



Arkansas Division of  
Workforce Services

## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 3.6 Percent

#### Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

Labor force data, produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and released today by the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained stable at 3.6 percent between November and December. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 2,697, a result of 2,483 more employed and 214 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate was unchanged at 3.5 percent in December.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The number of employed Arkansans rose for the third month in a row, to 1,319,789. The December jobless rate remains stable, and reflects the trend seen at the national level."

#### ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY

(Seasonally Adjusted)

	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	Change from November 2019	Change from December 2018
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	<b>1,368,565</b>	<b>1,365,868</b>	<b>1,353,091</b>	<b>2,697</b>	<b>15,474</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>1,319,789</b>	<b>1,317,306</b>	<b>1,303,393</b>	<b>2,483</b>	<b>16,396</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>48,776</b>	<b>48,562</b>	<b>49,698</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>-922</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online February 5, 2020.

#### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 1,000 in December to total 1,292,000. Five major industry sectors posted gains, while five other sectors declined. The greatest expansion occurred in **educational and health services** (+1,900). All hiring was reported in health care and social assistance (+2,000). Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 1,300. Gains in durable goods (+1,500) more than offset the loss in nondurable goods (-200). **Construction** declined 1,800, due largely to seasonal factors. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** decreased 1,400. Most of the loss was in food services, down 1,300 jobs.

Compared to December 2018, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are up 18,700. Growth was reported in eight major industry sectors, with five adding 2,000 or more jobs, each. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 6,000. Most of the gains were in health care and social assistance (+5,400). **Professional and business services** added 5,000 jobs, with hiring across all three subsectors. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 2,900. Most of the expansion was posted in wholesale trade (+1,500). **Leisure and hospitality** increased 2,600, mostly in food services (+2,400). Jobs in **construction** are up 2,000 over-the-year.

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	December 2019	November 2019	December 2018	Change From November 2019	Change From December 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1292.0	1291.0	1273.3	1.0	18.7
Goods Producing	222.2	222.8	219.6	-0.6	2.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	57.8	59.7	56.0	-1.9	1.8
Mining & Logging	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
Construction	<b>52.2</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>50.2</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.2	34.2	31.7	-1.0	1.5
Manufacturing	<b>164.4</b>	<b>163.1</b>	<b>163.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Durable Goods	78.3	76.8	78.9	1.5	-0.6
Nondurable Goods	86.1	86.3	84.7	-0.2	1.4
Service Providing	1069.8	1068.2	1053.7	1.6	16.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	<b>259.4</b>	<b>258.6</b>	<b>256.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Wholesale Trade	50.1	50.1	48.6	0.0	1.5
Retail Trade	141.8	141.4	141.0	0.4	0.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	67.5	67.1	66.9	0.4	0.6
Information	<b>10.8</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Financial Activities	<b>61.3</b>	<b>61.3</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Finance & Insurance	47.7	47.8	47.4	-0.1	0.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.6	13.5	13.7	0.1	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	<b>149.5</b>	<b>148.7</b>	<b>144.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	45.4	44.4	44.3	1.0	1.1
Management of Companies	36.6	36.7	35.1	-0.1	1.5
Administrative & Support Services	67.5	67.6	65.1	-0.1	2.4
Educational & Health Services	<b>198.9</b>	<b>197.0</b>	<b>192.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Educational Services	16.4	16.5	15.8	-0.1	0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	182.5	180.5	177.1	2.0	5.4
Ambulatory Health Care	61.9	60.7	59.4	1.2	2.5
Social Assistance	41.7	41.6	40.5	0.1	1.2
Leisure & Hospitality	<b>119.9</b>	<b>121.3</b>	<b>117.3</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>2.6</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.9	9.9	9.7	0.0	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	110.0	111.4	107.6	-1.4	2.4
Accommodation Services	10.9	11.0	10.9	-0.1	0.0
Food Services	99.1	100.4	96.7	-1.3	2.4
Other Services	<b>53.7</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Government	<b>216.3</b>	<b>216.9</b>	<b>216.7</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Federal Government	20.4	20.4	20.4	0.0	0.0
State Government	79.8	80.2	79.4	-0.4	0.4
Local Government	116.1	116.3	116.9	-0.2	-0.8

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2018 benchmark.

Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

## 2020 Arkansas Publication Schedule

Reference Month	State Press Release	MSA's & Counties*
January	03/16/20	03/20/20
February	03/27/20	04/08/20
March	04/17/20	04/29/20
April	05/22/20	06/03/20
May	06/19/20	07/01/20
June	07/17/20	07/29/20
July	08/21/20	09/02/20
August	09/18/20	09/30/20
September	10/20/20	10/28/20
October	11/20/20	12/03/20
November	12/18/20	01/05/21
December	01/26/21	02/03/21

\*Date when Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and county labor force statistics will be available on the Discover Arkansas website.

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### **About the Arkansas Department of Commerce:**

The Arkansas Department of Commerce is the umbrella department for workforce and economic development drivers. Its divisions and regulatory boards include Division of Aeronautics, Waterways Commission, Wine Producers Council, Division of Workforce Services, Office of Skills Development, State Bank Department, Insurance Department, Securities Department, Economic Development Commission and Development Finance Authority. It was established July 2019 as part of Governor Asa Hutchinson’s wide-sweeping efficiency and transformation efforts to reduce 42 cabinet agencies to 15 while maintaining services for all Arkansans.



### **About the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services**

The mission of the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services is to support and secure Arkansas’s economic vitality through a highly skilled workforce by administering programs and providing services that empower employers and jobseekers. ADWS is a division of the Arkansas Department of Commerce.