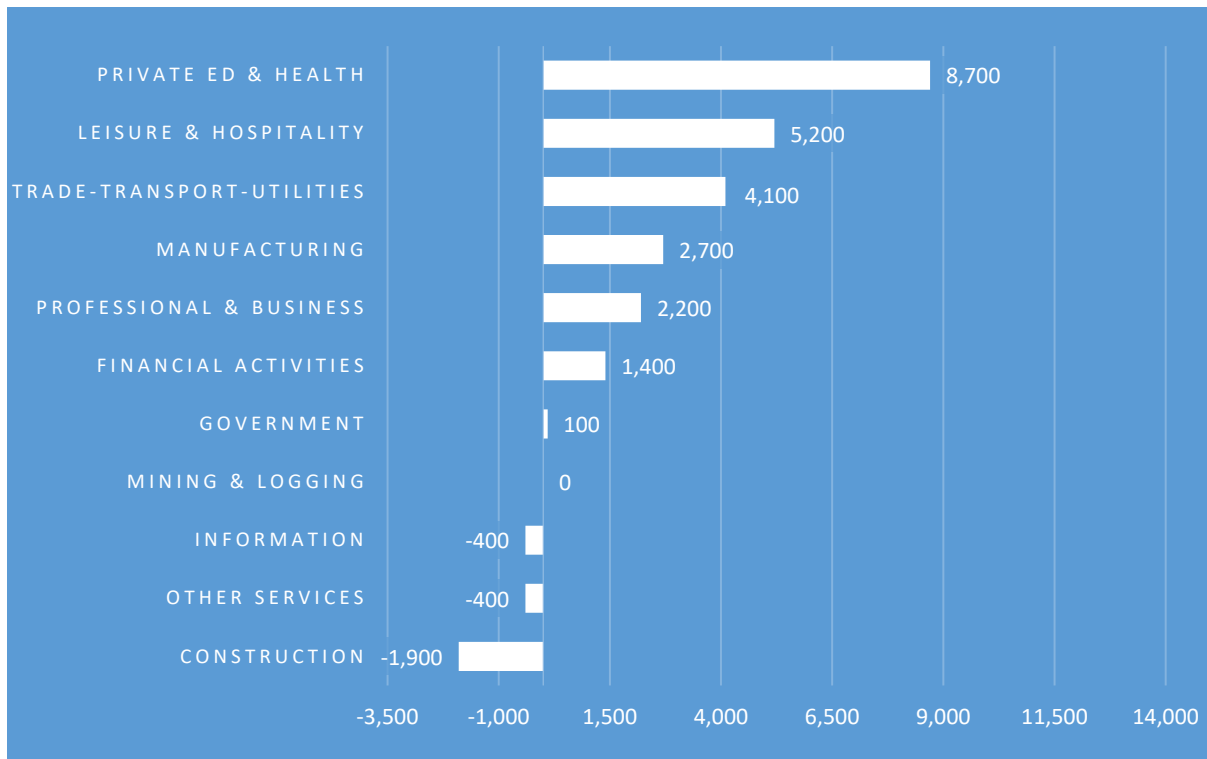
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2024 benchmark.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Arkansas vs. United States (3-Year Comparison)



Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors August 2024 to August 2025 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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



About the Arkansas Department of Commerce

The Arkansas Department of Commerce is the umbrella department for workforce and economic development drivers. Its divisions and regulatory boards include the Division of Aeronautics, Waterways Commission, Wine Producers Council, Workforce Services, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, Economic Development Commission, 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.