



NEWS RELEASE

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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 4.3 Percent in July

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 4.4 percent in June to 4.3 percent in July. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 2,542, a result of 1,591 fewer employed and 951 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate dropped five-tenths of a percentage point, from 5.9 percent in June to 5.4 percent in July.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The unemployment rate in Arkansas declined slightly in July, down to 4.3 percent. Arkansas' jobless rate is down from 7.1 percent in July 2020 and there are 47,475 more employed Arkansans compared to this time last year."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased 14,900 in July to total 1,256,900. Losses were posted in six major industry sectors, while four sectors added jobs. Employment in **government** fell 10,600. Most of the contraction occurred in local government-educational services (-9,600), as teachers and staff at public schools began summer break. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 2,200. Losses were reported in all subsectors. **Construction** dropped 1,600, mostly in specialty trade contractors (-1,500). Jobs in **educational and health services** decreased 1,000, related in part to summer break at private schools and the seasonal closures of after school programs. Jobs in **financial services** increased 1,100, with gains in finance-insurance (+700) and real estate-rental-leasing (+400).

Compared to July 2020, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 48,800. Nine major industry sectors reported job growth, with seven sectors adding 3,200 or more jobs, each. **Professional and business services** posted the largest increase, up 13,000. Most of the hiring was in administrative and support services (+10,600), which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 10,400, all in durable goods manufacturing (+11,900). **Leisure and hospitality** added 9,800 jobs, with expansions across all subsectors. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 6,000. Hiring occurred in both health care and social assistance (+3,500) and in educational services (+2,500). Notable gains were also posted in **trade-transportation-utilities** (+4,300), **financial activities** (+3,400), and **other services** (+3,200).

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Chg From June 2021	Chg From July 2020
Civilian Labor Force	1,355,630	1,358,172	1,344,406	-2,542	11,224
Employment	1,296,670	1,298,261	1,249,195	-1,591	47,475
Unemployment	58,960	59,911	95,211	-951	-36,251
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.4	7.1	-0.1	-2.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.9	10.2	-0.5	-4.8

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	July 2021	June 2021	July 2020	Chg From June 2021	Chg From July 2020
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1256.9	1271.8	1208.1	-14.9	48.8
Goods Producing	219.8	221.1	209.9	-1.3	9.9
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.2	59.8	58.7	-1.6	-0.5
Mining & Logging	5.5	5.5	5.4	0.0	0.1
Construction	52.7	54.3	53.3	-1.6	-0.6
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.1	34.6	33.9	-1.5	-0.8
Manufacturing	161.6	161.3	151.2	0.3	10.4
Durable Goods	82.7	82.3	70.8	0.4	11.9
Nondurable Goods	78.9	79.0	80.4	-0.1	-1.5
Service Providing	1037.1	1050.7	998.2	-13.6	38.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	249.9	252.1	245.6	-2.2	4.3
Wholesale Trade	46.7	47.1	45.9	-0.4	0.8
Retail Trade	137.9	138.9	135.5	-1.0	2.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.3	66.1	64.2	-0.8	1.1
Information	12.5	12.4	11.3	0.1	1.2
Financial Activities	67.3	66.2	63.9	1.1	3.4
Finance & Insurance	53.3	52.6	50.2	0.7	3.1
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.0	13.6	13.7	0.4	0.3
Professional & Business Services	146.7	146.9	133.7	-0.2	13.0
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.6	43.3	42.2	0.3	1.4
Management of Companies	34.5	34.0	33.5	0.5	1.0
Administrative & Support Services	68.6	69.6	58.0	-1.0	10.6
Educational & Health Services	186.7	187.7	180.7	-1.0	6.0
Educational Services	14.2	14.6	11.7	-0.4	2.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.5	173.1	169.0	-0.6	3.5
Ambulatory Health Care	60.7	59.8	58.5	0.9	2.2
Social Assistance	35.9	36.5	35.5	-0.6	0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	115.6	116.5	105.8	-0.9	9.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	14.0	13.9	10.8	0.1	3.2
Accommodation & Food Services	101.6	102.6	95.0	-1.0	6.6
Accommodation Services	10.5	10.7	9.4	-0.2	1.1
Food Services	91.1	91.9	85.6	-0.8	5.5
Other Services	68.0	67.9	64.8	0.1	3.2
Government	190.4	201.0	192.4	-10.6	-2.0
Federal Government	20.6	20.6	20.8	0.0	-0.2
State Government	71.6	72.8	70.8	-1.2	0.8
State Government, Educational Services	25.0	26.3	23.8	-1.3	1.2
State Government, Excluding Education	46.6	46.5	47.0	0.1	-0.4
Local Government	98.2	107.6	100.8	-9.4	-2.6
Local Government, Education Services	53.5	63.1	57.1	-9.6	-3.6
Local Government, Excluding Education	44.7	44.5	43.7	0.2	1.0

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2020 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' 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.