



Arkansas Division of  
Workforce Services

## NEWS RELEASE

April 16, 2021

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.4 Percent in March

### 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 one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.5 percent in February to 4.4 percent in March. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 3,789, a result of 2,382 fewer employed and 1,407 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point, from 6.2 percent in February to 6.0 percent in March.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate continues to decline, down to 4.4 percent in March. Unemployment is now half a percentage point higher than in March 2020, when Arkansas' pre-pandemic unemployment rate was at 3.9 percent."

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 9,400 in March to total 1,258,700. Nine major industry sectors posted job gains. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 3,200. Most of the hiring occurred in food services (+2,400). **Educational and health services** added 2,000 jobs, largely in health care and social assistance (+1,500). Jobs in **professional and business services** increased 1,000. Gains were posted in administrative and support services (+900) and management of companies (+500). Other notable expansions occurred in **manufacturing** (+800), **financial activities** (+800), and **other services** (+800).

Compared to March 2020, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll job totals are down 29,200. Declines were reported in seven major industry sectors, while three sectors added jobs. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the largest loss (-12,000). Most of the decreases occurred in food services (-8,500) and accommodation services (-2,600). Employment in **government** is down 9,000. Local government (-6,400) and state government (-2,100) posted much of the loss. Jobs in **educational and health services** declined 6,100, all in health care and social assistance (-6,100). Smaller decreases were reported in **professional and business services** (-1,700), **information** (-1,300), and **trade-transportation-utilities** (-1,100). Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 1,300. Expansions in durable goods (+4,200) more than offset losses in nondurable goods (-2,900). **Construction** (+600) and **financial activities** (+400) posted minor gains.

## ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	Chg From Feb 2021	Chg From Mar 2020
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,359,901	1,363,690	1,372,102	-3,789	-12,201
<b>Employment</b>	1,299,702	1,302,084	1,318,251	-2,382	-18,549
<b>Unemployment</b>	60,199	61,606	53,851	-1,407	6,348
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.4	4.5	3.9	-0.1	0.5
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	6.0	6.2	4.4	-0.2	1.6

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	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	Chg From Feb 2021	Chg From Mar 2020
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	<b>1258.7</b>	<b>1249.3</b>	<b>1287.9</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>-29.2</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>219.9</b>	<b>218.4</b>	<b>218.3</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.6	57.9	58.3	0.7	0.3
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.7	33.1	33.4	0.6	0.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>161.3</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>160.0</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Durable Goods	79.9	78.3	75.7	1.6	4.2
Nondurable Goods	81.4	82.2	84.3	-0.8	-2.9
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1038.8</b>	<b>1030.9</b>	<b>1069.6</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>-30.8</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>248.4</b>	<b>248.6</b>	<b>249.5</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
Wholesale Trade	46.3	46.3	47.4	0.0	-1.1
Retail Trade	137.1	137.1	135.3	0.0	1.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.0	65.2	66.8	-0.2	-1.8
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>64.3</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Finance & Insurance	50.9	50.4	50.3	0.5	0.6
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.4	13.1	13.6	0.3	-0.2
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>144.2</b>	<b>143.2</b>	<b>145.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.5	43.9	43.9	-0.4	-0.4
Management of Companies	33.9	33.4	34.3	0.5	-0.4
Administrative & Support Services	66.8	65.9	67.7	0.9	-0.9
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>189.2</b>	<b>187.2</b>	<b>195.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>-6.1</b>
Educational Services	17.0	16.5	17.0	0.5	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.2	170.7	178.3	1.5	-6.1
Ambulatory Health Care	59.1	58.7	59.8	0.4	-0.7
Social Assistance	36.2	35.7	40.0	0.5	-3.8
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>107.4</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>-12.0</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.0	10.4	11.9	0.6	-0.9
Accommodation & Food Services	96.4	93.8	107.5	2.6	-11.1
Accommodation Services	9.0	8.8	11.6	0.2	-2.6
Food Services	87.4	85.0	95.9	2.4	-8.5
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>65.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>208.1</b>	<b>207.6</b>	<b>217.1</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-9.0</b>
Federal Government	20.2	20.2	20.7	0.0	-0.5
State Government	78.1	77.7	80.2	0.4	-2.1
State Government, Educational Services	31.5	31.1	32.2	0.4	-0.7
State Government, Excluding Education	46.6	46.6	48.0	0.0	-1.4
Local Government	109.8	109.7	116.2	0.1	-6.4
Local Government, Education Services	67.4	67.5	71.5	-0.1	-4.1
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.4	42.2	44.7	0.2	-2.3

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.