



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

NEWS RELEASE

October 20, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 7.3 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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 7.4 percent in August to 7.3 percent in September. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 7,717, a result of 5,391 fewer employed and 2,326 fewer unemployed Arkansans. At 7.9 percent, the United States' jobless rate dropped five-tenths of a percentage in September.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point in September. Employment and unemployment both declined slightly, as Arkansans continue to move in and out of the labor force."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 13,200 in September to total 1,232,400. Five major industry sectors added jobs, related in large part to seasonal hiring. Jobs in **government** rose 8,700. All gains were in local government, educational services (+5,500) and state government, educational services (+4,800), due to returning staff at public schools and universities. **Educational and health services** added 5,100 jobs. Expansions were posted in both health care and social assistance (+3,000) and educational services (+2,100). Employment in **manufacturing** rose 1,200. All additions were in durable goods (+1,400), with reported hiring in fabricated metal product manufacturing and in transportation equipment manufacturing.

Compared to September 2019, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment has declined 46,800. Nine major industry sectors posted job losses. The largest decrease was in **leisure and hospitality** (-17,000), mostly in food services (-13,100). Jobs in **manufacturing** declined 16,000. Most of the contractions were in durable goods manufacturing (-11,200). **Government** employment is down 7,900. Losses were reported in both local (-8,500) and state (-2,100) government. Employment in **educational and health services** decreased 6,800, all in health care and social assistance. Notable declines were also reported in **other services** (-3,400) and **financial activities** (-1,600). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** posted the largest annual increase, adding 6,400 jobs. Expansions were reported in all subsectors. Jobs in **construction** rose 1,100. Most of the hiring occurred in specialty trade contractors (+900), which includes activities such as roofing, electrical, and flooring contractors.

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	Sep 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2019	Chg From Aug 2020	Chg From Sep 2019
Civilian Labor Force	1,335,469	1,343,186	1,363,257	-7,717	-27,788
Employment	1,238,278	1,243,669	1,314,807	-5,391	-76,529
Unemployment	97,191	99,517	48,450	-2,326	48,741
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.4	3.6	-0.1	3.7
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.9	8.4	3.5	-0.5	4.4

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	Sep 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2019	Chg From Aug 2020	Chg From Sep 2019
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1232.4	1219.2	1279.2	13.2	-46.8
Goods Producing	205.3	203.9	221.1	1.4	-15.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.8	59.6	59.6	0.2	0.2
Mining & Logging	5.1	5.2	6.0	-0.1	-0.9
Construction	54.7	54.4	53.6	0.3	1.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.7	34.7	33.8	0.0	0.9
Manufacturing	145.5	144.3	161.5	1.2	-16.0
Durable Goods	65.2	63.8	76.4	1.4	-11.2
Nondurable Goods	80.3	80.5	85.1	-0.2	-4.8
Service Providing	1027.1	1015.3	1058.1	11.8	-31.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	257.5	258.4	251.1	-0.9	6.4
Wholesale Trade	48.9	48.8	47.3	0.1	1.6
Retail Trade	137.2	138.8	135.8	-1.6	1.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	71.4	70.8	68.0	0.6	3.4
Information	10.6	10.5	11.1	0.1	-0.5
Financial Activities	61.0	61.1	62.6	-0.1	-1.6
Finance & Insurance	47.8	47.8	48.8	0.0	-1.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.2	13.3	13.8	-0.1	-0.6
Professional & Business Services	144.9	145.0	145.1	-0.1	-0.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.7	44.3	43.9	-0.6	-0.2
Management of Companies	36.2	36.0	33.8	0.2	2.4
Administrative & Support Services	65.0	64.7	67.4	0.3	-2.4
Educational & Health Services	187.7	182.6	194.5	5.1	-6.8
Educational Services	16.2	14.1	16.2	2.1	0.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	171.5	168.5	178.3	3.0	-6.8
Ambulatory Health Care	59.9	59.0	59.8	0.9	0.1
Social Assistance	37.9	36.1	39.5	1.8	-1.6
Leisure & Hospitality	104.2	104.9	121.2	-0.7	-17.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.6	11.8	11.5	-1.2	-0.9
Accommodation & Food Services	93.6	93.1	109.7	0.5	-16.1
Accommodation Services	8.7	8.8	11.7	-0.1	-3.0
Food Services	84.9	84.3	98.0	0.6	-13.1
Other Services	56.1	56.4	59.5	-0.3	-3.4
Government	205.1	196.4	213.0	8.7	-7.9
Federal Government	23.3	24.1	20.6	-0.8	2.7
State Government	77.2	73.0	79.3	4.2	-2.1
State Government, Educational Services	30.6	25.8	31.3	4.8	-0.7
State Government, Excluding Education	46.6	47.2	48.0	-0.6	-1.4
Local Government	104.6	99.3	113.1	5.3	-8.5
Local Government, Education Services	62.6	57.1	68.6	5.5	-6.0
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.0	42.2	44.5	-0.2	-2.5

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2019 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.