

**N E W S R E L E A SE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Arkansas’ Unemployment Rate Increases to 3.6 Percent in October

# 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 rose one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.5 percent in September to 3.6 percent in October. Arkansas’ civilian labor force declined by 489, a result of 1,589 fewer employed and 1,100 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States’ jobless rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point between September and October, rising from 3.5 percent to 3.7 percent.

BLS Programs Manager Susan Price said, “The number of employed Arkansans declined for the third month in a row, as the unemployment rate grew to 3.6 percent in October. While employment has decreased since July, there are still 17,802 more employed Arkansans compared to October 2021.”

# Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 7,800 in October to total 1,334,700. Six major industry sectors posted gains. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 3,900 jobs. Hiring occurred in all subsectors, with jobs in transportation-warehousing- utilities up 1,800. Jobs in **government** increased by 1,600. Most of the gains were in local government-educational services (+1,600), as public schools across the State continue to hire. Jobs in **other services** rose by 1,200. This industry sector includes activities such as automotive repair, drycleaning services, and civic and social organizations.

Compared to October 2021, Arkansas’ nonfarm payroll jobs are up 29,500. Nine major industry sectors reported growth, with five sectors adding 4,000 or more jobs each. The largest gain was in **manufacturing**, up 6,300 jobs. Most of the hiring was in nondurable goods manufacturing (+4,000). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose by 6,000. Expansions in wholesale trade (+4,300) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+2,400) more than offset losses in retail trade (-700). **Educational and health services** added 4,500 jobs. Most of the gains were in health care and social assistance (+3,200). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** increased by 4,000, with most of the hiring in food services (+3,000). There were also notable expansions in **professional and business services** (+3,400), **information** (+1,200), and **government** (+1,100). Jobs in **construction** are down by 1,200 over the year.

# ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Oct 2022** | **Sep 2022** | **Oct 2021** | **Chg From Sep 2022** | **Chg From Oct 2021** |
| **Civilian Labor Force** | 1,353,179 | 1,353,668 | 1,331,746 | -489 | 21,433 |
| **Employment** | 1,304,653 | 1,306,242 | 1,286,851 | -1,589 | 17,802 |
| **Unemployment** | 48,526 | 47,426 | 44,895 | 1,100 | 3,631 |
| **Unemployment Rate** | 3.6% | 3.5% | 3.4% | 0.1% | 0.2% |
| **Labor Participation Rate** | 56.7% | 56.8% | 56.3% | -0.1% | 0.4% |
| **U.S. Unemployment Rate** | 3.7% | 3.5% | 4.6% | 0.2% | -0.9% |

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** | **October**  **2022** | **September**  **2022** | **October**  **2021** | **Chg From Sep 2022** | **Chg From Oct 2021** |
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1334.7 | 1326.9 | 1305.2 | 7.8 | 29.5 |
| Goods Producing | 226.1 | 226.7 | 221.3 | -0.6 | 4.8 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 60.8 | 61.4 | 62.3 | -0.6 | -1.5 |
| **Mining & Logging** | **5.0** | **5.0** | **5.3** | **0.0** | **-0.3** |
| **Construction** | **55.8** | **56.4** | **57.0** | **-0.6** | **-1.2** |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 35.6 | 35.9 | 35.3 | -0.3 | 0.3 |
| **Manufacturing** | **165.3** | **165.3** | **159.0** | **0.0** | **6.3** |
| Durable Goods | 78.4 | 78.3 | 76.1 | 0.1 | 2.3 |
| Nondurable Goods | 86.9 | 87.0 | 82.9 | -0.1 | 4.0 |
| Service Providing | 1108.6 | 1100.2 | 1083.9 | 8.4 | 24.7 |
| **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities** | **267.7** | **263.8** | **261.7** | **3.9** | **6.0** |
| Wholesale Trade | 52.9 | 51.9 | 48.6 | 1.0 | 4.3 |
| Retail Trade | 139.0 | 137.9 | 139.7 | 1.1 | -0.7 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 75.8 | 74.0 | 73.4 | 1.8 | 2.4 |
| **Information** | **13.2** | **13.2** | **12.0** | **0.0** | **1.2** |
| **Financial Activities** | **69.8** | **69.2** | **65.6** | **0.6** | **4.2** |
| Finance & Insurance | 54.3 | 54.0 | 51.5 | 0.3 | 2.8 |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing | 15.5 | 15.2 | 14.1 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| **Professional & Business Services** | **151.8** | **150.9** | **148.4** | **0.9** | **3.4** |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 45.8 | 44.5 | 45.3 | 1.3 | 0.5 |
| Management of Companies | 40.6 | 40.2 | 34.7 | 0.4 | 5.9 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 65.4 | 66.2 | 68.4 | -0.8 | -3.0 |
| **Educational & Health Services** | **200.6** | **200.2** | **196.1** | **0.4** | **4.5** |
| Educational Services | 18.9 | 18.4 | 17.6 | 0.5 | 1.3 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 181.7 | 181.8 | 178.5 | -0.1 | 3.2 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 63.5 | 63.0 | 60.6 | 0.5 | 2.9 |
| Social Assistance | 35.9 | 35.9 | 36.1 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| **Leisure & Hospitality** | **124.7** | **124.9** | **120.7** | **-0.2** | **4.0** |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 11.6 | 12.0 | 11.6 | -0.4 | 0.0 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 113.1 | 112.9 | 109.1 | 0.2 | 4.0 |
| Accommodation Services | 12.0 | 12.1 | 11.0 | -0.1 | 1.0 |
| Food Services | 101.1 | 100.8 | 98.1 | 0.3 | 3.0 |
| **Other Services** | **67.7** | **66.5** | **67.4** | **1.2** | **0.3** |
| **Government** | **213.1** | **211.5** | **212.0** | **1.6** | **1.1** |
| Federal Government | 20.8 | 20.7 | 20.6 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| State Government | 78.0 | 77.7 | 77.9 | 0.3 | 0.1 |
| State Government, Educational Services | 31.7 | 31.4 | 31.5 | 0.3 | 0.2 |
| State Government, Excluding Education | 46.3 | 46.3 | 46.4 | 0.0 | -0.1 |
| Local Government | 114.3 | 113.1 | 113.5 | 1.2 | 0.8 |
| Local Government, Educational Services | 71.5 | 69.9 | 70.9 | 1.6 | 0.6 |
| Local Government, Excluding Education | 42.8 | 43.2 | 42.6 | -0.4 | 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.