



PRESS RELEASE

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Employment increases in Arkansas as unemployment remains at 4.3% in April

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (May 22, 2026) Today, the Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained stable at 4.3% between March and April. The United States' jobless rate also remained unchanged at 4.3% over the month.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- Arkansas' civilian labor force declined by 853 in April, a result of 1,212 fewer unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work and an increase of 359 employed. Employment remained at a record high level for a fourth consecutive month. The labor force participation rate declined slightly, from 59.2% in March to 59.1% in April.
- Compared to April 2025, there are 19,615 more employed Arkansans. The unemployment rate is up four-tenths of a percentage point over the year, with 5,870 additional unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work. The labor force participation rate is up six-tenths of a percentage point, from 58.5% last April.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose by 5,800 in April to total 1,347,400. Nine major industry sectors added jobs over the month. The largest gains occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+2,400) and Professional and Business Services (+1,800).
- Compared to April 2025, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 3,500. The largest growth was posted in Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+2,800), Leisure and Hospitality (+2,600), and Private Education and Health Services (+2,200). Losses occurred in Government (-1,900) and in Construction (-1,400).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	Change from March 2026	Change from April 2025
Civilian Labor Force	1,454,535	1,455,388	1,429,050	-853	25,485
Employment	1,392,700	1,392,341	1,373,085	359	19,615
Unemployment	61,835	63,047	55,965	-1,212	5,870
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	4.3%	3.9%	0.0%	0.4%
Labor Force Participation Rate	59.1%	59.2%	58.5%	-0.1%	0.6%

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)

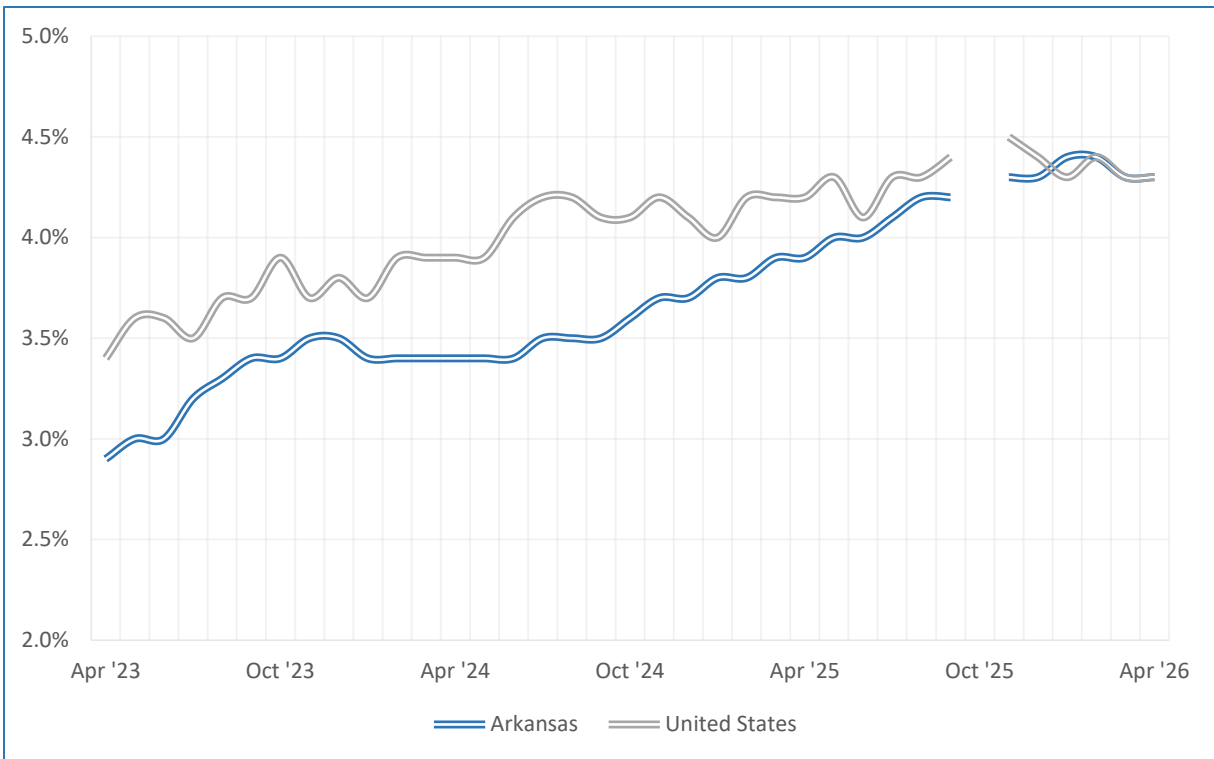
Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	Change from March 2026	Change from April 2025
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1347.4	1341.6	1343.9	5.8	3.5
Goods Producing	228.5	228.9	230.7	-0.4	-2.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	69.9	70.4	71.4	-0.5	-1.5
Mining & Logging	4.7	4.7	4.8	0.0	-0.1
Construction	65.2	65.7	66.6	-0.5	-1.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	40.9	41.0	41.9	-0.1	-1.0
Manufacturing	158.6	158.5	159.3	0.1	-0.7
Durable Goods	74.1	74.3	75.1	-0.2	-1.0
Nondurable Goods	84.5	84.2	84.2	0.3	0.3
Service Providing	1118.9	1112.7	1113.2	6.2	5.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	271.9	271.8	269.1	0.1	2.8
Wholesale Trade	54.2	53.9	53.8	0.3	0.4
Retail Trade	143.9	143.7	142.4	0.2	1.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	73.8	74.2	72.9	-0.4	0.9
Information	11.8	11.7	12.0	0.1	-0.2
Financial Activities	59.2	58.5	59.9	0.7	-0.7
Finance & Insurance	43.7	43.4	44.4	0.3	-0.7
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.5	15.1	15.5	0.4	0.0
Professional & Business Services	167.0	165.2	166.3	1.8	0.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	53.9	53.6	53.2	0.3	0.7
Management of Companies	43.1	43.0	41.8	0.1	1.3
Administrative & Support Services	70.0	68.6	71.3	1.4	-1.3
Private Education & Health Services	212.9	212.3	210.7	0.6	2.2
Educational Services	21.1	21.1	20.6	0.0	0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	191.8	191.2	190.1	0.6	1.7
Ambulatory Health Care	70.1	69.7	69.0	0.4	1.1
Social Assistance	40.6	40.7	41.0	-0.1	-0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	135.5	133.1	132.9	2.4	2.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	15.4	14.3	14.9	1.1	0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	120.1	118.8	118.0	1.3	2.1
Accommodation Services	10.8	10.8	10.8	0.0	0.0
Food Services	109.3	108.0	107.2	1.3	2.1
Other Services	52.9	52.6	52.7	0.3	0.2
Government	207.7	207.5	209.6	0.2	-1.9
Federal Government	20.2	20.3	21.6	-0.1	-1.4
State Government	71.2	71.5	72.4	-0.3	-1.2
State Government, Educational Services	27.0	27.3	27.5	-0.3	-0.5
State Government, Excluding Education	44.2	44.2	44.9	0.0	-0.7
Local Government	116.3	115.7	115.6	0.6	0.7
Local Government, Educational Services	70.4	70.3	70.4	0.1	0.0
Local Government, Excluding Education	45.9	45.4	45.2	0.5	0.7

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

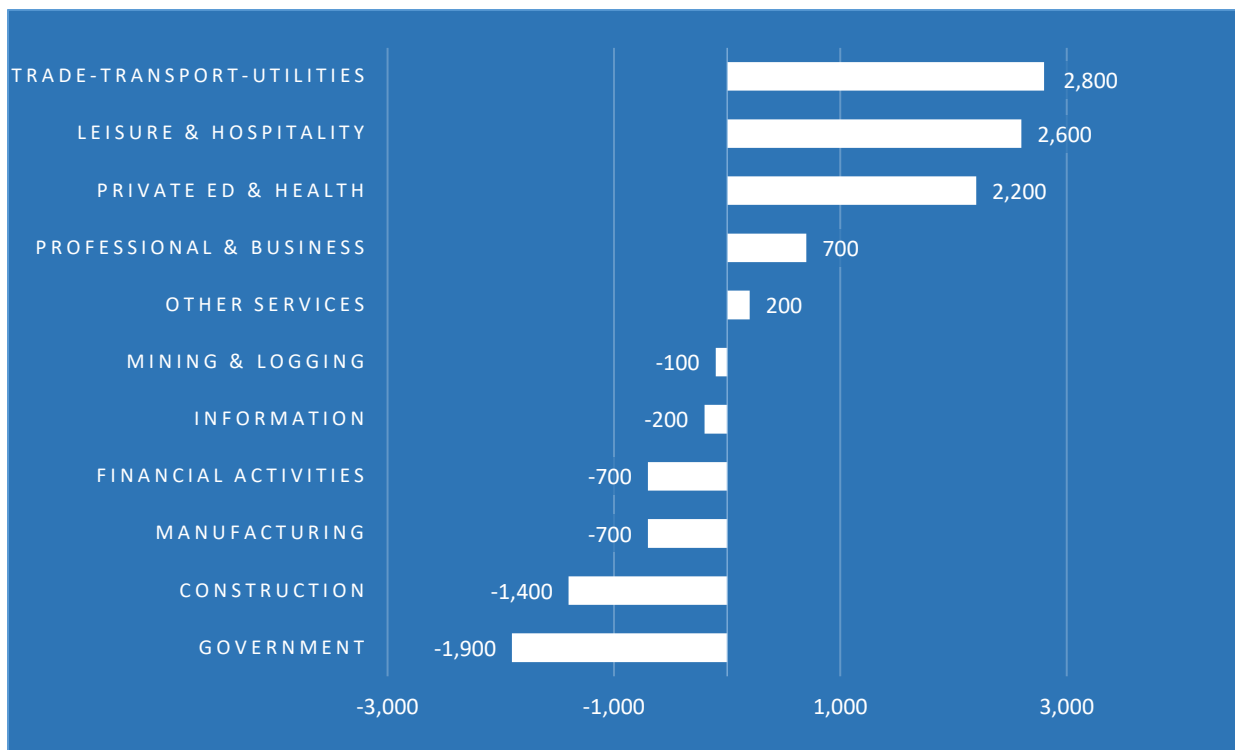
Notes: Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

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

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



Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors April 2025 to April 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.