



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

NEWS RELEASE

January 24, 2023

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 3.6 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 one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.7 percent in November to 3.6 percent in December. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 263, a result of 596 more employed and 333 fewer unemployed Arkansans. In December, the United States' jobless rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.5 percent.

BLS Programs Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate declined to 3.6 percent in December, as the number of employed in the State grew for the first time since July. While the unemployment rate has slowly increased throughout the second half of 2022, there are still 15,873 more employed over the year and the labor force participation rate is up by three-tenths of a percentage point."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased by 900 in December to total 1,330,300. Four major industry sectors posted declines, while three sectors added jobs. **Professional and business services** decreased by 1,600. Most of the loss was in administrative and support services (-2,000), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **educational and health services** declined by 1,500. The contraction was largely in health care and social assistance (-1,300). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** were down 1,300, due in part to the temporary closure of food service contractors at educational facilities. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 2,700 jobs. Gains were posted across all subsectors, related in large part to hiring for the holiday shopping season.

Compared to December 2021, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are up 19,300. Nine major industry sectors reported annual growth, with five sectors adding 2,700 or more jobs each. **Manufacturing** jobs rose by 5,000, with expansions in both subsectors. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 5,000. Most of the hiring occurred in health care and social assistance (+3,700). **Leisure and hospitality** added 4,100 jobs, largely in accommodation and food services (+3,900). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose by 3,900. Expansions in transportation-warehousing-utilities (+2,900) and wholesale trade (+2,800) more than offset losses in retail trade (-1,800). **Financial services** increased by 2,700 jobs, with hiring in both subsectors. Jobs in **professional and business services** declined 3,600 over the year. Losses in administrative and support services (-9,100) were offset by gains in management of companies (+5,800).

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	Dec 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2021	Chg From Nov 2022	Chg From Dec 2021
Civilian Labor Force	1,352,115	1,351,852	1,330,743	263	21,372
Employment	1,303,039	1,302,443	1,287,166	596	15,873
Unemployment	49,076	49,409	43,577	-333	5,499
Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.7%	3.3%	-0.1%	0.3%
Labor Participation Rate	56.5%	56.6%	56.2%	-0.1%	0.3%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.5%	3.6%	3.9%	-0.1%	-0.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. More information about the data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm>

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS, Not Seasonally Adjusted (In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	December 2022	November 2022	December 2021	Chg From Nov 2022	Chg From Dec 2021
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1330.3	1331.2	1311.0	-0.9	19.3
Goods Producing	224.3	223.5	219.7	0.8	4.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	60.5	59.7	60.9	0.8	-0.4
Mining & Logging	4.9	4.9	5.4	0.0	-0.5
Construction	55.6	54.8	55.5	0.8	0.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	35.7	35.2	34.9	0.5	0.8
Manufacturing	163.8	163.8	158.8	0.0	5.0
Durable Goods	78.0	77.5	75.7	0.5	2.3
Nondurable Goods	85.8	86.3	83.1	-0.5	2.7
Service Providing	1106.0	1107.7	1091.3	-1.7	14.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	272.1	269.4	268.2	2.7	3.9
Wholesale Trade	52.7	52.3	49.9	0.4	2.8
Retail Trade	141.6	140.5	143.4	1.1	-1.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	77.8	76.6	74.9	1.2	2.9
Information	13.0	13.0	12.4	0.0	0.6
Financial Activities	69.0	69.0	66.3	0.0	2.7
Finance & Insurance	53.8	53.8	52.1	0.0	1.7
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.2	15.2	14.2	0.0	1.0
Professional & Business Services	148.0	149.6	151.6	-1.6	-3.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	45.2	45.4	45.5	-0.2	-0.3
Management of Companies	41.3	40.7	35.5	0.6	5.8
Administrative & Support Services	61.5	63.5	70.6	-2.0	-9.1
Educational & Health Services	200.5	202.0	195.5	-1.5	5.0
Educational Services	19.1	19.3	17.8	-0.2	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	181.4	182.7	177.7	-1.3	3.7
Ambulatory Health Care	63.5	63.5	61.2	0.0	2.3
Social Assistance	36.2	36.3	35.5	-0.1	0.7
Leisure & Hospitality	122.2	123.5	118.1	-1.3	4.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.3	11.2	11.1	0.1	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	110.9	112.3	107.0	-1.4	3.9
Accommodation Services	11.5	11.7	10.5	-0.2	1.0
Food Services	99.4	100.6	96.5	-1.2	2.9
Other Services	67.7	67.1	66.3	0.6	1.4
Government	213.5	214.1	212.9	-0.6	0.6
Federal Government	21.1	20.9	21.0	0.2	0.1
State Government	77.8	78.2	77.5	-0.4	0.3
State Government, Educational Services	31.5	31.9	31.1	-0.4	0.4
State Government, Excluding Education	46.3	46.3	46.4	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	114.6	115.0	114.4	-0.4	0.2
Local Government, Educational Services	71.8	72.0	71.9	-0.2	-0.1
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.8	43.0	42.5	-0.2	0.3

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2021 benchmark.

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

2023 Arkansas Publication Schedule

Reference Month	State Press Release	MSA's & Counties*
January	03/13/23	03/17/23
February	03/24/23	04/05/23
March	04/21/23	05/03/23
April	05/19/23	05/31/23
May	06/16/23	06/28/23
June	07/21/23	08/02/23
July	08/18/23	08/30/23
August	09/19/23	09/27/23
September	10/20/23	11/01/23
October	11/17/23	11/30/23
November	12/22/23	01/04/24
December	01/23/24	01/31/24

*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.



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.