



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Climbs to 10.2 Percent in April

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 rose from 5.0 percent in March (revised up from the preliminary March estimate of 4.8 percent) to 10.2 percent in April. Arkansas civilian labor force declined 69,598, a result of 133,832 fewer employed and 64,234 additional unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate rose over ten percentage points, from 4.4 percent in March to 14.7 percent in April.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate rose sharply in April to 10.2 percent, but is still less than the national rate of 14.7 percent. In addition to the increase in unemployed Arkansans due to the COVID-19 response, the number of employed declined even more. This is related in part to the lack of typical Spring hiring at businesses that were unable to open or expand as scheduled".

Details of BLS methodology and the impact of COVID-19 on the March and April estimation process can be found [here](#).

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs dropped 97,800 in April to total 1,172,000. Employment decreased in all eleven major industry sectors. **Leisure and hospitality** was hardest hit by the pandemic response, down 33,600 jobs. While all subsectors posted declines, food services (-32,300) accounted for most of the job loss. Employment in **educational and health services** dropped 20,300. Most of the decrease was reported in health care and social assistance (-18,300), due to the temporary closure of certain types of medical facilities. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 11,800, largely in retail trade (-9,900). **Professional and business services** declined 10,300. A majority of the loss occurred in administrative and support services (-7,800), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **manufacturing** were down 7,600, related to reductions in both durable (-4,700) and nondurable (-2,900) goods manufacturing. Notable decreases were also posted in **government** (-6,400) and **other services** (-4,900).

Compared to April 2019, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are down 111,200. All major industry sectors posted job losses. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** fell 41,400, mostly in accommodation and food services (-40,100). Employment in **educational and health services** dropped 19,000. A majority of the decline occurred in health care and social assistance (-17,100). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** decreased 11,500, with losses in retail trade at 11,300. **Manufacturing** declined 11,400, mostly in durable goods manufacturing (-8,700). Other sizable reductions occurred in **professional and business services** (-9,100), **government** (-8,600), and **other services** (-5,900).

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Chg From Mar 2020	Chg From Apr 2019
Civilian Labor Force	1,316,871	1,386,469	1,361,142	-69,598	-44,271
Employment	1,182,909	1,316,741	1,312,967	-133,832	-130,058
Unemployment	133,962	69,728	48,175	64,234	85,787
Unemployment Rate	10.2	5.0	3.5	5.2	6.7
U.S. Unemployment Rate	14.7	4.4	3.6	10.3	11.1

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

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS, Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	Chg From Mar 2020	Chg From Apr 2019
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1172.0	1269.8	1283.2	-97.8	-111.2
Goods Producing	207.3	216.7	220.1	-9.4	-12.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	56.8	58.6	58.2	-1.8	-1.4
Mining & Logging	5.2	5.6	5.8	-0.4	-0.6
Construction	51.6	53.0	52.4	-1.4	-0.8
Specialty Trade Contractors	32.5	33.6	33.4	-1.1	-0.9
Manufacturing	150.5	158.1	161.9	-7.6	-11.4
Durable Goods	69.2	73.9	77.9	-4.7	-8.7
Nondurable Goods	81.3	84.2	84.0	-2.9	-2.7
Service Providing	964.7	1053.1	1063.1	-88.4	-98.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	239.2	251.0	250.7	-11.8	-11.5
Wholesale Trade	47.4	48.6	47.6	-1.2	-0.2
Retail Trade	124.3	134.2	135.6	-9.9	-11.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	67.5	68.2	67.5	-0.7	0.0
Information	10.2	10.9	11.4	-0.7	-1.2
Financial Activities	60.9	61.3	62.6	-0.4	-1.7
Finance & Insurance	47.7	47.6	48.7	0.1	-1.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.2	13.7	13.9	-0.5	-0.7
Professional & Business Services	137.7	148.0	146.8	-10.3	-9.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.2	46.2	45.6	-2.0	-1.4
Management of Companies	34.8	35.3	33.1	-0.5	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	58.7	66.5	68.1	-7.8	-9.4
Educational & Health Services	174.9	195.2	193.9	-20.3	-19.0
Educational Services	14.7	16.7	16.6	-2.0	-1.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	160.2	178.5	177.3	-18.3	-17.1
Ambulatory Health Care	49.2	60.3	59.4	-11.1	-10.2
Social Assistance	36.0	39.9	40.1	-3.9	-4.1
Leisure & Hospitality	80.7	114.3	122.1	-33.6	-41.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.8	11.1	12.1	-0.3	-1.3
Accommodation & Food Services	69.9	103.2	110.0	-33.3	-40.1
Accommodation Services	10.4	11.4	11.5	-1.0	-1.1
Food Services	59.5	91.8	98.5	-32.3	-39.0
Other Services	53.7	58.6	59.6	-4.9	-5.9
Government	207.4	213.8	216.0	-6.4	-8.6
Federal Government	20.5	20.6	20.1	-0.1	0.4
State Government	77.0	80.2	80.4	-3.2	-3.4
State Government, Educational Services	29.2	32.2	32.3	-3.0	-3.1
State Government, Excluding Education	47.8	48.0	48.1	-0.2	-0.3
Local Government	109.9	113.0	115.5	-3.1	-5.6
Local Government, Education Services	68.1	69.2	71.6	-1.1	-3.5
Local Government, Excluding Education	41.8	43.8	43.9	-2.0	-2.1

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2019 benchmark.

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



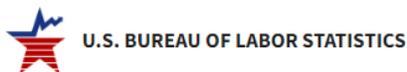
About the Arkansas Department of Commerce:

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.



About Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

The Bureau of Labor Statistics measures labor market activity, working conditions, price changes, and productivity in the U.S. economy to support public and private decision making.

About Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

The LAUS program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, States, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence.

About Current Employment Statistics (CES)

The CES program produces detailed industry estimates of employment, hours, and earnings of workers on nonfarm payrolls. CES State and Metro Area produces data for all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and about 450 metropolitan areas and divisions.