



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases from 7.1 in July to 7.4 Percent in August

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 increased three-tenths of a percentage point, from 7.1 percent in July to 7.4 percent in August. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 38,219, a result of 31,763 more employed and 6,456 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined sharply, dropping from 10.2 percent in July to 8.4 percent in August.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate increased in August, due to the sizable growth of the civilian labor force. The labor force gains were related to a surge in the number of employed Arkansans, in addition to an increase in unemployed individuals who are actively looking for work."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 18,000 in August to total 1,220,300. Seven major industry sectors added jobs. The largest increase was in **government**, up 7,600. Jobs in federal government rose 3,300, attributed to hiring for the Census. The remaining expansions were mostly in local government, educational services (+2,400) and state government, educational services (+2,000), as public schools began the 2020-2021 school year. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 3,900 jobs. Most of the hiring was in retail trade (+3,100). Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 3,400, largely in administrative and support services (+3,000). Employment in **educational and health services** increased 1,400. Expansions were reported in both educational services (+900) and health care and social assistance (+500). Small gains were also posted in **construction** (+1,000) and **leisure and hospitality** (+1,000).

Compared to August 2019, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are down 45,500. Job losses were reported in eight major industry sectors. **Manufacturing** posted the largest decline (-17,900). Most of the drop was in durable goods manufacturing (-13,400), including activities such as transportation equipment manufacturing and fabricated metal product manufacturing. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** is down 17,800, mostly in food services (-13,500). **Educational and health services** decreased 8,800, with reductions in health care and social assistance (-10,100) more than offsetting small gains in educational services (+1,300). Jobs in **financial activities** declined 2,200, with reported losses in both subsectors. Employment in **other services** decreased 3,300. The sector includes businesses such as nail salons, dry cleaners, and social organizations. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** posted a notable increase, up 7,800 jobs. **Professional and business services** added 1,600 jobs, all in management of companies (+2,000).

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	Aug 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2019	Chg From Jul 2020	Chg From Aug 2019
Civilian Labor Force	1,343,832	1,305,613	1,362,055	38,219	-18,223
Employment	1,244,400	1,212,637	1,313,485	31,763	-69,085
Unemployment	99,432	92,976	48,570	6,456	50,862
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.1	3.6	0.3	3.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.4	10.2	3.7	-1.8	4.7

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	Aug 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2019	Chg From Jul 2020	Chg From Aug 2019
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1220.3	1202.3	1265.8	18.0	-45.5
Goods Producing	203.9	202.6	221.7	1.3	-17.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.7	58.7	59.6	1.0	0.1
Mining & Logging	5.2	5.2	6.0	0.0	-0.8
Construction	54.5	53.5	53.6	1.0	0.9
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.8	34.1	33.9	0.7	0.9
Manufacturing	144.2	143.9	162.1	0.3	-17.9
Durable Goods	63.8	63.4	77.2	0.4	-13.4
Nondurable Goods	80.4	80.5	84.9	-0.1	-4.5
Service Providing	1016.4	999.7	1044.1	16.7	-27.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	258.8	254.9	251.0	3.9	7.8
Wholesale Trade	48.7	49.3	47.5	-0.6	1.2
Retail Trade	139.2	136.1	135.8	3.1	3.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	70.9	69.5	67.7	1.4	3.2
Information	10.6	10.6	11.2	0.0	-0.6
Financial Activities	61.1	61.7	63.3	-0.6	-2.2
Finance & Insurance	47.8	48.2	49.0	-0.4	-1.2
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.3	13.5	14.3	-0.2	-1.0
Professional & Business Services	145.2	141.8	143.6	3.4	1.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.3	43.8	44.6	0.5	-0.3
Management of Companies	35.9	36.0	33.9	-0.1	2.0
Administrative & Support Services	65.0	62.0	65.1	3.0	-0.1
Educational & Health Services	182.7	181.3	191.5	1.4	-8.8
Educational Services	14.4	13.5	13.1	0.9	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	168.3	167.8	178.4	0.5	-10.1
Ambulatory Health Care	59.1	59.2	60.1	-0.1	-1.0
Social Assistance	36.1	35.0	39.2	1.1	-3.1
Leisure & Hospitality	105.7	104.7	123.5	1.0	-17.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.8	12.2	13.0	-0.4	-1.2
Accommodation & Food Services	93.9	92.5	110.5	1.4	-16.6
Accommodation Services	8.8	9.1	11.9	-0.3	-3.1
Food Services	85.1	83.4	98.6	1.7	-13.5
Other Services	56.3	56.3	59.6	0.0	-3.3
Government	196.0	188.4	200.4	7.6	-4.4
Federal Government	24.1	20.8	20.5	3.3	3.6
State Government	72.6	70.8	74.7	1.8	-2.1
State Government, Educational Services	25.8	23.8	26.7	2.0	-0.9
State Government, Excluding Education	46.8	47.0	48.0	-0.2	-1.2
Local Government	99.3	96.8	105.2	2.5	-5.9
Local Government, Education Services	57.1	54.7	59.8	2.4	-2.7
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.2	42.1	45.4	0.1	-3.2

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.