

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]

	2024	2025
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+

	2024	2025
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

	2024	2025
July	21,800	21,500
August	21,900	21,400
September	21,800	21,400

Change in hospitality employment (1): A+

	2024	2025
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

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

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