



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Down to 7.1 Percent in July

### 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 decreased one percentage point, from 8.1 percent (revised up from 8.0 percent) in June to 7.1 percent in July. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined by 9,410, a result of 14,272 fewer unemployed and 4,862 additional employed Arkansans. At 10.2 percent, the United States' jobless rate decreased nine-tenths of a percentage point between June and July.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate rose to 10.8 percent in April, at the height of the initial pandemic response. While employment and unemployment have fluctuated since then, Arkansas' jobless rate has steadily declined and is down to 7.1 percent in July."

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

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased 11,500 in July to total 1,202,600. Jobs in five major industry sectors declined, more than offsetting gains in six sectors. Jobs in **government** fell 13,100. Most of the loss was in local government, educational services (-13,100), related to summer break at public schools. **Manufacturing** decreased 1,000. All reductions were in durable goods manufacturing (-1,000), due in part to COVID-related layoffs and closures. Minor losses were reported in **trade-transportation-utilities** (-500), **construction** (-400), and **information** (-100). **Professional and business services** posted the largest gain, adding 1,200 jobs. Hiring occurred in all three subsectors. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 800, all in food services (+900).

Compared to July 2019, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs have declined 54,600. Employment in eight major industry sectors remain down over-the-year. Jobs in **manufacturing** dropped 18,100, mostly in durable goods manufacturing (-13,700). **Leisure and hospitality** decreased 17,600. Losses were posted in all subsectors, with food services accounting for most of the contraction (-13,400). **Government** employment is down 9,500. Reductions were reported across the board in both state (-2,000) and local (-8,000) government. Jobs in **educational and health services** declined 8,300, all in health care and social assistance (-9,600). Notable losses were also posted in **other services** (-2,300) and **financial activities** (-1,400). The largest over-the-year increase was in **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+3,800), with gains reported in all three subsectors.

## ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Chg From June 2020	Chg From July 2019
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,304,752	1,314,162	1,361,041	-9,410	-56,289
<b>Employment</b>	1,212,619	1,207,757	1,312,512	4,862	-99,893
<b>Unemployment</b>	92,133	106,405	48,529	-14,272	43,604
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	7.1	8.1	3.6	-1.0	3.5
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	10.2	11.1	3.7	-0.9	6.5

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	July 2020	June 2020	July 2019	Chg From June 2020	Chg From July 2019
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	1202.6	1214.1	1257.2	-11.5	-54.6
<b>Goods Producing</b>	202.4	203.7	221.1	-1.3	-18.7
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.7	59.0	59.3	-0.3	-0.6
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	5.2	5.1	5.9	0.1	-0.7
<b>Construction</b>	53.5	53.9	53.4	-0.4	0.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.1	34.0	33.7	0.1	0.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	143.7	144.7	161.8	-1.0	-18.1
Durable Goods	63.4	64.4	77.1	-1.0	-13.7
Nondurable Goods	80.3	80.3	84.7	0.0	-4.4
<b>Service Providing</b>	1000.2	1010.4	1036.1	-10.2	-35.9
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	254.6	255.1	250.8	-0.5	3.8
Wholesale Trade	49.3	49.6	47.7	-0.3	1.6
Retail Trade	135.8	135.7	135.7	0.1	0.1
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	69.5	69.8	67.4	-0.3	2.1
<b>Information</b>	10.6	10.7	11.2	-0.1	-0.6
<b>Financial Activities</b>	61.7	60.9	63.1	0.8	-1.4
Finance & Insurance	48.2	47.7	48.9	0.5	-0.7
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.5	13.2	14.2	0.3	-0.7
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	142.2	141.0	142.2	1.2	0.0
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.8	43.5	44.6	0.3	-0.8
Management of Companies	36.0	35.7	33.8	0.3	2.2
Administrative & Support Services	62.4	61.8	63.8	0.6	-1.4
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	181.2	180.8	189.5	0.4	-8.3
Educational Services	13.4	13.9	12.1	-0.5	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	167.8	166.9	177.4	0.9	-9.6
Ambulatory Health Care	59.2	57.0	59.9	2.2	-0.7
Social Assistance	34.9	35.3	38.7	-0.4	-3.8
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	105.0	104.2	122.6	0.8	-17.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.3	12.4	13.5	-0.1	-1.2
Accommodation & Food Services	92.7	91.8	109.1	0.9	-16.4
Accommodation Services	9.1	9.1	12.1	0.0	-3.0
Food Services	83.6	82.7	97.0	0.9	-13.4
<b>Other Services</b>	57.5	57.2	59.8	0.3	-2.3
<b>Government</b>	187.4	200.5	196.9	-13.1	-9.5
Federal Government	20.8	20.4	20.3	0.4	0.5
State Government	70.9	71.2	72.9	-0.3	-2.0
State Government, Educational Services	23.9	23.6	24.6	0.3	-0.7
State Government, Excluding Education	47.0	47.6	48.3	-0.6	-1.3
Local Government	95.7	108.9	103.7	-13.2	-8.0
Local Government, Education Services	53.6	66.7	57.4	-13.1	-3.8
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.1	42.2	46.3	-0.1	-4.2

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1<sup>st</sup> 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.