

## Raw Data - Q3 2025

### The Compass Report

Fort Smith Metro  
Northwest Arkansas  
Central Arkansas  
Jonesboro Metro  
Arkansas

### Fort Smith Metro - Q3 2025

Overall Grade: B-

#### CURRENT INDICATORS

##### Change in non-farm employment (1): B-

3rd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
July	102,000	102,500
August	102,600	103,400
September	103,800	104,600

##### Change in gross sales and use tax collections: B+

(Crawford, Franklin, Logan, & Sebastian Counties)

	2024	2025
July	\$5,201,270	\$5,617,894
August	\$5,109,633	\$5,349,573
September	\$5,194,085	\$5,376,540

[city of Fort Smith: C]

	2024	2025
July	\$5,048,376	\$5,377,031
August	\$4,851,288	\$5,212,433
September	\$4,945,732	\$5,129,741

##### Concentration of Employment in goods-producing sectors

July	22.7%	22.6%
August	22.6%	22.4%
September	22.4%	22.2%

## Leading Indicators

### Change in manufacturing employment (1): C

	2024	2025
July	18,100	18,100
August	18,100	18,100
September	18,200	18,100

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

	2024	2025
July	5,100	5,100
August	5,100	5,100
September	5,100	5,100

### Change in hospitality employment (1): B

	2024	2025
July	9,500	9,700
August	9,400	9,600
September	9,200	9,400

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

## Northwest Arkansas - Q3 2025

Overall Grade: A-

### CURRENT INDICATORS

#### Change in non-farm employment (1): B

3rd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
July	311,300	312,500
August	312,100	314,100
September	315,500	321,100

#### Change in gross sales and use tax collections: A+

(Benton, Madison, and Washington counties)

	2024	2025
July	\$15,917,944	\$16,278,783
August	\$15,551,729	\$16,573,825
September	\$15,645,544	\$16,054,673

[city of Bentonville]

	2024	2025
July	\$5,206,635	\$4,173,323
August	\$4,505,706	\$4,750,859
September	\$4,563,421	\$4,062,163

[city of Fayetteville]

July	\$5,321,642	\$5,625,117
August	\$5,707,911	\$6,105,820
September	\$5,859,968	\$6,110,934

[city of Rogers]

	2024	2025
July	\$5,390,347	\$5,481,578
August	\$5,124,578	\$5,420,779
September	\$5,468,442	\$5,431,598

[city of Springdale]

	2024	2025
July	\$4,440,705	\$4,733,204
August	\$4,468,335	\$4,773,354
September	\$4,256,027	\$4,150,226

#### Concentration of Employment in goods-producing sectors (2)

	2024	2025
Jan	14.5%	15.0%
Feb	14.5%	14.9%
Mar	14.5%	14.9%

## Leading Indicators

### Change in manufacturing employment (1): A+

	2024	2025
July	27,800	28,600
August	27,900	28,600
September	28,100	28,600

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

	2024	2025
July	18,200	18,900
August	18,300	18,700
September	18,300	18,900

### Change in hospitality employment (1): B+

	2024	2025
July	32,900	33,200
August	32,200	32,800
September	31,900	33,100

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

## Central Arkansas - Q3 2025

Overall Grade: B+

### CURRENT INDICATORS

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

3rd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
July	393,000	399,900
August	395,200	400,500
September	397,800	403,100

#### Change in gross sales and use tax collections: A+

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

	2024	2025
July	\$13,538,271	\$14,446,893
August	\$13,662,814	\$13,786,008
September	\$13,166,248	\$14,448,040

[city of Conway]

	2024	2025
July	\$3,168,898	\$3,437,605
August	\$3,205,418	\$3,420,995
September	\$3,182,890	\$3,312,947

[city of North Little Rock]

	2024	2025
July	\$3,168,898	\$3,437,605
August	\$3,205,418	\$3,420,995
September	\$3,182,890	\$3,312,947

[city of Little Rock]

	2024	2025
July	\$3,168,898	\$3,437,605
August	\$3,205,418	\$3,420,995
September	\$3,182,890	\$3,312,947

#### Concentration of Employment in goods-producing sectors

	2024	2025
July	10.9%	10.8%
August	10.9%	10.8%
September	10.8%	10.7%

**Leading Indicators****Change in manufacturing employment (1): A+**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
July	21,200	21,600
August	21,300	21,700
September	21,200	21,700

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

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
July	21,800	21,500
August	21,900	21,400
September	21,800	21,400

**Change in hospitality employment (1): A+**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2025</b>
July	36,300	38,200
August	35,900	37,500
September	35,600	36,800

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

## Jonesboro Metro - Q3 2025

Overall Grade: B+

### CURRENT INDICATORS

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

3rd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
July	64,200	65,400
August	64,500	65,500
September	65,100	66,100

#### Change in gross sales and use tax collections: B-

(Craighead and Poinsett counties)

	2024	2025
July	\$3,098,056	\$3,175,689
August	\$3,267,992	\$3,329,551
September	\$3,051,888	\$3,252,183

[city of Jonesboro]

	2024	2025
July	\$2,217,982	\$2,219,003
August	\$2,306,470	\$2,362,235
September	\$2,178,693	\$2,257,600

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

## Arkansas - Q3 2025

Overall Grade: B-

### CURRENT INDICATORS

#### Change in non-farm employment: A+

3rd Quarter Comparison

Numbers reported in thousands

	2024	2025
July	1,366	1,383
August	1,368	1,385
September	1,368	1,389

#### Change in Arkansas unemployment rate: F

3rd Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
July	3.4	3.7
August	3.5	3.8
September	3.5	3.9

#### Change in gross sales and use tax collections: C

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
July	\$366,202,715	\$366,202,715
August	\$370,920,746	\$370,920,746
September	\$328,195,671	\$328,195,671

### Leading Indicators

#### Change in manufacturing employment: A+

	2024	2025
July	162,100	164,600
August	162,100	164,900
September	162,500	165,200

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

	2024	2025
July	67,000	65,200
August	67,500	65,100
September	67,100	64,900

#### Change in hospitality employment: A+

	2024	2025
July	128,800	132,100
August	128,700	132,200
September	129,300	133,000

\* 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.



## Historical Trends

### Arkansas Unemployment Rate

September Data

2015	4.6
2016	3.9
2017	3.8
2018	3.6
2019	3.5
2020	5.9
2021	3.5
2022	3.2
2023	3.4
2024	3.5
2025	3.9

### Number of unemployed

September Data

2015	61627
2016	52496
2017	50515
2018	47932
2019	47228
2020	79364
2021	46433
2022	43692
2023	49703
2024	47795
2025	55750