



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Susan Price, Arkansas BLS Programs Manager

Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

[Susan.Price@arkansas.gov](mailto:Susan.Price@arkansas.gov)

[www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov)

### **Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 6.2 Percent in October**

#### **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 one full percentage point, from 7.2 percent in September (revised down from 7.3 percent) to 6.2 percent in October. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 12,370, a result of 14,117 fewer unemployed and 1,747 more employed Arkansans. At 6.9 percent, the United States' jobless rate also declined one full percentage point between September and October.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate declined sharply in October to 6.2 percent. This was spurred by the decline in the number of unemployed Arkansans."

#### **Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:**

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 11,500 in October to total 1,243,900. Eight major industry sectors posted gains. **Professional and business services** added 4,000 jobs. Most of the expansion was in administrative and support services (+3,000), a subsector that includes employment agencies. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 3,800. A majority of the hiring occurred in retail trade (+3,900), as businesses prepare for the upcoming holiday shopping season. Employment in **manufacturing** increased 1,000. Gains in durable goods (+1,400) more than offset the losses in nondurable goods (-400) manufacturing. **Construction** added 1,000 jobs, attributed in part to new and on-going large projects around the State.

Compared to October 2019, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are down 42,600. Losses were reported in eight major industry sectors. Jobs in **manufacturing** dropped 16,200. Reductions were seen in both durable goods (-10,400) and nondurable goods (-5,800) manufacturing. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** declined 15,400. Losses occurred in all subsectors, with food services posting most of the decrease (-11,700). Jobs in **government** are down 8,600, all in local (-8,100) and state (-1,900) government. **Educational and health services** declined 7,700. All losses were in health care and social assistance (-7,700). Other notable contractions occurred in **other services** (-3,900) and **financial activities** (-1,900). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** posted the largest increase, adding 9,500 jobs. Most of the growth was in retail trade (+5,600) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+3,700). Gains were also reported in **professional and business services** (+1,800) and in **construction** (+1,200).

## ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	Oct 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2019	Chg From Sep 2020	Chg From Oct 2019
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,331,750	1,344,120	1,364,178	-12,370	-32,428
<b>Employment</b>	1,248,547	1,246,800	1,315,900	1,747	-67,353
<b>Unemployment</b>	83,203	97,320	48,278	-14,117	34,925
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	6.2	7.2	3.5	-1.0	2.7
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	6.9	7.9	3.6	-1.0	3.3

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	Oct 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2019	Chg From Sep 2020	Chg From Oct 2019
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	1243.9	1232.4	1286.5	11.5	-42.6
<b>Goods Producing</b>	207.4	205.4	223.2	2.0	-15.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	60.7	59.7	60.3	1.0	0.4
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	5.1	5.1	5.9	0.0	-0.8
<b>Construction</b>	55.6	54.6	54.4	1.0	1.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	35.0	34.5	34.7	0.5	0.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>	146.7	145.7	162.9	1.0	-16.2
Durable Goods	66.5	65.1	76.9	1.4	-10.4
Nondurable Goods	80.2	80.6	86.0	-0.4	-5.8
<b>Service Providing</b>	1036.5	1027.0	1063.3	9.5	-26.8
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	262.0	258.2	252.5	3.8	9.5
Wholesale Trade	48.4	49.0	48.2	-0.6	0.2
Retail Trade	141.7	137.8	136.1	3.9	5.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	71.9	71.4	68.2	0.5	3.7
<b>Information</b>	10.7	10.7	11.3	0.0	-0.6
<b>Financial Activities</b>	61.0	60.7	62.9	0.3	-1.9
Finance & Insurance	47.9	47.7	48.9	0.2	-1.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.1	13.0	14.0	0.1	-0.9
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	149.0	145.0	147.2	4.0	1.8
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.7	43.8	44.8	0.9	-0.1
Management of Companies	36.4	36.3	34.5	0.1	1.9
Administrative & Support Services	67.9	64.9	67.9	3.0	0.0
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	187.8	186.9	195.5	0.9	-7.7
Educational Services	16.5	15.8	16.5	0.7	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	171.3	171.1	179.0	0.2	-7.7
Ambulatory Health Care	59.8	59.6	60.5	0.2	-0.7
Social Assistance	37.0	37.4	39.6	-0.4	-2.6
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	104.4	104.6	119.8	-0.2	-15.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.5	10.6	11.2	-0.1	-0.7
Accommodation & Food Services	93.9	94.0	108.6	-0.1	-14.7
Accommodation Services	8.5	8.7	11.5	-0.2	-3.0
Food Services	85.4	85.3	97.1	0.1	-11.7
<b>Other Services</b>	56.3	55.7	60.2	0.6	-3.9
<b>Government</b>	205.3	205.2	213.9	0.1	-8.6
Federal Government	21.8	23.3	20.4	-1.5	1.4
State Government	78.0	77.4	79.9	0.6	-1.9
State Government, Educational Services	31.3	30.7	31.9	0.6	-0.6
State Government, Excluding Education	46.7	46.7	48.0	0.0	-1.3
Local Government	105.5	104.5	113.6	1.0	-8.1
Local Government, Education Services	63.0	62.4	69.5	0.6	-6.5
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.5	42.1	44.1	0.4	-1.6

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.