



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 3.5 Percent in January

### 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 remained stable at 3.5 percent between December 2019 and January 2020. The December 2019 rate was revised down from 3.6 percent to 3.5 percent. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 2,035, a result of 2,155 more employed and 120 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.5 percent in December 2019 to 3.6 percent in January 2020.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The revision of statewide Civilian Labor Force calculations shows that Arkansas' unemployment rates in 2019 were, for the most part, lower than originally estimated. Updated data indicates that the jobless rate stayed between 3.5 percent and 3.6 percent last year, with the January rate unchanged from December 2019."

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 17,100 in January to total 1,269,700. Ten major industry sectors posted declines, with most of the losses related to seasonal hiring patterns. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** dropped 5,400. Most of the contractions were in retail trade (-5,200), due to the end of temporary hiring for the holidays. **Professional and business services** declined 4,500, largely in administrative and support services (-4,500). Employment in **government** decreased 3,000. All the loss was in state (-1,900) and local (-1,200) government, due to the closure of public schools and universities for winter break. Other notable reductions were posted in **manufacturing** (-2,100) and **leisure and hospitality** (-1,300).

Compared to January 2019, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 4,400. Five major industry sectors added jobs, while five sectors declined. The largest increase occurred in **educational and health services**, up 4,100. A majority of the growth was in health care and social assistance (+4,000). **Construction** added 1,800 jobs, due in part to on-going projects. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 1,600. Expansions in transportation-warehousing-utilities (+2,700) and wholesale trade (+1,800) more than offset the losses in retail trade (-2,900). **Manufacturing** posted the largest decrease (-2,200). All losses were in durable goods manufacturing, with reported contractions in fabricated metal products and in transportation equipment manufacturing.

## ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	January 2020	December 2019	January 2019	Chg From Dec 2019	Chg From Jan 2019
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,366,290	1,364,255	1,362,313	2,035	3,977
<b>Employment</b>	1,318,224	1,316,069	1,313,527	2,155	4,697
<b>Unemployment</b>	48,066	48,186	48,786	-120	-720
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.5	3.5	3.6	0.0	-0.1
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6	3.5	4.0	0.1	-0.4

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	January 2020	December 2019	January 2019	Chg From Dec 2019	Chg From Jan 2019
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	<b>1269.7</b>	<b>1286.8</b>	<b>1265.3</b>	<b>-17.1</b>	<b>4.4</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>217.9</b>	<b>219.9</b>	<b>218.3</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
Mining, Logging, & Construction	57.6	57.5	55.8	0.1	1.8
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.2	33.4	32.0	-0.2	1.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>160.3</b>	<b>162.4</b>	<b>162.5</b>	<b>-2.1</b>	<b>-2.2</b>
Durable Goods	75.1	76.4	78.1	-1.3	-3.0
Nondurable Goods	85.2	86.0	84.4	-0.8	0.8
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1051.8</b>	<b>1066.9</b>	<b>1047.0</b>	<b>-15.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>253.0</b>	<b>258.4</b>	<b>251.4</b>	<b>-5.4</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Wholesale Trade	48.8	48.9	47.0	-0.1	1.8
Retail Trade	133.7	138.9	136.6	-5.2	-2.9
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	70.5	70.6	67.8	-0.1	2.7
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>61.5</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>62.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Finance & Insurance	47.9	48.0	48.5	-0.1	-0.6
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.6	13.7	13.5	-0.1	0.1
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>142.9</b>	<b>147.4</b>	<b>143.0</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	45.7	46.1	45.1	-0.4	0.6
Management of Companies	34.9	34.5	33.9	0.4	1.0
Administrative & Support Services	62.3	66.8	64.0	-4.5	-1.7
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>197.2</b>	<b>197.6</b>	<b>193.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Educational Services	16.1	16.5	16.0	-0.4	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	181.1	181.1	177.1	0.0	4.0
Ambulatory Health Care	61.6	62.7	58.9	-1.1	2.7
Social Assistance	40.1	39.5	40.0	0.6	0.1
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>115.2</b>	<b>116.5</b>	<b>114.9</b>	<b>-1.3</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.0	10.1	9.7	-0.1	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	105.2	106.4	105.2	-1.2	0.0
Accommodation Services	10.7	10.9	10.5	-0.2	0.2
Food Services	94.5	95.5	94.7	-1.0	-0.2
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>60.1</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>210.9</b>	<b>213.9</b>	<b>212.1</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Federal Government	20.6	20.5	20.0	0.1	0.6
State Government	77.7	79.6	77.2	-1.9	0.5
State Government, Educational Services	29.8	31.7	29.4	-1.9	0.4
State Government, Excluding Education	47.9	47.9	47.8	0.0	0.1
Local Government	112.6	113.8	114.9	-1.2	-2.3
Local Government, Education Services	69.1	69.8	71.5	-0.7	-2.4
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.5	44.0	43.4	-0.5	0.1

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019 benchmark.

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

## Changes Affecting Data

### Arkansas 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.

All levels of data—State, counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Local Workforce Development Areas, and cities—are being revised. Statewide CLF data was revised back to January 2015 and are available at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov). Updated sub-state CLF estimates are still being produced but are scheduled for publication on April 17, 2020 on the Discover Arkansas website or at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov). All sub-state CLF data will be revised back to January 2010.

### Arkansas 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 and MSA estimates were revised back two years, to January 2018. All revised Nonfarm Payroll Jobs data are being updated today 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. 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.