



NEWS RELEASE

January 25, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Susan Price, Arkansas BLS Programs Manager

Arkansas Division of Workforce Services

Susan.Price@arkansas.gov

www.discover.arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 3.1 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 declined three-tenths of a percentage point, from 3.4 percent in November to 3.1 percent in December. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased by 1,098, a result of 3,750 fewer unemployed and 2,652 additional employed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined to 3.9 percent in December, down three-tenths of a percentage point from 4.2 percent in November.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The unemployment rate in Arkansas dropped to 3.1 percent in December, a new record low rate for the State. While employment has increased for a second month, there are slightly fewer employed Arkansans compared to December 2020. Unemployment is down over the year, as the number of Arkansans actively looking for work has declined for the last six months."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 1,500 in December to total 1,291,100. Six major industry sectors posted declines, more than offsetting gains in four major sectors. **Educational and health services** reported the greatest loss, down 2,200 jobs. All decreases were in health care and social assistance (-2,300), with reported contractions in activities such as childcare services, individual and family services, and offices of specialty health practitioners. Small, mostly seasonal declines were posted in **construction** (-600) and **leisure and hospitality** (-500). The largest increase occurred in **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+2,000). Most of the gains were related to holiday hiring in retail trade (+1,200) and wholesale trade (+900).

Compared to December 2020, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 27,300. Growth was reported in eight major industry sectors, with five sectors adding 4,300 or more jobs each. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 9,600. Most of the gains occurred in administrative and support services (+7,400). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 5,200 jobs, mostly in wholesale trade (+2,500) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+2,300). Jobs in **manufacturing** are up 4,900, all in durable goods (+7,100). Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 4,400, with expansions in all subsectors. **Financial activities** increased 4,300. Most of the gains were in finance and insurance (+3,900). Annual losses were posted in **construction** (-2,300) and **government** (-1,900).

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	December 2021	November 2021	December 2020	Chg From Nov 2021	Chg From Dec 2020
Civilian Labor Force	1,353,108	1,354,206	1,379,313	-1,098	-26,205
Employment	1,310,499	1,307,847	1,312,142	2,652	-1,643
Unemployment	42,609	46,359	67,171	-3,750	-24,562
Unemployment Rate	3.1	3.4	4.9	-0.3	-1.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.2	6.7	-0.3	-2.8

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 2021	November 2021	December 2020	Chg From Nov 2021	Chg From Dec 2020
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1291.1	1292.6	1263.8	-1.5	27.3
Goods Producing	219.6	219.9	216.6	-0.3	3.0
Mining, Logging, & Construction	57.4	58.0	59.3	-0.6	-1.9
Mining & Logging	5.7	5.7	5.3	0.0	0.4
Construction	51.7	52.3	54.0	-0.6	-2.3
Specialty Trade Contractors	32.6	32.6	34.4	0.0	-1.8
Manufacturing	162.2	161.9	157.3	0.3	4.9
Durable Goods	83.0	83.0	75.9	0.0	7.1
Nondurable Goods	79.2	78.9	81.4	0.3	-2.2
Service Providing	1071.5	1072.7	1047.2	-1.2	24.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	263.4	261.4	258.2	2.0	5.2
Wholesale Trade	48.5	47.6	46.0	0.9	2.5
Retail Trade	144.1	142.9	143.7	1.2	0.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	70.8	70.9	68.5	-0.1	2.3
Information	12.7	12.6	11.6	0.1	1.1
Financial Activities	67.8	68.2	63.5	-0.4	4.3
Finance & Insurance	54.1	54.3	50.2	-0.2	3.9
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.7	13.9	13.3	-0.2	0.4
Professional & Business Services	152.4	151.7	142.8	0.7	9.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.8	43.8	43.3	0.0	0.5
Management of Companies	35.7	35.8	34.0	-0.1	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	72.9	72.1	65.5	0.8	7.4
Educational & Health Services	189.0	191.2	189.2	-2.2	-0.2
Educational Services	17.5	17.4	15.9	0.1	1.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	171.5	173.8	173.3	-2.3	-1.8
Ambulatory Health Care	59.9	60.5	59.6	-0.6	0.3
Social Assistance	35.7	36.6	36.6	-0.9	-0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	112.2	112.7	107.8	-0.5	4.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.5	11.4	10.0	0.1	1.5
Accommodation & Food Services	100.7	101.3	97.8	-0.6	2.9
Accommodation Services	9.9	10.0	8.7	-0.1	1.2
Food Services	90.8	91.3	89.1	-0.5	1.7
Other Services	66.9	67.4	65.1	-0.5	1.8
Government	207.1	207.5	209.0	-0.4	-1.9
Federal Government	21.1	21.0	20.8	0.1	0.3
State Government	78.0	78.4	77.4	-0.4	0.6
State Government, Educational Services	31.6	32.0	30.8	-0.4	0.8
State Government, Excluding Education	46.4	46.4	46.6	0.0	-0.2
Local Government	108.0	108.1	110.8	-0.1	-2.8
Local Government, Education Services	65.1	65.0	68.0	0.1	-2.9
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.9	43.1	42.8	-0.2	0.1

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2020 benchmark.

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

2022 Arkansas Publication Schedule

Reference Month	State Press Release	MSA's & Counties*
January	03/14/22	03/18/22
February	03/25/22	04/06/22
March	04/15/22	04/27/22
April	05/20/22	06/01/22
May	06/17/22	06/29/22
June	07/22/22	08/03/22
July	08/19/22	08/31/22
August	09/16/22	09/28/22
September	10/21/22	11/02/22
October	11/18/22	12/01/22
November	12/16/22	12/29/22
December	01/24/23	02/01/23

*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' 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.



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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.