



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas' unemployment rate increases to 3.4% in December

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Jan. 28, 2025) Today, the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, Workforce Policy and Innovation, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.3% in November to 3.4% in December. At 4.1%, the United States' jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point in December.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- Arkansas' civilian labor force rose by 2,544 in December, with 1,487 additional employed and 1,057 more unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work. This movement was enough to push up the unemployment rate to 3.4%. Both the civilian labor force and employment continue to be at record highs.
- Compared to December 2023, there are 34,626 more employed in the State. The unemployment rate is down three-tenths of a percentage point, while labor force participation is up seven-tenths of a percentage point over-the-year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- In December, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 1,100. Trade-Transportation-Utilities added 2,800 jobs, related to seasonal hiring for the holidays. Jobs in Professional and Business Services increased by 1,300. Four industry sectors reported typical seasonal losses.
- Compared to December 2023, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 23,200. Nine major industry sectors reported annual growth. The largest gains were in Private Education and Health Services (+11,000), Professional and Business Services (+4,800), Manufacturing (+3,600), and Leisure and Hospitality (+2,200).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	Change from November 2024	Change from December 2023
Civilian Labor Force	1,416,352	1,413,808	1,384,754	2,544	31,598
Employment	1,368,644	1,367,157	1,334,018	1,487	34,626
Unemployment	47,708	46,651	50,736	1,057	-3,028
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.3%	3.7%	0.1%	-0.3%
Labor Force Participation Rate	58.2%	58.2%	57.5%	0.0%	0.7%

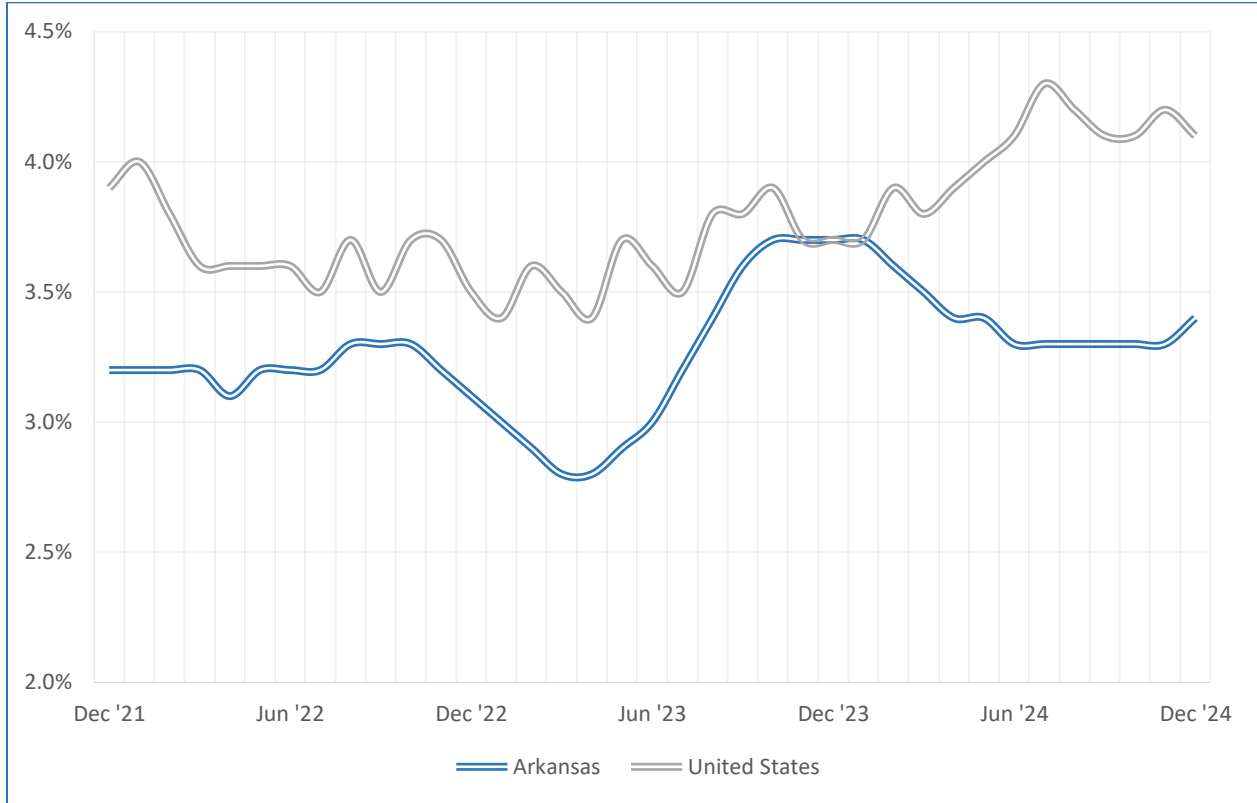
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. More information about the data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm>

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

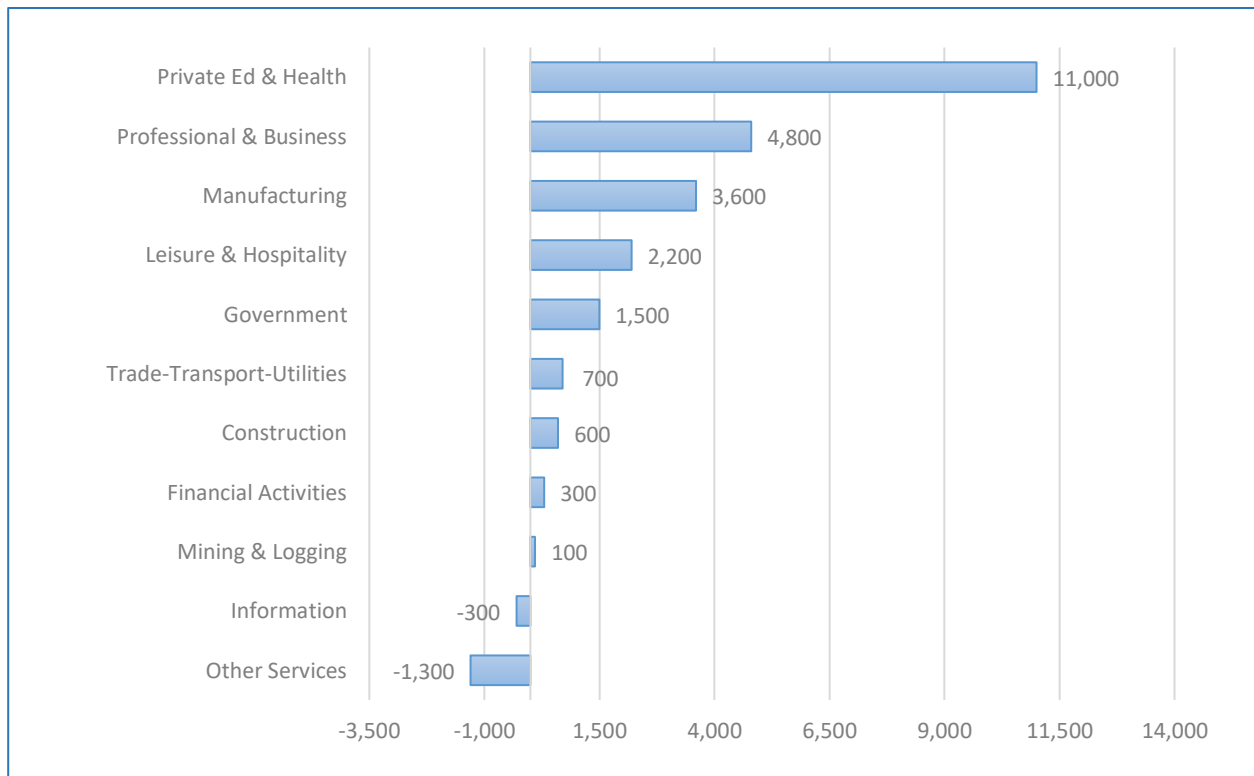
Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	Change from November 2024	Change from December 2023
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1386.7	1385.6	1363.5	1.1	23.2
Goods Producing	236.0	236.2	231.7	-0.2	4.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	71.8	72.2	71.1	-0.4	0.7
Mining & Logging	5.3	5.3	5.2	0.0	0.1
Construction	66.5	66.9	65.9	-0.4	0.6
Specialty Trade Contractors	42.8	42.7	41.8	0.1	1.0
Manufacturing	164.2	164.0	160.6	0.2	3.6
Durable Goods	78.6	78.6	77.2	0.0	1.4
Nondurable Goods	85.6	85.4	83.4	0.2	2.2
Service Providing	1150.7	1149.4	1131.8	1.3	18.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	273.9	271.1	273.2	2.8	0.7
Wholesale Trade	52.4	51.8	52.3	0.6	0.1
Retail Trade	147.2	146.5	147.2	0.7	0.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	74.3	72.8	73.7	1.5	0.6
Information	12.5	12.3	12.8	0.2	-0.3
Financial Activities	71.6	71.4	71.3	0.2	0.3
Finance & Insurance	56.3	56.1	55.9	0.2	0.4
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.3	15.3	15.4	0.0	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	161.0	159.7	156.2	1.3	4.8
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	50.1	49.8	50.6	0.3	-0.5
Management of Companies	38.5	37.8	37.7	0.7	0.8
Administrative & Support Services	72.4	72.1	67.9	0.3	4.5
Private Education & Health Services	223.5	224.5	212.5	-1.0	11.0
Educational Services	19.5	20.3	19.4	-0.8	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	204.0	204.2	193.1	-0.2	10.9
Ambulatory Health Care	71.9	72.2	67.1	-0.3	4.8
Social Assistance	42.2	42.7	39.1	-0.5	3.1
Leisure & Hospitality	124.6	126.3	122.4	-1.7	2.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	13.1	13.1	12.4	0.0	0.7
Accommodation & Food Services	111.5	113.2	110.0	-1.7	1.5
Accommodation Services	11.0	11.2	10.9	-0.2	0.1
Food Services	100.5	102.0	99.1	-1.5	1.4
Other Services	66.6	66.4	67.9	0.2	-1.3
Government	217.0	217.7	215.5	-0.7	1.5
Federal Government	22.0	21.8	22.0	0.2	0.0
State Government	77.6	78.1	77.6	-0.5	0.0
State Government, Educational Services	31.6	32.1	31.5	-0.5	0.1
State Government, Excluding Education	46.0	46.0	46.1	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	117.4	117.8	115.9	-0.4	1.5
Local Government, Educational Services	72.5	72.6	71.4	-0.1	1.1
Local Government, Excluding Education	44.9	45.2	44.5	-0.3	0.4

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2023 benchmark. Notes: Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

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



Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors December 2023 to December 2024 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at www.discover.arkansas.gov

2025 Arkansas Publication Schedule

Reference Month	State Press Release	MSA's & Counties*
January	03/17/25	03/21/25
February	03/28/25	04/09/25
March	04/18/25	04/29/25
April	05/21/25	05/28/25
May	06/24/25	07/02/25
June	07/18/25	07/30/25
July	08/19/25	08/27/25
August	09/19/25	10/01/25
September	10/21/25	10/29/25
October	11/21/25	12/03/25
November	12/19/25	12/31/25
December	01/27/26	02/04/26

*Date when Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and county labor force statistics will be available on the Discover Arkansas website.



About the Arkansas Department of Commerce

The Arkansas Department of Commerce is the umbrella department for workforce and economic development drivers. Its divisions and regulatory boards include the Division of Aeronautics, Waterways Commission, Wine Producers Council, Workforce Services, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, Economic Development Commission, and Development Finance Authority.



About the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

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

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About Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making.

About Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

The LAUS program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, States, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence.

About Current Employment Statistics (CES)

The CES program produces detailed industry estimates of employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. CES State and Metro Area produces data for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.