



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- March 11, 2024

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

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 3.7% in January

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Mar. 11, 2024) Today, the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained stable at 3.7% between December 2023 and January 2024. The unemployment rate for December 2023 was originally estimated at 3.4% but has now been revised up to 3.7%. The United States' jobless rate remained at 3.7% for the third consecutive month.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary: *See Annual Data Revisions note on Page 4 of this release*

- Arkansas' civilian labor force rose by 506 in January. Employment increased 460, while unemployment rose by 46. The labor force participation rate remained stable over the month at 57.5% (December 2023 was revised down from 57.6%).
- Compared to January 2023, there are 8,529 more employed, while 9,875 more Arkansans are unemployed and actively looking for work. The State's jobless rate is now seven-tenths of a percentage point higher than last January, but the labor force participation rate has grown by two-tenths of a percentage point.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary: *See Annual Data Revisions note on Page 4 of this release*

- In January, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas declined by 17,700. Seasonal decreases were reported in Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-4,200), Professional and Business Services (-3,800), Government (-3,100), Private Education and Health Services (-2,700), and Leisure and Hospitality (-2,100).
- Compared to January 2023, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are up 10,700. Notable growth was posted in Construction (+7,100), Private Education and Health Services (+5,500), and in Government (+2,900). Professional and Business Services (-3,100) and Manufacturing (-3,000) both reported losses.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	Change from December 2023	Change from January 2023
Civilian Labor Force	1,385,260	1,384,754	1,366,856	506	18,404
Employment	1,334,478	1,334,018	1,325,949	460	8,529
Unemployment	50,782	50,736	40,907	46	9,875
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.7%	3.0%	0.0%	0.7%
Labor Force Participation Rate	57.5%	57.5%	57.3%	0.0%	0.2%

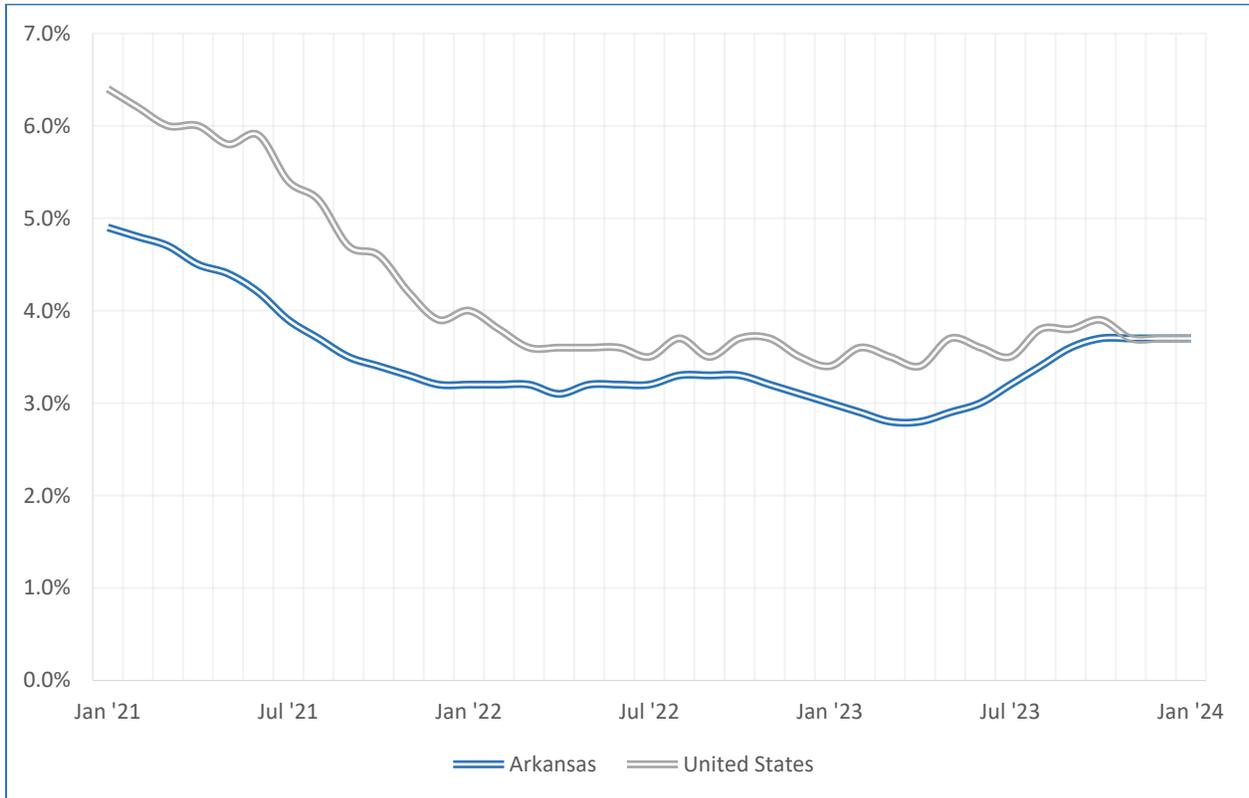
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. More information about the data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm>

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

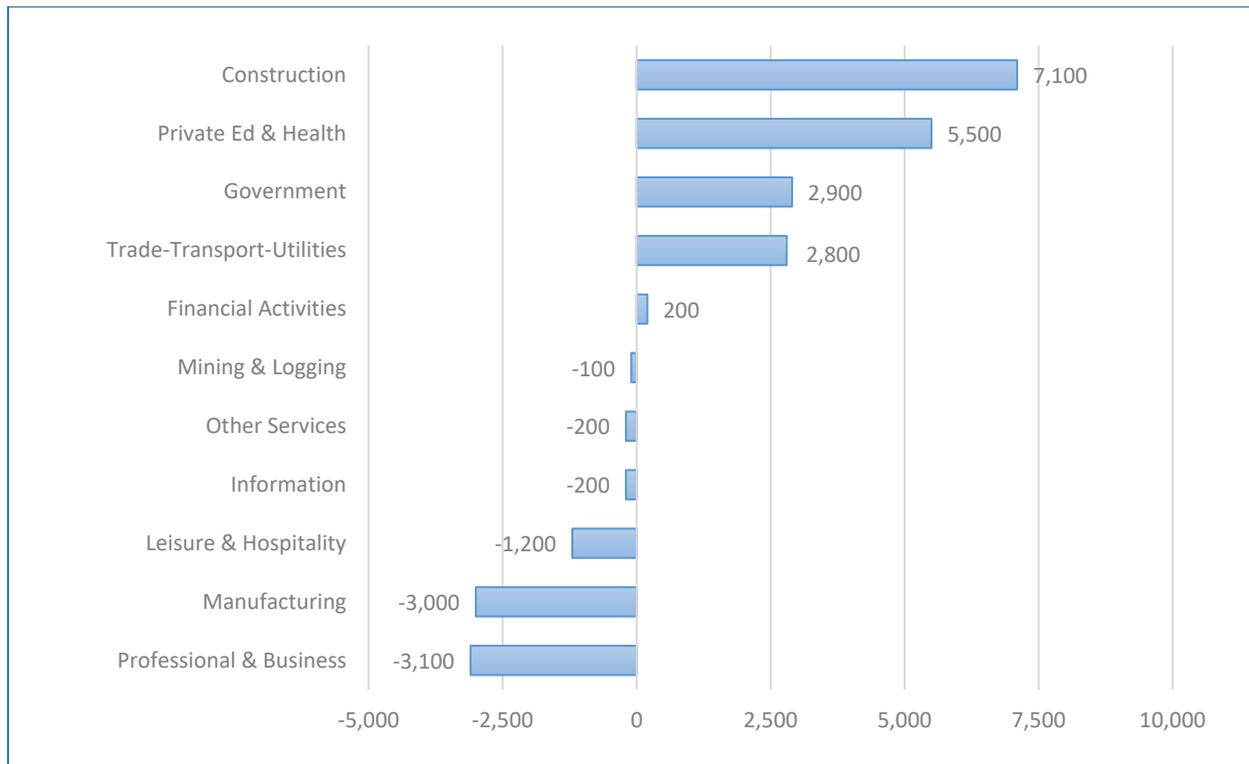
Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	January 2024	December 2023	January 2023	Change from December 2023	Change from January 2023
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1345.8	1363.5	1335.1	-17.7	10.7
Goods Producing	231.9	231.7	227.9	0.2	4.0
Mining, Logging, & Construction	71.7	71.1	64.7	0.6	7.0
Mining & Logging	5.1	5.2	5.2	-0.1	-0.1
Construction	66.6	65.9	59.5	0.7	7.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	42.1	41.8	37.3	0.3	4.8
Manufacturing	160.2	160.6	163.2	-0.4	-3.0
Durable Goods	76.8	77.2	79.6	-0.4	-2.8
Nondurable Goods	83.4	83.4	83.6	0.0	-0.2
Service Providing	1113.9	1131.8	1107.2	-17.9	6.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	269.0	273.2	266.2	-4.2	2.8
Wholesale Trade	52.2	52.3	52.0	-0.1	0.2
Retail Trade	144.8	147.2	141.4	-2.4	3.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	72.0	73.7	72.8	-1.7	-0.8
Information	12.8	12.8	13.0	0.0	-0.2
Financial Activities	70.3	71.3	70.1	-1.0	0.2
Finance & Insurance	55.4	55.9	55.2	-0.5	0.2
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.9	15.4	14.9	-0.5	0.0
Professional & Business Services	152.4	156.2	155.5	-3.8	-3.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	50.5	50.6	49.9	-0.1	0.6
Management of Companies	37.6	37.7	37.1	-0.1	0.5
Administrative & Support Services	64.3	67.9	68.5	-3.6	-4.2
Private Education & Health Services	209.8	212.5	204.3	-2.7	5.5
Educational Services	18.9	19.4	18.5	-0.5	0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	190.9	193.1	185.8	-2.2	5.1
Ambulatory Health Care	65.7	67.1	64.3	-1.4	1.4
Social Assistance	39.6	39.1	38.4	0.5	1.2
Leisure & Hospitality	120.3	122.4	121.5	-2.1	-1.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.3	12.4	11.8	-0.1	0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	108.0	110.0	109.7	-2.0	-1.7
Accommodation Services	10.6	10.9	11.0	-0.3	-0.4
Food Services	97.4	99.1	98.7	-1.7	-1.3
Other Services	66.9	67.9	67.1	-1.0	-0.2
Government	212.4	215.5	209.5	-3.1	2.9
Federal Government	21.8	22.0	20.7	-0.2	1.1
State Government	75.7	77.6	75.7	-1.9	0.0
State Government, Educational Services	29.6	31.5	29.5	-1.9	0.1
State Government, Excluding Education	46.1	46.1	46.2	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	114.9	115.9	113.1	-1.0	1.8
Local Government, Educational Services	70.9	71.4	69.9	-0.5	1.0
Local Government, Excluding Education	44.0	44.5	43.2	-0.5	0.8

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2023 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 January 2023 to January 2024 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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

Annual Data Revisions

Civilian Labor Force:

In accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arkansas' Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates are undergoing annual processing. The purpose of annual processing is to incorporate more complete and accurate information into the estimation process, including updated population data from the US Census Bureau.

All levels of data—State, counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Local Workforce Development Areas, and cities—are being revised. The Statewide CLF data was revised back to January 2019 and is now available at <https://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Data-Search-Tool/LAUS>. Updated sub-state CLF estimates are still being produced and are scheduled for publication on April 19, 2024 on the Discover Arkansas website and at www.bls.gov. All sub-state CLF data for Arkansas will be revised back to January 2019. More information concerning annual processing is available [here](#).

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs:

In accordance with the same guidelines, the Current Employment Statistics program also re-estimated the Nonfarm Payroll Job series to include more comprehensive and precise information into the calculations. Statewide estimates were revised back to April 2021. The MSA revisions are listed below:

- Revised back to January 1990- Little Rock-North Little Rock- Conway MSA; Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA; and the Fort Smith MSA
- Revised back to April 2021- Hot Springs MSA and Pine Bluff MSA
- Revised back to April 2022- Jonesboro MSA

All revised Nonfarm Payroll Jobs data have been updated on the Discover Arkansas website.

Effective with the release of January 2024 estimates on March 11, 2024, the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program will implement a new weight smoothing procedure for state and metropolitan area employment data. More information on the new weight smoothing procedure is available [here](#).



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)



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.