



PRESS RELEASE

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Arkansas' unemployment rate is unchanged at 3.7% in May

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

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

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

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

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

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

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

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

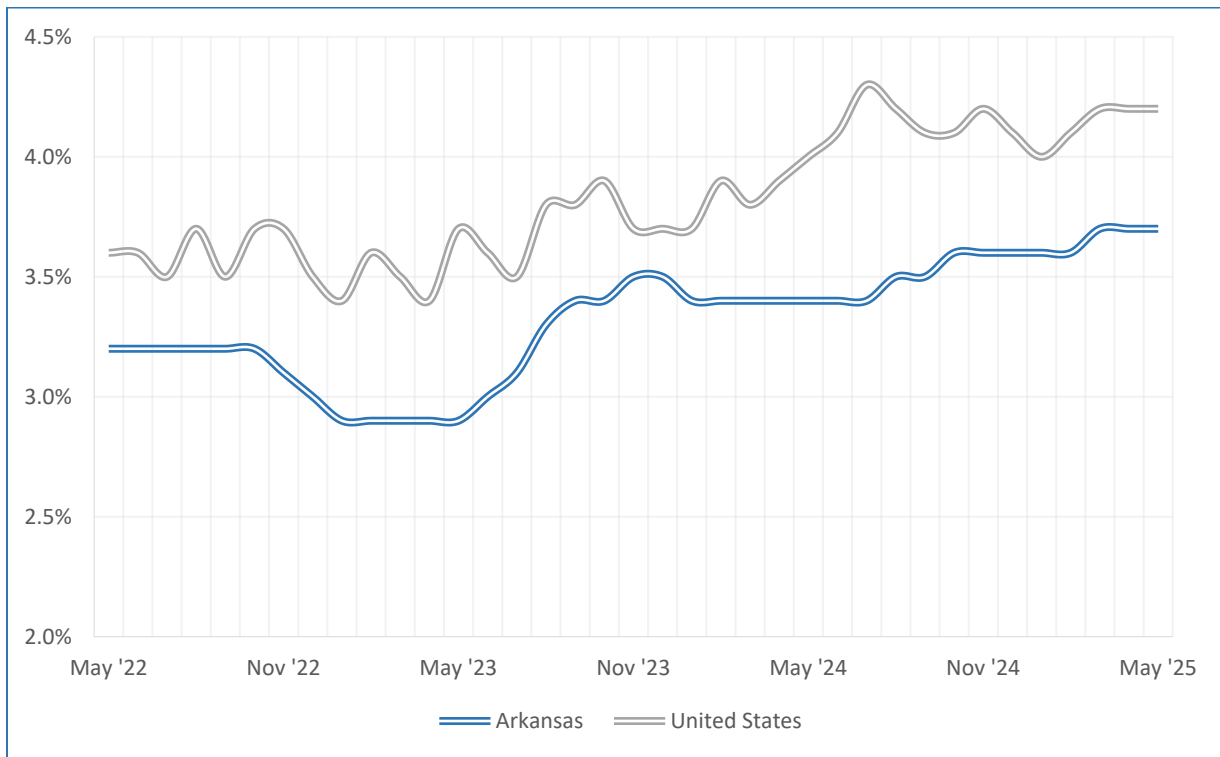
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

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

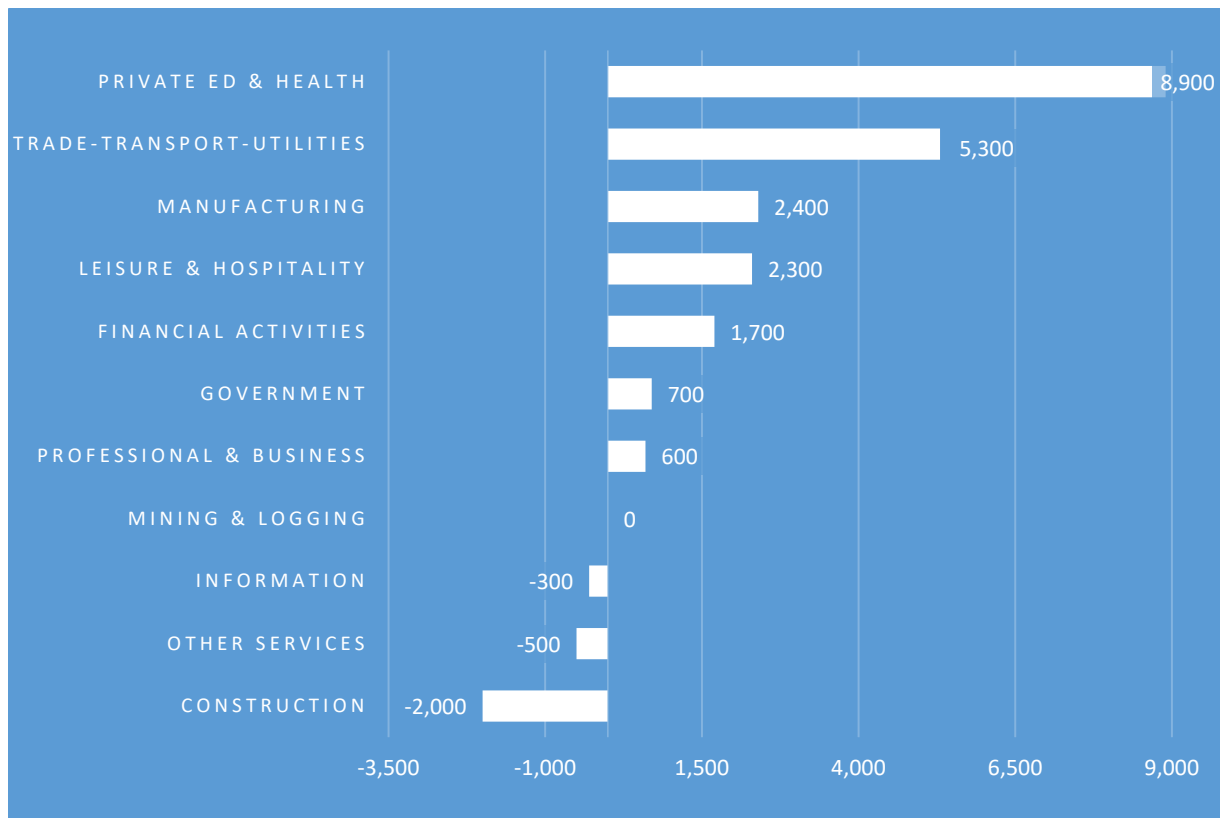
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2024 benchmark.

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

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



Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors May 2024 to May 2025 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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



About the Arkansas Department of Commerce

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



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

About Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

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

About Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

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

About Current Employment Statistics (CES)

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