

JOBS BRIEF

The Greater Memphis Economic Research Group takes an active approach to monitor economic trends and conditions impacting the Greater Memphis region. On August 20th, 2025, new jobs data for July 2025 was released for metropolitan areas nationwide. Relative to this release, we highlight the updated progress of regional job growth and trends.

GREATER MEMPHIS REGION



Market Update

Job Growth

National job growth was positive for July 2025, rising 0.05%. In comparison, Greater Memphis region saw a 0.29% decline in seasonally adjusted nonfarm payroll employment.

Between June and July 2025, the region saw a loss of 1,900 jobs.

The unemployment rate increased from 4.9% to 5.4% in July, a 0.5% increase.

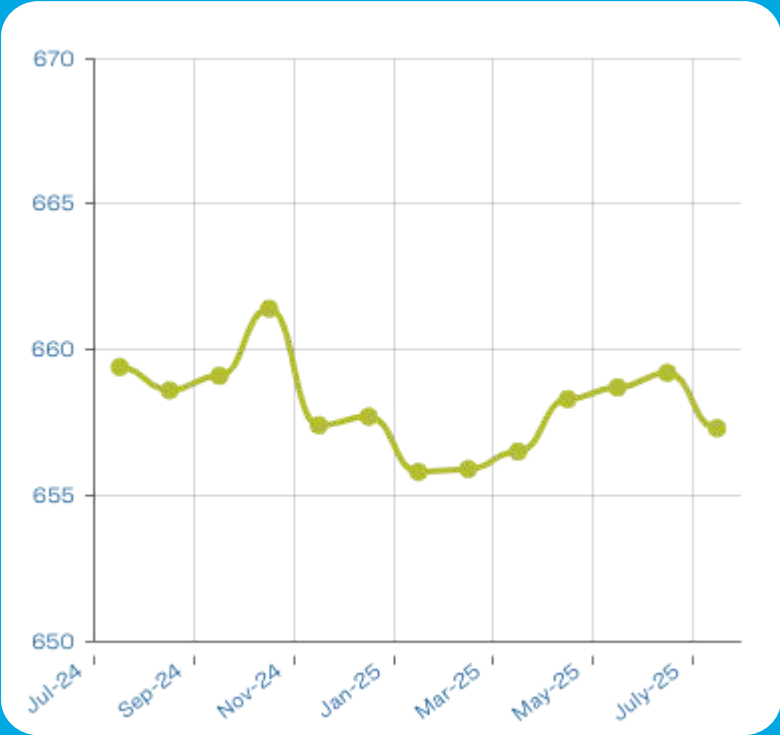
As of July 2025, the Greater Memphis region employed **603,847**.

Despite July's job losses, Greater Memphis payrolls remain 38,600 jobs (6.3%) above the pre-pandemic peak set in February 2020.

While July brought a pullback in jobs and a higher unemployment, the region's employment base remains larger than at any point before the pandemic. Peer metro and sector comparisons on the following pages provide broader context.

Non-Farm Payroll (Jobs)

Seasonally Adjusted
Jobs (000s) June 2024-June 2025



Oklahoma City continues to lead the group adding more than 9,000 jobs year-over-year despite a slight month-to-month decline.

Louisville maintained steady growth, while Birmingham recorded modest but consistent gains.

Memphis slipped into negative territory marking its first contraction after relative stability earlier in 2025.

At the state level, Tennessee lost 900 jobs (-0.03%) between June and July 2025. Year-over-year, however the state gained 21,500 jobs (+0.64%).



Job Growth % Relative to July 2024 | Select Comparable Metropolitan Areas
July 2025, Seasonally Adjusted

-0.3%

Memphis Metro

+1.1%

Louisville Metro

+0.4%

Birmingham Metro

+1.3%

Oklahoma City Metro

Job Trends by Industry | Change vs Last Month, vs Last Year

Industry	June-25	July-25	Change % vs Last Month	Change % vs Last Year
Business Services	90,502	89,935	-0.5%	+0.5%
Financial Activities	29,812	29,677	-0.1%	-1.0%
Other Services	28,589	28,653	+0.1%	+3.2%
Construction	24,859	25,076	+0.9%	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	63,570	62,991	-1.1%	+1.5%
Education and Health Services	100,170	98,798	-1.2%	-2.1%
Information	5,136	5,174	+0.7%	-1.8%
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	192,269	192,110	+0.2%	+0.2%
Manufacturing	39,852	39,707	-0.3%	-2.6%
Government	16,100	16,200	+0.6%	-0.6%

Employment changes across industries in July 2025 were mixed. Several sectors posted modest declines while others saw gains that helped offset losses. Construction led all industries with a +0.9% monthly increase, while Information (+0.7%) and Other Services (+0.1%) also posted gains. Trade and Transport remained essentially flat (+0.2%).

After steady growth earlier in the year, several sectors cooled. Leisure and Hospitality(-1.1%), Education and Health Services (-1.2%), and Professional and Business Services (-0.5%) all declined. Finance (-0.1%) and Manufacturing (-0.3%) edged down slightly.

On a year-over-year basis, Other Services (+3.2%) continues to show the strongest momentum, driven by ongoing demand in discretionary and personal services. Leisure and Hospitality (+1.5%) and Professional and Business Services (+0.5%) also remain above last year’s levels, underscoring continued resilience despite month-to-month fluctuations.

NOTE: The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Current Employment Statistics (CES) program have revised employment data to reflect the incorporation of the latest benchmarks and the recalculation of seasonal adjustment factors. This process affects not seasonally adjusted data from April 2022 to December 2023 and seasonally adjusted data from January 2019 to December 2023. This will impact our figures moving forward in 2024 by providing a more accurate and up-to-date baseline for employment trends. For more information please visit: [CES State and Area Benchmark Article \(bls.gov\)](#).

Greater Memphis Labor
Force Participation Rate: **61.9%**
July 2025

Labor Force Participation Rate: the percentage of regional residents over 16-years-old who are either employed or unemployed but actively seeking work.

Job Market Demand

In July 2025, employers posted 32,034 unique jobs in the Memphis MSA (excluding duplicates).

With the unemployment rate at 5.4%, approximately 34,389 individuals were available for work. This equates to 1.07 unemployed persons per unique job posting.

Of the job postings, only 35% (11,182) included salary information. The median advertised salary was **\$25.32 per hour**.

Compared to July 2024, postings rose by 2,481 (+8.4%), while median advertised wages increased by \$1.10 per hour (+4.5%), signaling continued strength in labor demand and pay growth.

HOT Jobs

Occupation	Unique Postings – July, 2025	Median Advertised Wage
Registered Nurses	2,165	\$51.08
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Drivers	1,018	\$39.32
Retail Salespersons	860	\$15.45
Retail Supervisors	618	\$21.23
Maintenance & Repair Workers	486	\$25.54
Laborers; Material Movers	457	\$18.15
Customer Service Reps	426	\$18.03
Wholesale Sales Reps	393	\$34.89
Food Service Managers	488	\$23.32
General/Ops Managers	359	\$31.32

Who's Hiring?



- 1. Methodist Health: 508 posts
- 2. Baptist Corporate: 457 posts
- 3. Baptist Health: 501 posts
- 4. FedEx: 347 posts
- 5. Walmart: 494 posts

Critical Skills

Common Skills

- 1. Communication
10,842 posts
- 2. Customer Service
9,147 posts
- 3. Management
6,695 posts

Specialized Skills

- 1. Nursing
2,324 posts
- 2. Merchandising
2,044 posts
- 3. Auditing
1,763 posts



One Month
Job Posting
Change
1,696



1 Month
Median
Advertised
Wage Change
-\$1.11



1 Year Median
Advertised
Wage Change
+\$1.10

Ready to learn more?

Contact the **Greater Memphis Economic Research Group** (a Greater Memphis Chamber Initiative) for custom industry reporting, workforce supply and demand data, economic impact research, regional benchmarking, and all of your economic research needs.

