



Arkansas Division of  
Workforce Services

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 4.4 Percent in May

### 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, shows Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.4 percent in May. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 4,733, a result of 3,971 fewer employed and 762 fewer unemployed Arkansans. At 5.8 percent, the United States' jobless rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point between April and May.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' economy continues to see improvement, as the number of employed has increased 61,414 compared to May 2020. At 4.4 percent, the states' jobless rate is currently one and four-tenths of a percentage point lower than the United States' rate."

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 6,100 in May to total 1,272,200. Seven major industry sectors posted gains, while four sectors declined. Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 2,400. Hiring occurred in both nondurable (+1,400) and durable (+1,000) goods manufacturing. **Leisure and hospitality** added 2,400 jobs. Expansions were posted in both accommodation-food services (+1,600) and in arts-entertainment-recreation (+800). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 1,900, with reported hiring in all three subsectors. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,200. Most of the gains were in health care and social assistance (+1,100). **Professional and business services** declined 1,200. Minor losses were reported across all subsectors.

Compared to May 2020, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are up 70,500. Ten major industry sectors reported growth. **Leisure and hospitality** added 20,300 jobs, mostly in food services (+14,300). Jobs in **professional and business services** increased 13,200. A majority of the hiring occurred in administrative and support services (+12,200), the subsector which includes employment agencies. **Manufacturing** added 11,000 jobs, mostly in durable goods (+10,900) manufacturing. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 11,000. Most of the expansion was in retail trade (+9,100). **Educational and health services** increased 7,500. Gains occurred in all subsectors, with health care and social assistance adding 5,600 jobs. Notable growth was also posted in **other services** (+3,100), **government** (+2,300), and **financial activities** (+1,200).

## ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Chg From Apr 2021	Chg From May 2020
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,357,765	1,362,498	1,352,008	-4,733	5,757
<b>Employment</b>	1,298,687	1,302,658	1,237,273	-3,971	61,414
<b>Unemployment</b>	59,078	59,840	114,735	-762	-55,657
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.4	4.4	8.5	0.0	-4.1
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	5.8	6.1	13.3	-0.3	-7.5

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	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	Chg From Apr 2021	Chg From May 2020
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	<b>1272.2</b>	<b>1266.1</b>	<b>1201.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>70.5</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>221.1</b>	<b>219.3</b>	<b>209.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.9	59.5	58.4	-0.6	0.5
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>52.9</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.1	34.2	33.4	-0.1	0.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>162.2</b>	<b>159.8</b>	<b>151.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>11.0</b>
Durable Goods	81.1	80.1	70.2	1.0	10.9
Nondurable Goods	81.1	79.7	81.0	1.4	0.1
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>1051.1</b>	<b>1046.8</b>	<b>992.1</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>59.0</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>250.6</b>	<b>248.7</b>	<b>239.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>11.0</b>
Wholesale Trade	47.1	46.4	46.0	0.7	1.1
Retail Trade	138.5	137.6	129.4	0.9	9.1
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.0	64.7	64.2	0.3	0.8
<b>Information</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>63.5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Finance & Insurance	51.1	50.7	50.2	0.4	0.9
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.6	13.5	13.3	0.1	0.3
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>145.2</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>132.0</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>13.2</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42.7	43.3	41.9	-0.6	0.8
Management of Companies	33.4	33.6	33.2	-0.2	0.2
Administrative & Support Services	69.1	69.5	56.9	-0.4	12.2
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>189.8</b>	<b>188.6</b>	<b>182.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>7.5</b>
Educational Services	16.8	16.7	14.9	0.1	1.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	173.0	171.9	167.4	1.1	5.6
Ambulatory Health Care	59.0	59.3	56.3	-0.3	2.7
Social Assistance	37.1	36.5	35.7	0.6	1.4
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>113.4</b>	<b>111.0</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>20.3</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.7	11.9	8.5	0.8	4.2
Accommodation & Food Services	100.7	99.1	84.6	1.6	16.1
Accommodation Services	9.8	9.2	8.0	0.6	1.8
Food Services	90.9	89.9	76.6	1.0	14.3
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>66.9</b>	<b>67.0</b>	<b>63.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>208.5</b>	<b>209.1</b>	<b>206.2</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>2.3</b>
Federal Government	20.5	20.5	20.7	0.0	-0.2
State Government	77.6	78.5	74.3	-0.9	3.3
State Government, Educational Services	31.1	32.0	26.6	-0.9	4.5
State Government, Excluding Education	46.5	46.5	47.7	0.0	-1.2
Local Government	110.4	110.1	111.2	0.3	-0.8
Local Government, Education Services	67.0	67.3	68.2	-0.3	-1.2
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.4	42.8	43.0	0.6	0.4

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



**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.