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Friday, January 24, 2025

Page 1

Athens, Tennessee

Tennessee Ends 2024 with Low Unemployment Rate, Job Growth



Tennessee concluded 2024 with an unemployment rate of 3.6%, significantly lower than the national average of 4.1%, according to the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

While the December rate marked a slight increase from November's 3.5%, it remains below the 3.4% rate recorded in December 2023. The state achieved record-low unemployment of 3% during May, June, and July, reflecting a strong labor market throughout the year.

In December, Tennessee employers added 500 nonfarm jobs, with the largest gains in health care and social assistance, local government, and real estate sectors. Over the course of the year, the state saw a net increase of 45,400 nonfarm jobs. The health care and social assistance sector led the way, followed by professional services and durable goods manufacturing.

Tennessee's continued job growth and low unemployment underscore its robust economic performance heading into 2025.

Source: [TN Dept. of Labor & Workforce Development](#)

Community News You Can Use

- The Airport Committee Meeting originally scheduled for Monday, January 27 at 5:30 pm has been rescheduled to 5:00pm on the same day. The meeting will still take place in the Blue Room of the McMinn County Courthouse. The purpose for the meeting is to review new T-Hangar design plans.
- The Madisonville Police Department has announced that beginning Monday, January 27th, [Old Highway 68 will be closed from Ridgecrest Drive to the intersection of Hiwassee Road for approximately two weeks.](#) This closure is necessary for the installation of a new sewer line.
- [Coordinated Charities of Athens](#) wishes to thank the Athens community for the outpouring of food donations to their food pantry and monetary donations. Together we can all serve the community and feed the hungry.
- The McMinn County Library Board will meet on Monday evening, January 27, 2025, at 6:00pm. The meeting will be held at the E.G. Fisher Public Library located at the corner of Ingleside and Forrest Avenues.

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Time: 11am-1:30pm

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Friday, January 24, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 2

Athens, Tennessee


Obituaries

Richard "Dicky" Simpson, 84, of Athens, passed away Friday, January 17 at Terra Bella Assisted Living in Athens. He was a school teacher and served in the U.S. Air Force. A gathering of friends took place on January 20th at the E.G. Fisher Library to celebrate their friendship. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services of Athens is honored to serve the family of Richard "Dicky" Simpson.

Mary Jean Williams Upton, 90 of Ocala, FL, formerly of McMinn County, passed away on Tuesday, January 21 in an assisted living center in Florida. A graveside service will be conducted 1:00 pm, Saturday, January 25 at Cedar Grove Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 11:00 am-12:45 pm at Smith Funeral Home prior to the graveside service. Smith Funeral & Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Mary Jean Williams Upton.

Mattie Gean Womac Brady, 84 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, January 22. A funeral service will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 27 in the chapel of Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services. Interment will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, in the McMinn Memory Gardens. The family will receive friends from 5 to 7 p.m., prior to the service. Decatur Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the Brady Family.

Jacque Lerae Mills, native of Kingman, AZ and a five-year resident of Athens, passed away on Monday, January 20. She was free-spirited and lived life to the fullest. Jacque enjoyed traveling, hiking, and riding motorcycles. Visitation will be held on Friday, January 24, 2025, from 1:00 PM- 3:00 PM with a funeral service at 3:00 PM at Ziegler Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Athens. Ziegler Funeral Home has been entrusted with the care of Jacque Lerae Mills.

 **McMinn County Living Heritage Museum**
is seeking a motivated and detail-oriented individual to join our team as Office Assistant/Bookkeeper. We are looking for someone who is not only appreciative of McMinn County's history and artifacts but is adept at keeping financial records, maintaining membership programs, and interacting with the public.

Applications Available at:
McMinn County Living Heritage Museum
522 West Madison Ave
Athens, TN 37303
Application Deadline
February 15th, 2025

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Friday, January 24, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 3

Athens, Tennessee

Obituaries

Marty Andren, 66 of Athens, passed away on Tuesday, January 21 at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Marty was a friend to everyone he met and was an always-present helping hand. A former truck driver and diesel mechanic, his life revolved around family and trucks. His normal cologne was the unmistakable blend of grease and oil, which he wore with pride. The family will receive friends from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M., Sunday, at Bierley-Hale Funeral Home, Madisonville.

Theodore "Ted" Joseph Palecki, 71 of Athens, passed away on Wednesday, January 22. Ted was an amazing father. He will be deeply missed. Companion Funeral Home and the Cody family are honored to assist his family with these arrangements.

GO Supports Nourish One Child Program



Grocery Outlet (GO) of Athens donated 440 food bags to **Nourish One Child (NOC)**, a program providing weekend meals to Athens City Schools children in need. Volunteers distributed the bags along with Angel Tree gifts and hygiene kits, which were assembled

by The Corner Sunday School Class.

Founded in 2012 by the late Dixie Liner, NOC addresses childhood hunger by delivering nutritious, shelf-stable food. The program is entirely volunteer-run, with no administrative costs, and relies on donations and community support. Food is sourced locally from Grocery Outlet and the Food Bank of Chattanooga. To volunteer or donate, contact Keith Memorial UMC at 423-745-2612 or go online to:

keithumc.org/noc.

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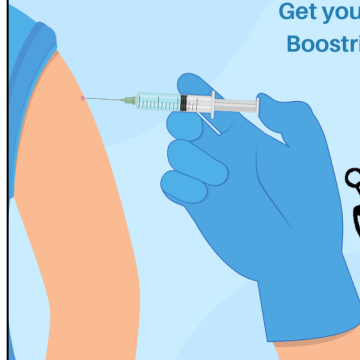
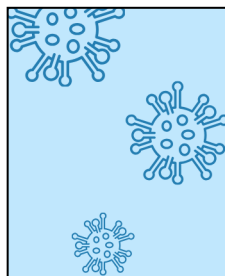
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Friday, January 24, 2025 **Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 4** **Athens, Tennessee**

Church News & Events

- **Celebrate Recovery** meets every **Tuesday** at 6:00 P.M. at Woodward Ave. Church of God (507 Woodward Ave., Athens). They also meet every **Thursday** at 6:00 P.M. at Watts Bar Community Church (1517 TN-68, Decatur)
- **Planted In Christ Outreach Fellowship** (317 Maple Street, Athens) holds Outreach Deliverance Classes every Thursday at 7:00 p.m.
- There is a **Revival** at **Valley Road Baptist Church** beginning on Sunday, January 26 at 6:00 pm. The services on Monday and thereafter will begin @ 7:00 pm with Joey Cagley and Josh Kidd bringing the messages each night. Pastor Gus Lee Fine invites everyone to come. The church is located at 860 County Road 187, Athens.
- **Voice of Deliverance Ministry C.O.G.I.C** will be hosting a revival on January 29-31, 2025, beginning at 7:00 pm nightly. The guest speaker will be Superintendent James Summers from Forest Park, GA. All are welcome. The address is 520 Old Riceville Road, Athens, TN.
- The next monthly Christian Men's Prayer Breakfast sponsored by New Hope Methodist Church will occur on Thursday, February 6 at 8 a.m. at Maddi Mae's Cafe in downtown Athens. This ecumenical prayer breakfast is open to all men of Christian faith plus those who want to establish a relationship with Jesus. Please contact Marcus Guinn for more information. His phone number is 423-507-7769. Or Email: (marcusguinn@gmail.com)
- **New Life Church** hosts weekly Prayer Meetings every Wednesday night beginning at 7:00 pm. The church is located at 204 Fisher St. in Athens. All are welcome.
- **Christ Community Church** is once again opening the Prom Shop on Saturday, March 29 from 9 am - 3 pm. The Prom Shop provides Prom Formal wear at no cost for any student to attend their prom or dance. Christ Community Church is located at 14 S. Congress Pkwy in Athens. For more information, email promshopathens@yahoo.com.



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Friday, January 24, 2025

Morning Fax®...Today's News This Morning Page 5

Athens, Tennessee

TWU Basketball Update



The men's and women's basketball programs at Tennessee Wesleyan returned to action on the road on Wednesday against Reinhardt University.

The women's basketball team battled back to force extra time but fell in overtime 70-69 in the Appalachian Athletic Conference game. Jacelyn Stone led all scorers with 22 points, including 14-15 FT.

The men's basketball team got a comfortable win, defeating the Appalachian Athletic Conference opponent 90-78. Jay Reed and Charles Neverdon paced the offense with 17 points each.

Upcoming events:

Away: Jan. 25 at Montreat College at 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM.

Home: Sat. Feb. 1 against St. Andrews University at 12:00 PM (WBB) and 2:00 PM (MBB)

TWU Sports Coverage Provided by Chris Berry, TWU Director of Sports Information

"Checker Game" Slated for Florida, "Orange Out" for Alabama



The University of Tennessee announced Wednesday plans for fan arena attire at two upcoming men's basketball games. The Feb. 1 contest against Florida will be this year's "Checker"

Food City Center Game, while the March 1 outing versus Alabama is slated as an "Orange Out."

Fans coming to the arena to watch the Volunteers take on the Gators can visit UTsports.com/checker to see the color designation for their section. All attendees for the meeting with the Crimson Tide are encouraged to wear orange. Both matchups are already sold out, among the six confirmed sellouts for Tennessee this season, alongside prior games versus Syracuse (Dec. 3), Arkansas (Jan. 4) and Mississippi State (Jan. 21), as well as a future one against Kentucky (Jan. 28).

No. 6/7 Tennessee (17-2, 4-2 SEC) is back in action Saturday at 8:30 p.m. ET at top-ranked Auburn. The game will be televised live on ESPN from Neville Arena in Auburn, Ala., which will also host the first College GameDay show of 2025 that morning.

Originally Reported by: UTSports.com

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WEATHER FORECAST

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Fri. Night - Mostly Clear. Low 20.

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Sun. - Partly Sunny. 30% Chance of Frozen Mix in the evening. High 47. Low 32

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