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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Arkansas’ Unemployment Rate Declines to 3.6 Percent in December**

**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 3.7 percent in November to 3.6 percent in December. Arkansas’ civilian labor force rose 263, a result of 596 more employed and 333 fewer unemployed Arkansans. In December, the United States’ jobless rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.5 percent.

BLS Programs Manager Susan Price said, “Arkansas’ unemployment rate declined to 3.6 percent in December, as the number of employed in the State grew for the first time since July. While the unemployment rate has slowly increased throughout the second half of 2022, there are still 15,873 more employed over the year and the labor force participation rate is up by three-tenths of a percentage point.”

**Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:**

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased by 900 in December to total 1,330,300. Four major industry sectors posted declines, while three sectors added jobs. **Professional and business services** decreased by 1,600. Most of the loss was in administrative and support services (-2,000), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **educational and health services** declined by 1,500. The contraction was largely in health care and social assistance (-1,300). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** were down 1,300, due in part to the temporary closure of food service contractors at educational facilities. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 2,700 jobs. Gains were posted across all subsectors, related in large part to hiring for the holiday shopping season.

Compared to December 2021, Arkansas’ nonfarm payroll jobs are up 19,300. Nine major industry sectors reported annual growth, with five sectors adding 2,700 or more jobs each. **Manufacturing** jobs rose by 5,000, with expansions in both subsectors. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 5,000. Most of the hiring occurred in health care and social assistance (+3,700). **Leisure and hospitality** added 4,100 jobs, largely in accommodation and food services (+3,900). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose by 3,900. Expansions in transportation-warehousing-utilities (+2,900) and wholesale trade (+2,800) more than offset losses in retail trade (-1,800). **Financial services** increased by 2,700 jobs, with hiring in both subsectors. Jobs in **professional and business services** declined 3,600 over the year. Losses in administrative and support services (-9,100) were offset by gains in management of companies (+5,800).

**ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Dec 2022** | **Nov 2022** | **Dec 2021** | **Chg From Nov 2022** | **Chg From Dec 2021** |
| **Civilian Labor Force** | 1,352,115 | 1,351,852 | 1,330,743 | 263 | 21,372 |
| **Employment** | 1,303,039 | 1,302,443 | 1,287,166 | 596 | 15,873 |
| **Unemployment** | 49,076 | 49,409 | 43,577 | -333 | 5,499 |
| **Unemployment Rate** | 3.6% | 3.7% | 3.3% | -0.1% | 0.3% |
| **Labor Participation Rate** | 56.5% | 56.6% | 56.2% | -0.1% | 0.3% |
| **U.S. Unemployment Rate** | 3.5% | 3.6% | 3.9% | -0.1% | -0.4% |

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** | **December**  **2022** | **November**  **2022** | **December**  **2021** | **Chg From**  **Nov 2022** | **Chg From**  **Dec 2021** |
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1330.3 | 1331.2 | 1311.0 | -0.9 | 19.3 |
| Goods Producing | 224.3 | 223.5 | 219.7 | 0.8 | 4.6 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 60.5 | 59.7 | 60.9 | 0.8 | -0.4 |
| **Mining & Logging** | **4.9** | **4.9** | **5.4** | **0.0** | **-0.5** |
| **Construction** | **55.6** | **54.8** | **55.5** | **0.8** | **0.1** |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 35.7 | 35.2 | 34.9 | 0.5 | 0.8 |
| **Manufacturing** | **163.8** | **163.8** | **158.8** | **0.0** | **5.0** |
| Durable Goods | 78.0 | 77.5 | 75.7 | 0.5 | 2.3 |
| Nondurable Goods | 85.8 | 86.3 | 83.1 | -0.5 | 2.7 |
| Service Providing | 1106.0 | 1107.7 | 1091.3 | -1.7 | 14.7 |
| **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities** | **272.1** | **269.4** | **268.2** | **2.7** | **3.9** |
| Wholesale Trade | 52.7 | 52.3 | 49.9 | 0.4 | 2.8 |
| Retail Trade | 141.6 | 140.5 | 143.4 | 1.1 | -1.8 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 77.8 | 76.6 | 74.9 | 1.2 | 2.9 |
| **Information** | **13.0** | **13.0** | **12.4** | **0.0** | **0.6** |
| **Financial Activities** | **69.0** | **69.0** | **66.3** | **0.0** | **2.7** |
| Finance & Insurance | 53.8 | 53.8 | 52.1 | 0.0 | 1.7 |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing | 15.2 | 15.2 | 14.2 | 0.0 | 1.0 |
| **Professional & Business Services** | **148.0** | **149.6** | **151.6** | **-1.6** | **-3.6** |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 45.2 | 45.4 | 45.5 | -0.2 | -0.3 |
| Management of Companies | 41.3 | 40.7 | 35.5 | 0.6 | 5.8 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 61.5 | 63.5 | 70.6 | -2.0 | -9.1 |
| **Educational & Health Services** | **200.5** | **202.0** | **195.5** | **-1.5** | **5.0** |
| Educational Services | 19.1 | 19.3 | 17.8 | -0.2 | 1.3 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 181.4 | 182.7 | 177.7 | -1.3 | 3.7 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 63.5 | 63.5 | 61.2 | 0.0 | 2.3 |
| Social Assistance | 36.2 | 36.3 | 35.5 | -0.1 | 0.7 |
| **Leisure & Hospitality** | **122.2** | **123.5** | **118.1** | **-1.3** | **4.1** |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 11.3 | 11.2 | 11.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 110.9 | 112.3 | 107.0 | -1.4 | 3.9 |
| Accommodation Services | 11.5 | 11.7 | 10.5 | -0.2 | 1.0 |
| Food Services | 99.4 | 100.6 | 96.5 | -1.2 | 2.9 |
| **Other Services** | **67.7** | **67.1** | **66.3** | **0.6** | **1.4** |
| **Government** | **213.5** | **214.1** | **212.9** | **-0.6** | **0.6** |
| Federal Government | 21.1 | 20.9 | 21.0 | 0.2 | 0.1 |
| State Government | 77.8 | 78.2 | 77.5 | -0.4 | 0.3 |
| State Government, Educational Services | 31.5 | 31.9 | 31.1 | -0.4 | 0.4 |
| State Government, Excluding Education | 46.3 | 46.3 | 46.4 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Local Government | 114.6 | 115.0 | 114.4 | -0.4 | 0.2 |
| Local Government, Educational Services | 71.8 | 72.0 | 71.9 | -0.2 | -0.1 |
| Local Government, Excluding Education | 42.8 | 43.0 | 42.5 | -0.2 | 0.3 |

Source**:** Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2021 benchmark. Notes: Current month’s data are preliminary; previous month’s data are revised.

**2023 Arkansas Publication Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference Month** | **State Press Release** | **MSA’s & Counties\*** |
| January | 03/13/23 | 03/17/23 |
| February | 03/24/23 | 04/05/23 |
| March | 04/21/23 | 05/03/23 |
| April | 05/19/23 | 05/31/23 |
| May | 06/16/23 | 06/28/23 |
| June | 07/21/23 | 08/02/23 |
| July | 08/18/23 | 08/30/23 |
| August | 09/19/23 | 09/27/23 |
| September | 10/20/23 | 11/01/23 |
| October | 11/17/23 | 11/30/23 |
| November | 12/22/23 | 01/04/24 |
| December | 01/23/24 | 01/31/24 |

\*Date when Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and county labor force statistics will be available 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.

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**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.