



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 4.2 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 decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.3 percent in July to 4.2 percent in August. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 1,651, a result of 3,412 more employed and 1,761 fewer unemployed Arkansans. At 5.2 percent, the United States' jobless rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point in August.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "At 4.2 percent, Arkansas' unemployment rate declined for the second consecutive month. There are 3,412 more employed Arkansans than last month and 45,354 more employed compared to August 2020."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 2,000 in August to total 1,259,200. Six major industry sectors posted gains, while five sectors reported job losses. **Government** posted the largest increase, adding 3,000 jobs. All expansions were in local government-educational services (+2,100) and state government-educational services (+1,700), related to the start of the 2021-2022 public school year. **Educational and health services** added 1,700 jobs, mostly in health care and social assistance (+1,500). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 1,000. Hiring in accommodation and food services (+1,600) more than offset seasonal contractions in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-600). **Manufacturing** declined 1,700. Losses occurred in both nondurable (-1,000) and durable (-700) goods manufacturing. Jobs in **other services** decreased 1,100. The sector includes activities such as commercial machinery repair, dry cleaning services, and civic organizations.

Compared to August 2020, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 32,300. Nine major industry sectors posted growth, with six sectors adding 2,200 or more jobs, each. **Professional and business services** rose 12,500. A majority of the expansion was in administrative and support services (+9,400), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** increased 9,000, mostly in accommodation and food services (+6,200). **Manufacturing** added 7,000 jobs. Hiring in durable goods (+10,500) were offset by contractions in nondurable goods (-3,500) manufacturing. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 4,500, spread across all subsectors. Other notable gains were posted in **trade-transportation-utilities** (+2,700) and in **financial services** (+2,200). **Government** reported the largest over-the-year decline, down 7,300. The greatest loss was reported in local government-educational services (-4,600).

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	Chg From July 2021	Chg From Aug 2020
Civilian Labor Force	1,357,389	1,355,738	1,341,356	1,651	16,033
Employment	1,300,179	1,296,767	1,254,825	3,412	45,354
Unemployment	57,210	58,971	86,531	-1,761	-29,321
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.3	6.5	-0.1	-2.3
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.2	5.4	8.4	-0.2	-3.2

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	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	Chg From July 2021	Chg From Aug 2020
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1259.2	1257.2	1226.9	2.0	32.3
Goods Producing	217.8	220.0	212.1	-2.2	5.7
Mining, Logging, & Construction	57.8	58.3	59.1	-0.5	-1.3
Mining & Logging	5.6	5.5	5.5	0.1	0.1
Construction	52.2	52.8	53.6	-0.6	-1.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.1	33.2	34.1	-0.1	-1.0
Manufacturing	160.0	161.7	153.0	-1.7	7.0
Durable Goods	82.1	82.8	71.6	-0.7	10.5
Nondurable Goods	77.9	78.9	81.4	-1.0	-3.5
Service Providing	1041.4	1037.2	1014.8	4.2	26.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	250.1	250.6	247.4	-0.5	2.7
Wholesale Trade	46.2	46.8	45.9	-0.6	0.3
Retail Trade	138.5	138.1	136.9	0.4	1.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.4	65.7	64.6	-0.3	0.8
Information	12.6	12.5	11.3	0.1	1.3
Financial Activities	66.1	67.0	63.9	-0.9	2.2
Finance & Insurance	52.3	53.2	50.2	-0.9	2.1
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.8	13.8	13.7	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	147.8	146.9	135.3	0.9	12.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.2	43.5	42.0	-0.3	1.2
Management of Companies	34.8	34.5	32.9	0.3	1.9
Administrative & Support Services	69.8	68.9	60.4	0.9	9.4
Educational & Health Services	188.2	186.5	183.7	1.7	4.5
Educational Services	14.4	14.2	12.7	0.2	1.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	173.8	172.3	171.0	1.5	2.8
Ambulatory Health Care	61.1	60.4	59.1	0.7	2.0
Social Assistance	36.7	35.9	36.6	0.8	0.1
Leisure & Hospitality	116.7	115.7	107.7	1.0	9.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	13.4	14.0	10.6	-0.6	2.8
Accommodation & Food Services	103.3	101.7	97.1	1.6	6.2
Accommodation Services	10.3	10.5	9.4	-0.2	0.9
Food Services	93.0	91.2	87.7	1.8	5.3
Other Services	66.5	67.6	64.8	-1.1	1.7
Government	193.4	190.4	200.7	3.0	-7.3
Federal Government	20.5	20.6	24.1	-0.1	-3.6
State Government	73.3	71.6	73.0	1.7	0.3
State Government, Educational Services	26.7	25.0	25.8	1.7	0.9
State Government, Excluding Education	46.6	46.6	47.2	0.0	-0.6
Local Government	99.6	98.2	103.6	1.4	-4.0
Local Government, Education Services	55.6	53.5	60.2	2.1	-4.6
Local Government, Excluding Education	44.0	44.7	43.4	-0.7	0.6

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2020 benchmark.

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



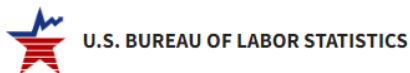
About the Arkansas Department of Commerce:

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' 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.