



United States Congress

Joint Economic Committee

EST. 1946

Republicans

Representative David Schweikert, *Chairman*



Arkansas Employment Update



August 2025 | Released September 19, 2025

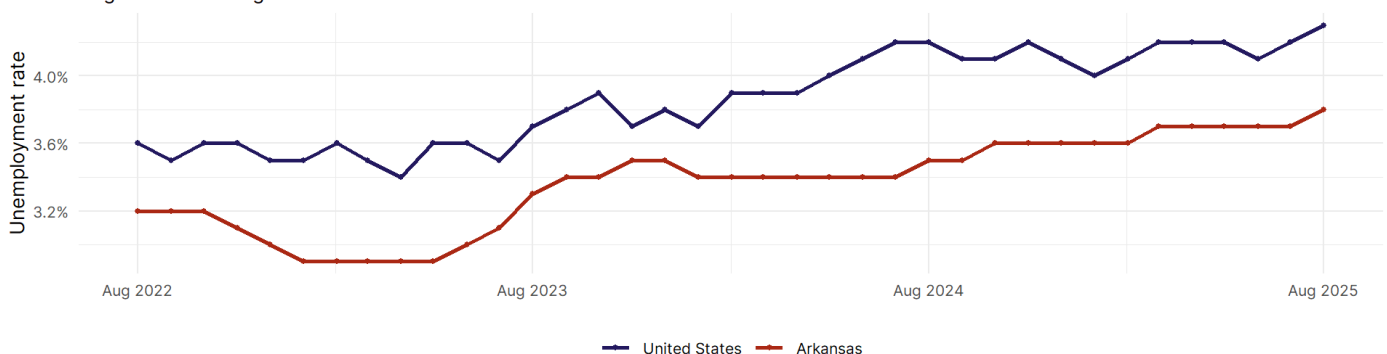
United States Employment Snapshot

- In August, among the 50 states and the District of Columbia **unemployment fell in 13, rose in 12, and remained unchanged in 26.**
- The highest unemployment rate was 6 percent in **District of Columbia**, and the lowest was 1.9 percent in **South Dakota**. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 4.3 percent.
- In August, **payroll jobs rose in 32 states and fell in 18.** The largest payroll job percent increase was 0.5 percent in **Utah**. The largest payroll job percent decline was 0.7 percent in **District of Columbia**.

Arkansas Employment Snapshot

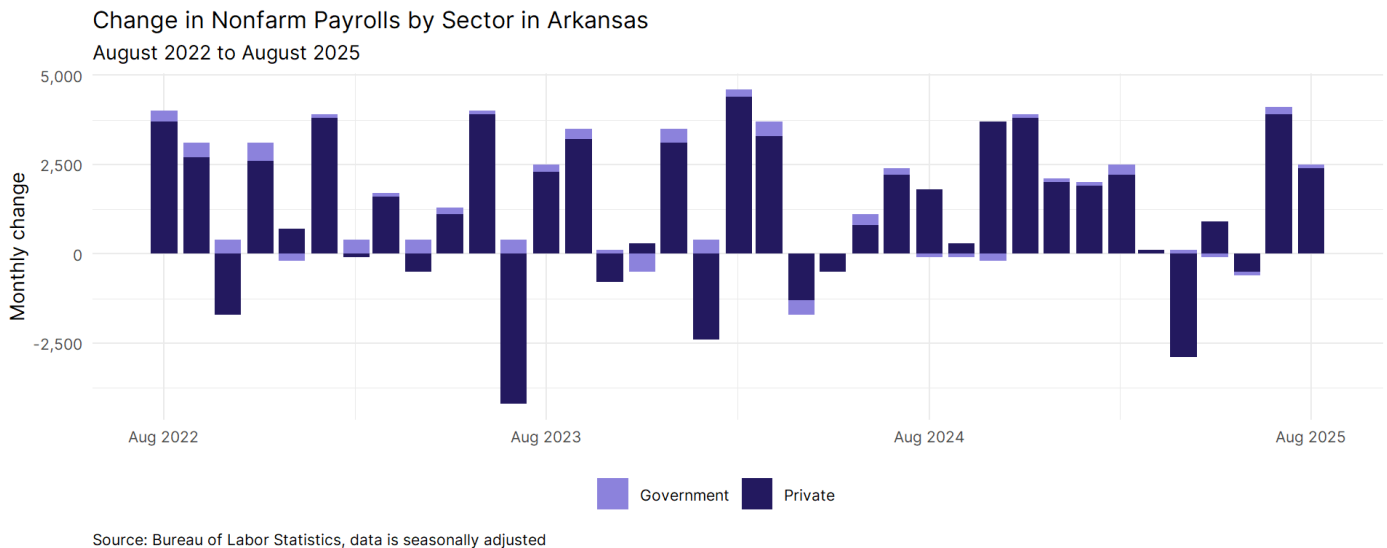
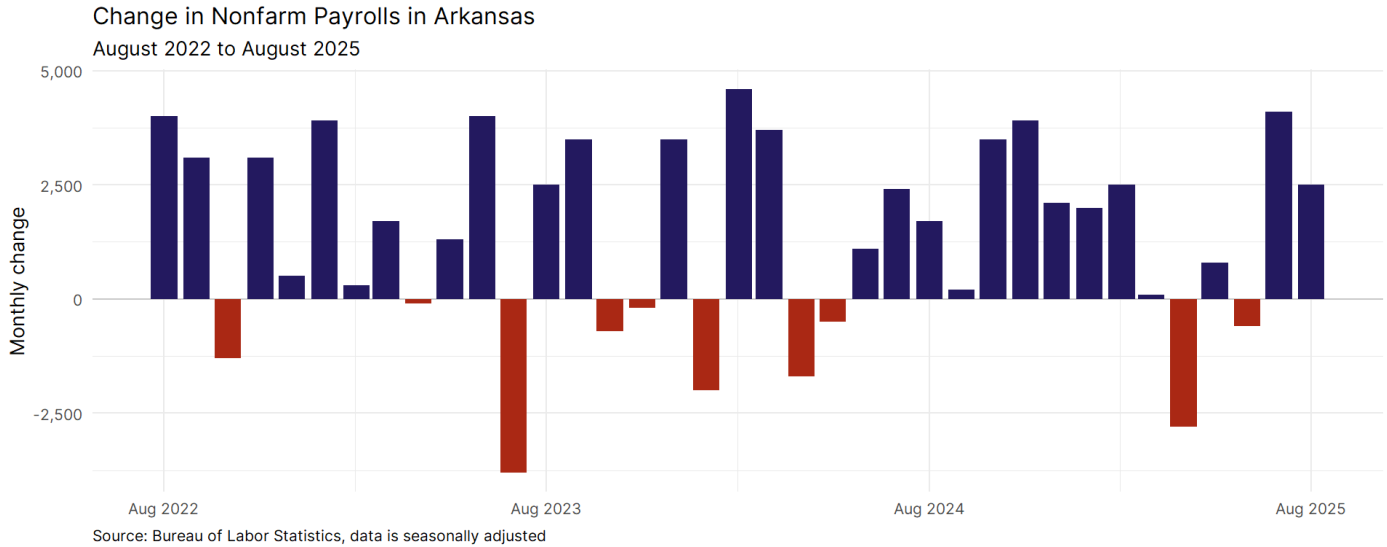
- In August, **Arkansas added 2,500 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 3.8 percent.** In the prior month, Arkansas added 4,100 net payroll jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, **Arkansas added 18,300 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate rose by 0.3 percentage points from 3.5 percent.**
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent.** Arkansas **is tied for 13th** in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- In August, **Arkansas's private sector added 2,400 net private payroll jobs**, and over the past 12 months it added 17,800 private payroll jobs. In the prior month, Arkansas added 3,900 net private payroll jobs.
- In August, employment in Arkansas **rose by 1,683**, and over the past 12 months it rose by 8,665.
- **Arkansas's labor force participation rate remained steady at 58.4 percent** in August and **ranks 43rd** in the nation. In the past 12 months, the labor force participation rate has risen by 0.1 percentage points.

Unemployment Rate in Arkansas
August 2022 to August 2025



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

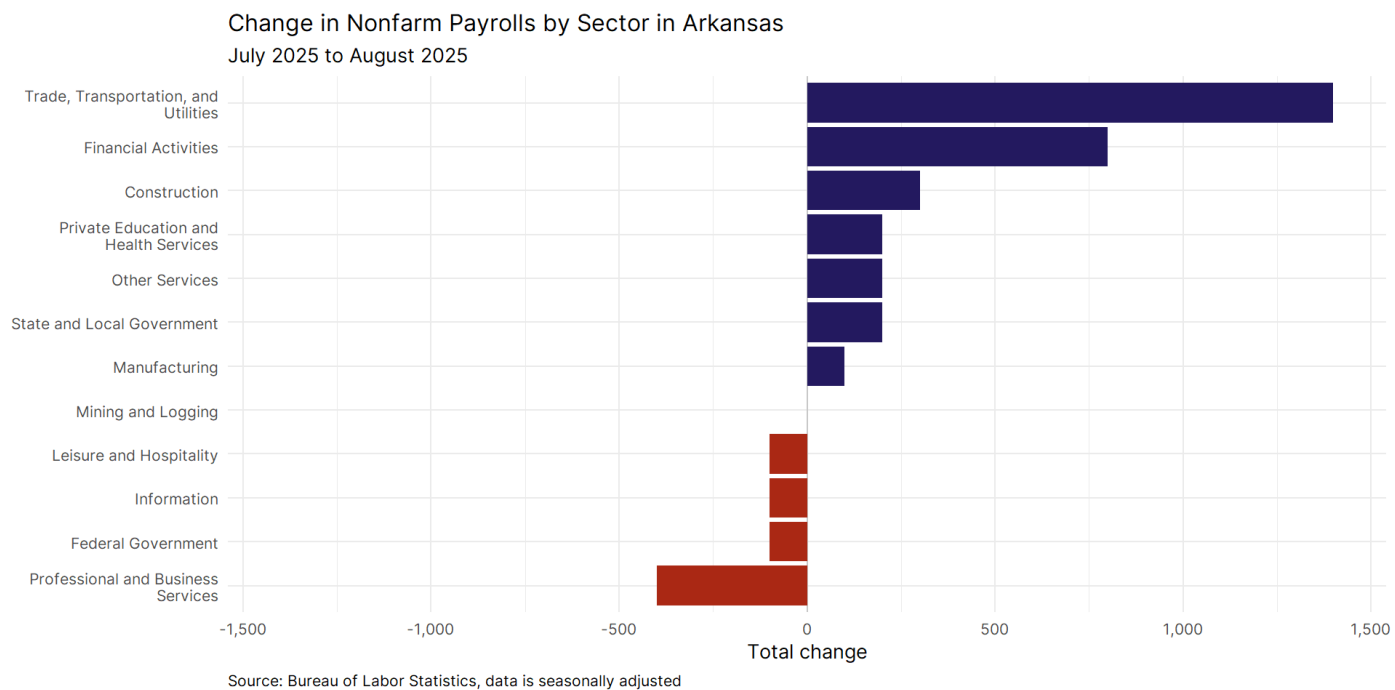
Arkansas Payroll employment



- **Arkansas added 2,500 net payroll jobs, or 0.2 percent,** on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Arkansas added 4,100 jobs. Arkansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in **10 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent**. Arkansas is tied for 13th in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- **Arkansas added 2,400 private sector jobs, or 0.2 percent,** on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, Arkansas added 3,900 jobs. Arkansas private sector payroll employment has increased in **10 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, private sector payroll jobs **rose by 38,000 jobs in August, or 0 percent**. Arkansas is tied for 8th in the nation for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

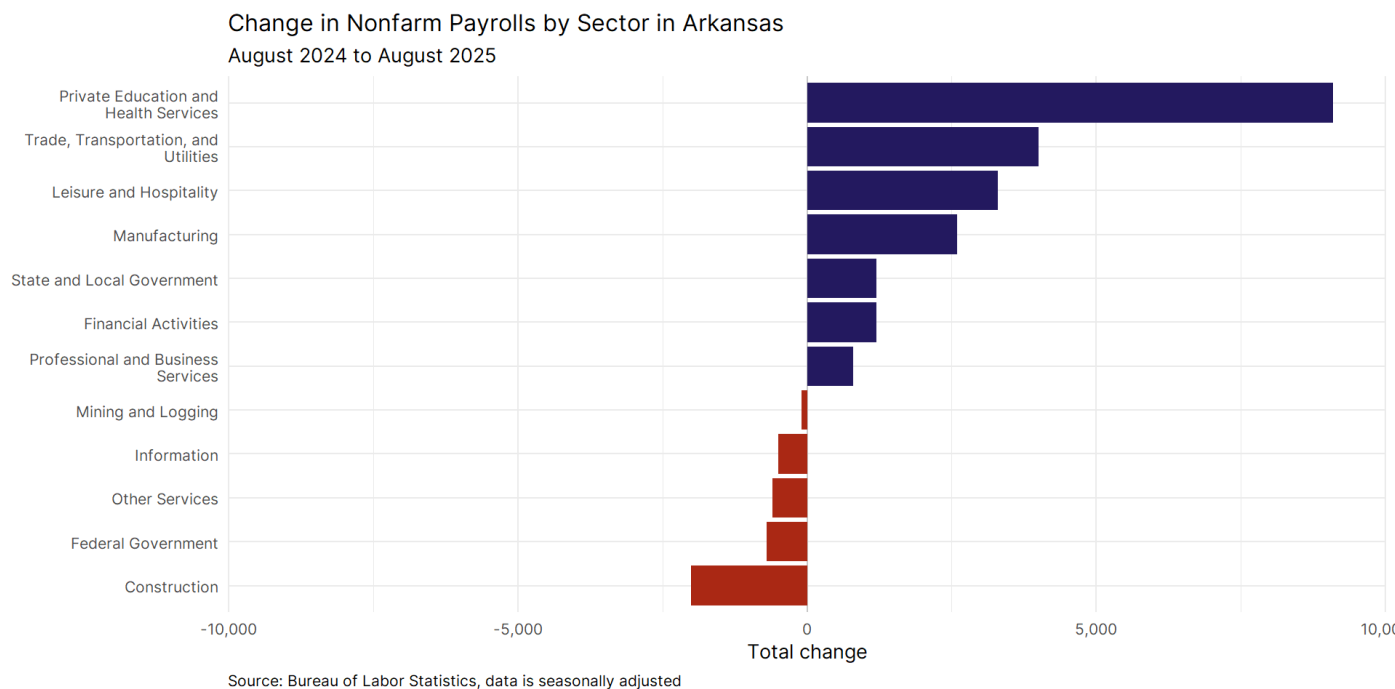
From July 2025 to August 2025:

- The best performing sectors were **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** (+1,400) and **Financial Activities** (+800).
- The worst performing sectors were **Professional and Business Services** (-400) and **Federal Government** (-100).



From August 2024 to August 2025:

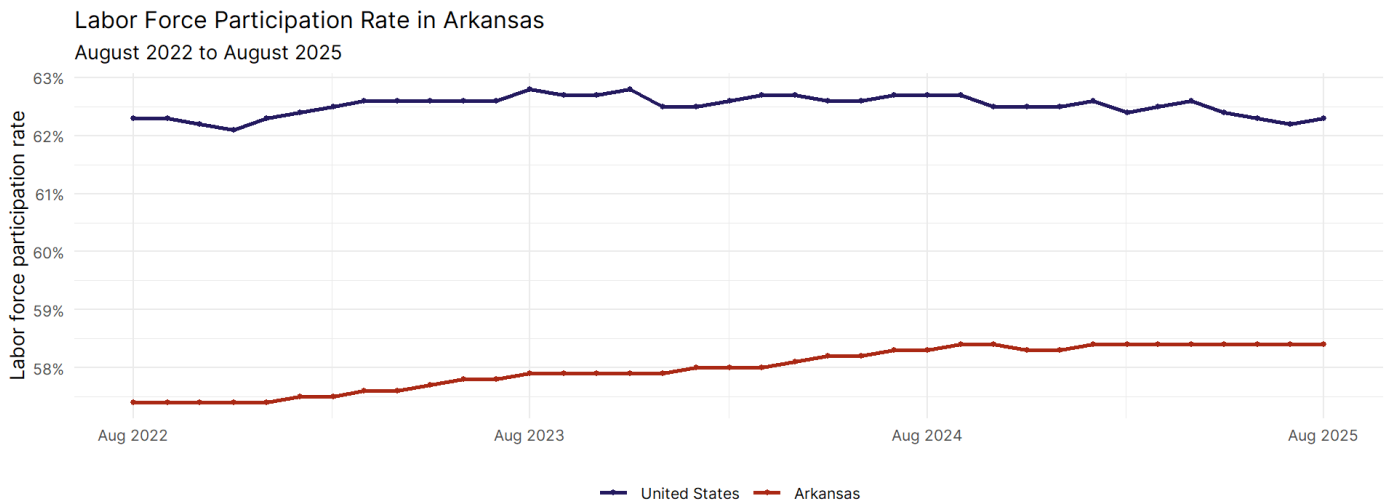
- The best performing sectors were **Private Education and Health Services** (+9,100) and **Trade, Transportation, and Utilities** (+4,000).
- The worst performing sectors were **Construction** (-2,000) and **Federal Government** (-700).



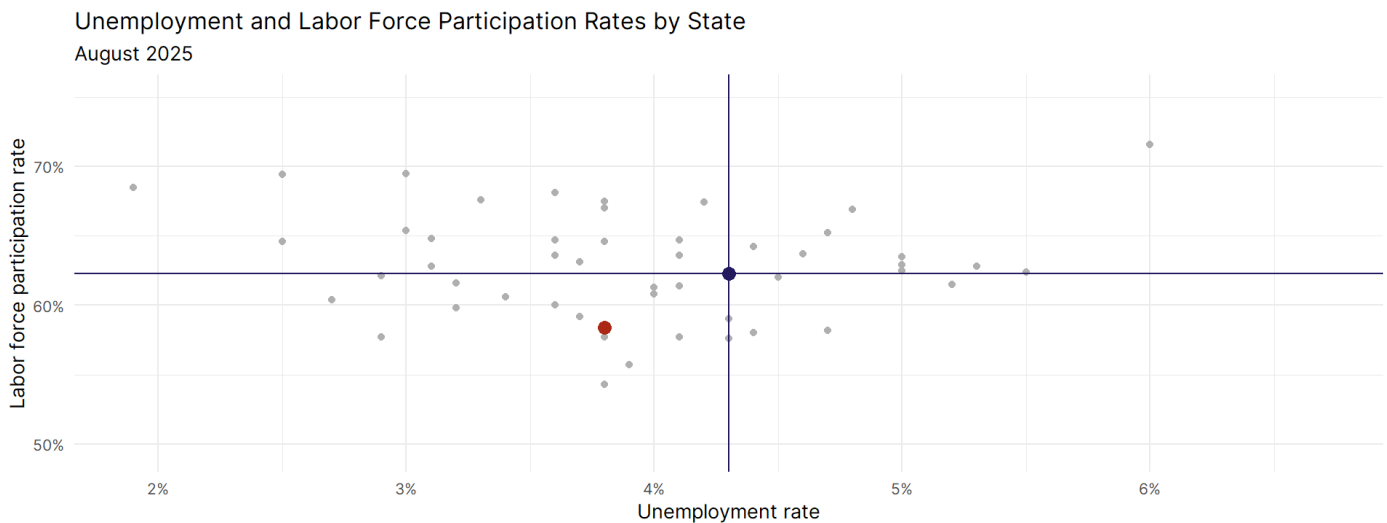
Arkansas Labor force

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

- The labor force participation rate in **Arkansas remained unchanged at 58.4 percent in August.**
- **Arkansas ranks 43rd** in the nation.
- The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas was **58.6 percent** in March 2020, and the 10-year low was **56.4 percent** in August 2021.
- The national labor force participation rate **rose by 0.1 percentage points to 62.3 percent** in August.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted