



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.2 Percent in December

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 dropped two and one-tenth of a percentage point, from 6.3 percent in November (revised up from 6.2 percent) to 4.2 percent in December. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 38,904, a result of 65,543 more employed and 26,639 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate held steady at 6.7 percent between November and December.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "After peaking at 10.8 percent in April, Arkansas' unemployment has slowly declined throughout 2020 and fell to 4.2 percent in December. This drop reflects the cumulative impact of recent hiring, as more Arkansans report they are currently employed."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 2,600 in December to total 1,252,900. Three major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting small losses in five sectors. Employment in three industry sectors was unchanged. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 3,700. Gains were posted in retail trade (+2,200) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+2,100), related in large part to seasonal hiring for the holidays. **Professional and business services** added 2,600 jobs. The largest increase was in administrative and support services (+1,400), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** declined 2,600. Most of the loss was in food services (-2,200), due in part to the temporary closure of food services at educational facilities during winter break.

Compared to December 2019, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are down 33,900. Employment decreased in eight major industry sectors. **Manufacturing** posted the largest drop, down 14,300 jobs. Losses were reported in both durable goods (-7,500) and nondurable goods (-6,800) manufacturing. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** declined 13,700, mostly in food services (-10,500). Jobs in **government** decreased 9,600, largely in local government (-8,200). Employment in **educational and health services** is down 9,200. Most of the loss was reported in health care and social assistance (-8,800). **Other services** declined 4,300. The sector includes activities such as repair-maintenance and membership organizations. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** reported the largest increase, adding 13,500 jobs. **Professional and business services** (+3,100) and **construction** (+2,800) also posted notable gains in employment.

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2019	Chg From Nov 2020	Chg From Dec 2019
Civilian Labor Force	1,360,897	1,321,993	1,364,255	38,904	-3,358
Employment	1,303,673	1,238,130	1,316,069	65,543	-12,396
Unemployment	57,224	83,863	48,186	-26,639	9,038
Unemployment Rate	4.2	6.3	3.5	-2.1	0.7
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.7	3.6	0.0	3.1

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	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	Chg From Nov 2020	Chg From Dec 2019
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1252.9	1250.3	1286.8	2.6	-33.9
Goods Producing	207.6	208.2	219.9	-0.6	-12.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.5	60.3	57.5	-0.8	2.0
Mining & Logging	5.0	5.1	5.8	-0.1	-0.8
Construction	54.5	55.2	51.7	-0.7	2.8
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.4	35.1	33.4	-0.7	1.0
Manufacturing	148.1	147.9	162.4	0.2	-14.3
Durable Goods	68.9	68.3	76.4	0.6	-7.5
Nondurable Goods	79.2	79.6	86.0	-0.4	-6.8
Service Providing	1045.3	1042.1	1066.9	3.2	-21.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	271.9	268.2	258.4	3.7	13.5
Wholesale Trade	49.5	50.1	48.9	-0.6	0.6
Retail Trade	147.0	144.8	138.9	2.2	8.1
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	75.4	73.3	70.6	2.1	4.8
Information	10.7	10.7	11.2	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	60.8	60.8	61.7	0.0	-0.9
Finance & Insurance	48.0	47.9	48.0	0.1	0.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	12.8	12.9	13.7	-0.1	-0.9
Professional & Business Services	150.5	147.9	147.4	2.6	3.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	46.1	45.2	46.1	0.9	0.0
Management of Companies	36.6	36.3	34.5	0.3	2.1
Administrative & Support Services	67.8	66.4	66.8	1.4	1.0
Educational & Health Services	188.4	188.4	197.6	0.0	-9.2
Educational Services	16.1	16.3	16.5	-0.2	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.3	172.1	181.1	0.2	-8.8
Ambulatory Health Care	59.8	60.3	62.7	-0.5	-2.9
Social Assistance	36.9	36.9	39.5	0.0	-2.6
Leisure & Hospitality	102.8	105.4	116.5	-2.6	-13.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.6	9.8	10.1	-0.2	-0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	93.2	95.6	106.4	-2.4	-13.2
Accommodation Services	8.2	8.4	10.9	-0.2	-2.7
Food Services	85.0	87.2	95.5	-2.2	-10.5
Other Services	55.9	56.0	60.2	-0.1	-4.3
Government	204.3	204.7	213.9	-0.4	-9.6
Federal Government	21.0	20.7	20.5	0.3	0.5
State Government	77.7	78.1	79.6	-0.4	-1.9
State Government, Educational Services	31.1	31.4	31.7	-0.3	-0.6
State Government, Excluding Education	46.6	46.7	47.9	-0.1	-1.3
Local Government	105.6	105.9	113.8	-0.3	-8.2
Local Government, Education Services	63.2	63.2	69.8	0.0	-6.6
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.4	42.7	44.0	-0.3	-1.6

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

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

2021 Arkansas Publication Schedule

Reference Month	State Press Release	MSA's & Counties*
January	03/15/21	03/19/21
February	03/26/21	04/07/21
March	04/16/21	04/28/21
April	05/21/21	06/02/21
May	06/23/21	06/30/21
June	07/16/21	07/28/21
July	08/20/21	09/01/21
August	09/17/21	09/29/21
September	10/22/21	11/03/21
October	11/19/21	12/02/21
November	12/17/21	12/30/21
December	01/25/22	02/02/22

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



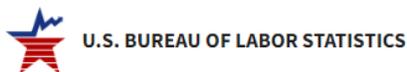
About the Arkansas Department of Commerce:

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.