



Arkansas Division of  
Workforce Services

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Falls to 3.0% in March

**Little Rock, Ark., April 21, 2023-** Today the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point, from 3.2% in February to 3.0% in March. The United States' jobless rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.6% in February to 3.5% in March.

#### Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- In March, Arkansas' civilian labor force increased by 1,828. There were 4,661 more employed and 2,833 fewer unemployed Arkansans, leading to a drop in the unemployment rate. Employment in the State has increased for six consecutive months. Arkansas' labor force participation rate remained stable at 57.4% between February and March.
- Compared to March 2022, there are 10,118 additional employed in Arkansas. The unemployment rate is one-tenth of a percentage point lower with 2,225 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The labor force participation rate is down two-tenths of a percentage point over the year.

#### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- In March, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 4,700 to total 1,350,900. Leisure and Hospitality added 2,500 jobs, largely in accommodation and food services (+2,000). Jobs in Construction increased by 1,000, related to seasonal hiring.
- Compared to March 2022, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 31,300. The largest gains were posted in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+7,800), Private Education and Health Services (+6,800), Leisure and Hospitality (+5,200), Construction (+3,600), and Manufacturing (+2,900).

#### Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	March 2023	February 2023	March 2022	Change from February 2023	Change from March 2022
Civilian Labor Force	1,375,426	1,373,598	1,367,533	1,828	7,893
Employment	1,334,589	1,329,928	1,324,471	4,661	10,118
Unemployment	40,837	43,670	43,062	-2,833	-2,225
Unemployment Rate	3.0 %	3.2%	3.1%	-0.2%	-0.1%
Labor Force Participation Rate	57.4 %	57.4%	57.6%	0.0%	-0.2%

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>

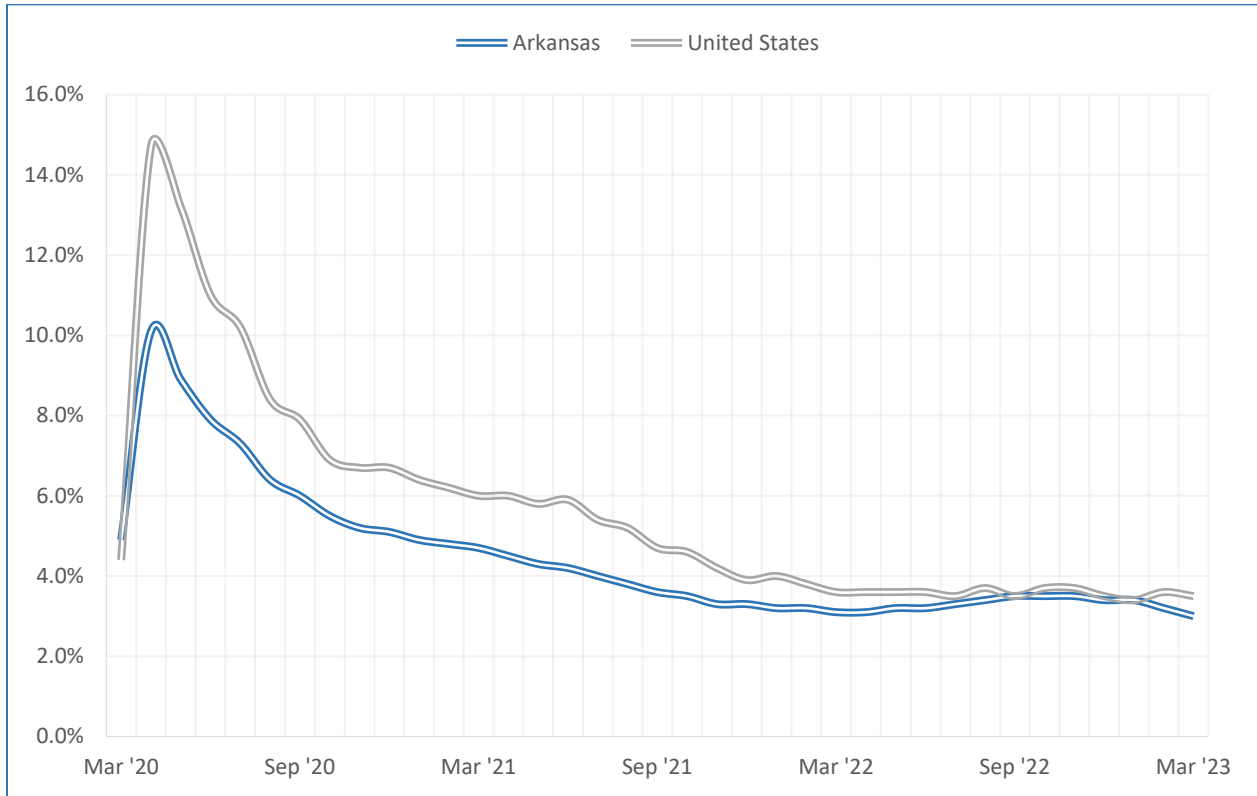
### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	March 2023	February 2023	March 2022	Change from February 2023	Change from March 2022
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1350.9	1346.2	1319.6	4.7	31.3
Goods Producing	228.3	227.3	222.0	1.0	6.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	64.4	63.3	61.0	1.1	3.4
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>58.4</b>	<b>55.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>3.6</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	36.5	35.8	35.1	0.7	1.4
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>163.9</b>	<b>164.0</b>	<b>161.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Durable Goods	79.8	79.8	77.9	0.0	1.9
Nondurable Goods	84.1	84.2	83.1	-0.1	1.0
Service Providing	1122.6	1118.9	1097.6	3.7	25.0
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>274.8</b>	<b>274.4</b>	<b>267.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>
Wholesale Trade	53.6	54.3	50.0	-0.7	3.6
Retail Trade	144.0	142.4	143.2	1.6	0.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	77.2	77.7	73.8	-0.5	3.4
<b>Information</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>69.1</b>	<b>69.2</b>	<b>69.7</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Finance & Insurance	55.0	55.0	55.5	0.0	-0.5
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.1	14.2	14.2	-0.1	-0.1
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>152.2</b>	<b>152.5</b>	<b>151.0</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>1.2</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	49.1	49.0	47.3	0.1	1.8
Management of Companies	40.4	40.1	36.7	0.3	3.7
Administrative & Support Services	62.7	63.4	67.0	-0.7	-4.3
<b>Private Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>203.9</b>	<b>203.5</b>	<b>197.1</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Educational Services	19.2	19.3	18.1	-0.1	1.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	184.7	184.2	179.0	0.5	5.7
Ambulatory Health Care	64.2	63.7	61.7	0.5	2.5
Social Assistance	37.7	37.6	36.7	0.1	1.0
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>124.6</b>	<b>122.1</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.8	12.3	11.9	0.5	0.9
Accommodation & Food Services	111.8	109.8	107.5	2.0	4.3
Accommodation Services	11.3	11.1	10.7	0.2	0.6
Food Services	100.5	98.7	96.8	1.8	3.7
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>70.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>212.2</b>	<b>211.6</b>	<b>210.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Federal Government	20.9	20.8	20.5	0.1	0.4
State Government	78.2	77.9	78.1	0.3	0.1
State Government, Educational Services	32.0	31.7	31.7	0.3	0.3
State Government, Excluding Education	46.2	46.2	46.4	0.0	-0.2
Local Government	113.1	112.9	111.6	0.2	1.5
Local Government, Educational Services	70.1	70.1	69.6	0.0	0.5
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.0	42.8	42.0	0.2	1.0

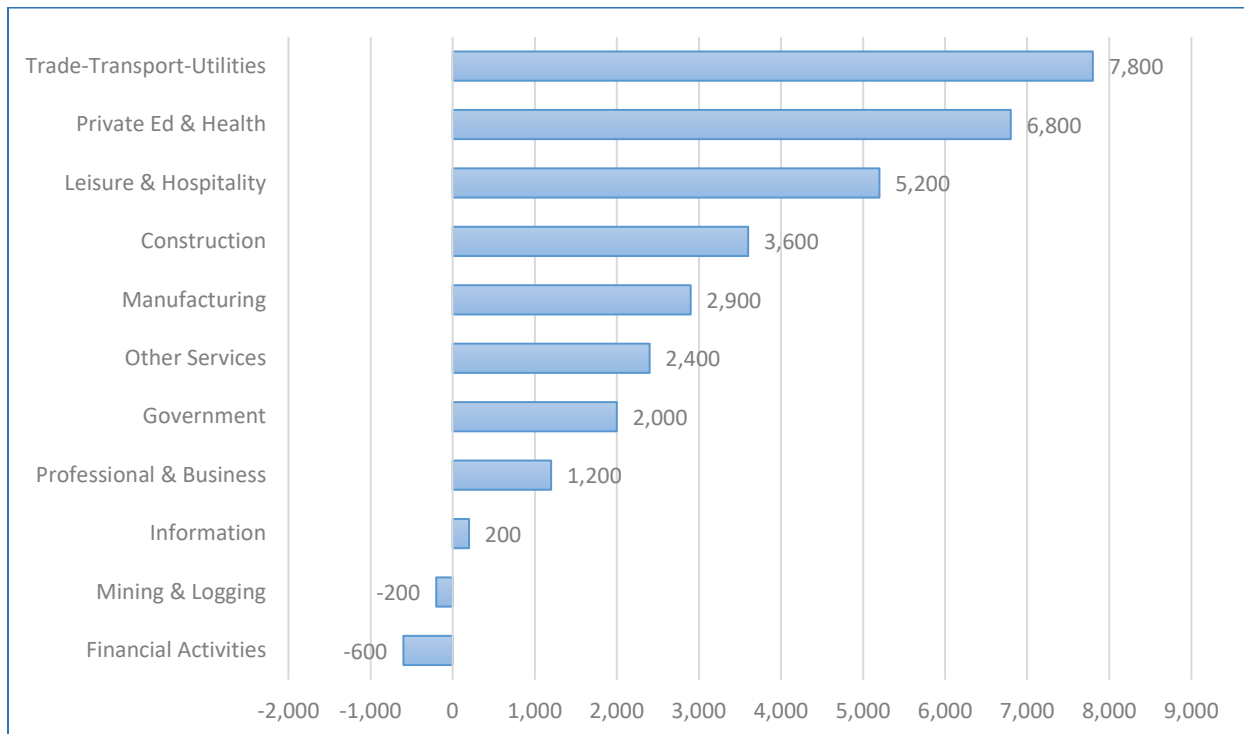
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2022 benchmark.

Notes: Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

### Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Arkansas vs. United States (3-Year Comparison)



### Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors March 2022 to March 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov)



### **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.



### **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.

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**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.