



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- October 20, 2023

Zoe Calkins, Communications Director
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services
zoe.calkins@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Climbs to 2.9% in September

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Oct. 20, 2023) – Today the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point, from 2.7% in August to 2.9% in September. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 3.8% in September.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- In September, Arkansas' civilian labor force increased by 2,798. The number of unemployed rose 2,561, as more Arkansans are actively seeking work. This pushed the labor force participation rate up one-tenth of a percentage point, to 57.8% in September. The labor force and the number of employed both remain at record high levels.
- Compared to September 2022, there are 29,978 more employed and 7,698 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The States' unemployment rate is down from 3.5% last September, while the labor force participation rate is up three-tenths of a percentage point.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- In September, Arkansas added 8,200 nonfarm payroll jobs. Gains were largely attributed to the start of the new school year, with Government (+13,000) and Private Education and Health Services (+3,500) adding the largest number of jobs. Notable losses were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-4,400), Manufacturing (-2,200), and Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-2,100).
- Compared to September 2022, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 19,400. The largest gains occurred in Private Education and Health Services (+8,100); Leisure and Hospitality (+8,000); and Construction (+6,300).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	Change from August 2023	Change from September 2022
Civilian Labor Force	1,392,337	1,389,539	1,371,057	2,798	21,280
Employment	1,352,437	1,352,200	1,323,459	237	29,978
Unemployment	39,900	37,339	47,598	2,561	-7,698
Unemployment Rate	2.9%	2.7%	3.5%	0.2%	-0.6%
Labor Force Participation Rate	57.8%	57.7%	57.5%	0.1%	0.3%

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>

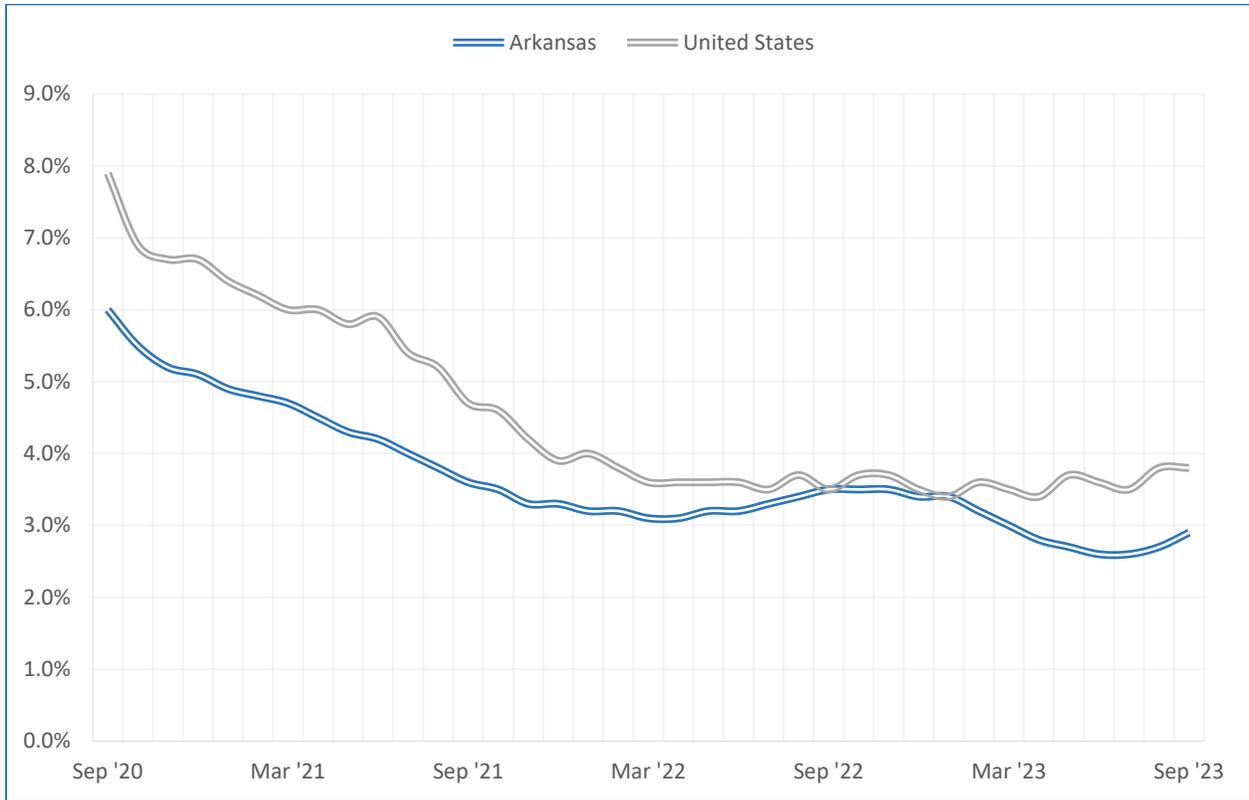
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	September 2023	August 2023	September 2022	Change from August 2023	Change from September 2022
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1366.6	1358.4	1347.2	8.2	19.4
Goods Producing	233.0	233.8	228.8	-0.8	4.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	71.1	69.7	65.0	1.4	6.1
Mining & Logging	5.0	5.0	5.2	0.0	-0.2
Construction	66.1	64.7	59.8	1.4	6.3
Specialty Trade Contractors	41.1	39.7	37.3	1.4	3.8
Manufacturing	161.9	164.1	163.8	-2.2	-1.9
Durable Goods	78.0	80.2	79.4	-2.2	-1.4
Nondurable Goods	83.9	83.9	84.4	0.0	-0.5
Service Providing	1133.6	1124.6	1118.4	9.0	15.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	267.9	270.0	270.6	-2.1	-2.7
Wholesale Trade	53.8	54.6	51.3	-0.8	2.5
Retail Trade	139.6	140.9	143.4	-1.3	-3.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	74.5	74.5	75.9	0.0	-1.4
Information	11.4	11.9	12.8	-0.5	-1.4
Financial Activities	70.4	70.9	71.2	-0.5	-0.8
Finance & Insurance	55.7	56.2	56.4	-0.5	-0.7
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.7	14.7	14.8	0.0	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	154.0	153.3	154.3	0.7	-0.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	50.0	50.2	47.7	-0.2	2.3
Management of Companies	41.9	41.2	38.1	0.7	3.8
Administrative & Support Services	62.1	61.9	68.5	0.2	-6.4
Private Education & Health Services	210.2	206.7	202.1	3.5	8.1
Educational Services	18.9	16.8	18.6	2.1	0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	191.3	189.9	183.5	1.4	7.8
Ambulatory Health Care	67.6	67.1	63.1	0.5	4.5
Social Assistance	39.5	39.1	37.4	0.4	2.1
Leisure & Hospitality	133.1	137.5	125.1	-4.4	8.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	15.0	16.8	13.3	-1.8	1.7
Accommodation & Food Services	118.1	120.7	111.8	-2.6	6.3
Accommodation Services	12.2	12.6	11.4	-0.4	0.8
Food Services	105.9	108.1	100.4	-2.2	5.5
Other Services	74.4	75.1	71.7	-0.7	2.7
Government	212.2	199.2	210.6	13.0	1.6
Federal Government	21.5	21.3	20.6	0.2	0.9
State Government	77.6	73.1	77.7	4.5	-0.1
State Government, Educational Services	31.5	26.9	31.4	4.6	0.1
State Government, Excluding Education	46.1	46.2	46.3	-0.1	-0.2
Local Government	113.1	104.8	112.3	8.3	0.8
Local Government, Educational Services	69.1	60.1	68.6	9.0	0.5
Local Government, Excluding Education	44.0	44.7	43.7	-0.7	0.3

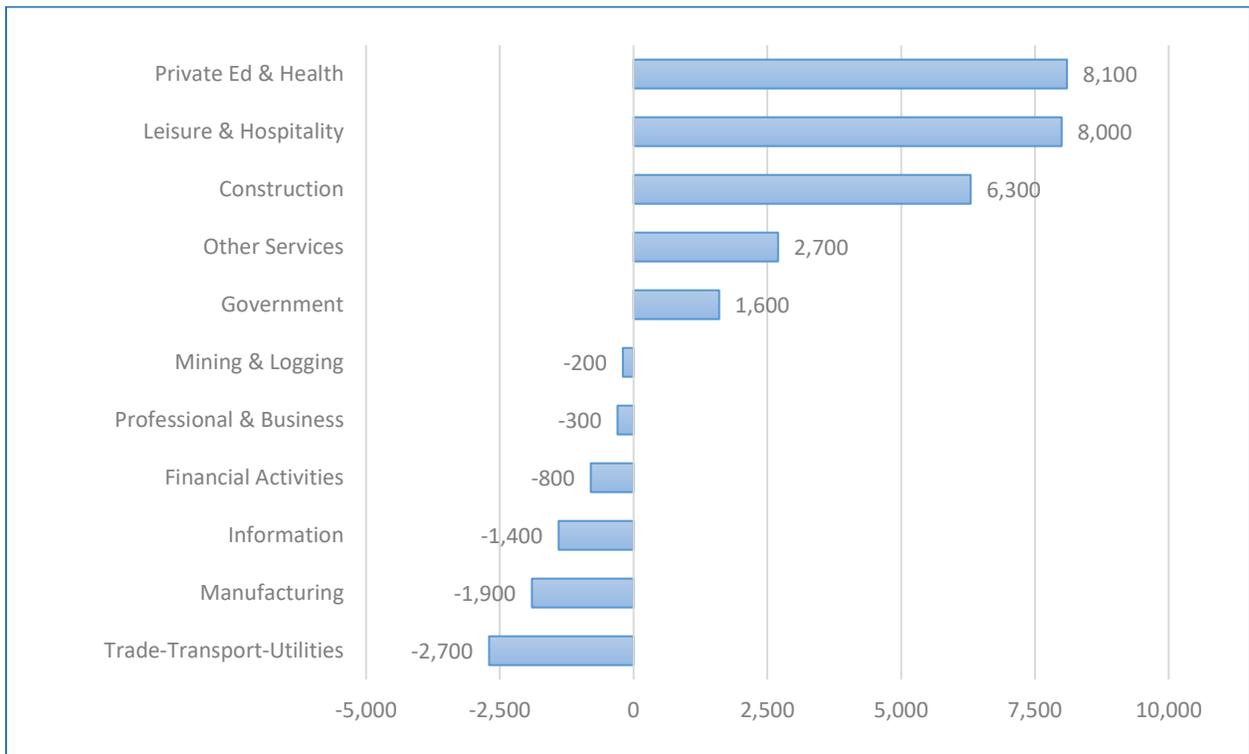
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2022 benchmark.

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

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Arkansas vs. United States (3-Year Comparison)



Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors September 2022 to September 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at www.discover.arkansas.gov



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.

www.dws.arkansas.gov | Facebook: facebook.com/arkdws | Twitter: [@ArkansasDWS](https://twitter.com/ArkansasDWS)



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.