

Raw Data - Q4 2025
The Compass Report

Fort Smith Metro
Northwest Arkansas
Central Arkansas
Jonesboro Metro
Arkansas

Fort Smith Metro - Q4 2025
Overall Grade: C

CURRENT INDICATORS

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

4th Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
October	104,200	105,100
November	104,500	105,400
December	104,500	105,200

Change in metro area unemployment rate (2): F

4th Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
October	3.1	no data
November	3.2	4.2
December	3.3	4.4

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: C+

(Crawford, Franklin, Logan, & Sebastian Counties)

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
October	\$5,085,453	\$5,270,322
November	\$5,006,396	\$5,448,821
December	\$5,701,718	\$6,109,184

[city of Fort Smith: B]

	2024	2025
October	\$5,010,768	\$4,862,416
November	\$5,130,642	\$5,142,365
December	\$5,825,735	\$5,880,844

Concentration of Employment in goods-producing sectors

	2024	2025
October	22.3%	22.1%
November	22.3%	22.0%
December	22.2%	22.0%

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

Leading Indicators

Change in building permit (housing) valuation: C-

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
October	\$5.63	\$4.41
November	\$9.03	\$9.02
December	\$7.75	\$6.75

Change in manufacturing employment (1): C-

	2024	2025
October	18,100	18,200
November	18,200	18,000
December	18,100	18,100

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

	2024	2025
October	5,100	5,000
November	5,100	5,000
December	5,100	5,000

Change in hospitality employment (1): A+

	2024	2025
October	9,200	9,500
November	9,100	9,600
December	8,900	9,400

Historical Trends

Unemployment Rate (Fort Smith MSA) (2)

December Data

2015	5.2
2016	4.8
2017	4.1
2018	4.0
2019	3.6
2020	3.3
2021	4.9
2022	2.7
2023	2.7
2024	3.8
2025	4.4

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

Number of unemployed (Fort Smith MSA) (1)

December Data

2015	6,266
2016	5,836
2017	4,877
2018	4,712
2019	4,199
2020	3,868
2021	5,610
2022	3,185
2023	3,139
2024	4,546
2025	4,529

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

(Crawford, Franklin, Logan, and Sebastian counties)

December Data

2024	\$5,264,522	
2025	\$5,609,442	6.55%

(1) Number of persons

(2) In percent

Northwest Arkansas - Q4 2025

Overall Grade: B-

CURRENT INDICATORS

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

4th Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
October	317,100	324,900
November	316,700	324,300
December	316,300	323,700

Change in metro area unemployment rate (2): F

4th Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
October	2.1	no data
November	2.3	3.2
December	2.5	3.1

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: C

(Benton, Madison, and Washington counties)

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
October	\$15,942,795	\$16,407,581
November	\$15,883,874	\$15,908,131
December	\$17,866,790	\$18,170,784

[city of Bentonville]

	2024	2025
October	\$4,873,155	\$4,377,556
November	\$4,509,933	\$4,210,836
December	\$5,299,029	\$4,693,395

[city of Fayetteville]

October	\$5,655,148	\$6,038,960
November	\$5,850,148	\$5,775,916
December	\$6,436,726	\$6,502,462

[city of Rogers]

	2024	2025
October	\$5,340,291	\$5,422,066
November	\$5,294,895	\$5,345,886
December	\$6,434,276	\$6,352,005

[city of Springdale]

	2024	2025
October	\$4,313,048	\$4,316,532
November	\$4,334,762	\$4,213,063
December	\$4,835,097	\$4,802,142

Concentration of Employment in goods-producing sectors

	2024	2025
October	14.6%	14.7%
November	14.6%	14.6%
Dec	14.7%	14.7%

Leading Indicators

Change in building permit (housing) valuation: C-

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
October	\$246.436	\$178.194
November	\$144.569	\$105.278
Dec	\$219.737	\$232.044

Change in manufacturing employment (1): A-

	2024	2025
October	27,800	28,800
November	28,300	28,700
Dec	28,400	28,800

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

	2024	2025
October	18,400	18,800
November	18,300	18,600
Dec	18,200	18,700

Change in hospitality employment (1): A+

	2024	2025
October	31,600	33,600
November	31,300	33,400
Dec	30,700	33,200

Historical Trends

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

December Data

2015	3.8
2016	2.9
2017	2.6
2018	2.7
2019	2.6
2020	2.3
2021	3.5
2022	1.9
2023	1.9
2024	2.5
2025	3.1

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

December Data

2015	9,489
2016	7,479
2017	6,769
2018	7,352
2019	7,151
2020	6,353
2021	9,913
2022	5,693
2023	5,766
2024	7,682
2025	10,046

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

(Benton, Madison, and Washington counties)

December Data

2024	\$16,564,486	
2025	\$16,828,832	1.60%

Central Arkansas - Q4 2025

Overall Grade: C+

CURRENT INDICATORS

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

4th Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
October	400,500	405,100
November	400,900	404,200
December	401,400	405,500

Change in metro area unemployment rate (2): F

4th Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
October	2.9	no data
November	3.0	4.0
December	3.1	3.9

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: C

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

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
October	\$13,833,682	\$14,128,116
November	\$13,630,684	\$13,624,552
December	\$15,795,140	\$16,549,327

[city of Conway]

	2024	2025
October	\$3,262,277	\$3,371,159
November	\$3,186,381	\$3,308,406
December	\$3,948,766	\$4,166,179

[city of North Little Rock]

	2024	2025
October	\$4,033,954	\$3,859,156
November	\$3,987,498	\$3,901,128
December	\$4,550,229	\$4,719,451

[city of Little Rock]

	2024	2025
October	\$6,949,308	\$7,283,213
November	\$6,873,579	\$6,773,389
December	\$8,013,512	\$8,511,170

Concentration of Employment in goods-producing sectors

	2024	2025
October	10.8%	10.7%
November	10.8%	10.6%
December	10.8%	10.6%

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

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
October	\$49.147	\$41.813
November	\$43.834	\$64.681
December	\$46.491	\$53.247

Change in manufacturing employment (1): A+

	2024	2025
October	21,300	21,900
November	21,400	21,700
December	21,500	21,700

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

	2024	2025
October	21,900	21,300
November	21,700	21,200
December	21,700	21,200

Change in hospitality employment (1): A

	2024	2025
October	35,500	36,800
November	34,800	36,600
December	34,200	35,900

Historical Trends

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

December Data

2015	4.7
2016	3.6
2017	3.2
2018	3.3
2019	3.2
2020	3.0
2021	5.0
2022	2.7
2023	2.5
2024	3.2
2025	3.9

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

December Data

2015	16,054
2016	12,571
2017	11,036
2018	11,655
2019	11,184
2020	10,552
2021	17,238
2022	9,648
2023	9,011
2024	11,747
2025	15,381

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

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

December Data

2024	\$14,419,835	
2025	\$14,767,332	2.41%

Jonesboro Metro - Q4 2025

Overall Grade: C

CURRENT INDICATORS

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

4th Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
October	65,500	66,500
November	65,700	66,600
December	66,000	66,900

Change in metro area unemployment rate (2): F

4th Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
October	2.8	no data
November	3.1	3.9
December	3.2	3.9

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: C+

(Craighead and Poinsett counties)

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
October	\$3,123,098	\$3,152,922
November	\$3,057,963	\$3,155,501
December	\$3,479,197	\$3,672,746

[city of Jonesboro]

	2024	2025
October	\$2,225,275	\$2,172,664
November	\$2,197,093	\$2,235,749
December	\$2,652,495	\$2,722,155

Leading Indicators

Change in building permit (housing) valuation: C

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
October	\$12.372	\$10.119
November	\$8.691	\$8.718
December	\$8.875	\$10.554

Historical Trends

Unemployment Rate (Jonesboro MSA) (2)

December Data

2015	5.0
2016	3.7
2017	3.1
2018	3.0
2019	2.9
2020	2.5
2021	4.0
2022	2.3
2023	2.3
2024	3.0
2025	3.9

Number of unemployed (Jonesboro MSA) (1)

December Data

2015	2,963
2016	2,284
2017	1,902
2018	1,887
2019	1,880
2020	1,681
2021	2,581
2022	1,486
2023	1,516
2024	1,981
2025	2,639

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

(Craighead and Poinsett Counties)

December Data

Q4 Data

2024	\$3,220,086	
2025	\$3,327,056	3.32%

Arkansas - Q4 2025

Overall Grade: C+

CURRENT INDICATORS

Change in non-farm employment: A+

4th Quarter Comparison

Numbers reported in thousands

	2024	2025
October	1,371	1,392
November	1,375	1,391
December	1,377	1,393

Change in Arkansas unemployment rate: F

4th Quarter Comparison

	2024	2025
October	3.6	no data
November	3.6	4.1
December	3.6	4.2

Change in gross sales and use tax collections: C

Numbers reported in million

	2024	2025
October	\$343,231,120	\$350,137,601
November	\$379,742,041	\$386,495,828
December	\$370,218,708	\$371,430,282

Leading Indicators

Change in building permit (housing) valuation: C

Numbers reported in thousands

	2024	2025
October	\$346,361	\$315,525
November	\$230,200	\$180,129
December	\$295,591	\$335,054

Change in manufacturing employment: A+

	2024	2025
October	162,200	165,800
November	163,300	165,300
December	163,500	165,300

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

	2024	2025
October	67,300	64,900
November	67,400	65,000
December	67,300	65,000

Change in hospitality employment: A+

	2024	2025
October	129,200	135,100
November	129,800	135,800
December	130,500	136,600

Historical Trends**Arkansas Unemployment Rate**

December Data

2015	5.5
2016	4.3
2017	3.8
2018	3.8
2019	3.7
2020	3.5
2021	5.0
2022	3.2
2023	3.0
2024	3.5
2025	4.2

Number of unemployed

December Data

2015	73,100
2016	57,203
2017	51,093
2018	50,969
2019	49,869
2020	47,476
2021	66,638
2022	42,618
2023	41,393
2024	48,338
2025	60,987