



PRESS RELEASE

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Arkansas' unemployment rate remains at 3.6% in February

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (March 28, 2025) Today, the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Workforce Policy and Innovation, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remains unchanged at 3.6% between January and February. The United States' jobless rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.0% in January to 4.1% in February.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- The civilian labor force in Arkansas increased by 1,345 in February, as unemployment (+960) and employment (+385) rose slightly. Civilian labor force and employment both reached new record high levels in February. The changes were not enough to impact the unemployment rate or the labor force participation rate, which both remained stable over-the-month.
- Compared to February 2024, there are 18,205 additional employed in the State. The unemployment rate is up two-tenths of a percentage point, with 4,059 more unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work. The labor force participation is up four-tenths of a percentage point compared to last February.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose by 3,600 in February. The largest increase was in Government (+2,500), as public colleges and universities return to normal staffing levels after the holiday break. Private Education and Health services added 1,400 jobs, split between private educational services (+700) and health care and social assistance (+700).
- Compared to February 2024, there are 13,600 more nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas. Jobs in Private Education and Health Services are up 6,600, with most expansions in health care and social assistance (+6,500). Trade-Transportation-Utilities rose 4,400, with hiring seen across all subsectors. Other notable increases were reported in Professional and Business Services (+2,600), Manufacturing (+1,400), and in Financial Activities (+1,000).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	Change from January 2025	Change from February 2024
Civilian Labor Force	1,420,665	1,419,320	1,398,401	1,345	22,264
Employment	1,369,117	1,368,732	1,350,912	385	18,205
Unemployment	51,548	50,588	47,489	960	4,059
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	3.4%	0.0%	0.2%
Labor Force Participation Rate	58.4%	58.4%	58.0%	0.0%	0.4%

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>

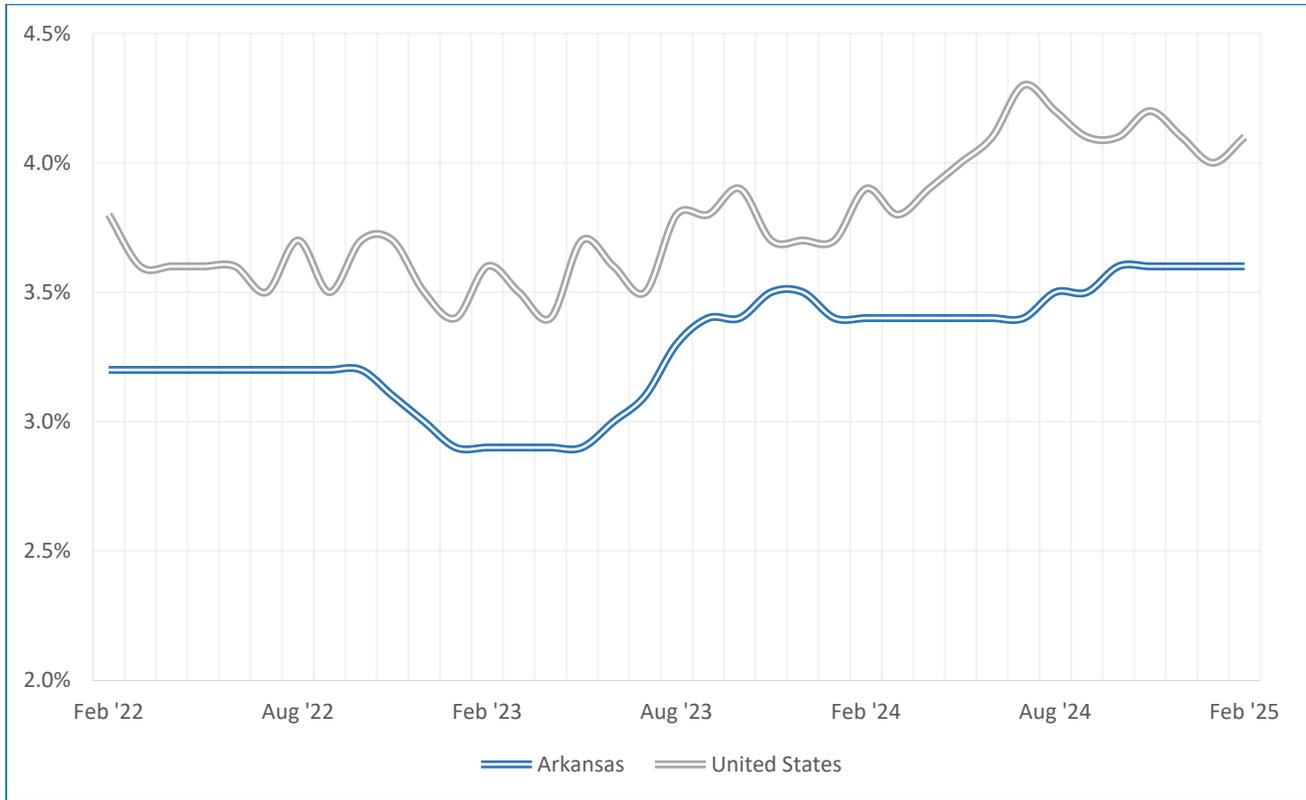
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	February 2025	January 2025	February 2024	Change from January 2025	Change from February 2024
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1370.0	1366.4	1356.4	3.6	13.6
Goods Producing	232.4	232.6	231.9	-0.2	0.5
Mining, Logging, & Construction	69.3	69.9	70.2	-0.6	-0.9
Mining & Logging	5.1	5.1	5.3	0.0	-0.2
Construction	64.2	64.8	64.9	-0.6	-0.7
Specialty Trade Contractors	40.2	40.7	40.6	-0.5	-0.4
Manufacturing	163.1	162.7	161.7	0.4	1.4
Durable Goods	77.5	77.6	77.2	-0.1	0.3
Nondurable Goods	85.6	85.1	84.5	0.5	1.1
Service Providing	1137.6	1133.8	1124.5	3.8	13.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	270.4	270.6	266.0	-0.2	4.4
Wholesale Trade	53.9	54.2	52.8	-0.3	1.1
Retail Trade	144.3	143.9	141.8	0.4	2.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	72.2	72.5	71.4	-0.3	0.8
Information	11.5	12.0	12.7	-0.5	-1.2
Financial Activities	70.2	70.5	69.2	-0.3	1.0
Finance & Insurance	55.2	55.2	54.0	0.0	1.2
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.0	15.3	15.2	-0.3	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	161.8	161.5	159.2	0.3	2.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	54.5	53.6	51.8	0.9	2.7
Management of Companies	40.4	40.5	38.7	-0.1	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	66.9	67.4	68.7	-0.5	-1.8
Private Education & Health Services	218.7	217.3	212.1	1.4	6.6
Educational Services	19.6	18.9	19.5	0.7	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	199.1	198.4	192.6	0.7	6.5
Ambulatory Health Care	69.2	68.3	66.9	0.9	2.3
Social Assistance	41.9	42.3	40.0	-0.4	1.9
Leisure & Hospitality	124.2	123.4	125.2	0.8	-1.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.9	12.7	12.9	0.2	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	111.3	110.7	112.3	0.6	-1.0
Accommodation Services	10.5	10.3	10.6	0.2	-0.1
Food Services	100.8	100.4	101.7	0.4	-0.9
Other Services	65.5	65.7	65.5	-0.2	0.0
Government	215.3	212.8	214.6	2.5	0.7
Federal Government	21.8	21.8	21.8	0.0	0.0
State Government	77.9	75.7	77.8	2.2	0.1
State Government, Educational Services	31.9	29.7	31.7	2.2	0.2
State Government, Excluding Education	46.0	46.0	46.1	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	115.6	115.3	115.0	0.3	0.6
Local Government, Educational Services	70.9	70.7	70.3	0.2	0.6
Local Government, Excluding Education	44.7	44.6	44.7	0.1	0.0

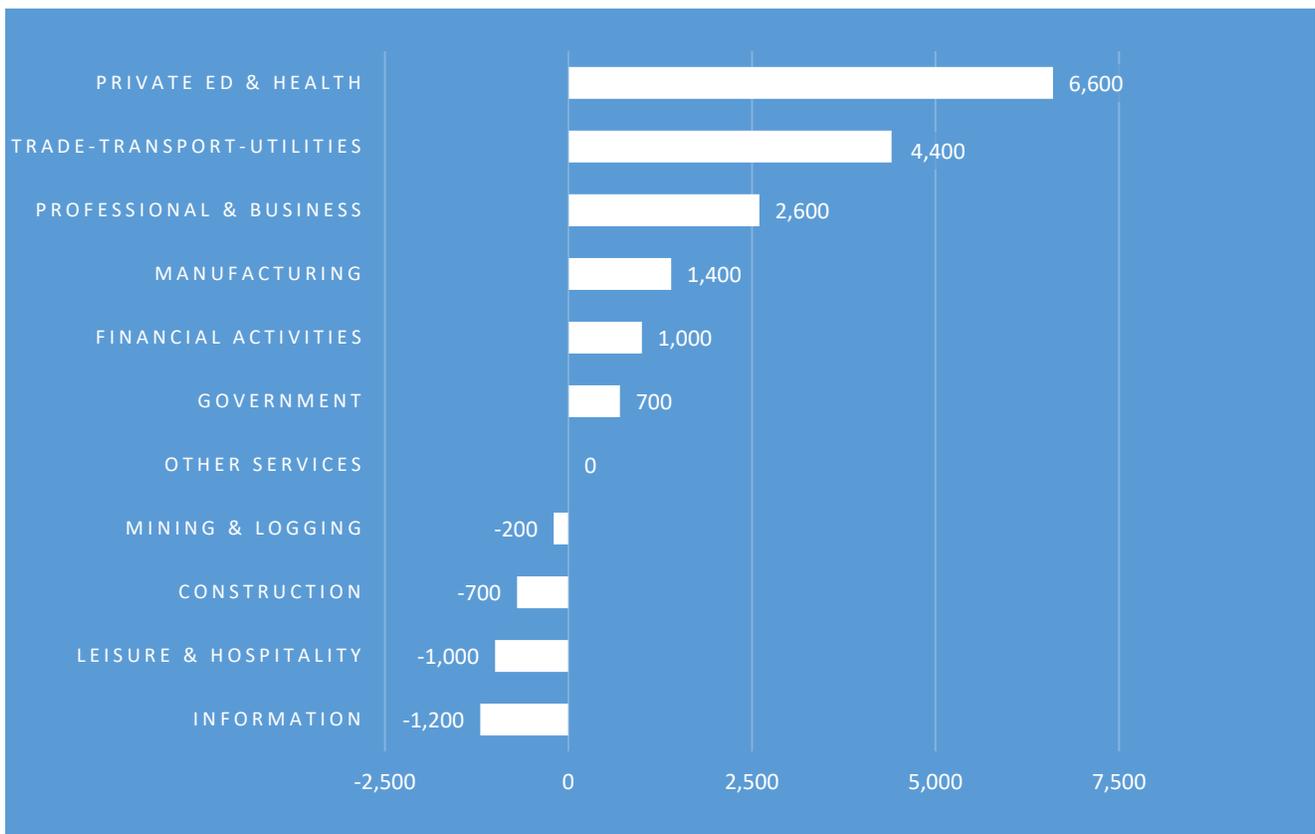
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2024 benchmark.

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 February 2024 to February 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.



About the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

The Division of Workforce Services has been reorganized into three new divisions within the Department of Commerce: Reemployment, Workforce Policy and Innovation, and Arkansas Workforce Connections. Reemployment administers the unemployment compensation program. Workforce Policy and Innovation administers the Arkansas Workforce Development Board, the Labor Market Information and Bureau of Labor Statistics programs. Arkansas Workforce Connections houses the Office of Skills Development, Employment and Training, Adult Education, Rehabilitation Services, and Services for the Blind.

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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.