



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 3.4 Percent in August

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 increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.3 percent in July to 3.4 percent in August. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 1,628, a result of 2,648 fewer employed and 1,020 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point, rising from 3.5 percent in July to 3.7 percent in August.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The unemployment rate in Arkansas rose to 3.4 percent, as the number of employed Arkansans declined slightly in August. The labor force participation rate decreased this month but is still up over the year. There are currently 28,185 more employed Arkansans compared to August 2021".

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 4,000 in August to total 1,317,900. Five major industry sectors added jobs. Employment in **government** increased by 3,800. All hiring was in local government-educational services (+2,900) and state government-educational services (+1,900), related to the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,100, with expansions across all industry sectors. **Professional and business services** added 1,000 jobs. Gains in administrative and support services (+1,000) were related in part to hiring of support staff at schools and universities. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 1,900. The greatest loss was reported in wholesale trade (-1,300).

Compared to August 2021, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are up 39,200. Nine major industry sectors posted over-the-year gains. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 8,800. Expansions in transportation-warehousing-utilities (+5,600) and wholesale trade (+4,200) more than offset losses in retail trade (-1,000). **Manufacturing** added 7,400 jobs, mostly in nondurable goods manufacturing (+5,100). Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose by 7,300, with hiring across all subsectors. **Professional and business services** gained 5,600 jobs. Most of the expansion occurred in management of companies (+6,300). Jobs in **educational and health services** increased by 4,800, mostly in health care and social assistance (+3,400). Notable growth was also posted in **financial activities** (+2,800), **government** (+1,900), and **information** (+1,200).

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	Aug 2022	Jul 2022	Aug 2021	Chg From Jul 2022	Chg From Aug 2021
Civilian Labor Force	1,354,414	1,356,042	1,330,686	-1,628	23,728
Employment	1,308,781	1,311,429	1,280,596	-2,648	28,185
Unemployment	45,633	44,613	50,090	1,020	-4,457
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.3%	3.8%	0.1%	-0.4%
Labor Participation Rate	56.8%	57.0%	56.4%	-0.2%	0.4%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.7%	3.5%	5.2%	0.2%	-1.5%

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)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	August 2022	July 2022	August 2021	Chg From Jul 2022	Chg From Aug 2021
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1317.9	1313.9	1278.7	4.0	39.2
Goods Producing	225.2	226.4	218.6	-1.2	6.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	60.6	61.4	61.4	-0.8	-0.8
Mining & Logging	5.0	5.1	5.3	-0.1	-0.3
Construction	55.6	56.3	56.1	-0.7	-0.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	35.3	35.4	35.7	-0.1	-0.4
Manufacturing	164.6	165.0	157.2	-0.4	7.4
Durable Goods	77.7	78.4	75.4	-0.7	2.3
Nondurable Goods	86.9	86.6	81.8	0.3	5.1
Service Providing	1092.7	1087.5	1060.1	5.2	32.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	266.0	267.9	257.2	-1.9	8.8
Wholesale Trade	52.3	53.6	48.1	-1.3	4.2
Retail Trade	138.8	138.9	139.8	-0.1	-1.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	74.9	75.4	69.3	-0.5	5.6
Information	13.2	13.2	12.0	0.0	1.2
Financial Activities	69.1	68.8	66.3	0.3	2.8
Finance & Insurance	53.9	53.6	51.9	0.3	2.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.2	15.2	14.4	0.0	0.8
Professional & Business Services	150.4	149.4	144.8	1.0	5.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	45.9	46.0	45.0	-0.1	0.9
Management of Companies	40.8	40.7	34.5	0.1	6.3
Administrative & Support Services	63.7	62.7	65.3	1.0	-1.6
Educational & Health Services	199.4	198.3	194.6	1.1	4.8
Educational Services	16.5	16.1	15.1	0.4	1.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	182.9	182.2	179.5	0.7	3.4
Ambulatory Health Care	63.2	63.0	61.9	0.2	1.3
Social Assistance	35.8	35.5	35.3	0.3	0.5
Leisure & Hospitality	128.6	128.6	121.3	0.0	7.3
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	13.3	13.8	12.7	-0.5	0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	115.3	114.8	108.6	0.5	6.7
Accommodation Services	12.6	12.6	11.2	0.0	1.4
Food Services	102.7	102.2	97.4	0.5	5.3
Other Services	67.6	66.7	67.4	0.9	0.2
Government	198.4	194.6	196.5	3.8	1.9
Federal Government	20.6	20.7	20.6	-0.1	0.0
State Government	73.2	71.3	73.3	1.9	-0.1
State Government, Educational Services	26.8	24.9	26.7	1.9	0.1
State Government, Excluding Education	46.4	46.4	46.6	0.0	-0.2
Local Government	104.6	102.6	102.6	2.0	2.0
Local Government, Educational Services	60.8	57.9	59.0	2.9	1.8
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.8	44.7	43.6	-0.9	0.2

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2021 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.