



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.0 Percent in September

### 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 two-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.2 percent in August to 4.0 percent in September. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 594, a result of 3,561 more employed and 2,967 fewer unemployed Arkansans. At 4.8 percent, the United States' jobless rate dropped four-tenths of a percentage point between August and September.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate declined for the third month in a row to 4.0 percent in September, remaining below the national rate of 4.8 percent. Approximately 3,561 Arkansans became employed this month and 45,532 more are employed now compared to September 2020."

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 17,300 in September to total 1,276,800. Gains were posted in seven major industry sectors. Jobs in **government** increased 12,000. Growth occurred in local government-educational services (+8,000) and state government-educational services (+4,600), as public schools and universities continued hiring for the new school year. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 3,600 jobs. Expansions in retail trade (+2,400) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+1,700) more than offset a small decrease in wholesale trade (-500). Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,200, all in educational services (+2,500). Employment in **manufacturing** increased 1,000, mostly in durable goods (+900). **Leisure and hospitality** reported the largest decline, down 2,100 jobs. Contractions in arts-entertainment-recreation (-1,000) were attributed to typical seasonal losses.

Compared to September 2020, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs have increased by 34,000. Nine major industry sectors posted growth, with five sectors adding 4,000 or more jobs each. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 10,000, with gains reported in all subsectors. Jobs in **manufacturing** increased 7,400. Growth was reported in durable goods (+11,100), while jobs in nondurable goods declined 3,700. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 6,400 jobs, with hiring posted in all subsectors. **Leisure and hospitality** gained 6,200 jobs. Most of the expansion occurred in accommodation and foods services (+4,100). Jobs in **financial activities** rose 4,000, largely in finance and insurance (+3,600). **Government** reported the largest annual decline, down 4,800 jobs. A majority of the loss was split between federal (-2,600) and local (-2,500) government.

## ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	Sep 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2020	Chg From Aug 2021	Chg From Sep 2020
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,358,010	1,357,416	1,337,649	594	20,361
<b>Employment</b>	1,303,751	1,300,190	1,258,219	3,561	45,532
<b>Unemployment</b>	54,259	57,226	79,430	-2,967	-25,171
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.0	4.2	5.9	-0.2	-1.9
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	4.8	5.2	7.8	-0.4	-3.0

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	September 2021	August 2021	September 2020	Chg From Aug 2021	Chg From Sep 2020
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	<b>1276.8</b>	<b>1259.5</b>	<b>1242.8</b>	<b>17.3</b>	<b>34.0</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>219.9</b>	<b>218.2</b>	<b>213.1</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.4	57.7	59.0	0.7	-0.6
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>52.8</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.1	32.7	34.1	0.4	-1.0
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>161.5</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>154.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>
Durable Goods	83.0	82.1	71.9	0.9	11.1
Nondurable Goods	78.5	78.4	82.2	0.1	-3.7
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1056.9</b>	<b>1041.3</b>	<b>1029.7</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>27.2</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>253.5</b>	<b>249.9</b>	<b>247.1</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>6.4</b>
Wholesale Trade	45.8	46.3	45.6	-0.5	0.2
Retail Trade	140.2	137.8	136.4	2.4	3.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	67.5	65.8	65.1	1.7	2.4
<b>Information</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>67.4</b>	<b>66.5</b>	<b>63.4</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Finance & Insurance	53.6	52.7	50.0	0.9	3.6
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.8	13.8	13.4	0.0	0.4
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>147.5</b>	<b>147.9</b>	<b>137.5</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42.8	43.3	41.3	-0.5	1.5
Management of Companies	35.1	34.7	33.6	0.4	1.5
Administrative & Support Services	69.6	69.9	62.6	-0.3	7.0
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>188.5</b>	<b>187.3</b>	<b>187.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Educational Services	16.9	14.4	15.8	2.5	1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	171.6	172.9	171.3	-1.3	0.3
Ambulatory Health Care	60.8	60.9	59.0	-0.1	1.8
Social Assistance	35.4	36.1	37.1	-0.7	-1.7
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>114.4</b>	<b>116.5</b>	<b>108.2</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.4	13.4	10.3	-1.0	2.1
Accommodation & Food Services	102.0	103.1	97.9	-1.1	4.1
Accommodation Services	10.3	10.4	9.2	-0.1	1.1
Food Services	91.7	92.7	88.7	-1.0	3.0
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>67.9</b>	<b>67.2</b>	<b>64.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>205.4</b>	<b>193.4</b>	<b>210.2</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>-4.8</b>
Federal Government	20.7	20.5	23.3	0.2	-2.6
State Government	77.7	73.3	77.4	4.4	0.3
State Government, Educational Services	31.3	26.7	30.7	4.6	0.6
State Government, Excluding Education	46.4	46.6	46.7	-0.2	-0.3
Local Government	107.0	99.6	109.5	7.4	-2.5
Local Government, Education Services	63.6	55.6	66.3	8.0	-2.7
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.4	44.0	43.2	-0.6	0.2

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' 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.