

Raw Data - Q2 2025

The Compass Report

Fort Smith Metro
Northwest Arkansas
Central Arkansas
Jonesboro Metro
Arkansas

Fort Smith Metro - Q2 2025

Overall Grade: C

CURRENT INDICATORS

Change in non-farm employment (1): A+

2nd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
April	102,900	104,100
May	103,400	104,500
June	102,700	104,400

Change in metro area unemployment rate (2): C

2nd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
April	3.1	3.2
May	3.3	3.4
June	3.8	4.0

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: C

(Crawford, Franklin, Logan, & Sebastian Counties)

	2024	2025
April	5,028,515	4,987,018
May	5,181,472	5,327,559
June	5,405,520	5,329,328

[city of Fort Smith]

	2024	2025
April	\$5,034,674	\$4,692,372
May	\$5,106,531	\$5,163,877
June	\$5,291,528	\$5,016,120

Concentration of Employment in goods-producing sectors

	2024	2025
April	22.3%	22.1%
May	22.1%	21.9%
June	22.5%	22.2%

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

Leading Indicators

Change in building permit (housing) valuation: F

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
April	8.608	4.882
May	10.071	5.031
June	11.718	7.954

Change in manufacturing employment (1): C

	2024	2025
April	17,800	17,900
May	17,900	17,800
June	18,000	18,000

Change in construction (includes natural resources and mining) employment (1): B

	2024	2025
April	5,100	5,100
May	5,000	5,100
June	5,100	5,200

Change in hospitality employment (1): B-

	2024	2025
April	9,200	9,200
May	9,500	9,600
June	9,500	9,800

Historical Trends

Unemployment Rate (Fort Smith MSA) (2)

June Data

2015	5.3
2016	4.3
2017	3.9
2018	3.7
2019	3.5
2020	7.5
2021	4.4
2022	3.4
2023	3.5
2024	3.8
2025	4

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

Number of unemployed (Fort Smith MSA) (1)

June Data

2015	5,439
2016	4,483
2017	4,060
2018	3,793
2019	3,564
2020	7,567
2021	4,409
2022	3,484
2023	3,619
2024	3,862
2025	4,166

Combined countywide gross sales tax collections, with percentage increase (millions)

(Crawford, Franklin, Logan, and Sebastian counties)

June Data

2021	\$5.339	
2022	\$5.078	-4.89%
2023	\$5.434	7.01%
2024	\$5.205	-4.21%
2025	\$5.214	0.17%

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

Northwest Arkansas - Q2 2025

Overall Grade: B-

CURRENT INDICATORS

Change in non-farm employment (1): A+

2nd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
April	313,800	315,400
May	314,800	316,900
June	314,100	314,600

Change in metro area unemployment rate (2): D

2nd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
April	2.3	2.5
May	2.5	2.7
June	2.8	3.4

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: B+

(Benton, Madison, and Washington counties)

	2024	2025
April	\$14,611,244	\$16,073,233
May	\$15,157,578	\$15,920,014
June	\$15,857,745	\$16,334,066

[city of Bentonville]

	2024	2025
April	\$3,530,619	\$4,763,444
May	\$4,512,182	\$3,878,275
June	\$4,661,772	\$4,555,709

[city of Fayetteville]

	2024	2025
April	\$5,504,092	\$5,734,571
May	\$5,446,516	\$5,747,917
June	\$5,528,698	\$5,786,392

[city of Rogers]

	2024	2025
April	\$4,944,620	\$5,498,213
May	\$5,212,140	\$5,648,465
June	\$5,710,702	\$5,691,829

[city of Springdale]

	2024	2025
April	\$4,239,515	\$4,464,516
May	\$4,391,732	\$4,626,209
June	\$4,540,268	\$4,540,071

Concentration of Employment in goods-producing sectors

	2024	2025
April	14.4%	14.8%
May	14.4%	14.9%
June	14.6%	15.1%

Leading Indicators

Change in building permit (housing) valuation: B+

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
April	\$156.14	\$222.54
May	\$145.64	\$140.98
June	\$192.55	\$232.88

Change in manufacturing employment (1): A+

	2024	2025
April	27,800	28,300
May	27,600	28,500
June	27,900	28,700

Change in construction (includes natural resources and mining) employment (1): A+

	2024	2025
April	17,500	18,500
May	17,700	18,600
June	18,000	18,900

Change in hospitality employment (1): D

	2024	2025
April	32,300	31,300
May	32,700	32,400
June	33,200	32,600

Historical Trends

Unemployment Rate (Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers MSA) (2)

June Data

2015	3.9
2016	3.2
2017	3.1
2018	3
2019	2.7
2020	6.4
2021	3.6
2022	2.8
2023	2.7
2024	3
2025	3.4

Number of unemployed (Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers MSA) (1)

June Data

2015	9,733
2016	8,136
2017	8,052
2018	7,910
2019	7,239
2020	17,209
2021	9,831
2022	8,260
2023	8,067
2024	9,242
2025	10,703

Combined countywide gross sales tax collections, with percentage increase (millions)

(Benton, Madison, and Washington counties)

June Data

2021	\$13.286	
2022	\$14.423	8.56%
2023	\$15.395	6.74%
2024	\$15.209	-1.21%
2025	\$15.028	-1.19%

Central Arkansas - Q2 2025

Overall Grade: B-

CURRENT INDICATORS

Change in non-farm employment (1): A+

2nd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
April	395,200	401,400
May	396,900	402,100
June	395,600	403,000

6,200

5,200

7,400

6,267

Change in metro area unemployment rate (2): F

2nd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
April	2.9	3.1
May	3.1	3.3
June	3.5	3.9

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: A+

(Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, and Pulaski counties)

	2024	2025
April	\$13,385,282	\$13,931,261
May	\$13,550,440	\$13,695,123
June	\$13,635,833	\$14,046,227

[city of Conway]

	2024	2025
April	\$3,205,759	\$3,359,477
May	\$3,188,704	\$3,405,967
June	\$3,240,753	\$3,476,059

[city of North Little Rock]

	2024	2025
April	\$3,904,333	\$4,120,889
May	\$4,099,144	\$3,943,067
June	\$4,213,603	\$4,108,499

[city of Little Rock]

	2024	2025
April	\$6,744,660	\$6,860,815
May	\$6,694,105	\$6,819,557
June	\$6,661,866	\$6,977,708

Concentration of Employment in goods-producing sectors

	2024	2025
April	10.6%	10.7%
May	10.7%	10.7%
June	10.8%	0.0%

Leading Indicators**Change in building permit (housing) valuation: B**

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
April	\$52.742	\$50.038
May	\$47.111	\$56.062
June	\$31.815	\$60.842

Change in manufacturing employment (1): A+

	2024	2025
April	20,700	21,500
May	20,700	21,400
June	20,900	21,600

Change in construction (includes natural resources and mining) employment (1): C-

	2024	2025
April	21,300	21,300
May	21,600	21,400
June	21,800	21,500

Change in hospitality employment (1): B

	2024	2025
April	36,000	35,700
May	36,700	36,900
June	36,800	38,400

Historical Trends

Unemployment Rate (Little Rock, North Little Rock, Conway MSA) (2)

June Data

2015	4.7
2016	3.8
2017	3.5
2018	3.5
2019	3.3
2020	8.8
2021	4.8
2022	3.4
2023	3.1
2024	3.5
2025	3.9

Number of unemployed (Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA) (1)

June Data

2015	16,445
2016	13,454
2017	12,564
2018	12,713
2019	11,980
2020	31,820
2021	17,310
2022	12,605
2023	11,551
2024	13,558
2025	15,134

Combined countywide gross sales tax collections, with percentage increase (millions)

(Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, and Pulaski Counties)

June Data

2021	\$11.71	
2022	\$12.96	10.70%
2023	\$14.07	8.53%
2024	\$13.52	-3.87%
2025	\$13.89	2.71%

Jonesboro Metro - Q2 2025**Overall Grade: C+****CURRENT INDICATORS****Change in non-farm employment (1): A+**

2nd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
April	64,900	65,800
May	65,000	65,800
June	64,600	65,600

Change in metro area unemployment rate (2): D

2nd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
April	2.7	3.1
May	3.0	3.4
June	3.5	4.1

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: A

(Craighead and Poinsett counties)

	2024	2025
April	\$2,999,395	\$3,123,736
May	\$2,970,472	\$3,172,605
June	\$3,089,047	\$3,184,463

[city of Jonesboro]

	2024	2025
April	\$2,168,024	\$2,200,696
May	\$2,173,373	\$2,291,642
June	\$2,191,405	\$2,246,763

Leading Indicators**Change in building permit (housing) valuation: C**

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
April	\$11.489	\$14.062
May	\$11.475	\$10.246
June	\$12.860	\$10.837

Historical Trends

Unemployment Rate (Jonesboro MSA) (2)

June Data

2015	5.0
2016	3.9
2017	3.7
2018	3.7
2019	3.4
2020	8.1
2021	4.2
2022	3.3
2023	3.1
2024	3.5
2025	4.1

Number of unemployed (Jonesboro MSA) (1)

June Data

2015	3,066
2016	2,352
2017	2,270
2018	2,306
2019	2,119
2020	5,098
2021	2,641
2022	2,176
2023	2,005
2024	2,354
2025	2,783

Combined countywide gross sales tax collections, with percentage increase (millions)

(Craighead and Poinsett Counties)

June Data

2021	2.765	
2022	3.161	14.32%
2023	3.063	-3.10%
2024	3.02	-1.40%
2025	3.16	4.64%

Arkansas - Q2 2025**Overall Grade: B-****CURRENT INDICATORS****Change in non-farm employment: A+**

2nd Quarter Comparison

Numbers reported in thousands

	2024	2025
April	1,363	1,379
May	1,362	1,380
June	1,363	1,381

Change in Arkansas unemployment rate: F

2nd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
April	3.4	3.7
May	3.4	3.7
June	3.4	3.7

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: D

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
Apr	\$360,013,184	\$345,103,038
May	\$357,364,937	\$353,964,656
June	\$358,614,528	\$372,285,313

Leading Indicators**Change in building permit (housing) valuation: A+**

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
Apr	\$264,370	\$325,226
May	\$246,073	\$228,776
June	\$267,570	\$334,745

Change in manufacturing employment: A+

	2024	2025
Apr	162,500	163,500
May	162,000	163,900
June	162,000	164,300

Change in construction (Excludes natural resources and mining) employment: F

	2024	2025
Apr	66,500	66,200
May	66,800	65,800
June	67,100	65,200

* Note: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics separated "Mining and Logging" from "Construction" data beginning in 2024 for Arkansas. It should be noted that it remains combined in the 4 metros in Arkansas. If the US BLS changes the metro information, that will be reflected on individual MSAs.

Change in hospitality employment: A+

	2024	2025
Apr	129,200	128,500
May	128,800	131,000
June	128,500	131,500

Historical Trends**Arkansas Unemployment Rate**

June Data

2015	5.1
2016	4
2017	3.7
2018	3.6
2019	3.4
2020	7.9
2021	4.2
2022	3.2
2023	3
2024	3.4
2025	3.7

Number of unemployed

June Data

2015	67,688
2016	53,071
2017	49,291
2018	47,569
2019	45,627
2020	105,341
2021	55,813
2022	43,412
2023	41,818
2024	47,795
2025	52,681