

Fort Smith Area Economic Summary

Updated June 03, 2026

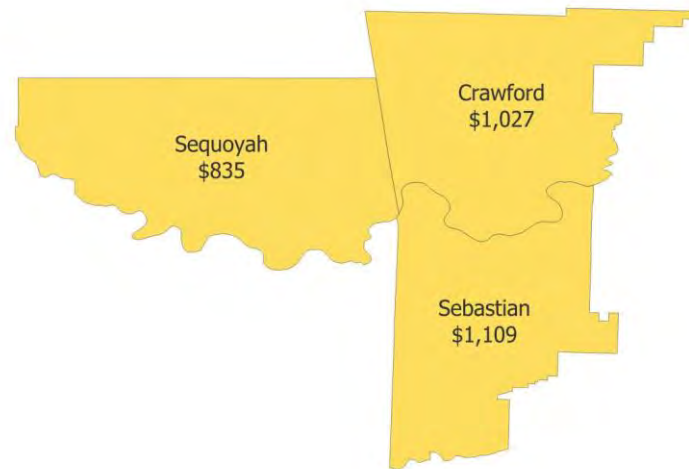
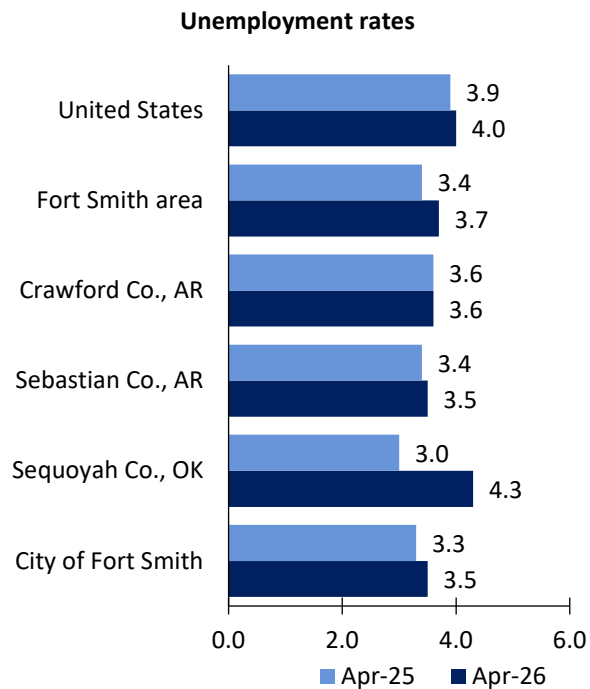
This summary presents a sampling of economic information for the area; supplemental data are provided for regions and the nation. Subjects include **unemployment, employment, wages, prices, spending, and benefits**. All data are not seasonally adjusted and some may be subject to revision. Area definitions may differ by subject. For more area summaries and geographic definitions, see <https://www.bls.gov/regions/economic-summaries.htm>.

Unemployment rates for the nation and selected areas

Average weekly wages for all industries by county

Fort Smith area, fourth quarter 2025

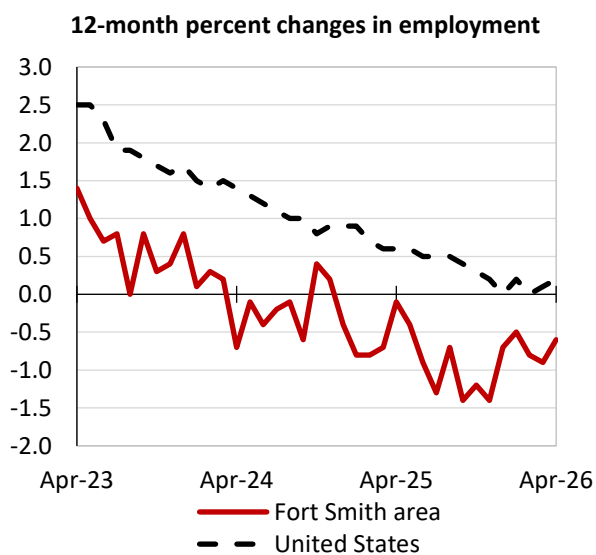
(U.S. = \$1,569; Area = \$1,066)



Source: U.S. BLS, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Source: U.S. BLS, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

Employment on nonfarm payrolls and employment by major industry sector, over-the-year changes



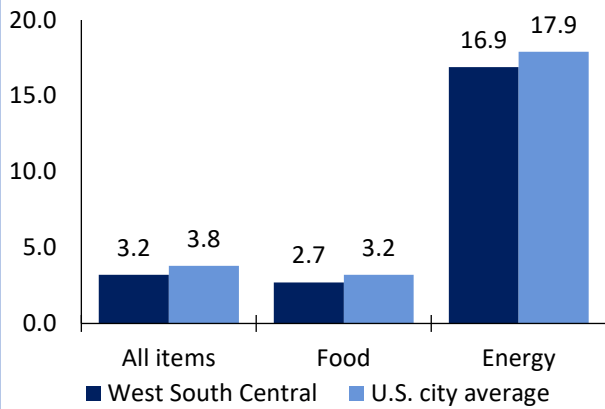
Fort Smith area employment (number in thousands)	Apr. 2026	Change from Apr. 2025 to Apr. 2026	
		Number	Percent
Total nonfarm	101.8	-0.6	-0.6
Mining, logging, and construction	4.9	0.0	0.0
Manufacturing	17.8	0.1	0.6
Trade, transportation, and utilities	20.4	-0.2	-1.0
Information	1.2	0.0	0.0
Financial activities	3.8	0.0	0.0
Professional and business services	10.3	-0.8	-7.2
Education and health services	17.1	0.2	1.2
Leisure and hospitality	9.5	0.2	2.2
Other services	3.7	0.1	2.8
Government	13.1	-0.2	-1.5

Source: U.S. BLS, Current Employment Statistics.



Prices paid by urban consumers for selected categories, over-the-year change

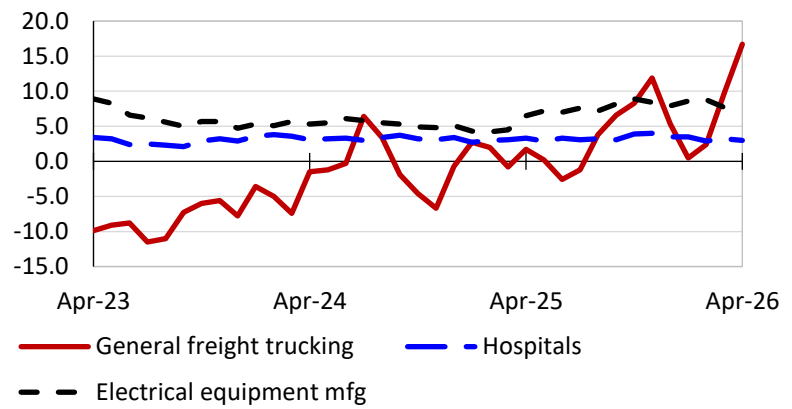
12-month percent change in CPI-U, April 2026



Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Price Index.

Selling prices received by producers for selected industries nationwide, over-the-year change

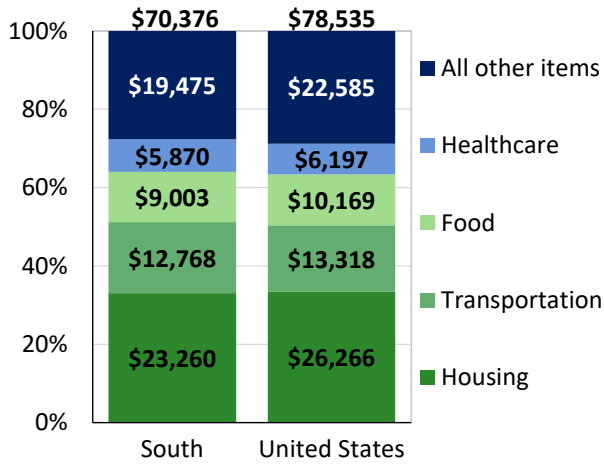
12-month percent changes in PPI



Source: U.S. BLS, Producer Price Index.

Average annual spending and percent distribution for selected categories

Average annual expenditures, 2024



Source: U.S. BLS, Consumer Expenditure Survey.

Average hourly wages for selected occupations, May 2025

Occupation	Fort Smith area	United States
All occupations	\$24.18	\$33.54
Industrial machinery mechanics	27.97	32.91
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	24.90	28.71
Customer service representatives	19.17	22.40
Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers	17.94	18.89
Nursing assistants	15.27	20.53
Fast food and counter workers	12.27	15.46

Source: U.S. BLS, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics.

Employer costs per hour worked for wages and selected employee benefits by census division

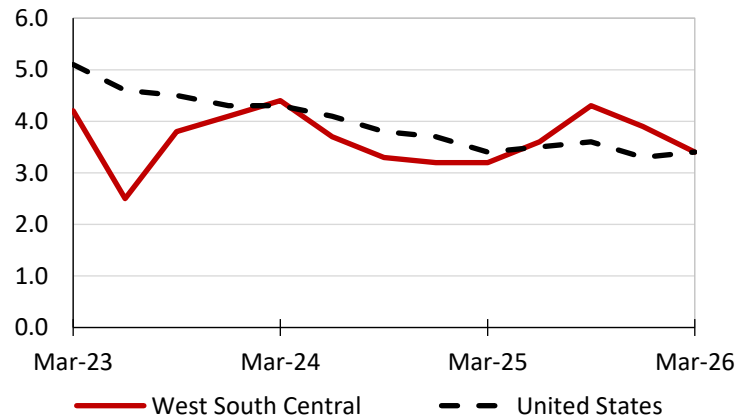
Private industry, December 2025	West South Central	United States
Total compensation	\$40.17	\$46.15
Wages and salaries	28.69	32.36
Total benefits	11.48	13.79
Paid leave	2.89	3.52
Vacation	1.45	1.75
Supplemental pay	1.63	1.87
Insurance	2.99	3.51
Retirement and savings	1.15	1.55
Legally required benefits	2.82	3.34

Map of Census Regions and Divisions

Source: U.S. BLS, Employer Costs for Employee Compensation.

Changes in wages and salaries over-the-year

12-month percent changes in ECI



Source: U.S. BLS, Employment Cost Index.

