



PRESS RELEASE

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Arkansas' unemployment rate rose to 4.1% in November

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Jan. 7, 2026) Today, the Arkansas Department of Commerce, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.1% in November, up from 3.9% in September. The United States' jobless rate reached 4.6% in November, compared to 4.4% in September. **October 2025 Civilian Labor Force data is not available.***

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- Arkansas' civilian labor force rose to 1,439,250 in November, an increase of 8,633 since September. Both employed (+4,999) and unemployed actively seeking work (+3,634) increased compared to September. Arkansas' labor force participation rate continues to climb, reaching 58.8% in November.
- Compared to November 2024, there are 13,154 more employed and 8,887 additional unemployed Arkansans actively seeking work. These increases resulted in a rise of five-tenths of a percentage point in both the unemployment rate and the labor force participation rate over the year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas declined by 700 in November. Professional and Business Services posted the largest decrease (-1,400). Most of the losses were in Administrative and Support Services, down 1,200. Other losses were small and mostly due to seasonal fluctuations. Jobs in Trade-Transportation-Utilities rose by 2,500, with Retail Trade adding 2,300 jobs at the start of the holiday shopping season.
- Compared to November 2024, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are up 17,600. Leisure and Hospitality (+6,700), Private Education and Health Services (+4,900), and Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+4,700) reported the largest annual job growth. The greatest loss was in Construction, down 2,200 jobs over the year.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	November 2025	October 2025*	September 2025	November 2024	Change from October 2025*	Change from September 2025	Change from November 2024
Civilian Labor Force	1,439,250	-	1,430,617	1,417,209	-	8,633	22,041
Employment	1,379,866	-	1,374,867	1,366,712	-	4,999	13,154
Unemployment	59,384	-	55,750	50,497	-	3,634	8,887
Unemployment Rate	4.1%	-	3.9%	3.6%	-	0.2%	0.5%
Labor Force Participation Rate	58.8%	-	58.5%	58.3%	-	0.3%	0.5%

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>

***The Current Population Survey was not conducted in October 2025, due to the lapse in appropriations. This resulted in missing Civilian Labor Force data for October 2025 that cannot be calculated retroactively in real time.**

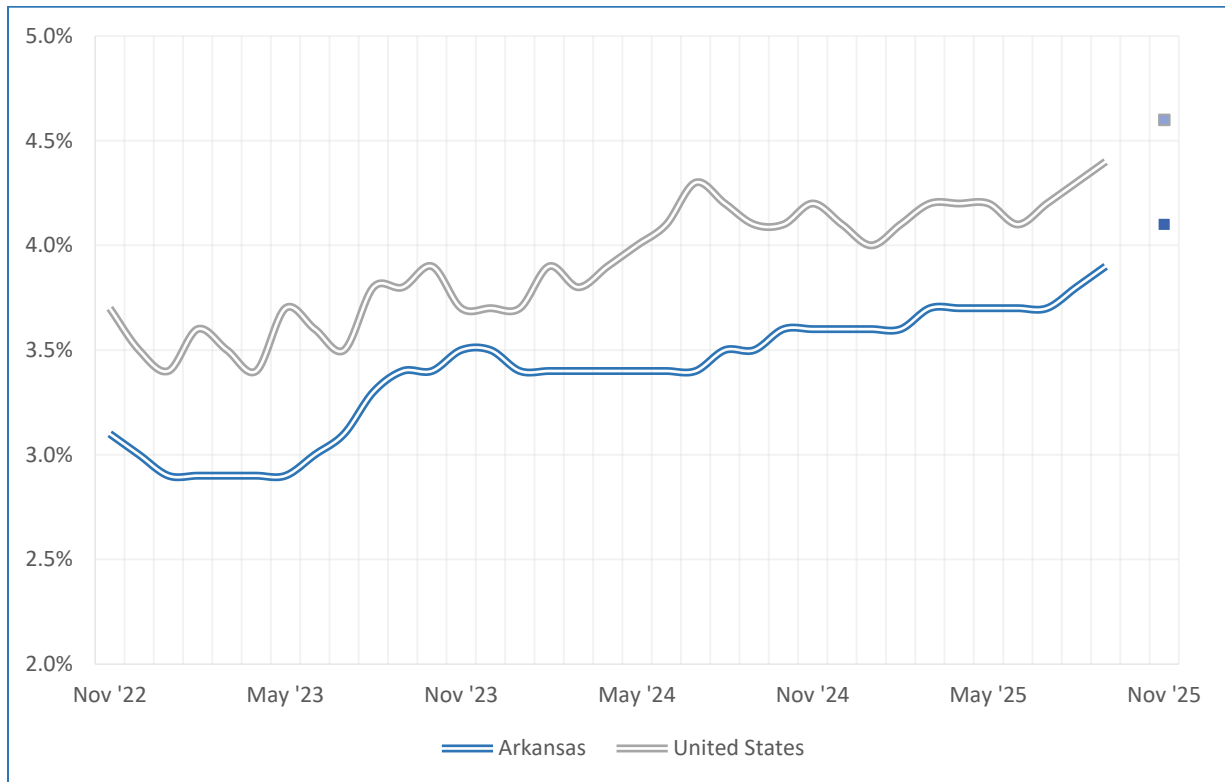
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	November 2025	October 2025	November 2024	Change from October 2025	Change from November 2024
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1400.0	1400.7	1382.4	-0.7	17.6
Goods Producing	235.8	236.8	236.2	-1.0	-0.4
Mining, Logging, & Construction	70.6	70.8	72.7	-0.2	-2.1
Mining & Logging	5.2	5.2	5.1	0.0	0.1
Construction	65.4	65.6	67.6	-0.2	-2.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	40.6	40.9	42.3	-0.3	-1.7
Manufacturing	165.2	166.0	163.5	-0.8	1.7
Durable Goods	78.7	79.5	78.1	-0.8	0.6
Nondurable Goods	86.5	86.5	85.4	0.0	1.1
Service Providing	1164.2	1163.9	1146.2	0.3	18.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	277.3	274.8	272.6	2.5	4.7
Wholesale Trade	53.5	53.9	54.2	-0.4	-0.7
Retail Trade	148.7	146.4	144.7	2.3	4.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	75.1	74.5	73.7	0.6	1.4
Information	11.7	11.7	12.0	0.0	-0.3
Financial Activities	70.3	70.4	70.7	-0.1	-0.4
Finance & Insurance	55.2	55.3	55.2	-0.1	0.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.1	15.1	15.5	0.0	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	164.7	166.1	161.2	-1.4	3.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	53.4	53.3	51.7	0.1	1.7
Management of Companies	42.0	42.3	39.9	-0.3	2.1
Administrative & Support Services	69.3	70.5	69.6	-1.2	-0.3
Private Education & Health Services	224.2	224.3	219.3	-0.1	4.9
Educational Services	19.7	19.6	20.4	0.1	-0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	204.5	204.7	198.9	-0.2	5.6
Ambulatory Health Care	72.0	72.4	68.8	-0.4	3.2
Social Assistance	44.3	44.2	42.2	0.1	2.1
Leisure & Hospitality	134.7	135.3	128.0	-0.6	6.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	13.8	14.4	13.5	-0.6	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	120.9	120.9	114.5	0.0	6.4
Accommodation Services	11.5	11.6	10.9	-0.1	0.6
Food Services	109.4	109.3	103.6	0.1	5.8
Other Services	65.1	65.5	65.8	-0.4	-0.7
Government	216.2	215.8	216.6	0.4	-0.4
Federal Government	20.4	20.4	21.9	0.0	-1.5
State Government	78.3	78.2	78.1	0.1	0.2
State Government, Educational Services	32.3	32.2	32.1	0.1	0.2
State Government, Excluding Education	46.0	46.0	46.0	0.0	0.0
Local Government	117.5	117.2	116.6	0.3	0.9
Local Government, Educational Services	71.6	71.5	71.1	0.1	0.5
Local Government, Excluding Education	45.9	45.7	45.5	0.2	0.4

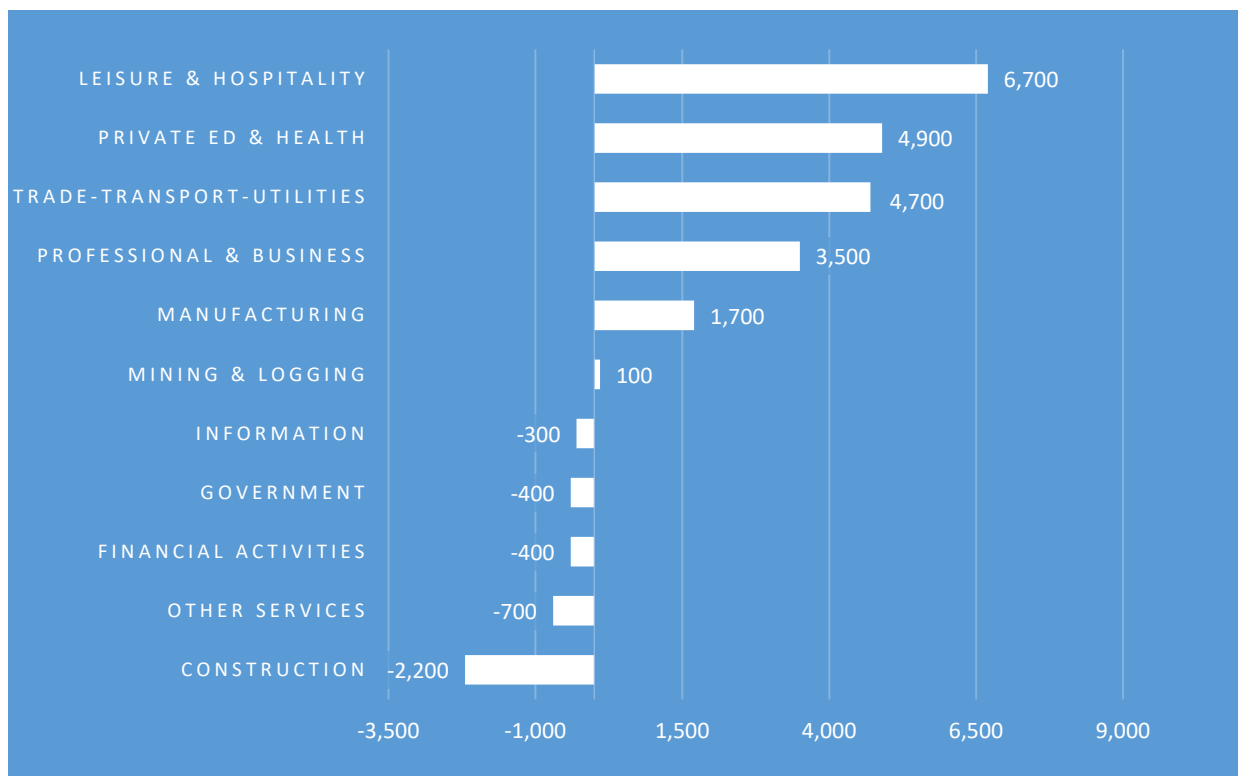
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2024 benchmark.

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 November 2024 to November 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.