



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Zoe Dell, zoe.dell@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' unemployment rate is unchanged at 3.7% in May

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (June 24, 2025) Today, the Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained stable at 3.7% between April and May. At 4.2%, the United States' jobless rate was also unchanged.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- Arkansas' civilian labor force increased by 615 in May, with 658 more employed Arkansans. The State remains at record high civilian labor force and employment levels. The small changes between April and May were not enough to impact the unemployment rate, which remains at 3.7% for a third consecutive month.
- Compared to May 2024, employment in Arkansas rose by 12,386. There are currently 4,701 more unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work. Both added to the size of the civilian labor force, pushing the labor force participation rate up two-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 3,400 in May to total 1,388,500. This increase set a new record high number of jobs in the State. Six major industry sectors added jobs over the month. The largest increase occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+4,000), related to seasonal hiring.
- Compared to May 2024, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 19,100. Notable growth was posted in Private Education and Health Services (+8,900), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+5,300), Manufacturing (+2,400), and Leisure and Hospitality (+2,300). Construction had the largest decline over the year (-2,000), related to the completion of several major projects.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

| | May 2025 | April 2025 | May 2024 | Change from April 2025 | Change from May 2024 |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,423,306 | 1,422,691 | 1,406,219 | 615 | 17,087 |
| Employment | 1,371,087 | 1,370,429 | 1,358,701 | 658 | 12,386 |
| Unemployment | 52,219 | 52,262 | 47,518 | -43 | 4,701 |
| Unemployment Rate | 3.7% | 3.7% | 3.4% | 0.0% | 0.3% |
| Labor Force Participation Rate | 58.4% | 58.4% | 58.2% | 0.0% | 0.2% |

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>

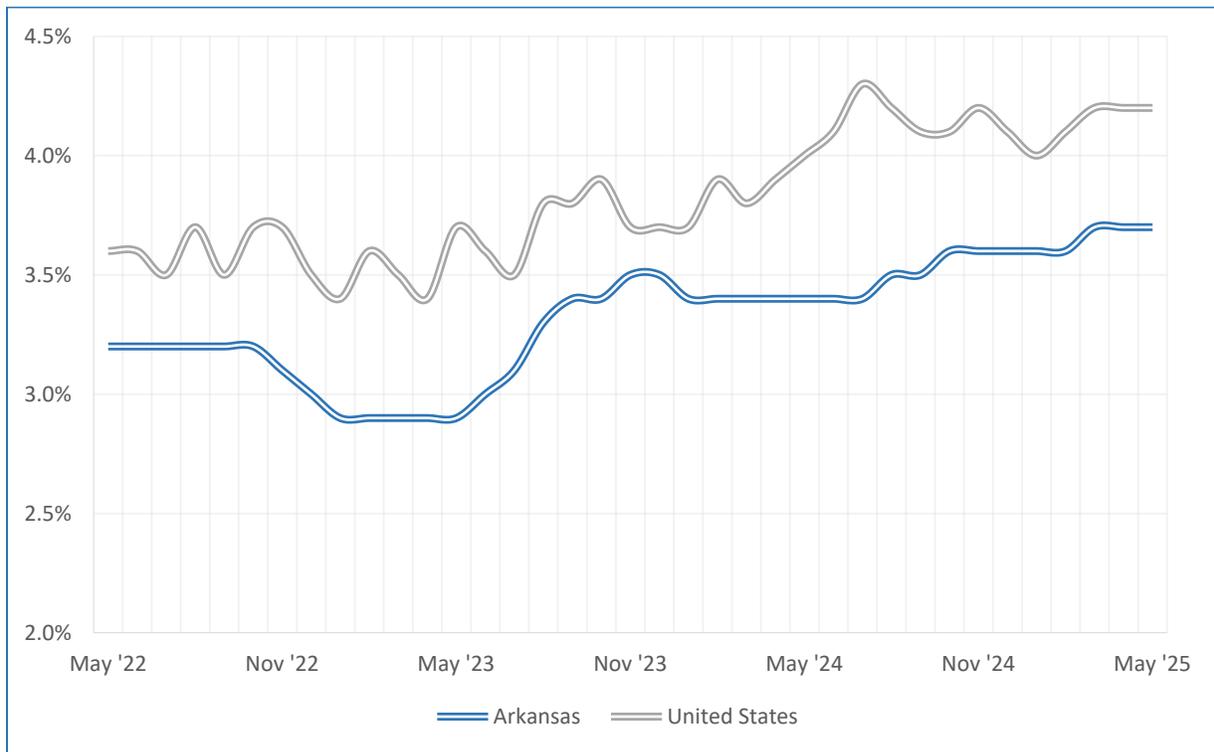
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

| Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) | May 2025 | April 2025 | May 2024 | Change from April 2025 | Change from May 2024 |
|---|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1388.5 | 1385.1 | 1369.4 | 3.4 | 19.1 |
| Goods Producing | 234.1 | 234.6 | 233.7 | -0.5 | 0.4 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 70.3 | 71.2 | 72.3 | -0.9 | -2.0 |
| Mining & Logging | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Construction | 65.1 | 66.0 | 67.1 | -0.9 | -2.0 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 41.2 | 41.4 | 41.7 | -0.2 | -0.5 |
| Manufacturing | 163.8 | 163.4 | 161.4 | 0.4 | 2.4 |
| Durable Goods | 78.3 | 78.5 | 77.3 | -0.2 | 1.0 |
| Nondurable Goods | 85.5 | 84.9 | 84.1 | 0.6 | 1.4 |
| Service Providing | 1154.4 | 1150.5 | 1135.7 | 3.9 | 18.7 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 272.7 | 272.1 | 267.4 | 0.6 | 5.3 |
| Wholesale Trade | 52.8 | 53.4 | 53.3 | -0.6 | -0.5 |
| Retail Trade | 146.7 | 146.0 | 142.9 | 0.7 | 3.8 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 73.2 | 72.7 | 71.2 | 0.5 | 2.0 |
| Information | 11.8 | 11.7 | 12.1 | 0.1 | -0.3 |
| Financial Activities | 70.9 | 70.3 | 69.2 | 0.6 | 1.7 |
| Finance & Insurance | 55.6 | 55.2 | 53.8 | 0.4 | 1.8 |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing | 15.3 | 15.1 | 15.4 | 0.2 | -0.1 |
| Professional & Business Services | 161.4 | 162.4 | 160.8 | -1.0 | 0.6 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 52.9 | 53.9 | 50.9 | -1.0 | 2.0 |
| Management of Companies | 41.5 | 40.9 | 39.1 | 0.6 | 2.4 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 67.0 | 67.6 | 70.8 | -0.6 | -3.8 |
| Private Education & Health Services | 221.3 | 221.1 | 212.4 | 0.2 | 8.9 |
| Educational Services | 19.5 | 20.1 | 19.4 | -0.6 | 0.1 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 201.8 | 201.0 | 193.0 | 0.8 | 8.8 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 70.4 | 69.7 | 67.0 | 0.7 | 3.4 |
| Social Assistance | 43.1 | 43.0 | 40.1 | 0.1 | 3.0 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 134.4 | 130.4 | 132.1 | 4.0 | 2.3 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 14.7 | 14.2 | 15.2 | 0.5 | -0.5 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 119.7 | 116.2 | 116.9 | 3.5 | 2.8 |
| Accommodation Services | 11.6 | 11.1 | 11.3 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Food Services | 108.1 | 105.1 | 105.6 | 3.0 | 2.5 |
| Other Services | 65.5 | 65.6 | 66.0 | -0.1 | -0.5 |
| Government | 216.4 | 216.9 | 215.7 | -0.5 | 0.7 |
| Federal Government | 21.5 | 21.6 | 21.8 | -0.1 | -0.3 |
| State Government | 77.7 | 78.6 | 77.7 | -0.9 | 0.0 |
| State Government, Educational Services | 31.7 | 32.6 | 31.6 | -0.9 | 0.1 |
| State Government, Excluding Education | 46.0 | 46.0 | 46.1 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Local Government | 117.2 | 116.7 | 116.2 | 0.5 | 1.0 |
| Local Government, Educational Services | 71.1 | 71.3 | 70.6 | -0.2 | 0.5 |
| Local Government, Excluding Education | 46.1 | 45.4 | 45.6 | 0.7 | 0.5 |

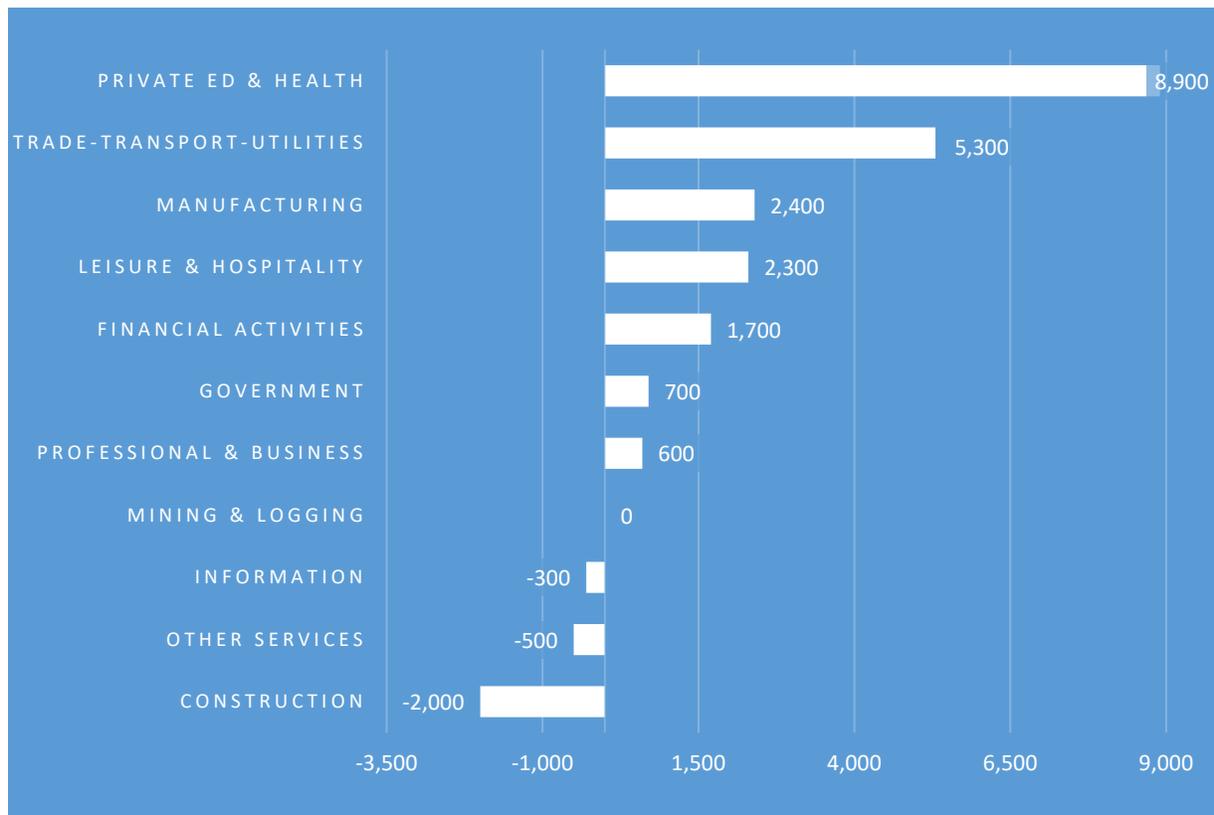
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2024 benchmark.

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 May 2024 to May 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.