



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 4.4 Percent in April

### 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 remained stable at 4.4 percent between March and April. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 1,984, a result of 2,779 more employed and 795 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point, from 6.0 percent in March to 6.1 percent in April.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Compared to April 2020 when COVID-related job losses peaked, the number of unemployed in Arkansas has declined 77,978. Employment is up 68,488 and the unemployment rate is down significantly from the peak of 10.0 percent last April."

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 6,100 in April to total 1,266,200. Five major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting small declines in four sectors. The largest increase was in **leisure and hospitality**, up 3,800 jobs. Hiring occurred in all subsectors, with food services adding 2,600 jobs. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 1,900. All gains were in administrative and support services (+2,500), a subsector which includes employment agencies. **Construction** added 1,200 jobs, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+800). Jobs in **government** increased 1,000. Small gains were posted in both state (+400) and local (+300) government. **Manufacturing** declined 1,200. Losses in nondurable goods (-1,700) were offset by expansions in durable goods (+500) manufacturing.

Compared to April 2020, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 94,600. Nine major industry sectors posted gains. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 34,700, mostly in food services (+27,400). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 16,100 jobs. Most of the expansion occurred in retail trade (+14,200). Employment in **professional and business services** increased 14,800, largely in administrative and support services (+13,400). Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 10,600. Hiring in durable goods (+10,900) more than offset minor losses in nondurable goods (-300). **Educational and health services** added 10,500 jobs. Expansions occurred in both health care and social assistance (+9,200) and educational services (+1,300). Other notable increases were seen in **other services** (+5,100) and **construction** (+2,700). **Government** posted the largest annual decline, down 1,200 jobs. The greatest loss occurred in local government, educational services (-2,200).

## ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Chg From Mar 2021	Chg From Apr 2020
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,362,081	1,360,097	1,371,571	1,984	-9,490
<b>Employment</b>	1,302,692	1,299,913	1,234,204	2,779	68,488
<b>Unemployment</b>	59,389	60,184	137,367	-795	-77,978
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.4	4.4	10.0	0.0	-5.6
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	6.1	6.0	14.8	0.1	-8.7

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	April 2021	March 2021	April 2020	Chg From Mar 2021	Chg From Apr 2020
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	<b>1266.2</b>	<b>1260.1</b>	<b>1171.6</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>94.6</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>219.4</b>	<b>219.4</b>	<b>206.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>13.2</b>
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.5	58.3	56.9	1.2	2.6
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.2	33.4	32.5	0.8	1.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>159.9</b>	<b>161.1</b>	<b>149.3</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>10.6</b>
Durable Goods	80.2	79.7	69.3	0.5	10.9
Nondurable Goods	79.7	81.4	80.0	-1.7	-0.3
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1046.8</b>	<b>1040.7</b>	<b>965.4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>81.4</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>248.5</b>	<b>249.1</b>	<b>232.4</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>16.1</b>
Wholesale Trade	46.4	46.5	45.5	-0.1	0.9
Retail Trade	137.6	137.5	123.4	0.1	14.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.5	65.1	63.5	-0.6	1.0
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>64.4</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>1.1</b>
Finance & Insurance	50.7	51.1	50.1	-0.4	0.6
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.5	13.3	13.0	0.2	0.5
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>144.5</b>	<b>131.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>14.8</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.2	43.5	42.1	-0.3	1.1
Management of Companies	33.6	33.9	33.3	-0.3	0.3
Administrative & Support Services	69.6	67.1	56.2	2.5	13.4
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>188.7</b>	<b>188.8</b>	<b>178.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>10.5</b>
Educational Services	16.7	16.8	15.4	-0.1	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.0	172.0	162.8	0.0	9.2
Ambulatory Health Care	59.1	59.2	52.8	-0.1	6.3
Social Assistance	36.5	36.2	34.2	0.3	2.3
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>111.1</b>	<b>107.3</b>	<b>76.4</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>34.7</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.9	11.0	6.5	0.9	5.4
Accommodation & Food Services	99.2	96.3	69.9	2.9	29.3
Accommodation Services	9.2	8.9	7.3	0.3	1.9
Food Services	90.0	87.4	62.6	2.6	27.4
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>5.1</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>209.1</b>	<b>208.1</b>	<b>210.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Federal Government	20.5	20.2	20.6	0.3	-0.1
State Government	78.5	78.1	76.9	0.4	1.6
State Government, Educational Services	32.0	31.5	29.2	0.5	2.8
State Government, Excluding Education	46.5	46.6	47.7	-0.1	-1.2
Local Government	110.1	109.8	112.8	0.3	-2.7
Local Government, Education Services	67.3	67.4	69.5	-0.1	-2.2
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.8	42.4	43.3	0.4	-0.5

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020 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.