



NEWS RELEASE

March 27, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Susan Price, Arkansas BLS Programs Manager
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services
Susan.Price@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 3.5 Percent in February

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 was unchanged at 3.5 percent in February. Arkansas' civilian labor force added 970, a result of 1,239 more employed and 269 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.6 percent in January to 3.5 percent in February.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate has remained stable at 3.5 percent since October 2019. While the number of unemployed has declined for the last six consecutive months, the movement was not enough to impact the unemployment rate overall."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 100 in February to total 1,269,800. Three major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting declines in five sectors. Job totals in three major sectors were unchanged. **Professional and business services** posted the largest increase, up 3,100. Most of the expansion was in administrative and support services (+2,500), a subsector which includes employment agencies. **Government** added 2,000 jobs. Gains were mostly in state government, educational services (+2,100), attributed to the re-opening of public colleges and universities after holiday break. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** decreased 3,000. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities posted a majority of the reduction (-2,500), with reported losses in delivery services and trucking.

Compared to February 2019, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are down 3,300. Six major industry sectors posted declines, while employment in five sectors increased. The largest decrease occurred in **manufacturing** (-3,800). Durable goods reported most of the loss (-3,300), due to reductions in fabricated metal product manufacturing and the production of transportation equipment. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** are down 2,600, mostly in food services (-2,500). **Government** employment declined 1,700. A majority of the loss occurred in local government (-2,100), all in the educational services subsector (-2,400). Employment in **financial activities** decreased 1,000, all in finance and insurance (-1,100). **Educational and health services** added 3,700 jobs. Increases were largely in health care and social assistance (+3,500), with ambulatory health care accounting for most of the gains (+2,900).

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2020	January 2020	February 2019	Chg From Jan 2020	Chg From Feb 2019
Civilian Labor Force	1,367,278	1,366,308	1,362,467	970	4,811
Employment	1,319,479	1,318,240	1,313,963	1,239	5,516
Unemployment	47,799	48,068	48,504	-269	-705
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	3.8	-0.1	-0.3

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	February 2020	January 2020	February 2019	Chg From Jan 2020	Chg From Feb 2019
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1269.8	1269.7	1273.1	0.1	-3.3
Goods Producing	216.6	217.6	219.2	-1.0	-2.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	57.4	57.5	56.2	-0.1	1.2
Mining & Logging	5.6	5.7	5.7	-0.1	-0.1
Construction	51.8	51.8	50.5	0.0	1.3
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.1	33.2	32.2	-0.1	0.9
Manufacturing	159.2	160.1	163.0	-0.9	-3.8
Durable Goods	74.9	75.1	78.2	-0.2	-3.3
Nondurable Goods	84.3	85.0	84.8	-0.7	-0.5
Service Providing	1053.2	1052.1	1053.9	1.1	-0.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	250.0	253.0	249.7	-3.0	0.3
Wholesale Trade	48.5	49.0	47.1	-0.5	1.4
Retail Trade	133.5	133.5	135.2	0.0	-1.7
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	68.0	70.5	67.4	-2.5	0.6
Information	10.8	10.8	11.3	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	61.2	61.5	62.2	-0.3	-1.0
Finance & Insurance	47.5	47.9	48.6	-0.4	-1.1
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.7	13.6	13.6	0.1	0.1
Professional & Business Services	146.3	143.2	146.1	3.1	0.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	46.2	45.7	45.7	0.5	0.5
Management of Companies	35.0	34.9	33.8	0.1	1.2
Administrative & Support Services	65.1	62.6	66.6	2.5	-1.5
Educational & Health Services	197.5	197.3	193.8	0.2	3.7
Educational Services	16.5	16.1	16.3	0.4	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	181.0	181.2	177.5	-0.2	3.5
Ambulatory Health Care	62.1	62.5	59.2	-0.4	2.9
Social Assistance	40.1	39.8	40.2	0.3	-0.1
Leisure & Hospitality	114.4	115.3	117.0	-0.9	-2.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.3	10.0	10.4	0.3	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	104.1	105.3	106.6	-1.2	-2.5
Accommodation Services	10.7	10.7	10.7	0.0	0.0
Food Services	93.4	94.6	95.9	-1.2	-2.5
Other Services	60.1	60.1	59.2	0.0	0.9
Government	212.9	210.9	214.6	2.0	-1.7
Federal Government	20.3	20.6	20.2	-0.3	0.1
State Government	79.8	77.7	79.5	2.1	0.3
State Government, Educational Services	31.9	29.8	31.5	2.1	0.4
State Government, Excluding Education	47.9	47.9	48.0	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	112.8	112.6	114.9	0.2	-2.1
Local Government, Education Services	69.2	69.1	71.6	0.1	-2.4
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.6	43.5	43.3	0.1	0.3

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.