

*Occupational Projections*

***2024-2026***

**State of Arkansas**

**Workforce Development Areas**

***Short-Term Industry and***

# LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

**SHORT-TERM INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2024-2026**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |

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Division of Workforce Policy and Innovation

2

# LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS

**SHORT-TERM INDUSTRY AND OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2024-2026**

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**EXPLANATION OF INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS DATA LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS**

**2024-2026**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| Industry code according to the North American Industry Classification  System ( NAICS) Title and Coding Structure | Industry t i t le according to the North American Industry Classification System ( NAICS) Title and Coding Structure | An estimate of the  number of jobs in an industry in 2024 | The projected number of jobs expected to be in an industry  in 2026 | Total number of jobs an industry is expected to  gain or lose  over the 2024 to 2026 period | Percent change in the number of jobs in an  industry over the 2024 to 2026 period |

**EXPLANATION OF OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS DATA LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS**

**2024-2026**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)** | | **Employment** | | **Change** | | **Annual Openings** | | | |
| **Code** | **Title** | **2024**  **Estimated** | **2026**  **Projected** | **Numeric** | **Percent** | **Exits** | **Transfers** | **Change** | **Total** |
| The occupational code based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC)  Coding and Title Structure | The occupational title based on the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Coding and Title Structure | An estimate of the number of jobs in an occupation in 2024 | The projected number of jobs expected to be in an occupation in 2026 | Total number of jobs an occupation is expected to gain or lose over the 2024  to 2026 period | Percent change in the number of jobs in an occupation over the 2024 to  2026  period | Average number of annual job openings expected to be created during the projection period due to those leaving the workforce for four months  or more | Average number of annual job openings  expected to be created during the projection period due to those transferring to an occupation in a different SOC Major Group | Average number of annual job openings expected to be created during the projection  period due to the gain or decline in an occupation | Average number of annual job openings expected to be created during the projection period due to employment growth and separations |

**Definition of Important Terms**

**Base Employment –** The average number of jobs in a particular industry or occupation during the benchmark year or quarter.

**Current Employment Statistics (CES) –** A monthly survey of business establishments that provides estimates of employment, hours, and earnings data by industry for the nation, all states, and most major metropolitan areas.

**Employment –** The number of jobs in a business or firm at any given time.

**Establishment –** The physical location of a certain economic activity, for example, a factory, mine, store, or office. Generally, a single establishment produces a single good or provides a single service.

**Fastest Growing –** Refers to percent growth. The higher the percent growth, the faster an industry or occupation is growing.

**Industry –** A group of establishments that produce similar products or provide similar services.

**Metropolitan Statistical Area –** A county or group of contiguous counties that contains an urban center of at least 50,000 residents and has a high degree of economic and social ties.

**Net Change –** The difference between projected employment and base employment.

**North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) –** A system used in assigning industry-designated code numbers to employers and/or establishments based on the nature of their activities, services rendered, or products delivered. It was established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and is used by all agencies for data compilation.

**Occupation –** A set of activities that employees are paid to perform; employees who perform the same tasks are in the same occupation, regardless of the industry they are in.

**Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) –** A federal/state cooperative program that produces employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations. These are estimates of the number of people employed in certain occupations and estimates of the wages paid to them. The estimates are also used to gather occupational staffing patterns by industry, which are used to project employment needs by occupation.

**Percent (%) Change –** The rate at which an industry or occupation is expected to grow or decline.

**Projected Employment –** The average number of jobs expected to be in an industry or occupation in the future.

**Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) –** A federal/state cooperative program that produces employment and wage data for workers covered by state unemployment insurance laws and federal workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees Program; data is arranged by the type of industry according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

**Sector –** A level of industry classification under supersector according to the NAICS structure.

**Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) –** A coding system used by all federal statistical agencies to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data.

**Subsector –** A level of industry classification under sector according to the NAICS structure.

**Supersector –** The top level of industry classification according to the NAICS structure.

**Workforce Development Area –** A group of contiguous counties where employment, training, and educational services are provided; established through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to provide services for eligible youth, adults, and dislocated workers.

**Methodology**

The following is a brief overview of the method used to produce short-term employment projections for the local workforce development areas.

**Data Development**

## Data development is accomplished by using three sources:

*The Quarterly Census of Employment and Wage (QCEW) reports*. This source provides data for all the covered employment for Arkansas. A firm or business is considered “covered” if it meets the guidelines established under the Unemployment Insurance Law.

*The Current Employment Statistics (CES) Survey*. This source provides employment information for non-covered establishments, which are railroads, the Federal Work Study Program, churches, religious-based schools, elected officials, commissioned insurance agents, as well as other establishments not reporting to the *QCEW* program.

*Agriculture employment*. This is obtained from the Census of Agriculture. The Census of Agriculture is taken every five years in years ending in two and seven. Information from the QCEW reports is used to make estimates for years following the Census year until the next Census. Other information from the US Census Bureau is used to supplement agriculture employment.

*Other Non-Covered Employment.* Data on other agriculture employment, specifically NAICS 113, 114, and 115 as well as private households are supplemented using data from the US Census Bureau.

**Industry Projections**

The industry projections in this publication were produced using the *Projections Suite System* software, authorized by the U.S. Department of Labor, and developed by the Utah Department of Workforce Services. The software has several components. The system forecasts employment using several models. The analyst chooses an appropriate forecast for each industry. All areas are done at the same time. In addition, business news related to closures, layoffs, openings, and expansions is used in the forecasting process and adjustments are made when necessary.

**Occupational Projections**

Occupational projections are produced by merging industries and occupations together into an industry-occupational matrix. This matrix is a table showing the occupational pattern of each industry (i.e., the ratios of employment by occupation in a specific industry). The statewide matrix is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) survey and uses a Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) code for each occupation.

The occupational employment projections contained in this publication were created using the *Projections Suite System* software, authorized by the

U.S. Department of Labor, and developed by the Utah Department of Workforce Services. The software applies occupational change factors to the projected patterns to form a projected matrix. In addition, using national Self Employment and unpaid family workers staffing patterns, the system generates base and projected employment for Self Employed and unpaid family workers.

**Data Limitations**

## The projections contained in this publication are estimates based on historical data. It is important not to take these projections as the actual employment numbers that will occur in 2026. While every attempt is made to utilize current and near future events, such as business closings, corporate layoffs, openings, and expansions, it is not possible to know everything that is occurring or that could occur in the future. Events that take place after the projection period or announcements concerning closings, layoffs, openings, and expansions known after projections were completed are not reflected in the forecasts. In addition, legislative policy could cause employment to change. Events such as these may cause the actual employment numbers to vary significantly from these projections.

It is important to consider both numeric change and percent change when looking at projections. Industries or occupations with small employment will generally have higher growth rates than those with larger employment, but these industries may only add a few employees over the projection period. For occupational projections, it is important to look at both annual exits and annual transfers as well as the annual change. Opportunities in an occupation still exist even if the occupation is in decline.

**Total Employment Projections by Workforce Development Area**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Workforce Development Area** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change1** | **Total Annual Openings2** |
| **Northwest Arkansas** | 352,489 | 365,689 | 13,200 | 3.74% | 16,286 | 22,915 | 6,600 | 45,801 |
| **North Central Arkansas** | 85,359 | 87,447 | 2,088 | 2.45% | 4,180 | 5,487 | 1,044 | 10,711 |
| **Northeast Arkansas** | 119,680 | 122,302 | 2,622 | 2.19% | 5,555 | 7,754 | 1,311 | 14,620 |
| **Western Arkansas** | 117,714 | 119,642 | 1,928 | 1.64% | 5,514 | 7,664 | 964 | 14,142 |
| **West Central Arkansas** | 123,709 | 124,989 | 1,280 | 1.03% | 5,988 | 8,209 | 640 | 14,837 |
| **Central Arkansas** | 191,254 | 196,318 | 5,064 | 2.65% | 9,022 | 12,652 | 2,532 | 24,206 |
| **City of Little Rock** | 211,879 | 215,683 | 3,804 | 1.80% | 8,923 | 12,669 | 1,902 | 23,494 |
| **Eastern Arkansas** | 37,833 | 37,699 | -134 | -0.35% | 1,820 | 2,462 | -67 | 4,215 |
| **Southwest Arkansas** | 86,017 | 85,772 | -245 | -0.28% | 3,961 | 5,510 | -122 | 9,349 |
| **Southeast Arkansas** | 75,080 | 73,548 | -1,532 | -2.04% | 3,422 | 4,754 | -766 | 7,410 |

**1.** The Annual Change is the Numeric Change equally distributed between the two years.

2. The Total Annual Openings is the sum of the Annual Exits, Transfers and Change.

## The Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area (WDA) is projected to be the top and fastest growing area in the state during the 2024-2026 projection period with 13,200 new jobs anticipated to be added to the job market, a 3.74 percent change. The Central Arkansas WDA is estimated to increase the local workforce by 5,064 jobs. The Northwest Arkansas WDA is also predicted to have the most annual job openings, anticipated to have 45,801 annual job openings, while the Central Arkansas WDA is estimated to have 24,206. The Eastern Arkansas WDA is predicted to have the fewest annual job openings with 4,215. Three areas are forecast to experience net job losses. The Southeast Arkansas WDA is estimated to lose the most with 1,532 jobs expected to be cut, a decline of 2.04 percent of the local workforce. **Chart 1** on **page 12** shows the percent change of total employment by Workforce Development Area as compared to the statewide percent growth. The red line shows the statewide growth rate. Areas above the line are expected to fare better than the state, while those below the line are predicted to fare worse than the state.

**Percent Change of Total Employment by Workforce Development Area 2024-2026**

### 3.75%

**3.74%**

**2.75%**

**1.75%**

**0.75%**

**2.45%**

**2.19%**

**1.64%**

**1.03%**

**2.65%**

**1.80%**

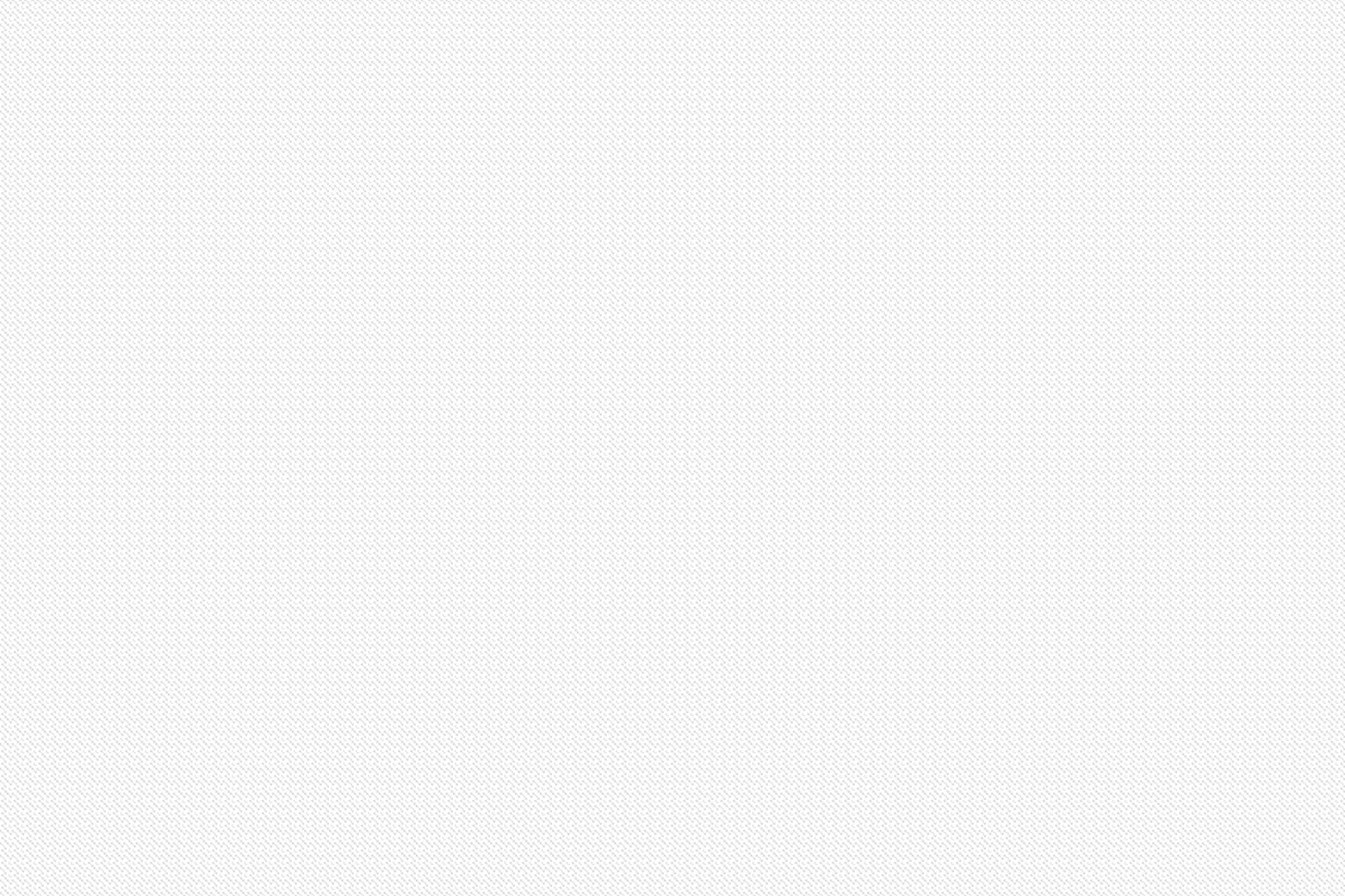
**State Growth Rate 2.23%**

### -0.25%

**-0.35%**

**-0.28%**

### -1.25%



**-2.25%**

### Northwest Arkansas

### North Central Arkansas

### Northeast Arkansas

### Western Arkansas

### West Central Arkansas

***Chart 1***

### Central Arkansas

### City of Little Rock

### Eastern Arkansas

### Southwest Arkansas

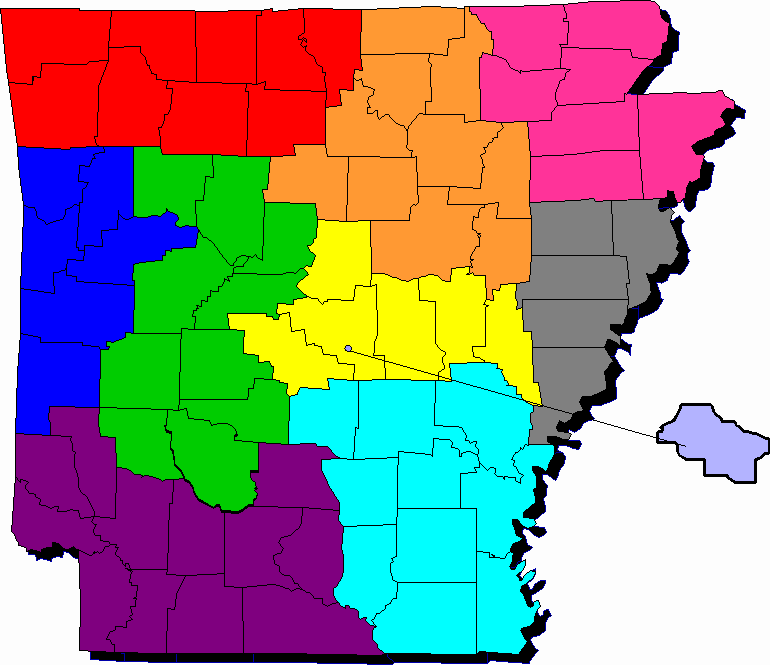
**-2.04%**

**Southeast Arkansas**

**Local Workforce Development Areas**

**Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy, and Washington counties



**NW**

**NE**

**NC**

**W**

**E**

**C**

**WC**

**SE**

**SW**

**LR**

**North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, White, and Woodruff counties

**Northeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, and Randolph counties

**Western Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, and Sebastian counties

**West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

Clark, Conway, Garland, Hot Spring, Johnson, Montgomery, Perry, Pike, Pope, and Yell counties

**Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Saline, and Pulaski counties, except the city of Little Rock

**City of Little Rock Workforce Development Area**

## Inside the city limits of Little Rock

**Eastern Arkansas Workforce Development Area** Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Phillips, and St. Francis counties **Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, and Union counties

**Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

## Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley, Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, and Lincoln counties

**Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

The Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of nine counties:



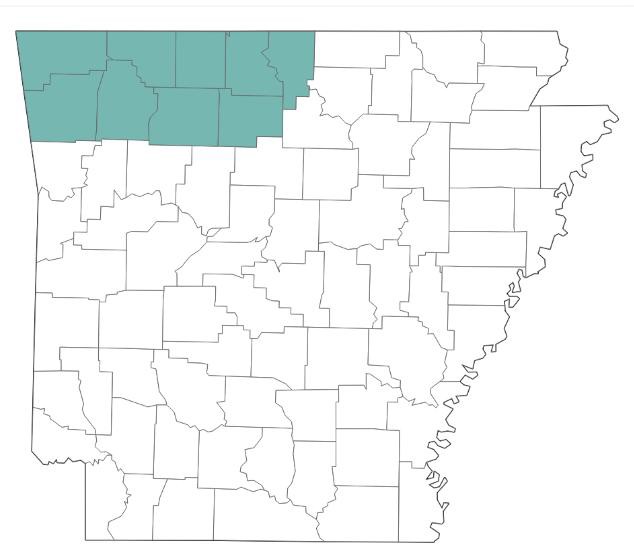
**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): 3.74%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 3.0%**

**Northwest Arkansas Profile**

Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Madison, Marion, Newton, Searcy,

and Washington. The area borders two states, Missouri to the north and Oklahoma to the west. The Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes McDonald County in Missouri, is located within this area. Several large companies, including Wal-Mart and Tyson Foods, have



headquarters here, along with many trucking companies.

The Northwest Arkansas WDA has the largest employment base in the state and is predicted to be the top and fastest growing area in the state, which provides job seekers with a variety of career choices among the many industries and occupations. The area gained 2,182 jobs over the last year. According to industry projections, this area is projected to add an estimated 13,200 jobs, an increase of 3.74 percent, making the area one of only three WDA regions growing faster than the state. Goods-Producing industries are

estimated to gain 1,858 jobs, while Services-Providing industries are forecast to add 10,896 jobs. An increase of 446 Self Employed Workers is anticipated between 2024 and 2026. The not-seasonally-adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was 3.0%.

**Education and Health Services** is expected to be the top growing supersector, increasing employment by 3,871 jobs, an increase of 5.51 percent. **Construction** is slated to be the fastest growing supersector, raising employment levels by 9.43 percent. *Food Services and Drinking Places* is projected to be the top growing

industry in Northwest Arkansas, increasing its workforce by 1,768 jobs. *Support Activities for Mining* is estimated to be the fastest growing industry,

growing by a rate of 41.18 percent. On the negative side of the labor market, *Truck Transportation* is predicted to lose 712 jobs, or 5.88 percent of its workforce, becoming the top declining industry, while *Grantmaking and Giving Services* could

experience a 26.29 percent reduction in its local workforce, becoming the fastest declining industry in the area.

According to occupational projections, the Northwest Arkansas WDA is projected to have 45,801 annual job openings, of which 16,286 would be created from employees leaving the workforce, 22,915 from those changing jobs, and 6,600 from growth and expansion. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is predicted to be the top growing major group, adding 1,803 new jobs, while the **Construction and Extraction Occupations** major group is slated to increase its workforce by 7.77 percent, becoming

the fastest growing major group. *Fast Food and Counter Workers* is estimated to be the top growing occupation, adding 655 jobs to its workforce, while *Environmental Engineers* is expected to raise employment levels by 22.45 percent, becoming the fastest growing occupation. On the negative side of the labor market, *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* is projected to be the top declining occupation, cutting 387 jobs from the local workforce, while *Fundraising Managers* could experience a

17.16 percent reduction in its workforce, becoming the fastest declining occupation.

# Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **352,489** | **365,689** | **13,200** | **3.74%** |
| 006010 | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | 25,074 | 25,520 | 446 | 1.78% |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 57,015 | 58,873 | 1,858 | 3.26% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **3,078** | **2,836** | **-242** | **-7.86%** |
| 110000 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 2,962 | 2,713 | -249 | -8.41% |
| 210000 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 116 | 123 | 7 | 6.03% |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **17,468** | **19,115** | **1,647** | **9.43%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **36,469** | **36,922** | **453** | **1.24%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **24,043** | **25,026** | **983** | **4.09%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **12,426** | **11,896** | **-530** | **-4.27%** |
| 102000 | Services Providing | 270,400 | 281,296 | 10,896 | 4.03% |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **66,699** | **67,578** | **879** | **1.32%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 12,224 | 12,522 | 298 | 2.44% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 34,600 | 35,603 | 1,003 | 2.90% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 18,566 | 18,082 | -484 | -2.61% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 1,309 | 1,371 | 62 | 4.74% |
| **102200** | **INFORMATION** | **2,382** | **2,342** | **-40** | **-1.68%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **11,060** | **11,344** | **284** | **2.57%** |
| 520000 | Finance and Insurance | 7,473 | 7,660 | 187 | 2.50% |
| 530000 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 3,587 | 3,684 | 97 | 2.70% |
| **102400** | **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES** | **55,162** | **57,805** | **2,643** | **4.79%** |
| 540000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 15,365 | 16,036 | 671 | 4.37% |
| 550000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 26,401 | 28,061 | 1,660 | 6.29% |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 13,396 | 13,708 | 312 | 2.33% |
| **102500** | **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES** | **70,287** | **74,158** | **3,871** | **5.51%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 30,288 | 31,817 | 1,529 | 5.05% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 39,999 | 42,341 | 2,342 | 5.86% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **34,554** | **36,773** | **2,219** | **6.42%** |
| 710000 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 3,689 | 4,060 | 371 | 10.06% |
| 720000 | Accommodation and Food Services | 30,865 | 32,713 | 1,848 | 5.99% |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **15,912** | **16,151** | **239** | **1.50%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **14,344** | **15,145** | **801** | **5.58%** |

Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 27,916 | 29,684 | **1,768** | 6.33% |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 26,401 | 28,061 | **1,660** | 6.29% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 12,138 | 13,393 | **1,255** | 10.34% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 17,836 | 18,630 | **794** | 4.45% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 13,908 | 14,698 | **790** | 5.68% |
| 611100 | Elementary and Secondary Schools | 18,133 | 18,888 | **755** | 4.16% |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 15,365 | 16,036 | **671** | 4.37% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 8,064 | 8,564 | **500** | 6.20% |
| 813300 | Social Advocacy Organizations | 937 | 1,319 | **382** | 40.77% |
| 622100 | General Medical and Surgical Hospitals | 9,967 | 10,345 | **378** | 3.79% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Growth)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 34 | 48 | 14 | **41.18%** |
| 813300 | Social Advocacy Organizations | 937 | 1,319 | 382 | **40.77%** |
| 622300 | Specialty (except Psychiatric and Substance Abuse) Hospitals | 638 | 831 | 193 | **30.25%** |
| 711000 | Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related Industries | 463 | 564 | 101 | **21.81%** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 339 | 399 | 60 | **17.70%** |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 1,063 | 1,246 | 183 | **17.22%** |
| 712000 | Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions | 696 | 809 | 113 | **16.24%** |
| 611200 | Junior Colleges | 1,868 | 2,147 | 279 | **14.94%** |
| 611500 | Technical and Trade Schools | 215 | 247 | 32 | **14.88%** |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 2,584 | 2,946 | 362 | **14.01%** |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 12,107 | 11,395 | **-712** | -5.88% |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 1,491 | 1,099 | **-392** | -26.29% |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 2,409 | 2,113 | **-296** | -12.29% |
| 112000 | Animal Production and Aquaculture | 2,364 | 2,116 | **-248** | -10.49% |
| 813100 | Religious Organizations | 6,946 | 6,760 | **-186** | -2.68% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 1,491 | 1,099 | -392 | **-26.29%** |
| 315000 | Apparel Manufacturing | 87 | 74 | -13 | **-14.94%** |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 2,409 | 2,113 | -296 | **-12.29%** |
| 112000 | Animal Production and Aquaculture | 2,364 | 2,116 | -248 | **-10.49%** |
| 513000 | Publishing Industries | 489 | 445 | -44 | **-9.00%** |

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **352,489** | **365,689** | **13,200** | **3.74%** | **16,286** | **22,915** | **6,600** | **45,801** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 35,306 | 36,589 | 1,283 | 3.63% | 1,277 | 1,739 | 642 | 3,658 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 21,593 | 22,600 | 1,007 | 4.66% | 622 | 1,138 | 504 | 2,264 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 9,595 | 10,148 | 553 | 5.76% | 214 | 346 | 276 | 836 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 3,079 | 3,206 | 127 | 4.12% | 78 | 134 | 64 | 276 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 1,660 | 1,745 | 85 | 5.12% | 28 | 122 | 42 | 192 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 5,102 | 5,228 | 126 | 2.47% | 202 | 252 | 63 | 517 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 1,546 | 1,614 | 68 | 4.40% | 38 | 51 | 34 | 123 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 22,677 | 23,757 | 1,080 | 4.76% | 929 | 1,085 | 540 | 2,554 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 5,921 | 6,118 | 197 | 3.33% | 228 | 336 | 98 | 662 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 19,517 | 20,662 | 1,145 | 5.87% | 584 | 534 | 572 | 1,690 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 11,576 | 12,373 | 797 | 6.88% | 730 | 956 | 398 | 2,084 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 5,256 | 5,482 | 226 | 4.30% | 206 | 322 | 113 | 641 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 29,491 | 31,294 | 1,803 | 6.11% | 2,532 | 3,316 | 902 | 6,750 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 10,220 | 10,562 | 342 | 3.35% | 610 | 778 | 171 | 1,559 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 7,197 | 7,592 | 395 | 5.49% | 486 | 776 | 198 | 1,460 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 28,892 | 29,536 | 644 | 2.23% | 1,627 | 2,168 | 322 | 4,117 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 38,294 | 39,112 | 818 | 2.14% | 1,868 | 2,442 | 409 | 4,719 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 2,479 | 2,327 | -152 | -6.13% | 149 | 216 | -76 | 289 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 14,086 | 15,180 | 1,094 | 7.77% | 442 | 766 | 547 | 1,755 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 14,011 | 14,712 | 701 | 5.00% | 504 | 726 | 350 | 1,580 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 26,775 | 27,099 | 324 | 1.21% | 1,126 | 1,880 | 162 | 3,168 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 38,216 | 38,753 | 537 | 1.41% | 1,808 | 2,832 | 268 | 4,908 |

# Northwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 10,059 | 10,714 | **655** | 6.51% | 1,096 | 1,314 | 328 | 2,738 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 8,492 | 8,854 | **362** | 4.26% | 194 | 502 | 181 | 877 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 6,354 | 6,677 | **323** | 5.08% | 190 | 144 | 162 | 496 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 3,356 | 3,644 | **288** | 8.58% | 232 | 293 | 144 | 669 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 3,510 | 3,798 | **288** | 8.21% | 284 | 248 | 144 | 676 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 6,965 | 7,233 | **268** | 3.85% | 420 | 709 | 134 | 1,263 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 4,954 | 5,215 | **261** | 5.27% | 412 | 630 | 130 | 1,172 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 8,259 | 8,505 | **246** | 2.98% | 529 | 684 | 123 | 1,336 |
| 47-2111 | Electricians | 2,169 | 2,400 | **231** | 10.65% | 68 | 132 | 116 | 316 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 3,811 | 4,039 | **228** | 5.98% | 233 | 314 | 114 | 661 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 17-2081 | Environmental Engineers | 49 | 60 | 11 | **22.45%** | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 |
| 43-4181 | Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks | 70 | 82 | 12 | **17.14%** | 3 | 5 | 6 | 14 |
| 25-1071 | Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary | 65 | 76 | 11 | **16.92%** | 2 | 2 | 6 | 10 |
| 25-4012 | Curators | 43 | 50 | 7 | **16.28%** | 2 | 2 | 4 | 8 |
| 25-1072 | Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary | 189 | 217 | 28 | **14.81%** | 8 | 7 | 14 | 29 |
| 25-1041 | Agricultural Sciences Teachers, Postsecondary | 30 | 34 | 4 | **13.33%** | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| 49-9011 | Mechanical Door Repairers | 77 | 87 | 10 | **12.99%** | 3 | 4 | 5 | 12 |
| 25-1194 | Career/Technical Education Teachers, Postsecondary | 234 | 264 | 30 | **12.82%** | 10 | 9 | 15 | 34 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 643 | 721 | 78 | **12.13%** | 14 | 16 | 39 | 69 |
| 39-7010 | Tour and Travel Guides | 182 | 204 | 22 | **12.09%** | 18 | 26 | 11 | 55 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 10,059 | 10,714 | 655 | 6.51% | **1,096** | 1,314 | 328 | 2,738 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 6,604 | 6,675 | 71 | 1.08% | **604** | 658 | 36 | 1,298 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 8,681 | 8,744 | 63 | 0.73% | **596** | 326 | 32 | 954 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 8,259 | 8,505 | 246 | 2.98% | **529** | 684 | 123 | 1,336 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 13,023 | 12,636 | -387 | -2.97% | **524** | 780 | -194 | 1,110 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 6,965 | 7,233 | 268 | 3.85% | **420** | 709 | 134 | 1,263 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 4,954 | 5,215 | 261 | 5.27% | **412** | 630 | 130 | 1,172 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 6,552 | 6,728 | 176 | 2.69% | **358** | 415 | 88 | 861 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 3,510 | 3,798 | 288 | 8.21% | **284** | 248 | 144 | 676 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 4,216 | 4,356 | 140 | 3.32% | **279** | 316 | 70 | 665 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 10,059 | 10,714 | 655 | 6.51% | 1,096 | **1,314** | 328 | 2,738 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 13,023 | 12,636 | -387 | -2.97% | 524 | **780** | -194 | 1,110 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 6,965 | 7,233 | 268 | 3.85% | 420 | **709** | 134 | 1,263 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 8,259 | 8,505 | 246 | 2.98% | 529 | **684** | 123 | 1,336 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 6,604 | 6,675 | 71 | 1.08% | 604 | **658** | 36 | 1,298 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 4,954 | 5,215 | 261 | 5.27% | 412 | **630** | 130 | 1,172 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 8,492 | 8,854 | 362 | 4.26% | 194 | **502** | 181 | 877 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 5,907 | 6,098 | 191 | 3.23% | 274 | **502** | 96 | 872 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 6,552 | 6,728 | 176 | 2.69% | 358 | **415** | 88 | 861 |
| 43-4051 | Customer Service Representatives | 4,974 | 5,042 | 68 | 1.37% | 255 | **406** | 34 | 695 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 10,059 | 10,714 | 655 | 6.51% | 1,096 | 1,314 | 328 | **2,738** |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 8,259 | 8,505 | 246 | 2.98% | 529 | 684 | 123 | **1,336** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 6,604 | 6,675 | 71 | 1.08% | 604 | 658 | 36 | **1,298** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 6,965 | 7,233 | 268 | 3.85% | 420 | 709 | 134 | **1,263** |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 4,954 | 5,215 | 261 | 5.27% | 412 | 630 | 130 | **1,172** |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 13,023 | 12,636 | -387 | -2.97% | 524 | 780 | -194 | **1,110** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 8,681 | 8,744 | 63 | 0.73% | 596 | 326 | 32 | **954** |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 8,492 | 8,854 | 362 | 4.26% | 194 | 502 | 181 | **877** |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 5,907 | 6,098 | 191 | 3.23% | 274 | 502 | 96 | **872** |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 6,552 | 6,728 | 176 | 2.69% | 358 | 415 | 88 | **861** |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 13,023 | 12,636 | **-387** | -2.97% | 524 | 780 | -194 | 1,110 |
| 45-2093 | Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals | 1,328 | 1,189 | **-139** | -10.47% | 79 | 113 | -70 | 122 |
| 51-2090 | Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators | 2,537 | 2,489 | **-48** | -1.89% | 96 | 172 | -24 | 244 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool S, O, and T, Metal and Plastic\* | 388 | 340 | **-48** | -12.37% | 13 | 22 | -24 | 11 |
| 51-4021 | Extruding and Drawing Machine S, O, and T, Metal and Plastic\* | 312 | 269 | **-43** | -13.78% | 10 | 20 | -22 | 8 |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 11-2033 | Fundraising Managers | 134 | 111 | -23 | **-17.16%** | 6 | 6 | -12 | 0 |
| 51-4021 | Extruding and Drawing Machine S, O, and T, Metal and Plastic\* | 312 | 269 | -43 | **-13.78%** | 10 | 20 | -22 | 8 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool S, O, and T, Metal and Plastic\* | 388 | 340 | -48 | **-12.37%** | 13 | 22 | -24 | 11 |
| 51-4033 | Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool S, O, and T, Metal and Plastic\* | 136 | 121 | -15 | **-11.03%** | 5 | 8 | -8 | 5 |
| 45-2093 | Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals | 1,328 | 1,189 | -139 | **-10.47%** | 79 | 113 | -70 | 122 |

\*S, O, and T stands for Setters, Operators, and Tenders

**North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

The North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of 10 counties: Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jackson,



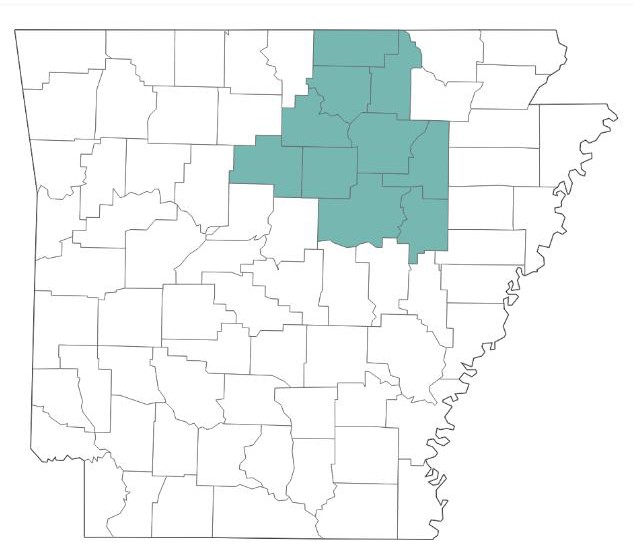
**North Central Arkansas Profile**

**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): 2.45%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 4.1%**

Sharp, Stone, Van Buren White, and Woodruff, with the state of Missouri bordering the area to the north.

The North Central Arkansas WDA gained 862 jobs over the last year, a 1.22 percent increase. According to industry projections, the area is projected to add 2,088 jobs from first quarter 2024 through first quarter 2026, increasing employment by 2.45 percent, which is faster than the state growth rate. Goods-Producing industries are expected to have a net gain of 139 jobs, while the Services-Providing industries could add 1,929. The area is predicted to experience a gain of just 20 jobs in Self Employed Workers, a gain of 0.22 percent of its workforce. The not-seasonally- adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was 4.1 percent.



**Leisure and Hospitality** is projected to be the top and fastest growing supersector in the North Central Arkansas WDA with a gain of 657 jobs, an increase of 9.62 percent. *Food Services and Drinking Places* leads the area in growth, adding an estimated 655 jobs between 2024 and 2026. *Grantmaking and Giving Services* is projected to be the fastest growing industry, raising employment levels by 182.82

percent between first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2026. On the negative side of the labor market, *Truck*

*Transportation* is slated to lose 137 jobs, becoming the top declining industry, while *Publishing Industries* could lose more than a fifth of its workforce, becoming the fastest declining industry in the area.

According to occupational projections, the area is expected to have 10,711 total job openings annually between 2024 and 2026. Of these, 4,180 would be from those exiting the workforce, while 5,487 would be from those changing jobs. Another 1,044 would be related to growth and expansion.

**Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is projected to be the top and fastest growing major group with 613 new jobs, a 9.16 percent increase. Driving growth is *Fast Food and Counter Workers*, which is estimated to gain 294 jobs, becoming the top growing occupation in the area.

*Bartenders* is predicted to be the fastest growing occupation in the area, raising employment levels by 16.13 percent. On the negative side of the labor market, *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* is forecast to lose 91 jobs between 2024 and 2026, becoming the top declining occupation, while *Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters* is slated to lose 30.95 percent of its workforce, becoming the fastest declining occupation.

# North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **85,359** | **87,447** | **2,088** | **2.45%** |
| 006010 | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | 8,970 | 8,990 | 20 | 0.22% |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 14,576 | 14,715 | 139 | 0.95% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **2,474** | **2,465** | **-9** | **-0.36%** |
| 110000 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 1,982 | 1,979 | -3 | -0.15% |
| 210000 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 492 | 486 | -6 | -1.22% |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **2,626** | **2,649** | **23** | **0.88%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **9,476** | **9,601** | **125** | **1.32%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **3,905** | **3,978** | **73** | **1.87%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **5,571** | **5,623** | **52** | **0.93%** |
| 102000 | Services Providing | 61,813 | 63,742 | 1,929 | 3.12% |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **15,555** | **15,498** | **-57** | **-0.37%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 1,530 | 1,536 | 6 | 0.39% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 9,987 | 10,177 | 190 | 1.90% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 3,419 | 3,175 | -244 | -7.14% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 619 | 610 | -9 | -1.45% |
| **102200** | **INFORMATION** | **383** | **382** | **-1** | **-0.26%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **2,856** | **2,813** | **-43** | **-1.51%** |
| 520000 | Finance and Insurance | 2,151 | 2,102 | -49 | -2.28% |
| 530000 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 705 | 711 | 6 | 0.85% |
| **102400** | **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES** | **4,841** | **5,248** | **407** | **8.41%** |
| 540000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 1,532 | 1,762 | 230 | 15.01% |
| 550000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 392 | 450 | 58 | 14.80% |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 2,917 | 3,036 | 119 | 4.08% |
| **102500** | **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES** | **22,207** | **22,695** | **488** | **2.20%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 8,483 | 8,515 | 32 | 0.38% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 13,724 | 14,180 | 456 | 3.32% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **6,828** | **7,485** | **657** | **9.62%** |
| 710000 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 263 | 254 | -9 | -3.42% |
| 720000 | Accommodation and Food Services | 6,565 | 7,231 | 666 | 10.14% |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **3,677** | **4,011** | **334** | **9.08%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **5,466** | **5,610** | **144** | **2.63%** |

# North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 5,933 | 6,588 | **655** | 11.04% |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 163 | 461 | **298** | 182.82% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 4,771 | 5,042 | **271** | 5.68% |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 1,532 | 1,762 | **230** | 15.01% |
| 455000 | General Merchandise Retailers | 3,207 | 3,383 | **176** | 5.49% |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 2,667 | 2,777 | **110** | 4.12% |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 1,266 | 1,372 | **106** | 8.37% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 2,757 | 2,862 | **105** | 3.81% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 2,245 | 2,350 | **105** | 4.68% |
| 999300 | Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 3,102 | 3,196 | **94** | 3.03% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 163 | 461 | 298 | **182.82%** |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 192 | 226 | 34 | **17.71%** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 46 | 54 | 8 | **17.39%** |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 1,532 | 1,762 | 230 | **15.01%** |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 392 | 450 | 58 | **14.80%** |
| 611500 | Technical and Trade Schools | 32 | 36 | 4 | **12.50%** |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 5,933 | 6,588 | 655 | **11.04%** |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 160 | 174 | 14 | **8.75%** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 1,266 | 1,372 | 106 | **8.37%** |
| 611600 | Other Schools and Instruction | 50 | 53 | 3 | **6.00%** |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 1,537 | 1,400 | **-137** | -8.91% |
| 457000 | Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers | 1,116 | 1,037 | **-79** | -7.08% |
| 622200 | Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals | 915 | 851 | **-64** | -6.99% |
| 522000 | Credit Intermediation and Related Activities | 1,551 | 1,503 | **-48** | -3.09% |
| 237000 | Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 457 | 418 | **-39** | -8.53% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 513000 | Publishing Industries | 58 | 46 | -12 | **-20.69%** |
| 524100 | Insurance Carriers | 144 | 117 | -27 | **-18.75%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 72 | 60 | -12 | **-16.67%** |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 72 | 65 | -7 | **-9.72%** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 1,537 | 1,400 | -137 | **-8.91%** |

# North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **85,359** | **87,447** | **2,088** | **2.45%** | **4,180** | **5,487** | **1,044** | **10,711** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 11,334 | 11,626 | 292 | 2.58% | 550 | 506 | 146 | 1,202 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 2,452 | 2,535 | 83 | 3.38% | 72 | 122 | 42 | 236 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 442 | 464 | 22 | 4.98% | 10 | 16 | 11 | 37 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 407 | 434 | 27 | 6.63% | 10 | 18 | 14 | 42 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 330 | 342 | 12 | 3.64% | 6 | 26 | 6 | 38 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 1,632 | 1,674 | 42 | 2.57% | 64 | 80 | 21 | 165 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 237 | 256 | 19 | 8.02% | 6 | 8 | 10 | 24 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 5,857 | 5,900 | 43 | 0.73% | 225 | 260 | 22 | 507 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 598 | 601 | 3 | 0.50% | 24 | 35 | 2 | 61 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 6,122 | 6,281 | 159 | 2.60% | 184 | 176 | 80 | 440 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 3,602 | 3,773 | 171 | 4.75% | 228 | 294 | 86 | 608 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 1,788 | 1,823 | 35 | 1.96% | 64 | 105 | 18 | 187 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 6,693 | 7,306 | 613 | 9.16% | 596 | 768 | 306 | 1,670 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 2,880 | 2,948 | 68 | 2.36% | 172 | 220 | 34 | 426 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 1,111 | 1,115 | 4 | 0.36% | 74 | 120 | 2 | 196 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 6,866 | 6,910 | 44 | 0.64% | 425 | 538 | 22 | 985 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 9,297 | 9,545 | 248 | 2.67% | 462 | 584 | 124 | 1,170 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 1,337 | 1,332 | -5 | -0.37% | 82 | 120 | -2 | 200 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 2,930 | 2,980 | 50 | 1.71% | 92 | 156 | 25 | 273 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 3,655 | 3,727 | 72 | 1.97% | 129 | 183 | 36 | 348 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 7,501 | 7,600 | 99 | 1.32% | 302 | 526 | 50 | 878 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 8,288 | 8,275 | -13 | -0.16% | 403 | 622 | -6 | 1,019 |

# North Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 2,742 | 3,036 | **294** | 10.72% | 305 | 366 | 147 | 818 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 1,971 | 2,159 | **188** | 9.54% | 46 | 120 | 94 | 260 |
| 43-6014 | Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive | 993 | 1,112 | **119** | 11.98% | 56 | 58 | 60 | 174 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 625 | 706 | **81** | 12.96% | 44 | 56 | 40 | 140 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 800 | 875 | **75** | 9.38% | 68 | 104 | 38 | 210 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,544 | 1,616 | **72** | 4.66% | 85 | 99 | 36 | 220 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,093 | 1,163 | **70** | 6.40% | 88 | 76 | 35 | 199 |
| 35-1012 | First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers | 690 | 753 | **63** | 9.13% | 34 | 70 | 32 | 136 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,865 | 1,927 | **62** | 3.32% | 112 | 190 | 31 | 333 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,824 | 1,880 | **56** | 3.07% | 117 | 152 | 28 | 297 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3011 | Bartenders | 62 | 72 | 10 | **16.13%** | 4 | 8 | 5 | 17 |
| 29-1131 | Veterinarians | 50 | 58 | 8 | **16.00%** | 1 | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| 29-2056 | Veterinary Technologists and Technicians | 26 | 30 | 4 | **15.38%** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 31-9096 | Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers | 114 | 129 | 15 | **13.16%** | 6 | 16 | 8 | 30 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 207 | 234 | 27 | **13.04%** | 4 | 5 | 14 | 23 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 625 | 706 | 81 | **12.96%** | 44 | 56 | 40 | 140 |
| 43-6014 | Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive | 993 | 1,112 | 119 | **11.98%** | 56 | 58 | 60 | 174 |
| 15-1252 | Software Developers | 76 | 85 | 9 | **11.84%** | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 23-2011 | Paralegals and Legal Assistants | 51 | 57 | 6 | **11.76%** | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| 17-2112 | Industrial Engineers | 43 | 48 | 5 | **11.63%** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 6,117 | 6,120 | 3 | 0.05% | **418** | 228 | 2 | 648 |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 2,742 | 3,036 | 294 | 10.72% | **305** | 366 | 147 | 818 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,337 | 2,301 | -36 | -1.54% | **211** | 230 | -18 | 423 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,824 | 1,880 | 56 | 3.07% | **117** | 152 | 28 | 297 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,865 | 1,927 | 62 | 3.32% | **112** | 190 | 31 | 333 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,502 | 1,551 | 49 | 3.26% | **90** | 122 | 24 | 236 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,093 | 1,163 | 70 | 6.40% | **88** | 76 | 35 | 199 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,544 | 1,616 | 72 | 4.66% | **85** | 99 | 36 | 220 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 1,254 | 1,286 | 32 | 2.55% | **82** | 94 | 16 | 192 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,924 | 1,833 | -91 | -4.73% | **77** | 114 | -46 | 145 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 2,742 | 3,036 | 294 | 10.72% | 305 | **366** | 147 | 818 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,337 | 2,301 | -36 | -1.54% | 211 | **230** | -18 | 423 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 6,117 | 6,120 | 3 | 0.05% | 418 | **228** | 2 | 648 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,865 | 1,927 | 62 | 3.32% | 112 | **190** | 31 | 333 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,824 | 1,880 | 56 | 3.07% | 117 | **152** | 28 | 297 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,502 | 1,551 | 49 | 3.26% | 90 | **122** | 24 | 236 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 1,971 | 2,159 | 188 | 9.54% | 46 | **120** | 94 | 260 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,924 | 1,833 | -91 | -4.73% | 77 | **114** | -46 | 145 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 800 | 875 | 75 | 9.38% | 68 | **104** | 38 | 210 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,544 | 1,616 | 72 | 4.66% | 85 | **99** | 36 | 220 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 2,742 | 3,036 | 294 | 10.72% | 305 | 366 | 147 | **818** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 6,117 | 6,120 | 3 | 0.05% | 418 | 228 | 2 | **648** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,337 | 2,301 | -36 | -1.54% | 211 | 230 | -18 | **423** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,865 | 1,927 | 62 | 3.32% | 112 | 190 | 31 | **333** |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,824 | 1,880 | 56 | 3.07% | 117 | 152 | 28 | **297** |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 1,971 | 2,159 | 188 | 9.54% | 46 | 120 | 94 | **260** |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,502 | 1,551 | 49 | 3.26% | 90 | 122 | 24 | **236** |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,544 | 1,616 | 72 | 4.66% | 85 | 99 | 36 | **220** |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 800 | 875 | 75 | 9.38% | 68 | 104 | 38 | **210** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,093 | 1,163 | 70 | 6.40% | 88 | 76 | 35 | **199** |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,924 | 1,833 | **-91** | -4.73% | 77 | 114 | -46 | 145 |
| 53-7051 | Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators | 663 | 624 | **-39** | -5.88% | 20 | 43 | -20 | 43 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,337 | 2,301 | **-36** | -1.54% | 211 | 230 | -18 | 423 |
| 43-3071 | Tellers | 309 | 292 | **-17** | -5.50% | 12 | 18 | -8 | 22 |
| 51-7011 | Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters | 42 | 29 | **-13** | -30.95% | 3 | 4 | -6 | 1 |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 51-7011 | Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters | 42 | 29 | -13 | **-30.95%** | 3 | 4 | -6 | 1 |
| 47-5051 | Rock Splitters, Quarry | 15 | 11 | -4 | **-26.67%** | 1 | 1 | -2 | 0 |
| 47-5022 | Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators, Surface Mining | 32 | 26 | -6 | **-18.75%** | 2 | 2 | -3 | 1 |
| 43-5111 | Weighers, Measurers, Checkers, and Samplers, Recordkeeping | 79 | 70 | -9 | **-11.39%** | 4 | 6 | -4 | 6 |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 59 | 53 | -6 | **-10.17%** | 2 | 4 | -3 | 3 |

**Northeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

The Northeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of seven counties:



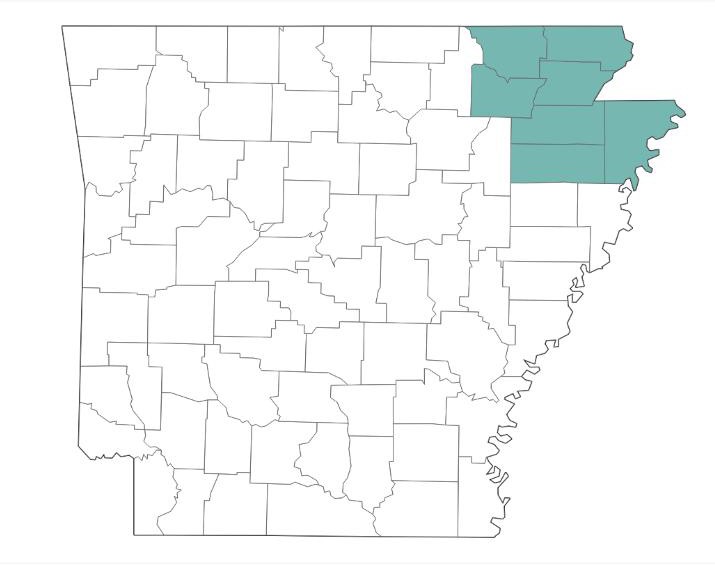
**Northeast Arkansas Profile**

**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): 2.19%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 3.7%**

Clay, Craighead, Greene, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, and Randolph, with the state of Missouri bordering

the area to the north and Tennessee to the east. The Jonesboro Metropolitan Statistical Area is in this area.



The Northeast Arkansas WDA gained 1,419 jobs over the last year, a 1.35 percent increase. The area is expected to gain 2,622 jobs, an increase of 2.19 percent between 2024 and 2026, slightly less than the state growth rate of 2.23 percent. Goods-Producing industries are predicted to experience a net gain of 326 jobs, while Services-Providing industries could see an increase of 2,179. The Self-Employed ranks could see a small growth of 117, a gain of 1.51 percent of the

workforce. The not-seasonally-adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was 3.7 percent.

**Education and Health Services** is expected to be the top growing supersector, adding 1,270 new jobs. **Construction** is anticipated to be the fastest growing supersector, increasing its workforce by 10.03 percent. *Food Services and Drinking Places* is estimated to add 416 jobs to the labor market, becoming the top growing industry in the Northeast Arkansas WDA. *Grantmaking and Giving Services* could see an 81.10 percent gain in its workforce, becoming the fastest growing industry in the area. On the negative side of the economy, *Transportation Equipment*

*Manufacturing* is forecast to be the top declining industry, cutting 254 jobs from the labor market, while *Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries* could see a 28

percent reduction in its local workforce.

According to occupational projections, the Northeast Arkansas WDA is expected to have 14,620 annual openings during the projection period with 5,555 created due to employees leaving the workforce, 7,754 from those changing jobs, and 1,311 related to growth and expansion. **Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations** is estimated to be the top growing major group, adding 510 jobs to the labor market**. Construction** is projected to be the fastest growing major group, increasing its workforce by 6.81 percent. *Home Health and Personal Care Aides*

leads the area in numeric change, gaining 166 jobs between first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2026. *Fundraisers* is forecast to grow significantly over the next two years, driving employment up 72.97 percent, becoming the fastest growing occupation. On the declining side of the local labor market, *Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators* is predicted to be the top declining occupation, cutting 113 jobs, while *Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders* is forecast to be the fastest declining occupation, dropping in employment by 11.63 percent.

Overall, the **Production Occupations** major group could lose 166 jobs, or 1.12 percent of its workforce.

# Northeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **119,680** | **122,302** | **2,622** | **2.19%** |
| 006010 | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | 7,739 | 7,856 | 117 | 1.51% |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 29,744 | 30,070 | 326 | 1.10% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **3,219** | **3,242** | **23** | **0.71%** |
| 110000 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 3,150 | 3,178 | 28 | 0.89% |
| 210000 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 69 | 64 | -5 | -7.25% |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **4,794** | **5,275** | **481** | **10.03%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **21,731** | **21,553** | **-178** | **-0.82%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **7,406** | **7,254** | **-152** | **-2.05%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **14,325** | **14,299** | **-26** | **-0.18%** |
| 102000 | Services Providing | 82,197 | 84,376 | 2,179 | 2.65% |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **20,069** | **20,156** | **87** | **0.43%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 4,104 | 4,214 | 110 | 2.68% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 12,226 | 12,196 | -30 | -0.25% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 3,348 | 3,351 | 3 | 0.09% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 391 | 395 | 4 | 1.02% |
| **102200** | **INFORMATION** | **727** | **798** | **71** | **9.77%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **3,538** | **3,446** | **-92** | **-2.60%** |
| 520000 | Finance and Insurance | 2,416 | 2,389 | -27 | -1.12% |
| 530000 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 1,122 | 1,057 | -65 | -5.79% |
| 102400 | **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES** | 7,284 | 7,525 | 241 | 3.31% |
| 540000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 1,886 | 2,086 | 200 | 10.60% |
| 550000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 652 | 729 | 77 | 11.81% |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 4,746 | 4,710 | -36 | -0.76% |
| **102500** | **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES** | **30,519** | **31,789** | **1,270** | **4.16%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 10,843 | 10,891 | 48 | 0.44% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 19,676 | 20,898 | 1,222 | 6.21% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **9,771** | **10,226** | **455** | **4.66%** |
| 710000 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 584 | 606 | 22 | 3.77% |
| 720000 | Accommodation and Food Services | 9,187 | 9,620 | 433 | 4.71% |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **3,735** | **3,799** | **64** | **1.71%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **6,554** | **6,637** | **83** | **1.27%** |

# Northeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 8,554 | 8,970 | **416** | 4.86% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 4,094 | 4,492 | **398** | 9.72% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 3,502 | 3,883 | **381** | 10.88% |
| 331000 | Primary Metal Manufacturing | 4,622 | 4,987 | **365** | 7.90% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 6,159 | 6,509 | **350** | 5.68% |
| 622100 | General Medical and Surgical Hospitals | 6,069 | 6,312 | **243** | 4.00% |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 1,886 | 2,086 | **200** | 10.60% |
| 999300 | Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 4,241 | 4,362 | **121** | 2.85% |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 127 | 230 | **103** | 81.10% |
| 423000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 2,341 | 2,432 | **91** | 3.89% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 127 | 230 | 103 | **81.10%** |
| 611700 | Educational Support Services | 25 | 44 | 19 | **76.00%** |
| 518000 | Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Services | 29 | 45 | 16 | **55.17%** |
| 339000 | Miscellaneous Manufacturing | 135 | 186 | 51 | **37.78%** |
| 321000 | Wood Product Manufacturing | 175 | 223 | 48 | **27.43%** |
| 513000 | Publishing Industries | 145 | 175 | 30 | **20.69%** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 29 | 34 | 5 | **17.24%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 339 | 391 | 52 | **15.34%** |
| 611600 | Other Schools and Instruction | 135 | 154 | 19 | **14.07%** |
| 813300 | Social Advocacy Organizations | 70 | 79 | 9 | **12.86%** |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 3,330 | 3,076 | **-254** | -7.63% |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 2,935 | 2,798 | **-137** | -4.67% |
| 813100 | Religious Organizations | 1,557 | 1,422 | **-135** | -8.67% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 4,048 | 3,924 | **-124** | -3.06% |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 416 | 325 | **-91** | -21.88% |
| 531000 | Real Estate | 855 | 792 | **-63** | -7.37% |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 435 | 393 | **-42** | -9.66% |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 1,354 | 1,318 | **-36** | -2.66% |
| 457000 | Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers | 1,148 | 1,114 | **-34** | -2.96% |
| 112000 | Animal Production and Aquaculture | 618 | 591 | **-27** | -4.37% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 512000 | Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries | 75 | 54 | -21 | **-28.00%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 106 | 81 | -25 | **-23.58%** |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 416 | 325 | -91 | **-21.88%** |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 435 | 393 | -42 | **-9.66%** |
| 813100 | Religious Organizations | 1,557 | 1,422 | -135 | **-8.67%** |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 174 | 159 | -15 | **-8.62%** |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 3,330 | 3,076 | -254 | **-7.63%** |
| 531000 | Real Estate | 855 | 792 | -63 | **-7.37%** |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 286 | 270 | -16 | **-5.59%** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 2,935 | 2,798 | -137 | **-4.67%** |

# Northeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **119,680** | **122,302** | **2,622** | **2.19%** | **5,555** | **7,754** | **1,311** | **14,620** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 10,828 | 11,146 | 318 | 2.94% | 424 | 518 | 159 | 1,101 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 3,798 | 3,953 | 155 | 4.08% | 110 | 196 | 78 | 384 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 949 | 991 | 42 | 4.43% | 20 | 34 | 21 | 75 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 1,052 | 1,096 | 44 | 4.18% | 26 | 43 | 22 | 91 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 497 | 510 | 13 | 2.62% | 8 | 34 | 6 | 48 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 2,156 | 2,203 | 47 | 2.18% | 80 | 106 | 24 | 210 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 288 | 307 | 19 | 6.60% | 7 | 10 | 10 | 27 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 7,946 | 7,999 | 53 | 0.67% | 314 | 372 | 26 | 712 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 844 | 860 | 16 | 1.90% | 34 | 50 | 8 | 92 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 9,065 | 9,575 | 510 | 5.63% | 272 | 258 | 255 | 785 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 4,991 | 5,307 | 316 | 6.33% | 318 | 406 | 158 | 882 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 1,877 | 1,907 | 30 | 1.60% | 64 | 109 | 15 | 188 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 9,136 | 9,529 | 393 | 4.30% | 788 | 1,018 | 196 | 2,002 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 3,549 | 3,581 | 32 | 0.90% | 212 | 268 | 16 | 496 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 2,446 | 2,534 | 88 | 3.60% | 160 | 252 | 44 | 456 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 9,321 | 9,316 | -5 | -0.05% | 554 | 721 | -2 | 1,273 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 12,168 | 12,261 | 93 | 0.76% | 590 | 761 | 46 | 1,397 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 1,967 | 1,967 | 0 | 0.00% | 121 | 178 | 0 | 299 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 4,772 | 5,097 | 325 | 6.81% | 148 | 263 | 162 | 573 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 5,922 | 6,114 | 192 | 3.24% | 208 | 300 | 96 | 604 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 14,762 | 14,596 | -166 | -1.12% | 557 | 996 | -83 | 1,470 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 11,346 | 11,453 | 107 | 0.94% | 542 | 860 | 54 | 1,456 |

# Northeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,553 | 1,719 | **166** | 10.69% | 127 | 111 | 83 | 321 |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,372 | 3,535 | **163** | 4.83% | 364 | 437 | 82 | 883 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 2,651 | 2,755 | **104** | 3.92% | 79 | 60 | 52 | 191 |
| 47-2111 | Electricians | 1,020 | 1,115 | **95** | 9.31% | 32 | 62 | 48 | 142 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 2,493 | 2,587 | **94** | 3.77% | 57 | 147 | 47 | 251 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,941 | 2,014 | **73** | 3.76% | 118 | 158 | 36 | 312 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 875 | 937 | **62** | 7.09% | 60 | 76 | 31 | 167 |
| 47-2061 | Construction Laborers | 884 | 946 | **62** | 7.01% | 28 | 48 | 31 | 107 |
| 11-9111 | Medical and Health Services Managers | 650 | 708 | **58** | 8.92% | 17 | 31 | 29 | 77 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,373 | 1,424 | **51** | 3.71% | 114 | 173 | 26 | 313 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 13-1131 | Fundraisers | 37 | 64 | 27 | **72.97%** | 2 | 2 | 14 | 18 |
| 49-9052 | Telecommunications Line Installers and Repairers | 111 | 126 | 15 | **13.51%** | 4 | 7 | 8 | 19 |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 126 | 142 | 16 | **12.70%** | 4 | 9 | 8 | 21 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 358 | 403 | 45 | **12.57%** | 8 | 8 | 22 | 38 |
| 51-7042 | Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing | 58 | 65 | 7 | **12.07%** | 2 | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| 29-1131 | Veterinarians | 42 | 47 | 5 | **11.90%** | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 |
| 21-1023 | Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Workers | 115 | 128 | 13 | **11.30%** | 4 | 4 | 6 | 14 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,553 | 1,719 | 166 | **10.69%** | 127 | 111 | 83 | 321 |
| 31-9096 | Veterinary Assistants and Laboratory Animal Caretakers | 96 | 106 | 10 | **10.42%** | 5 | 14 | 5 | 24 |
| 17-1011 | Architects, Except Landscape and Naval | 50 | 55 | 5 | **10.00%** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,372 | 3,535 | 163 | 4.83% | **364** | 437 | 82 | 883 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,891 | 2,851 | -40 | -1.38% | **262** | 284 | -20 | 526 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,399 | 3,431 | 32 | 0.94% | **234** | 128 | 16 | 378 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,455 | 2,463 | 8 | 0.33% | **155** | 201 | 4 | 360 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,168 | 2,211 | 43 | 1.98% | **130** | 218 | 22 | 370 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,553 | 1,719 | 166 | 10.69% | **127** | 111 | 83 | 321 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,941 | 2,014 | 73 | 3.76% | **118** | 158 | 36 | 312 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,373 | 1,424 | 51 | 3.71% | **114** | 173 | 26 | 313 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 2,104 | 2,149 | 45 | 2.14% | **114** | 133 | 22 | 269 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,456 | 2,450 | -6 | -0.24% | **112** | 205 | -3 | 314 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,372 | 3,535 | 163 | 4.83% | 364 | **437** | 82 | 883 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,891 | 2,851 | -40 | -1.38% | 262 | **284** | -20 | 526 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,168 | 2,211 | 43 | 1.98% | 130 | **218** | 22 | 370 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,456 | 2,450 | -6 | -0.24% | 112 | **205** | -3 | 314 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,455 | 2,463 | 8 | 0.33% | 155 | **201** | 4 | 360 |
| 51-2090 | Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators | 2,670 | 2,557 | -113 | -4.23% | 100 | **179** | -56 | 223 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,373 | 1,424 | 51 | 3.71% | 114 | **173** | 26 | 313 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,941 | 2,014 | 73 | 3.76% | 118 | **158** | 36 | 312 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 2,493 | 2,587 | 94 | 3.77% | 57 | **147** | 47 | 251 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 2,104 | 2,149 | 45 | 2.14% | 114 | **133** | 22 | 269 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,372 | 3,535 | 163 | 4.83% | 364 | 437 | 82 | **883** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,891 | 2,851 | -40 | -1.38% | 262 | 284 | -20 | **526** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,399 | 3,431 | 32 | 0.94% | 234 | 128 | 16 | **378** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,168 | 2,211 | 43 | 1.98% | 130 | 218 | 22 | **370** |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,455 | 2,463 | 8 | 0.33% | 155 | 201 | 4 | **360** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,553 | 1,719 | 166 | 10.69% | 127 | 111 | 83 | **321** |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,456 | 2,450 | -6 | -0.24% | 112 | 205 | -3 | **314** |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,373 | 1,424 | 51 | 3.71% | 114 | 173 | 26 | **313** |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,941 | 2,014 | 73 | 3.76% | 118 | 158 | 36 | **312** |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 2,104 | 2,149 | 45 | 2.14% | 114 | 133 | 22 | **269** |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 51-2090 | Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators | 2,670 | 2,557 | **-113** | -4.23% | 100 | 179 | -56 | 223 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,891 | 2,851 | **-40** | -1.38% | 262 | 284 | -20 | 526 |
| 21-2011 | Clergy | 482 | 445 | **-37** | -7.68% | 20 | 20 | -18 | 22 |
| 51-4121 | Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers | 1,189 | 1,170 | **-19** | -1.60% | 32 | 84 | -10 | 106 |
| 51-2028 | Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers | 228 | 214 | **-14** | -6.14% | 10 | 14 | -7 | 17 |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 51-9196 | Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 86 | 76 | -10 | **-11.63%** | 2 | 6 | -5 | 3 |
| 21-2011 | Clergy | 482 | 445 | -37 | **-7.68%** | 20 | 20 | -18 | 22 |
| 51-2028 | Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers | 228 | 214 | -14 | **-6.14%** | 10 | 14 | -7 | 17 |
| 51-9161 | Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators | 185 | 175 | -10 | **-5.41%** | 6 | 12 | -5 | 13 |
| 13-1031 | Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators | 155 | 147 | -8 | **-5.16%** | 4 | 6 | -4 | 6 |

**Western Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

The Western Arkansas Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of six counties: Crawford, Franklin, Logan, Polk, Scott, and Sebastian;



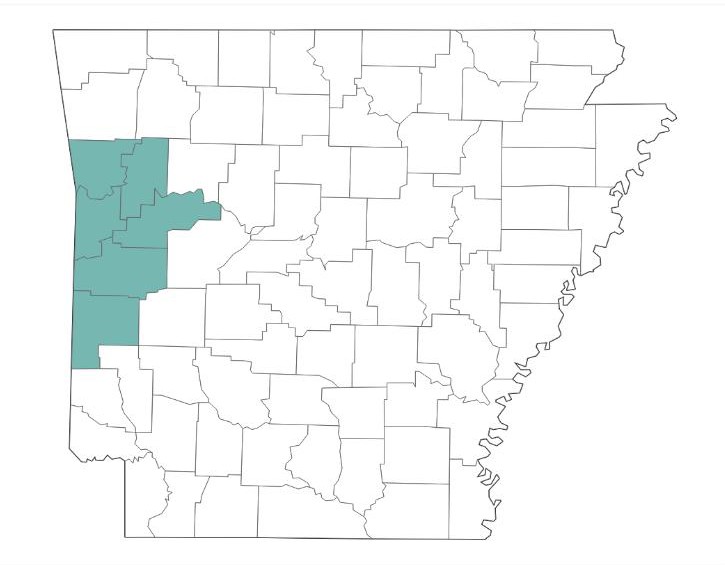
**Western Arkansas Profile**

**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): 1.64%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 3.8%**

and is bordered to the west by the state of Oklahoma. The Arkansas portion of the Fort Smith Metropolitan Statistical Area is in the Western Arkansas WDA.

The Western Arkansas WDA gained 420 jobs over the last year, a 0.40 percent gain. According to industry projections, the area is



expected to add 1,928 jobs, a 1.64 percent increase, which is less than the state growth rate. Goods- Producing industries are projected to have a net gain of 695 jobs, while the Services-Providing industries are estimated to experience a net gain of 1,272 jobs. A drop of 39 Self Employed Workers is anticipated during the projection period. The not-seasonally-adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was 3.8 percent.

**Education and Health Services** is expected to be the

top growing supersector in Western Arkansas with a gain of 1,128 jobs during the projection period. **Information** is predicted to be the fastest growing supersector, driving employment up 8.59 percent. *Food Manufacturing* leads all industries in growth, adding an estimated 341 jobs to the local economy. *Mining (except Oil and Gas)* is anticipated to increase its workforce by 30.67 percent, becoming the fastest growing industry in the area. On the negative side of the labor market, *Truck Transportation* is forecast to lose 234 jobs between first quarter 2024 and first

quarter 2026. *Grantmaking and Giving Services* is predicted to be the fastest declining industry, losing an estimated 47.22 percent

of its workforce. The **Professional and Business Services** supersector could lose 193 jobs during the projection period, or 2.21 percent of its workforce.

According to occupational projections, Western Arkansas employers are projected

to have 14,142 annual job openings. Of these, 5,514 are estimated to come from occupational exits, 7,664 from occupational transfers, and 964 due to growth and expansion of jobs. **Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations** is slated to be the top growing major group, increasing its workforce by 350 jobs, a 4.54 percent increase. **Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations** is projected to be the fastest growing major group, driving employment up 7.43 percent. *Home Health and Personal Care Aides* is predicted to add 136 jobs to the labor market, becoming the top growing

occupation. *Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers* is slated to be the fastest growing occupation, increasing its workforce by 16.39 percent. On the negative side of the economy, *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* is predicted to lose 127 jobs, 3.59 percent of its workforce, while *Print Binding and Finishing Workers* is set to be the fastest declining occupation, cutting its workforce by 15 percent.

# Western Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **117,714** | **119,642** | **1,928** | **1.64%** |
| 006010 | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | 8,416 | 8,377 | -39 | -0.46% |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 28,012 | 28,707 | 695 | 2.48% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **1,321** | **1,331** | **10** | **0.76%** |
| 110000 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 911 | 881 | -30 | -3.29% |
| 210000 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 410 | 450 | 40 | 9.76% |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **4,523** | **4,790** | **267** | **5.90%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **22,168** | **22,586** | **418** | **1.89%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **12,985** | **13,304** | **319** | **2.46%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **9,183** | **9,282** | **99** | **1.08%** |
| 102000 | Services Providing | 81,286 | 82,558 | 1,272 | 1.56% |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **22,485** | **22,403** | **-82** | **-0.36%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 3,832 | 3,856 | 24 | 0.63% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 12,461 | 12,404 | -57 | -0.46% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 5,121 | 4,918 | -203 | -3.96% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 1,071 | 1,225 | 154 | 14.38% |
| **102200** | **INFORMATION** | **1,048** | **1,138** | **90** | **8.59%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **3,729** | **3,711** | **-18** | **-0.48%** |
| 520000 | Finance and Insurance | 2,517 | 2,482 | -35 | -1.39% |
| 530000 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 1,212 | 1,229 | 17 | 1.40% |
| **102400** | **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES** | **8,731** | **8,538** | **-193** | **-2.21%** |
| 540000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 2,145 | 2,144 | -1 | -0.05% |
| 550000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 1,595 | 1,574 | -21 | -1.32% |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 4,991 | 4,820 | -171 | -3.43% |
| **102500** | **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES** | **25,318** | **26,446** | **1,128** | **4.46%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 8,859 | 9,089 | 230 | 2.60% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 16,459 | 17,357 | 898 | 5.46% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **9,263** | **9,396** | **133** | **1.44%** |
| 710000 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 462 | 480 | 18 | 3.90% |
| 720000 | Accommodation and Food Services | 8,801 | 8,916 | 115 | 1.31% |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **4,326** | **4,249** | **-77** | **-1.78%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **6,386** | **6,677** | **291** | **4.56%** |

# Western Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 9,554 | 9,895 | **341** | 3.57% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 5,534 | 5,848 | **314** | 5.67% |
| 622100 | General Medical and Surgical Hospitals | 4,042 | 4,280 | **238** | 5.89% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 2,903 | 3,113 | **210** | 7.23% |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 1,144 | 1,317 | **173** | 15.12% |
| 611100 | Elementary and Secondary Schools | 7,007 | 7,176 | **169** | 2.41% |
| 221000 | Utilities | 1,071 | 1,225 | **154** | 14.38% |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 1,250 | 1,397 | **147** | 11.76% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 2,674 | 2,812 | **138** | 5.16% |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 2,756 | 2,866 | **110** | 3.99% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 212000 | Mining (except Oil and Gas) | 225 | 294 | 69 | **30.67%** |
| 611700 | Educational Support Services | 40 | 51 | 11 | **27.50%** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 163 | 192 | 29 | **17.79%** |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 1,144 | 1,317 | 173 | **15.12%** |
| 221000 | Utilities | 1,071 | 1,225 | 154 | **14.38%** |
| 712000 | Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions | 37 | 42 | 5 | **13.51%** |
| 512000 | Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries | 87 | 98 | 11 | **12.64%** |
| 321000 | Wood Product Manufacturing | 809 | 908 | 99 | **12.24%** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 1,250 | 1,397 | 147 | **11.76%** |
| 316000 | Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing | 107 | 117 | 10 | **9.35%** |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated**  **Employment** | **2026**  **Projected**  **Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 3,548 | 3,314 | **-234** | -6.60% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 4,748 | 4,557 | **-191** | -4.02% |
| 456000 | Health and Personal Care Retailers | 694 | 585 | **-109** | -15.71% |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 2,530 | 2,465 | **-65** | -2.57% |
| 522000 | Credit Intermediation and Related Activities | 1,507 | 1,444 | **-63** | -4.18% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Growth) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 72 | 38 | -34 | **-47.22%** |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 107 | 75 | -32 | **-29.91%** |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 107 | 80 | -27 | **-25.23%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 103 | 78 | -25 | **-24.27%** |
| 513000 | Publishing Industries | 53 | 41 | -12 | **-22.64%** |

# Western Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **117,714** | **119,642** | **1,928** | **1.64%** | **5,514** | **7,664** | **964** | **14,142** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 11,478 | 11,625 | 147 | 1.28% | 458 | 543 | 74 | 1,075 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 4,109 | 4,200 | 91 | 2.21% | 118 | 212 | 46 | 376 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 897 | 940 | 43 | 4.79% | 21 | 34 | 22 | 77 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 814 | 841 | 27 | 3.32% | 19 | 36 | 14 | 69 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 552 | 593 | 41 | 7.43% | 9 | 43 | 20 | 72 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 1,860 | 1,894 | 34 | 1.83% | 72 | 92 | 17 | 181 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 382 | 393 | 11 | 2.88% | 10 | 14 | 6 | 30 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 6,293 | 6,451 | 158 | 2.51% | 246 | 289 | 79 | 614 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 906 | 895 | -11 | -1.21% | 34 | 51 | -6 | 79 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 7,715 | 8,065 | 350 | 4.54% | 232 | 219 | 175 | 626 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 5,236 | 5,530 | 294 | 5.61% | 341 | 419 | 147 | 907 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 1,712 | 1,743 | 31 | 1.81% | 68 | 104 | 16 | 188 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 9,010 | 9,149 | 139 | 1.54% | 755 | 996 | 70 | 1,821 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 2,972 | 2,962 | -10 | -0.34% | 179 | 222 | -5 | 396 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 1,630 | 1,677 | 47 | 2.88% | 108 | 177 | 24 | 309 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 9,612 | 9,548 | -64 | -0.67% | 566 | 735 | -32 | 1,269 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 12,791 | 12,814 | 23 | 0.18% | 616 | 801 | 12 | 1,429 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 889 | 879 | -10 | -1.12% | 54 | 79 | -5 | 128 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 4,404 | 4,610 | 206 | 4.68% | 134 | 240 | 103 | 477 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 5,606 | 5,772 | 166 | 2.96% | 200 | 282 | 83 | 565 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 14,911 | 15,085 | 174 | 1.17% | 613 | 1,039 | 87 | 1,739 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 13,935 | 13,976 | 41 | 0.29% | 660 | 1,041 | 20 | 1,721 |

# Western Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 2,028 | 2,164 | **136** | 6.71% | 163 | 142 | 68 | 373 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 2,539 | 2,660 | **121** | 4.77% | 76 | 58 | 60 | 194 |
| 51-3022 | Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 2,420 | 2,506 | **86** | 3.55% | 111 | 183 | 43 | 337 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,527 | 2,601 | **74** | 2.93% | 152 | 256 | 37 | 445 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,560 | 1,623 | **63** | 4.04% | 94 | 128 | 32 | 254 |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,171 | 3,222 | **51** | 1.61% | 338 | 404 | 26 | 768 |
| 49-9041 | Industrial Machinery Mechanics | 869 | 912 | **43** | 4.95% | 30 | 39 | 22 | 91 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 2,690 | 2,731 | **41** | 1.52% | 60 | 157 | 20 | 237 |
| 11-9111 | Medical and Health Services Managers | 462 | 502 | **40** | 8.66% | 12 | 22 | 20 | 54 |
| 29-2061 | Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses | 995 | 1,035 | **40** | 4.02% | 39 | 40 | 20 | 99 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 49-9051 | Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers | 122 | 142 | 20 | **16.39%** | 3 | 7 | 10 | 20 |
| 15-1254 | Web Developers | 34 | 39 | 5 | **14.71%** | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| 47-5022 | Excavating and Loading Machine and Dragline Operators, Surface Mining | 34 | 39 | 5 | **14.71%** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| 27-4011 | Audio and Video Technicians | 35 | 40 | 5 | **14.29%** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 19-4021 | Biological Technicians | 37 | 42 | 5 | **13.51%** | 1 | 4 | 2 | 7 |
| 19-4071 | Forest and Conservation Technicians | 75 | 85 | 10 | **13.33%** | 2 | 8 | 5 | 15 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 266 | 299 | 33 | **12.41%** | 6 | 6 | 16 | 28 |
| 29-1071 | Physician Assistants | 35 | 39 | 4 | **11.43%** | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 49-9012 | Control and Valve Installers and Repairers, Except Mechanical Door | 84 | 93 | 9 | **10.71%** | 3 | 4 | 4 | 11 |
| 29-2032 | Diagnostic Medical Sonographers | 39 | 43 | 4 | **10.26%** | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,171 | 3,222 | 51 | 1.61% | **338** | 404 | 26 | 768 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,963 | 3,921 | -42 | -1.06% | **270** | 148 | -21 | 397 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,749 | 2,702 | -47 | -1.71% | **248** | 270 | -24 | 494 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,808 | 2,779 | -29 | -1.03% | **176** | 228 | -14 | 390 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 2,028 | 2,164 | 136 | 6.71% | **163** | 142 | 68 | 373 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,527 | 2,601 | 74 | 2.93% | **152** | 256 | 37 | 445 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 3,536 | 3,409 | -127 | -3.59% | **142** | 211 | -64 | 289 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,769 | 2,805 | 36 | 1.30% | **128** | 233 | 18 | 379 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,498 | 1,504 | 6 | 0.40% | **122** | 186 | 3 | 311 |
| 51-3022 | Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 2,420 | 2,506 | 86 | 3.55% | **111** | 183 | 43 | 337 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,171 | 3,222 | 51 | 1.61% | 338 | **404** | 26 | 768 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,749 | 2,702 | -47 | -1.71% | 248 | **270** | -24 | 494 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,527 | 2,601 | 74 | 2.93% | 152 | **256** | 37 | 445 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,769 | 2,805 | 36 | 1.30% | 128 | **233** | 18 | 379 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,808 | 2,779 | -29 | -1.03% | 176 | **228** | -14 | 390 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 3,536 | 3,409 | -127 | -3.59% | 142 | **211** | -64 | 289 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,498 | 1,504 | 6 | 0.40% | 122 | **186** | 3 | 311 |
| 51-3022 | Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 2,420 | 2,506 | 86 | 3.55% | 111 | **183** | 43 | 337 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 2,690 | 2,731 | 41 | 1.52% | 60 | **157** | 20 | 237 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,963 | 3,921 | -42 | -1.06% | 270 | **148** | -21 | 397 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,171 | 3,222 | 51 | 1.61% | 338 | 404 | 26 | **768** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,749 | 2,702 | -47 | -1.71% | 248 | 270 | -24 | **494** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,527 | 2,601 | 74 | 2.93% | 152 | 256 | 37 | **445** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,963 | 3,921 | -42 | -1.06% | 270 | 148 | -21 | **397** |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,808 | 2,779 | -29 | -1.03% | 176 | 228 | -14 | **390** |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,769 | 2,805 | 36 | 1.30% | 128 | 233 | 18 | **379** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 2,028 | 2,164 | 136 | 6.71% | 163 | 142 | 68 | **373** |
| 51-3022 | Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 2,420 | 2,506 | 86 | 3.55% | 111 | 183 | 43 | **337** |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,498 | 1,504 | 6 | 0.40% | 122 | 186 | 3 | **311** |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 3,536 | 3,409 | -127 | -3.59% | 142 | 211 | -64 | **289** |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 3,536 | 3,409 | **-127** | -3.59% | 142 | 211 | -64 | 289 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,749 | 2,702 | **-47** | -1.71% | 248 | 270 | -24 | 494 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,963 | 3,921 | **-42** | -1.06% | 270 | 148 | -21 | 397 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,808 | 2,779 | **-29** | -1.03% | 176 | 228 | -14 | 390 |
| 43-3071 | Tellers | 409 | 381 | **-28** | -6.85% | 16 | 24 | -14 | 26 |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 51-5113 | Print Binding and Finishing Workers | 40 | 34 | -6 | **-15.00%** | 2 | 2 | -3 | 1 |
| 27-3011 | Broadcast Announcers and Radio Disc Jockeys | 48 | 42 | -6 | **-12.50%** | 2 | 2 | -3 | 1 |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 79 | 70 | -9 | **-11.39%** | 2 | 5 | -4 | 3 |
| 43-3071 | Tellers | 409 | 381 | -28 | **-6.85%** | 16 | 24 | -14 | 26 |
| 51-4072 | Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 221 | 210 | -11 | **-4.98%** | 8 | 13 | -6 | 15 |

**West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

The West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of 10 counties:



**West Central Arkansas Profile**

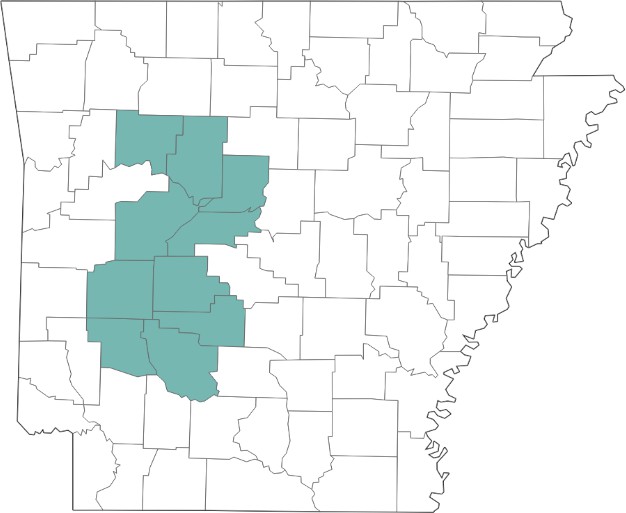
**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): 1.03%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 4.0%**

Clark, Conway, Garland, Hot Spring, Johnson, Montgomery,

Perry, Pike, Pope, and Yell; with the Hot Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area located within the WDA.

The West Central Arkansas WDA gained only 133 jobs over the last year.



According to industry projections, the area is estimated to experience a gain of 1,280 jobs, a 1.03 percent increase by March 2026, the slowest among growing workforce areas. Goods-Producing industries are projected to see a net gain of 163 jobs, while the Services-Providing industries are predicted to add 1,098. There is estimated to be a minimal change among Self Employed Workers in this area by 2026 with only 19 additional workers. The not-seasonally-adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was 4.0 percent.

**Education and Health Services** is predicted to be the top growing supersector, adding 597 new jobs. **Information** is estimated to be the fastest growing supersector, increasing its workforce by 9.61 percent. *Ambulatory Healthcare Services* is projected to be the top growing industry, increasing by 344 jobs. *Civic and Social Organizations* is slated to increase its workforce by 17.82 percent, becoming the fastest growing industry. On the negative side of the labor market,

*Transportation Equipment Manufacturing* is expected to lose 197 jobs during the projection period, becoming the top declining industry in West Central Arkansas,

while *Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing* is anticipated to be the fastest declining industry, cutting 65.06 percent from its workforce between 2024 and 2026. Five supersectors could experience job loss with **Other Services (except**

### Government) and Natural Resources and Mining

leading with each cutting 105 jobs.

According to occupational projections, the West Central Arkansas WDA is estimated to have 14,837 annual job openings during the projection period. Of these, 5,988 openings could be due to those exiting the workforce, 8,209 from those changing jobs, and 640 due to growth and expansion. **Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations** is estimated to be the top growing major group, adding 321 jobs to the labor market, a 2.83

percent increase. Driving this growth is *Fast Food and Counter Workers*, which is estimated to be the top growing occupation, adding 125 new jobs during the projection period. **Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations** is predicted to be the fastest growing supersector, increasing its workforce by 4.14 percent. *Career/Technical Education Teachers, Postsecondary* is anticipated to be the fastest growing occupation, raising employment levels by 14.95 percent. On the negative side of the economy, *Cashiers* is projected to lose 62 jobs, or 1.82 percent of its workforce, while *Animal Control Workers* could experience a 10.81 percent reduction in its workforce.

# West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **123,709** | **124,989** | **1,280** | **1.03%** |
| 006010 | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | 10,112 | 10,131 | 19 | 0.19% |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 23,708 | 23,871 | 163 | 0.69% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **2,964** | **2,859** | **-105** | **-3.54%** |
| 110000 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 2,517 | 2,437 | -80 | -3.18% |
| 210000 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 447 | 422 | -25 | -5.59% |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **4,797** | **5,073** | **276** | **5.75%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **15,947** | **15,939** | **-8** | **-0.05%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **8,966** | **8,984** | **18** | **0.20%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **6,981** | **6,955** | **-26** | **-0.37%** |
| 102000 | Services Providing | 89,889 | 90,987 | 1,098 | 1.22% |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **21,824** | **21,787** | **-37** | **-0.17%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 1,945 | 1,947 | 2 | 0.10% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 14,048 | 13,996 | -52 | -0.37% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 4,480 | 4,498 | 18 | 0.40% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 1,351 | 1,346 | -5 | -0.37% |
| **102200** | **INFORMATION** | **864** | **947** | **83** | **9.61%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **3,591** | **3,546** | **-45** | **-1.25%** |
| 520000 | Finance and Insurance | 2,587 | 2,545 | -42 | -1.62% |
| 530000 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 1,004 | 1,001 | -3 | -0.30% |
| **102400** | **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES** | **7,598** | **7,800** | **202** | **2.66%** |
| 540000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 2,306 | 2,404 | 98 | 4.25% |
| 550000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 538 | 552 | 14 | 2.60% |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 4,754 | 4,844 | 90 | 1.89% |
| **102500** | **Education and Health Services** | **28,368** | **28,965** | **597** | **2.10%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 11,700 | 11,817 | 117 | 1.00% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 16,668 | 17,148 | 480 | 2.88% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **14,375** | **14,734** | **359** | **2.50%** |
| 710000 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 1,895 | 1,876 | -19 | -1.00% |
| 720000 | Accommodation and Food Services | 12,480 | 12,858 | 378 | 3.03% |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **5,596** | **5,491** | **-105** | **-1.88%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **7,673** | **7,717** | **44** | **0.57%** |

# West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 6,044 | 6,388 | **344** | 5.69% |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 10,674 | 11,001 | **327** | 3.06% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 3,453 | 3,707 | **254** | 7.36% |
| 611100 | Elementary and Secondary Schools | 8,081 | 8,237 | **156** | 1.93% |
| 455000 | General Merchandise Retailers | 4,200 | 4,347 | **147** | 3.50% |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 3,256 | 3,394 | **138** | 4.24% |
| 999300 | Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 4,087 | 4,217 | **130** | 3.18% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 6,242 | 6,342 | **100** | 1.60% |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 2,306 | 2,404 | **98** | 4.25% |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 565 | 648 | **83** | 14.69% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 202 | 238 | 36 | **17.82%** |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 565 | 648 | 83 | **14.69%** |
| 512000 | Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries | 169 | 186 | 17 | **10.06%** |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 104 | 114 | 10 | **9.62%** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 726 | 783 | 57 | **7.85%** |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 3,453 | 3,707 | 254 | **7.36%** |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 226 | 242 | 16 | **7.08%** |
| 611600 | Other Schools and Instruction | 136 | 145 | 9 | **6.62%** |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 6,044 | 6,388 | 344 | **5.69%** |
| 611200 | Junior Colleges | 854 | 902 | 48 | **5.62%** |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 1,113 | 916 | **-197** | -17.70% |
| 813100 | Religious Organizations | 2,418 | 2,265 | **-153** | -6.33% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 3,753 | 3,617 | **-136** | -3.62% |
| 611300 | Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools | 2,468 | 2,357 | **-111** | -4.50% |
| 999200 | State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 2,324 | 2,241 | **-83** | -3.57% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 316000 | Leather and Allied Product Manufacturing | 83 | 29 | -54 | **-65.06%** |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 56 | 46 | -10 | **-17.86%** |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 1,113 | 916 | -197 | **-17.70%** |
| 335000 | Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing | 60 | 50 | -10 | **-16.67%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 133 | 112 | -21 | **-15.79%** |

# West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **123,709** | **124,989** | **1,280** | **1.03%** | **5,988** | **8,209** | **640** | **14,837** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 12,917 | 13,054 | 137 | 1.06% | 541 | 606 | 68 | 1,215 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 4,022 | 4,097 | 75 | 1.86% | 118 | 205 | 38 | 361 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 772 | 792 | 20 | 2.59% | 17 | 28 | 10 | 55 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 861 | 873 | 12 | 1.39% | 22 | 36 | 6 | 64 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 719 | 724 | 5 | 0.70% | 10 | 55 | 2 | 67 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 2,305 | 2,262 | -43 | -1.87% | 87 | 113 | -22 | 178 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 423 | 430 | 7 | 1.65% | 10 | 14 | 4 | 28 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 8,331 | 8,358 | 27 | 0.32% | 320 | 371 | 14 | 705 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 1,201 | 1,198 | -3 | -0.25% | 48 | 76 | -2 | 122 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 7,169 | 7,466 | 297 | 4.14% | 212 | 202 | 148 | 562 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 4,790 | 4,915 | 125 | 2.61% | 300 | 386 | 62 | 748 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 2,630 | 2,652 | 22 | 0.84% | 104 | 162 | 11 | 277 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 11,351 | 11,672 | 321 | 2.83% | 963 | 1,257 | 160 | 2,380 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 3,909 | 3,929 | 20 | 0.51% | 236 | 290 | 10 | 536 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 3,284 | 3,285 | 1 | 0.03% | 211 | 360 | 0 | 571 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 10,313 | 10,217 | -96 | -0.93% | 626 | 800 | -48 | 1,378 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 13,358 | 13,303 | -55 | -0.41% | 648 | 843 | -28 | 1,463 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 1,678 | 1,622 | -56 | -3.34% | 101 | 146 | -28 | 219 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 4,915 | 5,115 | 200 | 4.07% | 154 | 266 | 100 | 520 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 5,686 | 5,814 | 128 | 2.25% | 202 | 288 | 64 | 554 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 10,647 | 10,591 | -56 | -0.53% | 440 | 746 | -28 | 1,158 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 12,428 | 12,620 | 192 | 1.54% | 616 | 958 | 96 | 1,670 |

# West Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,919 | 4,044 | **125** | 3.19% | 420 | 504 | 62 | 986 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,839 | 2,928 | **89** | 3.13% | 170 | 288 | 44 | 502 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 1,309 | 1,379 | **70** | 5.35% | 89 | 112 | 35 | 236 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 1,967 | 2,032 | **65** | 3.30% | 58 | 44 | 32 | 134 |
| 47-2111 | Electricians | 636 | 687 | **51** | 8.02% | 20 | 38 | 26 | 84 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 374 | 420 | **46** | 12.30% | 8 | 9 | 23 | 40 |
| 47-2061 | Construction Laborers | 1,063 | 1,109 | **46** | 4.33% | 34 | 57 | 23 | 114 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,817 | 1,861 | **44** | 2.42% | 109 | 148 | 22 | 279 |
| 11-9111 | Medical and Health Services Managers | 502 | 541 | **39** | 7.77% | 13 | 24 | 20 | 57 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 2,913 | 2,950 | **37** | 1.27% | 66 | 170 | 18 | 254 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 25-1194 | Career/Technical Education Teachers, Postsecondary | 107 | 123 | 16 | **14.95%** | 4 | 4 | 8 | 16 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 374 | 420 | 46 | **12.30%** | 8 | 9 | 23 | 40 |
| 39-9032 | Recreation Workers | 164 | 181 | 17 | **10.37%** | 12 | 23 | 8 | 43 |
| 29-2053 | Psychiatric Technicians | 39 | 43 | 4 | **10.26%** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| 33-9092 | Lifeguards, Ski Patrol, and Other Recreational Protective Service Workers | 63 | 69 | 6 | **9.52%** | 10 | 9 | 3 | 22 |
| 31-2021 | Physical Therapist Assistants | 141 | 154 | 13 | **9.22%** | 7 | 14 | 6 | 27 |
| 47-3013 | Helpers--Electricians | 36 | 39 | 3 | **8.33%** | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 |
| 11-3012 | Administrative Services Managers | 74 | 80 | 6 | **8.11%** | 2 | 4 | 3 | 9 |
| 47-2111 | Electricians | 636 | 687 | 51 | **8.02%** | 20 | 38 | 26 | 84 |
| 29-1071 | Physician Assistants | 51 | 55 | 4 | **7.84%** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,919 | 4,044 | 125 | 3.19% | **420** | 504 | 62 | 986 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 4,944 | 4,928 | -16 | -0.32% | **338** | 184 | -8 | 514 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 3,413 | 3,351 | -62 | -1.82% | **308** | 335 | -31 | 612 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,750 | 2,729 | -21 | -0.76% | **173** | 224 | -10 | 387 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,839 | 2,928 | 89 | 3.13% | **170** | 288 | 44 | 502 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,861 | 1,897 | 36 | 1.93% | **152** | 232 | 18 | 402 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 2,461 | 2,457 | -4 | -0.16% | **132** | 154 | -2 | 284 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,580 | 1,580 | 0 | 0.00% | **123** | 108 | 0 | 231 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,531 | 2,563 | 32 | 1.26% | **116** | 213 | 16 | 345 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,817 | 1,861 | 44 | 2.42% | **109** | 148 | 22 | 279 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 1,670 | 1,678 | 8 | 0.48% | **109** | 123 | 4 | 236 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,919 | 4,044 | 125 | 3.19% | 420 | **504** | 62 | 986 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 3,413 | 3,351 | -62 | -1.82% | 308 | **335** | -31 | 612 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,839 | 2,928 | 89 | 3.13% | 170 | **288** | 44 | 502 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,861 | 1,897 | 36 | 1.93% | 152 | **232** | 18 | 402 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,750 | 2,729 | -21 | -0.76% | 173 | **224** | -10 | 387 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,531 | 2,563 | 32 | 1.26% | 116 | **213** | 16 | 345 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 4,944 | 4,928 | -16 | -0.32% | 338 | **184** | -8 | 514 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 2,913 | 2,950 | 37 | 1.27% | 66 | **170** | 18 | 254 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 2,461 | 2,457 | -4 | -0.16% | 132 | **154** | -2 | 284 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,817 | 1,861 | 44 | 2.42% | 109 | **148** | 22 | 279 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,450 | 2,438 | -12 | -0.49% | 100 | **148** | -6 | 242 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 3,919 | 4,044 | 125 | 3.19% | 420 | 504 | 62 | **986** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 3,413 | 3,351 | -62 | -1.82% | 308 | 335 | -31 | **612** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 4,944 | 4,928 | -16 | -0.32% | 338 | 184 | -8 | **514** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 2,839 | 2,928 | 89 | 3.13% | 170 | 288 | 44 | **502** |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 1,861 | 1,897 | 36 | 1.93% | 152 | 232 | 18 | **402** |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 2,750 | 2,729 | -21 | -0.76% | 173 | 224 | -10 | **387** |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,531 | 2,563 | 32 | 1.26% | 116 | 213 | 16 | **345** |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 2,461 | 2,457 | -4 | -0.16% | 132 | 154 | -2 | **284** |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,817 | 1,861 | 44 | 2.42% | 109 | 148 | 22 | **279** |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 2,913 | 2,950 | 37 | 1.27% | 66 | 170 | 18 | **254** |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 3,413 | 3,351 | **-62** | -1.82% | 308 | 335 | -31 | 612 |
| 45-2093 | Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals | 597 | 551 | **-46** | -7.71% | 36 | 52 | -23 | 65 |
| 21-2011 | Clergy | 746 | 707 | **-39** | -5.23% | 30 | 32 | -20 | 42 |
| 39-9011 | Childcare Workers | 814 | 779 | **-35** | -4.30% | 57 | 78 | -18 | 117 |
| 25-2011 | Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education | 568 | 540 | **-28** | -4.93% | 24 | 37 | -14 | 47 |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 33-9011 | Animal Control Workers | 74 | 66 | -8 | **-10.81%** | 3 | 4 | -4 | 3 |
| 45-2093 | Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals | 597 | 551 | -46 | **-7.71%** | 36 | 52 | -23 | 65 |
| 11-9031 | Education and Childcare Administrators, Preschool and Daycare | 113 | 107 | -6 | **-5.31%** | 2 | 4 | -3 | 3 |
| 21-2011 | Clergy | 746 | 707 | -39 | **-5.23%** | 30 | 32 | -20 | 42 |
| 13-1031 | Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators | 96 | 91 | -5 | **-5.21%** | 2 | 4 | -2 | 4 |

**Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

The Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of six counties, all within commuting distance of the city of



**Central Arkansas Profile**

**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): 2.65%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 3.3%**

Little Rock WDA: Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Saline, and the portion of Pulaski County outside of Little Rock. The majority of the Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area is in this area.



Data for area does not include city of Little Rock

The Central Arkansas WDA gained 3,176 jobs over the last year, a 1.93 percent increase. According to industry projections, the area is expected to experience a gain of 5,064 jobs, an increase of 2.65 percent, faster than the state growth rate. Goods-Producing industries are projected to experience a net gain of 733 new jobs, while the Services-Providing industries are predicted to gain 4,129 jobs. Self Employed Workers is slated to experience a gain of 202 workers. The not-seasonally- adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was 3.3 percent.

**Education and Health Services** is predicted to be the top growing supersector, adding 1,673 jobs to the local economy**. Construction** is estimated to be the fastest growing major group, increasing its workforce by 4.54 percent. *Ambulatory Health Care Services* leads all industries in numeric change, expecting to add 513 jobs between first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2026. *Educational Support Services* is forecast to increase its workforce by 43.14 percent, becoming the fastest growing industry in Central Arkansas. On the negative side of the economy, *Religious Organizations* could struggle during the projection period, being estimated to lose

355 jobs, or 6.36 percent of its workforce. *Grantmaking and Giving Services* is projected to cut

34.62 percent of its local workforce. The **Other Services (except Government)** major group is projected to experience a net loss of 227 jobs.

According to occupational projections, the Central Arkansas WDA is expected to have 24,206 annual job openings during the projection period, with 9,022 being created due to employees exiting the workforce, 12,652 created due to employees changing jobs, and 2,532 due to growth and expansion. **Transportation and Material Moving Occupations** is predicted to be the top growing major group, increasing staffing by 870 jobs. **Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations** is forecast to be the fastest growing major group, driving employment up 4.81 percent. *Stockers and Order Fillers* is estimated to be the top growing occupation, increasing employment by 265 jobs, while

*Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood* is anticipated to be the fastest growing occupation, increasing its workforce by 15.56 percent. On the negative side of the local economy, *Clergy* could see a loss of 98 jobs, becoming the top declining occupation in the area, while *Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers* could see a 12 percent reduction in its workforce by March 2026, becoming the fastest declining occupation.

# Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **191,254** | **196,318** | **5,064** | **2.65%** |
| **006010** | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | **11,450** | **11,652** | **202** | **1.76%** |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 25,907 | 26,640 | 733 | 2.83% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **1,906** | **1,941** | **35** | **1.84%** |
| 110000 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 1,535 | 1,532 | -3 | -0.20% |
| 210000 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 371 | 409 | 38 | 10.24% |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **12,108** | **12,658** | **550** | **4.54%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **11,893** | **12,041** | **148** | **1.24%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **3,902** | **3,928** | **26** | **0.67%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **7,991** | **8,113** | **122** | **1.53%** |
| 102000 | Services Providing | 153,897 | 158,026 | 4,129 | 2.68% |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **41,410** | **43,030** | **1,620** | **3.91%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 7,498 | 7,769 | 271 | 3.61% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 23,346 | 24,230 | 884 | 3.79% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 9,933 | 10,326 | 393 | 3.96% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 633 | 705 | 72 | 11.37% |
| **102200** | **INFORMATION** | **2,086** | **2,084** | **-2** | **-0.10%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **7,515** | **7,478** | **-37** | **-0.49%** |
| 520000 | Finance and Insurance | 5,296 | 5,127 | -169 | -3.19% |
| 530000 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 2,219 | 2,351 | 132 | 5.95% |
| **102400** | **Professional and Business Services** | **15,952** | **16,124** | **172** | **1.08%** |
| 540000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 6,044 | 6,290 | 246 | 4.07% |
| 550000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 1,105 | 1,030 | -75 | -6.79% |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 8,803 | 8,804 | 1 | 0.01% |
| **102500** | **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES** | **40,341** | **42,014** | **1,673** | **4.15%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 14,474 | 14,905 | 431 | 2.98% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 25,867 | 27,109 | 1,242 | 4.80% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **20,011** | **20,432** | **421** | **2.10%** |
| 710000 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 1,479 | 1,513 | 34 | 2.30% |
| 720000 | Accommodation and Food Services | 18,532 | 18,919 | 387 | 2.09% |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **11,209** | **10,982** | **-227** | **-2.03%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **15,373** | **15,882** | **509** | **3.31%** |

# Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 9,028 | 9,541 | **513** | 5.68% |
| 444000 | Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers | 2,285 | 2,775 | **490** | 21.44% |
| 238000 | Specialty Trade Contractors | 8,113 | 8,534 | **421** | 5.19% |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 5,199 | 5,591 | **392** | 7.54% |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 17,446 | 17,832 | **386** | 2.21% |
| 611100 | Elementary and Secondary Schools | 9,869 | 10,186 | **317** | 3.21% |
| 445000 | Food and Beverage Retailers | 2,828 | 3,136 | **308** | 10.89% |
| 622100 | General Medical and Surgical Hospitals | 4,496 | 4,766 | **270** | 6.01% |
| 424000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 2,905 | 3,173 | **268** | 9.23% |
| 541000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 6,044 | 6,290 | **246** | 4.07% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 611700 | Educational Support Services | 51 | 73 | 22 | **43.14%** |
| 444000 | Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers | 2,285 | 2,775 | 490 | **21.44%** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 160 | 188 | 28 | **17.50%** |
| 321000 | Wood Product Manufacturing | 457 | 532 | 75 | **16.41%** |
| 221000 | Utilities | 633 | 705 | 72 | **11.37%** |
| 445000 | Food and Beverage Retailers | 2,828 | 3,136 | 308 | **10.89%** |
| 314000 | Textile Product Mills | 28 | 31 | 3 | **10.71%** |
| 424000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 2,905 | 3,173 | 268 | **9.23%** |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 806 | 870 | 64 | **7.94%** |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 2,589 | 2,788 | 199 | **7.69%** |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 813100 | Religious Organizations | 5,578 | 5,223 | **-355** | -6.36% |
| 524100 | Insurance Carriers | 1,490 | 1,284 | **-206** | -13.83% |
| 999200 | State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 3,565 | 3,458 | **-107** | -3.00% |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 588 | 502 | **-86** | -14.63% |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 267 | 189 | **-78** | -29.21% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 208 | 136 | -72 | **-34.62%** |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 267 | 189 | -78 | **-29.21%** |
| 513000 | Publishing Industries | 123 | 96 | -27 | **-21.95%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 389 | 332 | -57 | **-14.65%** |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 588 | 502 | -86 | **-14.63%** |

# Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **191,254** | **196,318** | **5,064** | **2.65%** | **9,022** | **12,652** | **2,532** | **24,206** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 16,342 | 16,792 | 450 | 2.75% | 532 | 824 | 225 | 1,581 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 8,348 | 8,506 | 158 | 1.89% | 236 | 424 | 79 | 739 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 2,685 | 2,757 | 72 | 2.68% | 58 | 98 | 36 | 192 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 1,567 | 1,610 | 43 | 2.74% | 40 | 66 | 22 | 128 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 1,016 | 1,058 | 42 | 4.13% | 16 | 66 | 21 | 103 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 4,180 | 4,138 | -42 | -1.00% | 164 | 202 | -21 | 345 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 949 | 970 | 21 | 2.21% | 24 | 33 | 10 | 67 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 11,515 | 11,784 | 269 | 2.34% | 457 | 541 | 134 | 1,132 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 2,248 | 2,272 | 24 | 1.07% | 90 | 132 | 12 | 234 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 12,904 | 13,525 | 621 | 4.81% | 390 | 363 | 310 | 1,063 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 8,291 | 8,661 | 370 | 4.46% | 522 | 668 | 185 | 1,375 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 3,793 | 3,876 | 83 | 2.19% | 164 | 242 | 42 | 448 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 18,181 | 18,591 | 410 | 2.26% | 1,560 | 2,027 | 205 | 3,792 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 5,391 | 5,448 | 57 | 1.06% | 320 | 406 | 28 | 754 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 4,521 | 4,643 | 122 | 2.70% | 297 | 486 | 61 | 844 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 18,124 | 18,617 | 493 | 2.72% | 1,067 | 1,402 | 246 | 2,715 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 21,314 | 21,399 | 85 | 0.40% | 1,046 | 1,348 | 42 | 2,436 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 1,045 | 1,044 | -1 | -0.10% | 64 | 94 | 0 | 158 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 9,983 | 10,450 | 467 | 4.68% | 308 | 548 | 234 | 1,090 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 8,771 | 9,097 | 326 | 3.72% | 304 | 460 | 163 | 927 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 10,362 | 10,486 | 124 | 1.20% | 411 | 704 | 62 | 1,177 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 19,724 | 20,594 | 870 | 4.41% | 955 | 1,518 | 435 | 2,908 |

# Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 4,516 | 4,781 | **265** | 5.87% | 275 | 464 | 132 | 871 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 5,155 | 5,401 | **246** | 4.77% | 333 | 431 | 123 | 887 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 3,481 | 3,659 | **178** | 5.11% | 104 | 80 | 89 | 273 |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 6,843 | 7,009 | **166** | 2.43% | 731 | 876 | 83 | 1,690 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 4,831 | 4,991 | **160** | 3.31% | 110 | 284 | 80 | 474 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 2,496 | 2,650 | **154** | 6.17% | 200 | 174 | 77 | 451 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 4,888 | 5,022 | **134** | 2.74% | 202 | 302 | 67 | 571 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,913 | 3,026 | **113** | 3.88% | 136 | 248 | 56 | 440 |
| 47-2111 | Electricians | 1,686 | 1,795 | **109** | 6.47% | 52 | 100 | 54 | 206 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 2,961 | 3,046 | **85** | 2.87% | 178 | 241 | 42 | 461 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 51-7041 | Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood | 45 | 52 | 7 | **15.56%** | 2 | 4 | 4 | 10 |
| 49-3043 | Rail Car Repairers | 55 | 62 | 7 | **12.73%** | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 27-1026 | Merchandise Displayers and Window Trimmers | 238 | 268 | 30 | **12.61%** | 11 | 16 | 15 | 42 |
| 53-4011 | Locomotive Engineers | 231 | 259 | 28 | **12.12%** | 6 | 14 | 14 | 34 |
| 49-3053 | Outdoor Power Equipment and Other Small Engine Mechanics | 46 | 51 | 5 | **10.87%** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 352 | 389 | 37 | **10.51%** | 8 | 8 | 18 | 34 |
| 49-9051 | Electrical Power-Line Installers and Repairers | 183 | 200 | 17 | **9.29%** | 4 | 10 | 8 | 22 |
| 29-1071 | Physician Assistants | 98 | 107 | 9 | **9.18%** | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 39-1014 | First-line Supervisors of Entertainment And Recreation Workers, Except Gambling Services | 44 | 48 | 4 | **9.09%** | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 6,843 | 7,009 | 166 | 2.43% | **731** | 876 | 83 | 1,690 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 4,981 | 5,049 | 68 | 1.37% | **456** | 496 | 34 | 986 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 5,155 | 5,401 | 246 | 4.77% | **333** | 431 | 123 | 887 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 4,516 | 4,781 | 265 | 5.87% | **275** | 464 | 132 | 871 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 2,829 | 2,859 | 30 | 1.06% | **230** | 352 | 15 | 597 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 3,824 | 3,872 | 48 | 1.26% | **208** | 240 | 24 | 472 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 4,888 | 5,022 | 134 | 2.74% | **202** | 302 | 67 | 571 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 2,496 | 2,650 | 154 | 6.17% | **200** | 174 | 77 | 451 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 2,716 | 2,742 | 26 | 0.96% | **186** | 102 | 13 | 301 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 2,742 | 2,763 | 21 | 0.77% | **180** | 202 | 10 | 392 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 6,843 | 7,009 | 166 | 2.43% | 731 | **876** | 83 | 1,690 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 4,981 | 5,049 | 68 | 1.37% | 456 | **496** | 34 | 986 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 4,516 | 4,781 | 265 | 5.87% | 275 | **464** | 132 | 871 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 5,155 | 5,401 | 246 | 4.77% | 333 | **431** | 123 | 887 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 2,829 | 2,859 | 30 | 1.06% | 230 | **352** | 15 | 597 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 4,888 | 5,022 | 134 | 2.74% | 202 | **302** | 67 | 571 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 4,831 | 4,991 | 160 | 3.31% | 110 | **284** | 80 | 474 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,913 | 3,026 | 113 | 3.88% | 136 | **248** | 56 | 440 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 2,961 | 3,046 | 85 | 2.87% | 178 | **241** | 42 | 461 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 3,824 | 3,872 | 48 | 1.26% | 208 | **240** | 24 | 472 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 6,843 | 7,009 | 166 | 2.43% | 731 | 876 | 83 | **1,690** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 4,981 | 5,049 | 68 | 1.37% | 456 | 496 | 34 | **986** |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 5,155 | 5,401 | 246 | 4.77% | 333 | 431 | 123 | **887** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 4,516 | 4,781 | 265 | 5.87% | 275 | 464 | 132 | **871** |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 2,829 | 2,859 | 30 | 1.06% | 230 | 352 | 15 | **597** |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 4,888 | 5,022 | 134 | 2.74% | 202 | 302 | 67 | **571** |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 4,831 | 4,991 | 160 | 3.31% | 110 | 284 | 80 | **474** |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 3,824 | 3,872 | 48 | 1.26% | 208 | 240 | 24 | **472** |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 2,961 | 3,046 | 85 | 2.87% | 178 | 241 | 42 | **461** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 2,496 | 2,650 | 154 | 6.17% | 200 | 174 | 77 | **451** |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 21-2011 | Clergy | 1,659 | 1,561 | **-98** | -5.91% | 68 | 71 | -49 | 90 |
| 43-6014 | Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive | 2,179 | 2,146 | **-33** | -1.51% | 116 | 119 | -16 | 219 |
| 25-2011 | Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education | 1,330 | 1,298 | **-32** | -2.41% | 56 | 88 | -16 | 128 |
| 43-3071 | Tellers | 508 | 486 | **-22** | -4.33% | 20 | 30 | -11 | 39 |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 175 | 154 | **-21** | -12.00% | 5 | 11 | -10 | 6 |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 49-2022 | Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers | 175 | 154 | -21 | **-12.00%** | 5 | 11 | -10 | 6 |
| 43-9041 | Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks | 278 | 259 | -19 | **-6.83%** | 10 | 14 | -10 | 14 |
| 21-2011 | Clergy | 1,659 | 1,561 | -98 | **-5.91%** | 68 | 71 | -49 | 90 |
| 25-3021 | Self Enrichment Teachers | 204 | 194 | -10 | **-4.90%** | 12 | 12 | -5 | 19 |
| 43-3071 | Tellers | 508 | 486 | -22 | **-4.33%** | 20 | 30 | -11 | 39 |

**City of Little Rock Workforce Development Area**

The City of Little Rock Workforce Development Area (WDA) is a center for government operations, serving as the county seat of Pulaski County as



**City of Little Rock Profile**

**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): 1.80%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 3.7%**

well as the state’s capital. The WDA is recognized as part of the Little Rock-North

could cut 122 jobs, or 5.77 percent of its workforce.

**Government)** supersector is forecast to lose 337 jobs, or 3.00 percent of its workforce, while the **Information** supersector

Little Rock-Conway Metropolitan Statistical Area.



The City of Little Rock WDA gained 1,275 jobs over the last year, a 0.71 percent increase. According to industry projections, the area is expected to gain 3,804 jobs between 2024 and 2026, an increase of

1.80 percent, which is slower than the state growth rate. Goods-Producing industries are projected to experience a net gain of 1,501 jobs, while the Services-Providing industries are predicted to gain

2,021. Self Employed Workers is expected to increase by 282 jobs. The not-seasonally-adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was

3.7 percent.

**Manufacturing** is estimated to be the top and fastest growing supersector, adding 1,211 new jobs, a 17.03 percent gain. *Insurance Carriers* is predicted to be the top growing industry, increasing its workforce by 879 jobs. *Wood Product Manufacturing* is anticipated to be the fastest growing industry in the City of Little Rock WDA, increasing more than four-fold between 2024 and 2026. On the negative side of the labor market, *Social Advocacy Organizations* is projected to be the top and fastest declining industry, losing an estimated 470 jobs during the projection period, a 24.42 percent drop in employment. The **Other Services (except**

According to occupational projections, City of Little Rock WDA employers are expected to have 23,494 annual openings during the projection period. Of these, 8,923 would be created due to employees leaving the workforce, while 12,669 would be created due to employees changing jobs. Around 1,902 job openings could be available annually due to growth and expansion of the workforce. **Production Occupations** is estimated to be the top growing major group, increasing its workforce by 744 jobs.

**Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations** is slated to be the fastest growing major group, raising

employment levels by 11.49 percent. *Home Health and Personal Care Aides* is projected to be the top growing occupation in the City of Little Rock WDA, raising staffing levels by 199 jobs. *Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders* is forecast to be the fastest growing occupation, gaining an additional 41.75 percent to its workforce. On the negative side of the local job market, *Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators* is slated to lose 69 jobs by March 2026, becoming the top declining occupation. *Print Binding and Finishing Workers* is anticipated to be the fastest declining occupation, cutting 21.15 percent of its workforce.

# City of Little Rock Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **211,879** | **215,683** | **3,804** | **1.80%** |
| 006010 | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | 10,253 | 10,535 | 282 | 2.75% |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 13,615 | 15,116 | 1,501 | 11.02% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **667** | **730** | **63** | **9.45%** |
| 110000 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 239 | 310 | 71 | 29.71% |
| 210000 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 428 | 420 | -8 | -1.87% |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **5,835** | **6,062** | **227** | **3.89%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **7,113** | **8,324** | **1,211** | **17.03%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **3,894** | **3,961** | **67** | **1.72%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **3,219** | **4,363** | **1,144** | **35.54%** |
| 102000 | Services Providing | 188,011 | 190,032 | 2,021 | 1.07% |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **32,401** | **32,561** | **160** | **0.49%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 7,462 | 7,584 | 122 | 1.63% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 14,669 | 14,864 | 195 | 1.33% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 8,608 | 8,395 | -213 | -2.47% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 1,662 | 1,718 | 56 | 3.37% |
| **102200** | **INFORMATION** | **2,116** | **1,994** | **-122** | **-5.77%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **24,167** | **24,806** | **639** | **2.64%** |
| 520000 | Finance and Insurance | 21,209 | 21,842 | 633 | 2.98% |
| 530000 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 2,958 | 2,964 | 6 | 0.20% |
| **102400** | **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES** | **24,986** | **25,090** | **104** | **0.42%** |
| 540000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 9,639 | 9,677 | 38 | 0.39% |
| 550000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 4,881 | 5,090 | 209 | 4.28% |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 10,466 | 10,323 | -143 | -1.37% |
| **102500** | **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES** | **57,666** | **58,504** | **838** | **1.45%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 12,154 | 12,220 | 66 | 0.54% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 45,512 | 46,284 | 772 | 1.70% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **14,540** | **15,095** | **555** | **3.82%** |
| 710000 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 1,835 | 1,896 | 61 | 3.32% |
| 720000 | Accommodation and Food Services | 12,705 | 13,199 | 494 | 3.89% |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **11,231** | **10,894** | **-337** | **-3.00%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **20,904** | **21,088** | **184** | **0.88%** |

# City of Little Rock Workforce Development Area

Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 524100 | Insurance Carriers | 14,824 | 15,703 | **879** | 5.93% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 11,176 | 11,811 | **635** | 5.68% |
| 722000 | Food Services and Drinking Places | 11,316 | 11,783 | **467** | 4.13% |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 3,694 | 4,044 | **350** | 9.47% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 6,100 | 6,435 | **335** | 5.49% |
| 321000 | Wood Product Manufacturing | 83 | 387 | **304** | 366.27% |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 4,881 | 5,090 | **209** | 4.28% |
| 999300 | Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 5,151 | 5,342 | **191** | 3.71% |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 1,762 | 1,937 | **175** | 9.93% |
| 237000 | Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 1,346 | 1,509 | **163** | 12.11% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 321000 | Wood Product Manufacturing | 83 | 387 | 304 | **366.27%** |
| 111000 | Crop Production | 178 | 252 | 74 | **41.57%** |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 633 | 772 | 139 | **21.96%** |
| 611700 | Educational Support Services | 61 | 73 | 12 | **19.67%** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 192 | 226 | 34 | **17.71%** |
| 488000 | Support Activities for Transportation | 692 | 785 | 93 | **13.44%** |
| 237000 | Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 1,346 | 1,509 | 163 | **12.11%** |
| 485000 | Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation | 712 | 785 | 73 | **10.25%** |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 1,762 | 1,937 | 175 | **9.93%** |
| 999100 | Federal Government, Excluding Post Office | 3,694 | 4,044 | 350 | **9.47%** |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 813300 | Social Advocacy Organizations | 1,925 | 1,455 | **-470** | -24.42% |
| 999200 | State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 11,079 | 10,731 | **-348** | -3.14% |
| 813100 | Religious Organizations | 3,076 | 2,894 | **-182** | -5.92% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 10,019 | 9,851 | **-168** | -1.68% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 813300 | Social Advocacy Organizations | 1,925 | 1,455 | -470 | **-24.42%** |
| 323000 | Printing and Related Support Activities | 484 | 383 | -101 | **-20.87%** |
| 513000 | Publishing Industries | 596 | 525 | -71 | **-11.91%** |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 272 | 246 | -26 | **-9.56%** |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 1,852 | 1,704 | -148 | **-7.99%** |

# City of Little Rock Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **211,879** | **215,683** | **3,804** | **1.80%** | **8,923** | **12,669** | **1,902** | **23,494** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 19,132 | 19,604 | 472 | 2.47% | 497 | 969 | 236 | 1,702 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 20,441 | 20,923 | 482 | 2.36% | 563 | 994 | 241 | 1,798 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 5,597 | 5,710 | 113 | 2.02% | 122 | 201 | 56 | 379 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 2,418 | 2,503 | 85 | 3.52% | 62 | 104 | 42 | 208 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 1,949 | 1,976 | 27 | 1.39% | 30 | 138 | 14 | 182 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 4,584 | 4,557 | -27 | -0.59% | 174 | 233 | -14 | 393 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 2,378 | 2,361 | -17 | -0.71% | 54 | 72 | -8 | 118 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 10,943 | 11,033 | 90 | 0.82% | 432 | 487 | 45 | 964 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 3,068 | 3,041 | -27 | -0.88% | 114 | 168 | -14 | 268 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 22,451 | 22,719 | 268 | 1.19% | 644 | 576 | 134 | 1,354 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 9,930 | 10,179 | 249 | 2.51% | 606 | 796 | 124 | 1,526 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 4,148 | 4,172 | 24 | 0.58% | 174 | 262 | 12 | 448 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 12,343 | 12,812 | 469 | 3.80% | 1,045 | 1,374 | 234 | 2,653 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 6,182 | 6,224 | 42 | 0.68% | 373 | 462 | 21 | 856 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 3,918 | 4,034 | 116 | 2.96% | 264 | 419 | 58 | 741 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 17,236 | 17,427 | 191 | 1.11% | 881 | 1,196 | 96 | 2,173 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 29,296 | 29,278 | -18 | -0.06% | 1,387 | 1,816 | -9 | 3,194 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 409 | 456 | 47 | 11.49% | 26 | 42 | 24 | 92 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 5,470 | 5,652 | 182 | 3.33% | 170 | 292 | 91 | 553 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 6,867 | 7,083 | 216 | 3.15% | 240 | 356 | 108 | 704 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 7,385 | 8,129 | 744 | 10.07% | 314 | 524 | 372 | 1,210 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 15,734 | 15,810 | 76 | 0.48% | 750 | 1,186 | 38 | 1,974 |

# City of Little Rock Workforce Development Area

Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 2,703 | 2,902 | **199** | 7.36% | 218 | 190 | 100 | 508 |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 4,023 | 4,197 | **174** | 4.33% | 434 | 520 | 87 | 1,041 |
| 13-1031 | Claims Adjusters, Examiners, and Investigators | 3,806 | 3,969 | **163** | 4.28% | 86 | 174 | 82 | 342 |
| 43-9041 | Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks | 3,400 | 3,541 | **141** | 4.15% | 126 | 179 | 70 | 375 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 7,923 | 8,059 | **136** | 1.72% | 234 | 178 | 68 | 480 |
| 51-2090 | Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators | 815 | 939 | **124** | 15.21% | 34 | 60 | 62 | 156 |
| 41-3021 | Insurance Sales Agents | 2,684 | 2,805 | **121** | 4.51% | 92 | 121 | 60 | 273 |
| 11-9111 | Medical and Health Services Managers | 1,980 | 2,097 | **117** | 5.91% | 50 | 93 | 58 | 201 |
| 35-2014 | Cooks, Restaurant | 1,452 | 1,546 | **94** | 6.47% | 99 | 126 | 47 | 272 |
| 13-2053 | Insurance Underwriters | 1,923 | 2,015 | **92** | 4.78% | 56 | 84 | 46 | 186 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 51-9124 | Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 103 | 146 | 43 | **41.75%** | 4 | 8 | 22 | 34 |
| 53-4011 | Locomotive Engineers | 50 | 68 | 18 | **36.00%** | 2 | 3 | 9 | 14 |
| 51-2028 | Electrical, Electronic, and Electromechanical  Assemblers, Except Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers | 160 | 216 | 56 | **35.00%** | 8 | 12 | 28 | 48 |
| 53-4031 | Railroad Conductors and Yardmasters | 38 | 51 | 13 | **34.21%** | 1 | 3 | 6 | 10 |
| 51-9161 | Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators | 39 | 50 | 11 | **28.21%** | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| 51-4041 | Machinists | 95 | 115 | 20 | **21.05%** | 4 | 6 | 10 | 20 |
| 39-7010 | Tour and Travel Guides | 29 | 35 | 6 | **20.69%** | 3 | 4 | 3 | 10 |
| 17-3023 | Electrical and Electronics Engineering Technologists and Technicians | 96 | 113 | 17 | **17.71%** | 4 | 5 | 8 | 17 |
| 51-4081 | Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic | 195 | 228 | 33 | **16.92%** | 8 | 13 | 16 | 37 |
| 45-1011 | First-Line Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers | 26 | 30 | 4 | **15.38%** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 4,023 | 4,197 | 174 | 4.33% | **434** | 520 | 87 | 1,041 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 3,072 | 3,075 | 3 | 0.10% | **280** | 304 | 2 | 586 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 4,065 | 4,117 | 52 | 1.28% | **258** | 334 | 26 | 618 |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 7,923 | 8,059 | 136 | 1.72% | **234** | 178 | 68 | 480 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 2,703 | 2,902 | 199 | 7.36% | **218** | 190 | 100 | 508 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 3,771 | 3,763 | -8 | -0.21% | **203** | 236 | -4 | 435 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 3,159 | 3,154 | -5 | -0.16% | **186** | 316 | -2 | 500 |
| 43-4051 | Customer Service Representatives | 3,616 | 3,570 | -46 | -1.27% | **183** | 292 | -23 | 452 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 2,208 | 2,273 | 65 | 2.94% | **182** | 278 | 32 | 492 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 2,981 | 3,051 | 70 | 2.35% | **179** | 242 | 35 | 456 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 4,023 | 4,197 | 174 | 4.33% | 434 | **520** | 87 | 1,041 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 4,065 | 4,117 | 52 | 1.28% | 258 | **334** | 26 | 618 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 3,159 | 3,154 | -5 | -0.16% | 186 | **316** | -2 | 500 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 3,072 | 3,075 | 3 | 0.10% | 280 | **304** | 2 | 586 |
| 43-4051 | Customer Service Representatives | 3,616 | 3,570 | -46 | -1.27% | 183 | **292** | -23 | 452 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 2,208 | 2,273 | 65 | 2.94% | 182 | **278** | 32 | 492 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 4,727 | 4,793 | 66 | 1.40% | 106 | **276** | 33 | 415 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 3,081 | 3,100 | 19 | 0.62% | 141 | **258** | 10 | 409 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 2,981 | 3,051 | 70 | 2.35% | 179 | **242** | 35 | 456 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 3,771 | 3,763 | -8 | -0.21% | 203 | **236** | -4 | 435 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 4,023 | 4,197 | 174 | 4.33% | 434 | 520 | 87 | **1,041** |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 4,065 | 4,117 | 52 | 1.28% | 258 | 334 | 26 | **618** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 3,072 | 3,075 | 3 | 0.10% | 280 | 304 | 2 | **586** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 2,703 | 2,902 | 199 | 7.36% | 218 | 190 | 100 | **508** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 3,159 | 3,154 | -5 | -0.16% | 186 | 316 | -2 | **500** |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 2,208 | 2,273 | 65 | 2.94% | 182 | 278 | 32 | **492** |
| 29-1141 | Registered Nurses | 7,923 | 8,059 | 136 | 1.72% | 234 | 178 | 68 | **480** |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 2,981 | 3,051 | 70 | 2.35% | 179 | 242 | 35 | **456** |
| 43-4051 | Customer Service Representatives | 3,616 | 3,570 | -46 | -1.27% | 183 | 292 | -23 | **452** |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 3,771 | 3,763 | -8 | -0.21% | 203 | 236 | -4 | **435** |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 53-7051 | Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators | 1,491 | 1,422 | **-69** | -4.63% | 44 | 98 | -34 | 108 |
| 43-6014 | Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive | 1,887 | 1,830 | **-57** | -3.02% | 100 | 102 | -28 | 174 |
| 21-2011 | Clergy | 980 | 933 | **-47** | -4.80% | 40 | 42 | -24 | 58 |
| 43-4051 | Customer Service Representatives | 3,616 | 3,570 | **-46** | -1.27% | 183 | 292 | -23 | 452 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,749 | 2,703 | **-46** | -1.67% | 112 | 166 | -23 | 255 |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 51-5113 | Print Binding and Finishing Workers | 52 | 41 | -11 | **-21.15%** | 3 | 2 | -6 | 0 |
| 51-5111 | Prepress Technicians and Workers | 35 | 28 | -7 | **-20.00%** | 2 | 2 | -4 | 0 |
| 51-5112 | Printing Press Operators | 210 | 184 | -26 | **-12.38%** | 8 | 13 | -13 | 8 |
| 19-4061 | Social Science Research Assistants | 46 | 41 | -5 | **-10.87%** | 1 | 4 | -2 | 3 |
| 43-4141 | New Accounts Clerks | 70 | 65 | -5 | **-7.14%** | 2 | 4 | -2 | 4 |

**Eastern Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

The Eastern Arkansas WDA consists of five counties: Crittenden, Cross, Lee, Phillips, and St. Francis.



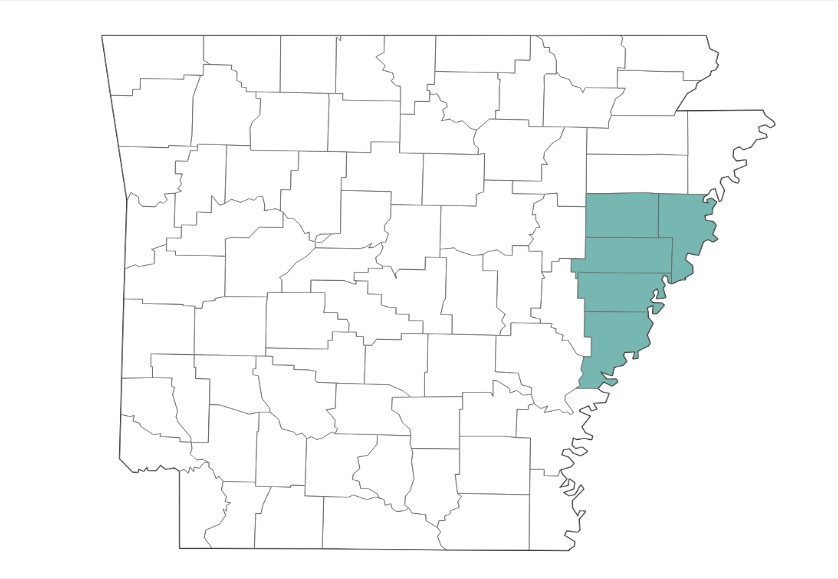
**Eastern Arkansas Profile**

**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): -0.35%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 4.7%**

With Tennessee bordering this area to

the east, Crittenden County makes up a portion of the Memphis Metropolitan Statistical Area, the forty-fourth largest in population in the



United States according to the Census Bureau.

The Eastern Arkansas WDA lost 131 jobs over the last year, a 0.39 percent decline. The outlook is not expected to get much better. The area is forecast to experience a net loss of 134 jobs, a drop of 0.35 percent of its local workforce, one of three WDA areas slated to have net job cuts. Goods-Producing industries are projected to experience a net loss of 249 jobs, while the Services- Providing industries are predicted to gain 157. Self Employed Workers are predicted to lose 42 jobs, or 1.55

percent of the workforce. The not-seasonally-adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was 4.7 percent, tied for the highest rate in the state.

**Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** is estimated to be the top growing supersector, adding 147 jobs, a 1.74 percent increase. The **Information** supersector is slated to add 6.45 percent to its local workforce. *Warehousing and Storage* is forecast to be the top and fastest growing industry, increasing its workforce by 73.97 percent, or 162 new jobs between 2024 and 2026. On the negative side of the job market, **Manufacturing** is anticipated to be the top and fastest declining supersector, cutting 222 jobs, or 6.41 percent of its workforce. *Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Good*s is predicted to be the top declining industry, with a decline of 41

jobs, 4.77 percent of its workforce, while *Machinery Manufacturing* could cut 23.38 percent of its workforce,

becoming the fastest declining industry. In all, six industry supersectors are set to

experience job loss.

According to occupational projections, the Eastern Arkansas WDA is expected to have 4,215 annual job openings during the projection period, with 1,820 being created due to employees leaving the workforce and 2,462 related to those changing jobs. Job opportunities related to growth and expansion could be reduced by 67 jobs annually. **Transportation and Material Moving Occupations** is expected to be the top growing major group, increasing its workforce by 129 new

jobs. **Healthcare Support Occupations** is projected to increase its workforce by

4.01 percent, becoming the fastest growing major group. Driving this growth is *Home Health and Personal Care Aides*, which is slated to add 58 new jobs during the projection period. *Conveyor Operators and Tenders* leads the area in percent change, driving employment up 15.63 percent. On the negative side of the labor market, *Cashiers* is forecast to cut 43 jobs from its workforce, while *Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders* is predicted to lose 12.77 percent of its workforce, becoming the fastest declining occupation. More than half of the major groups are predicted to see job loss. **Production Occupations** is slated to decline by 143 jobs, or 4.97 percent of its local workforce.

# Eastern Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **37,833** | **37,699** | **-134** | **-0.35%** |
| 006010 | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | 2,712 | 2,670 | -42 | -1.55% |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 5,899 | 5,650 | -249 | -4.22% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **1,777** | **1,755** | **-22** | **-1.24%** |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **658** | **653** | **-5** | **-0.76%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **3,464** | **3,242** | **-222** | **-6.41%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **1,720** | **1,704** | **-16** | **-0.93%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **1,744** | **1,538** | **-206** | **-11.81%** |
| 102000 | Services Providing | 29,222 | 29,379 | 157 | 0.54% |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **8,465** | **8,612** | **147** | **1.74%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 1,900 | 1,951 | 51 | 2.68% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 4,189 | 4,105 | -84 | -2.01% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 2,190 | 2,378 | 188 | 8.58% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 186 | 178 | -8 | -4.30% |
| **102200** | **Information** | **93** | **99** | **6** | **6.45%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **1,155** | **1,120** | **-35** | **-3.03%** |
| 520000 | Finance and Insurance | 685 | 656 | -29 | -4.23% |
| 530000 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 470 | 464 | -6 | -1.28% |
| **102400** | **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES** | **1,304** | **1,287** | **-17** | **-1.30%** |
| 540000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 477 | 466 | -11 | -2.31% |
| 550000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 117 | 110 | -7 | -5.98% |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 710 | 711 | 1 | 0.14% |
| **102500** | **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES** | **8,678** | **8,743** | **65** | **0.75%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 3,504 | 3,490 | -14 | -0.40% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 5,174 | 5,253 | 79 | 1.53% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **4,203** | **4,225** | **22** | **0.52%** |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **1,416** | **1,366** | **-50** | **-3.53%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **3,908** | **3,927** | **19** | **0.49%** |

# Eastern Arkansas Workforce Development Area Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 219 | 381 | **162** | 73.97% |
| 423000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 1,021 | 1,108 | **87** | 8.52% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 1,656 | 1,728 | **72** | 4.35% |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 1,061 | 1,099 | **38** | 3.58% |
| 999300 | Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 1,924 | 1,962 | **38** | 1.98% |
| 455000 | General Merchandise Retailers | 1,330 | 1,347 | **17** | 1.28% |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 1,428 | 1,442 | **14** | 0.98% |
| 814000 | Private Households | 92 | 105 | **13** | 14.13% |
| 492000 | Couriers and Messengers | 74 | 84 | **10** | 13.51% |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 51 | 60 | **9** | 17.65% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 219 | 381 | 162 | **73.97%** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 51 | 60 | 9 | **17.65%** |
| 517000 | Telecommunications | 32 | 37 | 5 | **15.63%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 92 | 105 | 13 | **14.13%** |
| 492000 | Couriers and Messengers | 74 | 84 | 10 | **13.51%** |
| 516000 | Broadcasting and Content Providers | 30 | 34 | 4 | **13.33%** |
| 524100 | Insurance Carriers | 48 | 53 | 5 | **10.42%** |
| 423000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 1,021 | 1,108 | 87 | **8.52%** |
| 485000 | Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation | 84 | 88 | 4 | **4.76%** |
| 237000 | Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 155 | 162 | 7 | **4.52%** |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 424000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods | 859 | 818 | **-41** | -4.77% |
| 457000 | Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers | 745 | 706 | **-39** | -5.23% |
| 811000 | Repair and Maintenance | 392 | 355 | **-37** | -9.44% |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 154 | 118 | **-36** | -23.38% |
| 325000 | Chemical Manufacturing | 334 | 299 | **-35** | -10.48% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 154 | 118 | -36 | **-23.38%** |
| 458000 | Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers | 98 | 81 | -17 | **-17.35%** |
| 812000 | Personal and Laundry Services | 116 | 103 | -13 | **-11.21%** |
| 456000 | Health and Personal Care Retailers | 248 | 222 | -26 | **-10.48%** |
| 325000 | Chemical Manufacturing | 334 | 299 | -35 | **-10.48%** |

# Eastern Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **37,833** | **37,699** | **-134** | **-0.35%** | **1,820** | **2,462** | **-67** | **4,215** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 3,830 | 3,809 | -21 | -0.55% | 161 | 176 | -10 | 327 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 1,130 | 1,131 | 1 | 0.09% | 32 | 56 | 0 | 88 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 164 | 165 | 1 | 0.61% | 3 | 6 | 0 | 9 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 152 | 145 | -7 | -4.61% | 3 | 6 | -4 | 5 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 309 | 305 | -4 | -1.29% | 4 | 22 | -2 | 24 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 893 | 892 | -1 | -0.11% | 34 | 44 | 0 | 78 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 113 | 112 | -1 | -0.88% | 3 | 4 | 0 | 7 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 2,706 | 2,702 | -4 | -0.15% | 100 | 122 | -2 | 220 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 227 | 217 | -10 | -4.41% | 9 | 12 | -5 | 16 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 1,912 | 1,900 | -12 | -0.63% | 55 | 54 | -6 | 103 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 1,522 | 1,583 | 61 | 4.01% | 104 | 116 | 30 | 250 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 1,358 | 1,365 | 7 | 0.52% | 49 | 78 | 4 | 131 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 3,191 | 3,195 | 4 | 0.13% | 265 | 343 | 2 | 610 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 1,173 | 1,181 | 8 | 0.68% | 71 | 88 | 4 | 163 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 1,025 | 1,042 | 17 | 1.66% | 66 | 108 | 8 | 182 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 3,170 | 3,090 | -80 | -2.52% | 195 | 248 | -40 | 403 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 3,845 | 3,783 | -62 | -1.61% | 188 | 237 | -31 | 394 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 1,067 | 1,060 | -7 | -0.66% | 65 | 96 | -4 | 157 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 970 | 971 | 1 | 0.10% | 30 | 48 | 0 | 78 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 1,803 | 1,792 | -11 | -0.61% | 62 | 90 | -6 | 146 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 2,878 | 2,735 | -143 | -4.97% | 104 | 184 | -72 | 216 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 4,395 | 4,524 | 129 | 2.94% | 216 | 326 | 64 | 606 |

# Eastern Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 860 | 918 | **58** | 6.74% | 69 | 60 | 29 | 158 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 553 | 604 | **51** | 9.22% | 26 | 48 | 26 | 100 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 829 | 860 | **31** | 3.74% | 50 | 84 | 16 | 150 |
| 53-7051 | Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators | 162 | 177 | **15** | 9.26% | 5 | 12 | 8 | 25 |
| 39-9011 | Childcare Workers | 435 | 444 | **9** | 2.07% | 32 | 43 | 4 | 79 |
| 45-2091 | Agricultural Equipment Operators | 101 | 110 | **9** | 8.91% | 6 | 10 | 4 | 20 |
| 49-3041 | Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians | 108 | 117 | **9** | 8.33% | 3 | 6 | 4 | 13 |
| 39-9032 | Recreation Workers | 77 | 85 | **8** | 10.39% | 6 | 11 | 4 | 21 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 345 | 352 | **7** | 2.03% | 20 | 28 | 4 | 52 |
| 41-4012 | Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products | 332 | 339 | **7** | 2.11% | 10 | 19 | 4 | 33 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 53-7011 | Conveyor Operators and Tenders | 32 | 37 | 5 | **15.63%** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 39-9032 | Recreation Workers | 77 | 85 | 8 | **10.39%** | 6 | 11 | 4 | 21 |
| 53-7051 | Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators | 162 | 177 | 15 | **9.26%** | 5 | 12 | 8 | 25 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 553 | 604 | 51 | **9.22%** | 26 | 48 | 26 | 100 |
| 45-2091 | Agricultural Equipment Operators | 101 | 110 | 9 | **8.91%** | 6 | 10 | 4 | 20 |
| 49-3041 | Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians | 108 | 117 | 9 | **8.33%** | 3 | 6 | 4 | 13 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 860 | 918 | 58 | **6.74%** | 69 | 60 | 29 | 158 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 95 | 101 | 6 | **6.32%** | 2 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 43-9041 | Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks | 50 | 53 | 3 | **6.00%** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| 29-1127 | Speech-Language Pathologists | 39 | 41 | 2 | **5.13%** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 1,112 | 1,113 | 1 | 0.09% | **118** | 141 | 0 | 259 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 1,263 | 1,220 | -43 | -3.40% | **113** | 123 | -22 | 214 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 1,481 | 1,453 | -28 | -1.89% | **100** | 55 | -14 | 141 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 860 | 918 | 58 | 6.74% | **69** | 60 | 29 | 158 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,285 | 1,287 | 2 | 0.16% | **52** | 78 | 1 | 131 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 829 | 860 | 31 | 3.74% | **50** | 84 | 16 | 150 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 619 | 602 | -17 | -2.75% | **33** | 38 | -8 | 63 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 398 | 397 | -1 | -0.25% | **32** | 49 | 0 | 81 |
| 39-9011 | Childcare Workers | 435 | 444 | 9 | 2.07% | **32** | 43 | 4 | 79 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 527 | 508 | -19 | -3.61% | **32** | 42 | -10 | 64 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 1,112 | 1,113 | 1 | 0.09% | 118 | **141** | 0 | 259 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 1,263 | 1,220 | -43 | -3.40% | 113 | **123** | -22 | 214 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 829 | 860 | 31 | 3.74% | 50 | **84** | 16 | 150 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,285 | 1,287 | 2 | 0.16% | 52 | **78** | 1 | 131 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 860 | 918 | 58 | 6.74% | 69 | **60** | 29 | 158 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 1,481 | 1,453 | -28 | -1.89% | 100 | **55** | -14 | 141 |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 398 | 397 | -1 | -0.25% | 32 | **49** | 0 | 81 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 553 | 604 | 51 | 9.22% | 26 | **48** | 26 | 100 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 783 | 784 | 1 | 0.13% | 18 | **46** | 0 | 64 |
| 39-9011 | Childcare Workers | 435 | 444 | 9 | 2.07% | 32 | **43** | 4 | 79 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 1,112 | 1,113 | 1 | 0.09% | 118 | 141 | 0 | **259** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 1,263 | 1,220 | -43 | -3.40% | 113 | 123 | -22 | **214** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 860 | 918 | 58 | 6.74% | 69 | 60 | 29 | **158** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 829 | 860 | 31 | 3.74% | 50 | 84 | 16 | **150** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 1,481 | 1,453 | -28 | -1.89% | 100 | 55 | -14 | **141** |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,285 | 1,287 | 2 | 0.16% | 52 | 78 | 1 | **131** |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 553 | 604 | 51 | 9.22% | 26 | 48 | 26 | **100** |
| 35-3031 | Waiters and Waitresses | 398 | 397 | -1 | -0.25% | 32 | 49 | 0 | **81** |
| 39-9011 | Childcare Workers | 435 | 444 | 9 | 2.07% | 32 | 43 | 4 | **79** |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 467 | 469 | 2 | 0.43% | 30 | 34 | 1 | **65** |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 1,263 | 1,220 | **-43** | -3.40% | 113 | 123 | -22 | 214 |
| 51-2090 | Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators | 442 | 403 | **-39** | -8.82% | 16 | 29 | -20 | 25 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 1,481 | 1,453 | **-28** | -1.89% | 100 | 55 | -14 | 141 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 527 | 508 | **-19** | -3.61% | 32 | 42 | -10 | 64 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 619 | 602 | **-17** | -2.75% | 33 | 38 | -8 | 63 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)** | | | |  | | | | | | |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 51-9011 | Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders | 47 | 41 | | -6 | **-12.77%** | 2 | 3 | -3 | 2 |
| 49-3021 | Automotive Body and Related Repairers | 47 | 42 | | -5 | **-10.64%** | 2 | 2 | -2 | 2 |
| 41-3021 | Insurance Sales Agents | 66 | 60 | | -6 | **-9.09%** | 2 | 3 | -3 | 2 |
| 51-2090 | Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators | 442 | 403 | | -39 | **-8.82%** | 16 | 29 | -20 | 25 |
| 51-9023 | Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 57 | 52 | | -5 | **-8.77%** | 2 | 4 | -2 | 4 |

**Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

The Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area (WDA) is the largest Workforce Area in the state in terms of the number of counties represented.

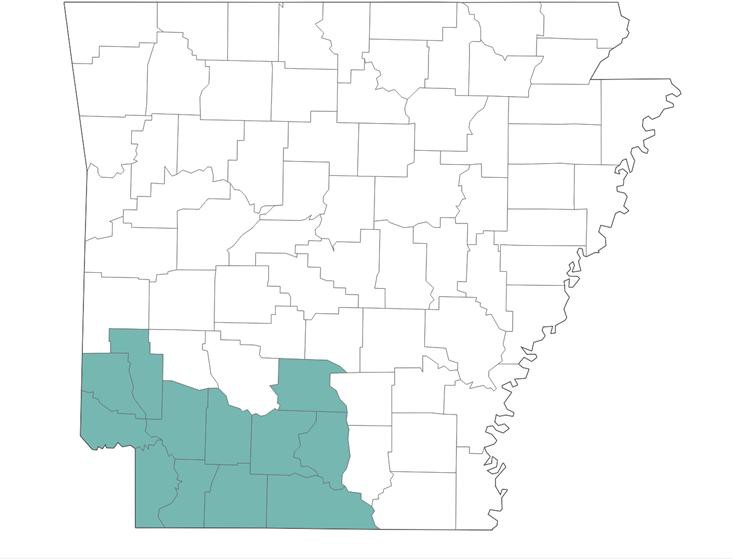


**Southwest Arkansas Profile**

**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): -0.28%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 4.3%**

Twelve counties are located within this region: Calhoun, Columbia, Dallas, Hempstead, Howard, Lafayette, Little River, Miller, Nevada, Ouachita, Sevier, and Union. Three states border the area: Oklahoma to the west, Texas to the southwest, and Louisiana to the south. Miller County is part of the



Texarkana AR/TX Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The Southwest Arkansas WDA lost 1,069 jobs between first quarter 2023 and first quarter 2024. According to industry projections, employment is projected to see a reduction of 245 jobs between 2024 and 2026, equal to 0.28 percent of its local workforce. Goods-Producing industries are predicted to experience a net gain of 254 jobs, while Services-Providing industries are estimated to see a net loss of 344 jobs.

The area is expected to lose 155 Self Employed Workers during the 2024-2026 projection cycle. The

not-seasonally-adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was

4.3 percent.

**Manufacturing** is expected to be the top growing supersector, gaining 153 jobs, an increase of 0.82 percent. **Natural Resources and Mining** is projected to be the fastest growing supersector, driving employment up 5.25 percent. *Wood Product Manufacturing* is estimated to be the top growing industry, adding 349 jobs, or 13.01 percent to its workforce. *Crop Production* is projected to increase its workforce by

19.67 percent, becoming the fastest growing industry. On the negative side of the

local economy, *Machinery Manufacturing* is slated to lose its entire workforce during the projection period,

becoming the top and fastest declining industry in the area. Seven supersectors are expected to experience job loss. **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** is anticipated to lose 158 jobs, while **Information** could experience a 9.50 percent reduction.

According to occupational projections, the Southwest Arkansas WDA employers are estimated to have 9,349 job openings annually. Of these, 3,961 annual openings are due to employees leaving the workforce and 5,510 from those changing jobs. However, the overall decline in employment could reduce annual job openings by

122. **Transportation and Material Moving Occupations** is set to be the top growing major group, adding 122 jobs**,** while **Healthcare Support Occupations** is slated to be the fastest growing major group, increasing by 3.73 percent. *Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand* is forecast

to be the top growing occupation, adding 72 jobs to its workforce. *Roustabouts, Oil and Gas* could increase its workforce by 14.49 percent. On the negative side of the local economy, *Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers* is estimated to lose 92 jobs between 2024 and 2026, becoming the top declining occupation.

*Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks* could experience a 32.56 percent reduction in staffing, becoming the fastest declining occupation.

# Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **86,017** | **85,772** | **-245** | **-0.28%** |
| 006010 | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | 6,475 | 6,320 | -155 | -2.39% |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 24,201 | 24,455 | 254 | 1.05% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **2,438** | **2,566** | **128** | **5.25%** |
| 110000 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 1,524 | 1,559 | 35 | 2.30% |
| 210000 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 914 | 1,007 | 93 | 10.18% |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **3,090** | **3,063** | **-27** | **-0.87%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **18,673** | **18,826** | **153** | **0.82%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **10,081** | **9,998** | **-83** | **-0.82%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **8,592** | **8,828** | **236** | **2.75%** |
| **102000** | **Services Providing** | **55,341** | **54,997** | **-344** | **-0.62%** |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **13,844** | **13,686** | **-158** | **-1.14%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 1,900 | 1,959 | 59 | 3.11% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 8,244 | 8,085 | -159 | -1.93% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 3,154 | 3,096 | -58 | -1.84% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 546 | 546 | 0 | 0.00% |
| **102200** | **INFORMATION** | **379** | **343** | **-36** | **-9.50%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **2,327** | **2,177** | **-150** | **-6.45%** |
| **520000** | **Finance and Insurance** | **1,665** | **1,528** | **-137** | **-8.23%** |
| **530000** | **Real Estate and Rental and Leasing** | **662** | **649** | **-13** | **-1.96%** |
| **102400** | **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES** | **4,733** | **4,773** | **40** | **0.85%** |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 2,932 | 2,976 | 44 | 1.50% |
| **102500** | **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES** | **17,425** | **17,416** | **-9** | **-0.05%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 7,622 | 7,464 | -158 | -2.07% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 9,803 | 9,952 | 149 | 1.52% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **5,718** | **5,678** | **-40** | **-0.70%** |
| 710000 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 449 | 450 | 1 | 0.22% |
| 720000 | Accommodation and Food Services | 5,269 | 5,228 | -41 | -0.78% |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **5,122** | **5,072** | **-50** | **-0.98%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **5,793** | **5,852** | **59** | **1.02%** |

# Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 321000 | Wood Product Manufacturing | 2,682 | 3,031 | **349** | 13.01% |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 4,580 | 4,741 | **161** | 3.52% |
| 423000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 1,301 | 1,433 | **132** | 10.15% |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 2,650 | 2,762 | **112** | 4.23% |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 637 | 739 | **102** | 16.01% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 2,133 | 2,233 | **100** | 4.69% |
| 623000 | Nursing and Residential Care Facilities | 2,807 | 2,900 | **93** | 3.31% |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 1,692 | 1,777 | **85** | 5.02% |
| 999300 | Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 3,383 | 3,453 | **70** | 2.07% |
| 455000 | General Merchandise Retailers | 2,777 | 2,832 | **55** | 1.98% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 111000 | Crop Production | 183 | 219 | 36 | **19.67%** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 81 | 95 | 14 | **17.28%** |
| 213000 | Support Activities for Mining | 637 | 739 | 102 | **16.01%** |
| 321000 | Wood Product Manufacturing | 2,682 | 3,031 | 349 | **13.01%** |
| 423000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 1,301 | 1,433 | 132 | **10.15%** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 158 | 174 | 16 | **10.13%** |
| 622200 | Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals | 382 | 412 | 30 | **7.85%** |
| 493000 | Warehousing and Storage | 172 | 185 | 13 | **7.56%** |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 789 | 832 | 43 | **5.45%** |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 1,692 | 1,777 | 85 | **5.02%** |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 277 | 0 | **-277** | -100.00% |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 813 | 658 | **-155** | -19.07% |
| 484000 | Truck Transportation | 1,859 | 1,706 | **-153** | -8.23% |
| 445000 | Food and Beverage Retailers | 1,084 | 988 | **-96** | -8.86% |
| 622100 | General Medical and Surgical Hospitals | 1,461 | 1,373 | **-88** | -6.02% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 333000 | Machinery Manufacturing | 277 | 0 | -277 | **-100.00%** |
| 524100 | Insurance Carriers | 88 | 48 | -40 | **-45.45%** |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 38 | 24 | -14 | **-36.84%** |
| 813200 | Grantmaking and Giving Services | 36 | 25 | -11 | **-30.56%** |
| 458000 | Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers | 180 | 141 | -39 | **-21.67%** |

# Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **86,017** | **85,772** | **-245** | **-0.28%** | **3,961** | **5,510** | **-122** | **9,349** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 8,941 | 8,808 | -133 | -1.49% | 369 | 408 | -66 | 711 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 2,674 | 2,669 | -5 | -0.19% | 78 | 134 | -2 | 210 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 406 | 399 | -7 | -1.72% | 8 | 14 | -4 | 18 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 1,203 | 1,222 | 19 | 1.58% | 29 | 50 | 10 | 89 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 526 | 533 | 7 | 1.33% | 8 | 40 | 4 | 52 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 2,157 | 2,145 | -12 | -0.56% | 86 | 106 | -6 | 186 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 188 | 185 | -3 | -1.60% | 4 | 6 | -2 | 8 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 5,791 | 5,694 | -97 | -1.68% | 222 | 266 | -48 | 440 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 616 | 599 | -17 | -2.76% | 26 | 34 | -8 | 52 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 4,056 | 4,072 | 16 | 0.39% | 122 | 123 | 8 | 253 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 2,952 | 3,062 | 110 | 3.73% | 191 | 233 | 55 | 479 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 1,577 | 1,598 | 21 | 1.33% | 54 | 89 | 10 | 153 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 5,398 | 5,388 | -10 | -0.19% | 454 | 590 | -5 | 1,039 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 2,704 | 2,696 | -8 | -0.30% | 160 | 203 | -4 | 359 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 1,067 | 1,077 | 10 | 0.94% | 73 | 114 | 5 | 192 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 5,938 | 5,764 | -174 | -2.93% | 371 | 468 | -87 | 752 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 8,790 | 8,553 | -237 | -2.70% | 422 | 532 | -118 | 836 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 1,368 | 1,413 | 45 | 3.29% | 84 | 122 | 22 | 228 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 3,931 | 3,999 | 68 | 1.73% | 122 | 215 | 34 | 371 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 4,449 | 4,497 | 48 | 1.08% | 158 | 220 | 24 | 402 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 11,354 | 11,346 | -8 | -0.07% | 452 | 801 | -4 | 1,249 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 9,931 | 10,053 | 122 | 1.23% | 470 | 742 | 61 | 1,273 |

# Southwest Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,213 | 2,285 | **72** | 3.25% | 103 | 188 | 36 | 327 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,087 | 1,153 | **66** | 6.07% | 87 | 76 | 33 | 196 |
| 51-7041 | Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood | 411 | 462 | **51** | 12.41% | 14 | 34 | 26 | 74 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,188 | 1,219 | **31** | 2.61% | 72 | 96 | 16 | 184 |
| 51-7042 | Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing | 249 | 280 | **31** | 12.45% | 8 | 20 | 16 | 44 |
| 51-3022 | Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers | 709 | 735 | **26** | 3.67% | 32 | 54 | 13 | 99 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,467 | 1,492 | **25** | 1.70% | 88 | 148 | 12 | 248 |
| 47-5071 | Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 138 | 158 | **20** | 14.49% | 4 | 11 | 10 | 25 |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil and Gas | 119 | 135 | **16** | 13.45% | 4 | 9 | 8 | 21 |
| 49-3042 | Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines | 160 | 176 | **16** | 10.00% | 5 | 8 | 8 | 21 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 47-5071 | Roustabouts, Oil and Gas | 138 | 158 | 20 | **14.49%** | 4 | 11 | 10 | 25 |
| 47-5013 | Service Unit Operators, Oil and Gas | 119 | 135 | 16 | **13.45%** | 4 | 9 | 8 | 21 |
| 51-7042 | Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing | 249 | 280 | 31 | **12.45%** | 8 | 20 | 16 | 44 |
| 51-7041 | Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood | 411 | 462 | 51 | **12.41%** | 14 | 34 | 26 | 74 |
| 49-3041 | Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians | 34 | 38 | 4 | **11.76%** | 1 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| 49-3042 | Mobile Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Except Engines | 160 | 176 | 16 | **10.00%** | 5 | 8 | 8 | 21 |
| 45-4023 | Log Graders and Scalers | 37 | 40 | 3 | **8.11%** | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 160 | 171 | 11 | **6.88%** | 4 | 4 | 6 | 14 |
| 53-7073 | Wellhead Pumpers | 78 | 83 | 5 | **6.41%** | 2 | 6 | 2 | 10 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,087 | 1,153 | 66 | **6.07%** | 87 | 76 | 33 | 196 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,464 | 3,372 | -92 | -2.66% | 234 | 128 | -46 | 316 |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 2,173 | 2,174 | 1 | 0.05% | 230 | 275 | 0 | 505 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,303 | 2,221 | -82 | -3.56% | 206 | 224 | -41 | 389 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,213 | 2,285 | 72 | 3.25% | 103 | 188 | 36 | 327 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,389 | 2,319 | -70 | -2.93% | 96 | 143 | -35 | 204 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,679 | 1,621 | -58 | -3.45% | 89 | 103 | -29 | 163 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,467 | 1,492 | 25 | 1.70% | 88 | 148 | 12 | 248 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,087 | 1,153 | 66 | 6.07% | 87 | 76 | 33 | 196 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 1,250 | 1,253 | 3 | 0.24% | 82 | 92 | 2 | 176 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,295 | 1,261 | -34 | -2.63% | 80 | 104 | -17 | 167 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 2,173 | 2,174 | 1 | 0.05% | 230 | 275 | 0 | 505 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,303 | 2,221 | -82 | -3.56% | 206 | 224 | -41 | 389 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,213 | 2,285 | 72 | 3.25% | 103 | 188 | 36 | 327 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,467 | 1,492 | 25 | 1.70% | 88 | 148 | 12 | 248 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,389 | 2,319 | -70 | -2.93% | 96 | 143 | -35 | 204 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,464 | 3,372 | -92 | -2.66% | 234 | 128 | -46 | 316 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 1,820 | 1,800 | -20 | -1.10% | 40 | 104 | -10 | 134 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,295 | 1,261 | -34 | -2.63% | 80 | 104 | -17 | 167 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,679 | 1,621 | -58 | -3.45% | 89 | 103 | -29 | 163 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,188 | 1,219 | 31 | 2.61% | 72 | 96 | 16 | 184 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 2,173 | 2,174 | 1 | 0.05% | 230 | 275 | 0 | 505 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,303 | 2,221 | -82 | -3.56% | 206 | 224 | -41 | 389 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 2,213 | 2,285 | 72 | 3.25% | 103 | 188 | 36 | 327 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,464 | 3,372 | -92 | -2.66% | 234 | 128 | -46 | 316 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,467 | 1,492 | 25 | 1.70% | 88 | 148 | 12 | 248 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,389 | 2,319 | -70 | -2.93% | 96 | 143 | -35 | 204 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,087 | 1,153 | 66 | 6.07% | 87 | 76 | 33 | 196 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,188 | 1,219 | 31 | 2.61% | 72 | 96 | 16 | 184 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 1,250 | 1,253 | 3 | 0.24% | 82 | 92 | 2 | 176 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,295 | 1,261 | -34 | -2.63% | 80 | 104 | -17 | 167 |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 3,464 | 3,372 | **-92** | -2.66% | 234 | 128 | -46 | 316 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 2,303 | 2,221 | **-82** | -3.56% | 206 | 224 | -41 | 389 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 2,389 | 2,319 | **-70** | -2.93% | 96 | 143 | -35 | 204 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,679 | 1,621 | **-58** | -3.45% | 89 | 103 | -29 | 163 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,295 | 1,261 | **-34** | -2.63% | 80 | 104 | -17 | 167 |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 43-9041 | Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks | 43 | 29 | -14 | **-32.56%** | 4 | 4 | -7 | 1 |
| 25-1011 | Business Teachers, Postsecondary | 47 | 35 | -12 | **-25.53%** | 3 | 3 | -6 | 0 |
| 51-9161 | Computer Numerically Controlled Tool Operators | 59 | 46 | -13 | **-22.03%** | 3 | 4 | -6 | 1 |
| 41-3021 | Insurance Sales Agents | 150 | 117 | -33 | **-22.00%** | 8 | 8 | -16 | 0 |
| 25-1121 | Art, Drama, and Music Teachers, Postsecondary | 26 | 21 | -5 | **-19.23%** | 1 | 2 | -2 | 1 |

**Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area**

The Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area (WDA) consists of 10 counties:



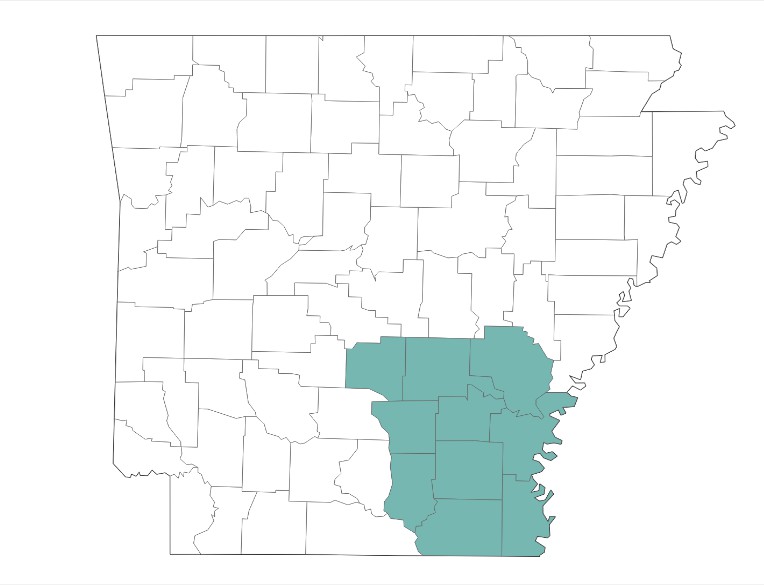
**Southeast Arkansas Profile**

**Projected Employment Growth (2024-2026): -2.04%**

**Unemployment Rate (Not-seasonally-adjusted Avg.) (2024Q1): 4.7%**

Arkansas, Ashley, Bradley,

Chicot, Cleveland, Desha, Drew, Grant, Jefferson, and Lincoln. Two states border the Southeast Arkansas WDA, Louisiana to the south and Mississippi to the east.



The Southeast Arkansas WDA lost 1,132 jobs over the last year, a 1.70 percent decline. According to industry projections, the Southeast Arkansas WDA is expected to continue to struggle, losing the most jobs of any workforce area, cutting 1,532 jobs between 2024 and 2026, a 2.04 percent decline. Goods- Producing industries are projected to experience a net loss of 411 jobs, while the Services-Providing

industries are predicted to experience a net loss of 870 jobs. The area could experience a decline of 251 Self Employed Workers. The not-seasonally-adjusted average unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 was 4.7 percent, tied for the highest in the state.

**Construction** is predicted to be the top and fastest growing supersector, with a gain of 88 employees between 2024 and 2026, an increase of 4.06 percent. *Food Manufacturing* is projected to be the top growing industry, increasing employment by 242 jobs, or 6.46 percent. *Private Households* is expected to be the fastest growing industry, increasing staffing by 29.28 percent between first quarter 2024 and first quarter 2026. On the other side of the labor market, *Paper Manufacturing* is set to lose 282 jobs, becoming the top declining industry, while *Wholesale Electronic*

*Markets and Agents and Brokers* is slated to cut 58 percent of its workforce, becoming the fastest declining industry in Southeast

Arkansas. In all, eight supersectors are forecast to experience job loss, where **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** could see the toughest outlook, cutting 394 jobs, or 3.36 percent of its workforce. The **Information** supersector could cut 8.56 percent of its workforce.

Southeast Arkansas WDA employers are expected to have 7,410 job openings annually during the 2024-2026 projection period. Of these, 3,422 would be from employees leaving the workforce, while 4,754 could be created from those changing jobs. Growth and expansion could be reduced by 766 job openings each year.

**Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations** is projected to be the top and fastest growing major group, gaining 18 new jobs, an increase of 0.46 percent, one of only two major groups to experience job growth.

*Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners* is predicted to be the top growing occupation, increasing its workforce by 20 jobs. *Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors* could see an increase of 13.68 percent, becoming the fastest growing occupation. On the negative side of the local economy, *Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers* is forecast to experience a decline of 142 jobs, equivalent to 4.84 percent of its workforce to become the top declining occupation. *Fundraising Managers* is slated to lose 30.43 percent of its already small local workforce, becoming the fastest declining occupation. Overall, 20 of the 22 major groups are set to experience a net loss of jobs between 2024 and 2026.

# Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Industry Projections by Major Division

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| **000000** | **TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES** | **75,080** | **73,548** | **-1,532** | **-2.04%** |
| 006010 | Self Employed Workers, All Jobs | 5,574 | 5,323 | -251 | -4.50% |
| 101000 | Goods Producing | 18,929 | 18,518 | -411 | -2.17% |
| **101100** | **NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINING** | **2,911** | **2,767** | **-144** | **-4.95%** |
| 110000 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 2,865 | 2,722 | -143 | -4.99% |
| 210000 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 46 | 45 | -1 | -2.17% |
| **101200** | **CONSTRUCTION** | **2,169** | **2,257** | **88** | **4.06%** |
| **101300** | **MANUFACTURING** | **13,849** | **13,494** | **-355** | **-2.56%** |
|  | **Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **7,385** | **7,249** | **-136** | **-1.84%** |
|  | **Durable Goods Manufacturing** | **6,464** | **6,245** | **-219** | **-3.39%** |
| 102000 | Services Providing | 50,577 | 49,707 | -870 | -1.72% |
| **102100** | **TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES** | **11,736** | **11,342** | **-394** | **-3.36%** |
| 420000 | Wholesale Trade | 1,789 | 1,764 | -25 | -1.40% |
| 440000 | Retail Trade | 7,167 | 7,003 | -164 | -2.29% |
| 480000 | Transportation and Warehousing | 2,233 | 2,015 | -218 | -9.76% |
| 220000 | Utilities | 547 | 560 | 13 | 2.38% |
| **102200** | **INFORMATION** | **222** | **203** | **-19** | **-8.56%** |
| **102300** | **FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES** | **2,231** | **2,185** | **-46** | **-2.06%** |
| 520000 | Finance and Insurance | 1,747 | 1,732 | -15 | -0.86% |
| 530000 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 484 | 453 | -31 | -6.40% |
| **102400** | **PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES** | **3,113** | **2,984** | **-129** | **-4.14%** |
| 540000 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 973 | 946 | -27 | -2.77% |
| 550000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 333 | 348 | 15 | 4.50% |
| 560000 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 1,807 | 1,690 | -117 | -6.47% |
| **102500** | **EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES** | **16,732** | **16,485** | **-247** | **-1.48%** |
| 610000 | Educational Services | 7,016 | 6,905 | -111 | -1.58% |
| 620000 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 9,716 | 9,580 | -136 | -1.40% |
| **102600** | **LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY** | **5,313** | **5,348** | **35** | **0.66%** |
| 710000 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 1,038 | 1,069 | 31 | 2.99% |
| 720000 | Accommodation and Food Services | 4,275 | 4,279 | 4 | 0.09% |
| **102700** | **OTHER SERVICES (EXCEPT GOVERNMENT)** | **2,906** | **2,915** | **9** | **0.31%** |
| **102800** | **GOVERNMENT** | **8,324** | **8,245** | **-79** | **-0.95%** |

# Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Industry Rankings (by NAICS Subsector)

**Top 10 Growing Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 3,749 | 3,991 | **242** | 6.46% |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 2,696 | 2,849 | **153** | 5.68% |
| 237000 | Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 754 | 849 | **95** | 12.60% |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 1,487 | 1,559 | **72** | 4.84% |
| 999300 | Local Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 2,907 | 2,972 | **65** | 2.24% |
| 814000 | Private Households | 181 | 234 | **53** | 29.28% |
| 423000 | Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods | 841 | 876 | **35** | 4.16% |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 90 | 115 | **25** | 27.78% |
| 455000 | General Merchandise Retailers | 2,176 | 2,199 | **23** | 1.06% |
| 813100 | Religious Organizations | 1,689 | 1,709 | **20** | 1.18% |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Industries (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 814000 | Private Households | 181 | 234 | 53 | **29.28%** |
| 562000 | Waste Management and Remediation Services | 90 | 115 | 25 | **27.78%** |
| 813400 | Civic and Social Organizations | 57 | 67 | 10 | **17.54%** |
| 237000 | Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction | 754 | 849 | 95 | **12.60%** |
| 611500 | Technical and Trade Schools | 86 | 94 | 8 | **9.30%** |
| 311000 | Food Manufacturing | 3,749 | 3,991 | 242 | **6.46%** |
| 621000 | Ambulatory Health Care Services | 2,696 | 2,849 | 153 | **5.68%** |
| 113132 | Forestry | 39 | 41 | 2 | **5.13%** |
| 332000 | Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing | 1,487 | 1,559 | 72 | **4.84%** |
| 551000 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 333 | 348 | **15** | 4.50% |

**Top 5 Declining Industries (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 322000 | Paper Manufacturing | 2,309 | 2,027 | **-282** | -12.21% |
| 624000 | Social Assistance | 2,352 | 2,194 | **-158** | -6.72% |
| 561000 | Administrative and Support Services | 1,717 | 1,575 | **-142** | -8.27% |
| 999200 | State Government, Excluding Education and Hospitals | 3,766 | 3,645 | **-121** | -3.21% |
| 336000 | Transportation Equipment Manufacturing | 505 | 416 | **-89** | -17.62% |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Industries (Ranked by Percent Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **NAICS**  **Code** | **NAICS Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** |
| 425000 | Wholesale Electronic Markets and Agents and Brokers | 50 | 21 | -29 | **-58.00%** |
| 524100 | Insurance Carriers | 54 | 31 | -23 | **-42.59%** |
| 325000 | Chemical Manufacturing | 271 | 205 | -66 | **-24.35%** |
| 458000 | Clothing, Clothing Accessories, Shoe, and Jewelry Retailers | 211 | 161 | -50 | **-23.70%** |
| 516000 | Broadcasting and Content Providers | 26 | 21 | -5 | **-19.23%** |

# Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area

2024-2026 Occupational Projections by Major Group

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| **00-0000** | **Total, All Occupations** | **75,080** | **73,548** | **-1,532** | **-2.04%** | **3,422** | **4,754** | **-766** | **7,410** |
| 11-0000 | Management Occupations | 7,595 | 7,393 | -202 | -2.66% | 314 | 346 | -101 | 559 |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations Occupations | 2,581 | 2,533 | -48 | -1.86% | 75 | 128 | -24 | 179 |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical Occupations | 480 | 476 | -4 | -0.83% | 10 | 18 | -2 | 26 |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering Occupations | 525 | 518 | -7 | -1.33% | 12 | 21 | -4 | 29 |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations | 647 | 636 | -11 | -1.70% | 8 | 48 | -6 | 50 |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service Occupations | 1,637 | 1,622 | -15 | -0.92% | 61 | 80 | -8 | 133 |
| 23-0000 | Legal Occupations | 184 | 177 | -7 | -3.80% | 4 | 6 | -4 | 6 |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library Occupations | 5,266 | 5,172 | -94 | -1.79% | 200 | 236 | -47 | 389 |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations | 434 | 420 | -14 | -3.23% | 16 | 26 | -7 | 35 |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations | 3,939 | 3,957 | 18 | 0.46% | 116 | 112 | 9 | 237 |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support Occupations | 3,023 | 2,972 | -51 | -1.69% | 194 | 232 | -26 | 400 |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service Occupations | 2,897 | 2,841 | -56 | -1.93% | 101 | 164 | -28 | 237 |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations | 4,629 | 4,612 | -17 | -0.37% | 384 | 504 | -8 | 880 |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations | 1,944 | 1,922 | -22 | -1.13% | 114 | 146 | -11 | 249 |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service Occupations | 1,267 | 1,247 | -20 | -1.58% | 79 | 133 | -10 | 202 |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related Occupations | 5,455 | 5,258 | -197 | -3.61% | 322 | 414 | -98 | 638 |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support Occupations | 7,844 | 7,661 | -183 | -2.33% | 376 | 478 | -92 | 762 |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations | 2,171 | 2,065 | -106 | -4.88% | 128 | 187 | -53 | 262 |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction Occupations | 2,592 | 2,600 | 8 | 0.31% | 80 | 138 | 4 | 222 |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations | 3,714 | 3,684 | -30 | -0.81% | 130 | 185 | -15 | 300 |
| 51-0000 | Production Occupations | 9,042 | 8,752 | -290 | -3.21% | 351 | 618 | -145 | 824 |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving Occupations | 7,214 | 7,030 | -184 | -2.55% | 348 | 536 | -92 | 792 |

# Southeast Arkansas Workforce Development Area

Occupational Rankings

**Top 10 Growing Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 37-2012 | Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 435 | 455 | **20** | 4.60% | 32 | 32 | 10 | 74 |
| 47-2073 | Operating Engineers and Other Construction Equipment Operators | 405 | 419 | **14** | 3.46% | 12 | 22 | 7 | 41 |
| 11-9111 | Medical and Health Services Managers | 359 | 372 | **13** | 3.62% | 9 | 16 | 6 | 31 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 121 | 134 | **13** | 10.74% | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| 53-7081 | Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors | 95 | 108 | **13** | 13.68% | 4 | 8 | 6 | 18 |
| 47-2061 | Construction Laborers | 501 | 512 | **11** | 2.20% | 16 | 26 | 6 | 48 |
| 51-9012 | Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 210 | 221 | **11** | 5.24% | 6 | 15 | 6 | 27 |
| 13-2052 | Personal Financial Advisors | 84 | 94 | **10** | 11.90% | 2 | 4 | 5 | 11 |
| 31-9092 | Medical Assistants | 187 | 197 | **10** | 5.35% | 8 | 16 | 5 | 29 |
| 51-9021 | Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 166 | 175 | **9** | 5.42% | 5 | 12 | 4 | 21 |

**Top 10 Fastest Growing Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Employment of 25)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 53-7081 | Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors | 95 | 108 | 13 | **13.68%** | 4 | 8 | 6 | 18 |
| 41-3031 | Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents | 65 | 73 | 8 | **12.31%** | 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 13-2052 | Personal Financial Advisors | 84 | 94 | 10 | **11.90%** | 2 | 4 | 5 | 11 |
| 29-1171 | Nurse Practitioners | 121 | 134 | 13 | **10.74%** | 2 | 3 | 6 | 11 |
| 49-9012 | Control and Valve Installers and Repairers, Except Mechanical Door | 73 | 78 | 5 | **6.85%** | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 |
| 43-6011 | Executive Secretaries and Executive Administrative Assistants | 67 | 71 | 4 | **5.97%** | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 31-9091 | Dental Assistants | 105 | 111 | 6 | **5.71%** | 5 | 9 | 3 | 17 |
| 51-3092 | Food Batchmakers | 35 | 37 | 2 | **5.71%** | 2 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 29-2042 | Emergency Medical Technicians | 54 | 57 | 3 | **5.56%** | 2 | 3 | 2 | 7 |
| 51-9021 | Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 166 | 175 | 9 | **5.42%** | 5 | 12 | 4 | 21 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Exits**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 2,931 | 2,789 | -142 | -4.84% | **196** | 107 | -71 | 232 |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 1,853 | 1,855 | 2 | 0.11% | **196** | 234 | 1 | 431 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 1,845 | 1,775 | -70 | -3.79% | **164** | 179 | -35 | 308 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,317 | 1,278 | -39 | -2.96% | **101** | 88 | -20 | 169 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,306 | 1,307 | 1 | 0.08% | **78** | 130 | 0 | 208 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,184 | 1,137 | -47 | -3.97% | **74** | 95 | -24 | 145 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,381 | 1,339 | -42 | -3.04% | **74** | 85 | -21 | 138 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 1,491 | 1,482 | -9 | -0.60% | **68** | 124 | -4 | 188 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,085 | 1,056 | -29 | -2.67% | **64** | 86 | -14 | 136 |
| 37-2011 | Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners | 836 | 817 | -19 | -2.27% | **54** | 61 | -10 | 105 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Annual Transfers**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total**  **Annual Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 1,853 | 1,855 | 2 | 0.11 | 196 | **234** | 1 | 431 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 1,845 | 1,775 | -70 | -3.79 | 164 | **179** | -35 | 308 |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,306 | 1,307 | 1 | 0.08 | 78 | **130** | 0 | 208 |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 1,491 | 1,482 | -9 | -0.6 | 68 | **124** | -4 | 188 |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 2,931 | 2,789 | -142 | -4.84 | 196 | **107** | -71 | 232 |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,184 | 1,137 | -47 | -3.97 | 74 | **95** | -24 | 145 |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,317 | 1,278 | -39 | -2.96 | 101 | **88** | -20 | 169 |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,085 | 1,056 | -29 | -2.67 | 64 | **86** | -14 | 136 |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,381 | 1,339 | -42 | -3.04 | 74 | **85** | -21 | 138 |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 1,470 | 1,450 | -20 | -1.36 | 32 | **84** | -10 | 106 |

**Top 10 Occupations by Total Annual Openings**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual**  **Openings** |
| 35-3023 | Fast Food and Counter Workers | 1,853 | 1,855 | 2 | 0.11 | 196 | 234 | 1 | **431** |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 1,845 | 1,775 | -70 | -3.79 | 164 | 179 | -35 | **308** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 2,931 | 2,789 | -142 | -4.84 | 196 | 107 | -71 | **232** |
| 53-7065 | Stockers and Order Fillers | 1,306 | 1,307 | 1 | 0.08 | 78 | 130 | 0 | **208** |
| 53-7062 | Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand | 1,491 | 1,482 | -9 | -0.6 | 68 | 124 | -4 | **188** |
| 31-1120 | Home Health and Personal Care Aides | 1,317 | 1,278 | -39 | -2.96 | 101 | 88 | -20 | **169** |
| 41-2031 | Retail Salespersons | 1,184 | 1,137 | -47 | -3.97 | 74 | 95 | -24 | **145** |
| 43-9061 | Office Clerks, General | 1,381 | 1,339 | -42 | -3.04 | 74 | 85 | -21 | **138** |
| 31-1131 | Nursing Assistants | 1,085 | 1,056 | -29 | -2.67 | 64 | 86 | -14 | **136** |
| 11-1021 | General and Operations Managers | 1,470 | 1,450 | -20 | -1.36 | 32 | 84 | -10 | **106** |

**Top 5 Declining Occupations (Ranked by Numeric Change)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 11-9013 | Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers | 2,931 | 2,789 | **-142** | -4.84% | 196 | 107 | -71 | 232 |
| 41-2011 | Cashiers | 1,845 | 1,775 | **-70** | -3.79% | 164 | 179 | -35 | 308 |
| 51-9196 | Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders | 489 | 430 | **-59** | -12.07% | 14 | 32 | -30 | 16 |
| 33-3012 | Correctional Officers and Jailers | 1,499 | 1,440 | **-59** | -3.94% | 48 | 82 | -30 | 100 |
| 53-3032 | Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers | 1,305 | 1,247 | **-58** | -4.44% | 52 | 78 | -29 | 101 |

**Top 5 Fastest Declining Occupations (Ranked by Percent Change) (Minimum Decline of 5)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SOC**  **Code** | **SOC Title** | **2024**  **Estimated Employment** | **2026**  **Projected Employment** | **Numeric Change** | **Percent Change** | **Annual Exits** | **Annual Transfers** | **Annual Change** | **Total Annual Openings** |
| 11-2033 | Fundraising Managers | 23 | 16 | -7 | **-30.43%** | 2 | 2 | -4 | 0 |
| 43-9041 | Insurance Claims and Policy Processing Clerks | 26 | 20 | -6 | **-23.08%** | 2 | 2 | -3 | 1 |
| 51-9011 | Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders | 136 | 109 | -27 | **-19.85%** | 6 | 7 | -14 | 0 |
| 39-4031 | Morticians, Undertakers, and Funeral Arrangers | 34 | 28 | -6 | **-17.65%** | 1 | 2 | -3 | 0 |
| 45-2093 | Farmworkers, Farm, Ranch, and Aquacultural Animals | 208 | 182 | -26 | **-12.50%** | 12 | 18 | -13 | 17 |

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