



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- January 23, 2024

Zoe Calkins, Communications Director
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services
zoe.calkins@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Rises to 3.4% in December

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Jan. 23, 2024) Today the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.3% in November to 3.4% in December. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 3.7%.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- Arkansas' civilian labor force declined by 1,147 in December. The number of employed in the State decreased by 3,638, while 2,491 more unemployed Arkansans began actively looking for work. Arkansas' labor force participation rate dipped to 57.6% in December.
- Compared to December 2022, there are 18,263 more employed and 446 additional unemployed Arkansans. The unemployment rate is the same as last December, while the labor force participation rate is up two-tenths of a percentage point.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- In December, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased by 3,400 to total 1,369,000. Manufacturing (+2,300), Private Education and Health Services (+1,800), and Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+1,700) posted the largest gains. Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality declined by 3,700, a typical seasonal loss.
- Compared to December 2022, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 14,500. The largest gains were in Private Education and Health Services (+9,200), Construction (+7,600), and Leisure and Hospitality (+3,500). The greatest over-the-year decline occurred in Trade-Transportation-Utilities (-6,100).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	Change from November 2023	Change from December 2022
Civilian Labor Force	1,391,742	1,392,889	1,373,033	-1,147	18,709
Employment	1,343,944	1,347,582	1,325,681	-3,638	18,263
Unemployment	47,798	45,307	47,352	2,491	446
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.3%	3.4%	0.1%	0.0%
Labor Force Participation Rate	57.6%	57.7%	57.4%	-0.1%	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>

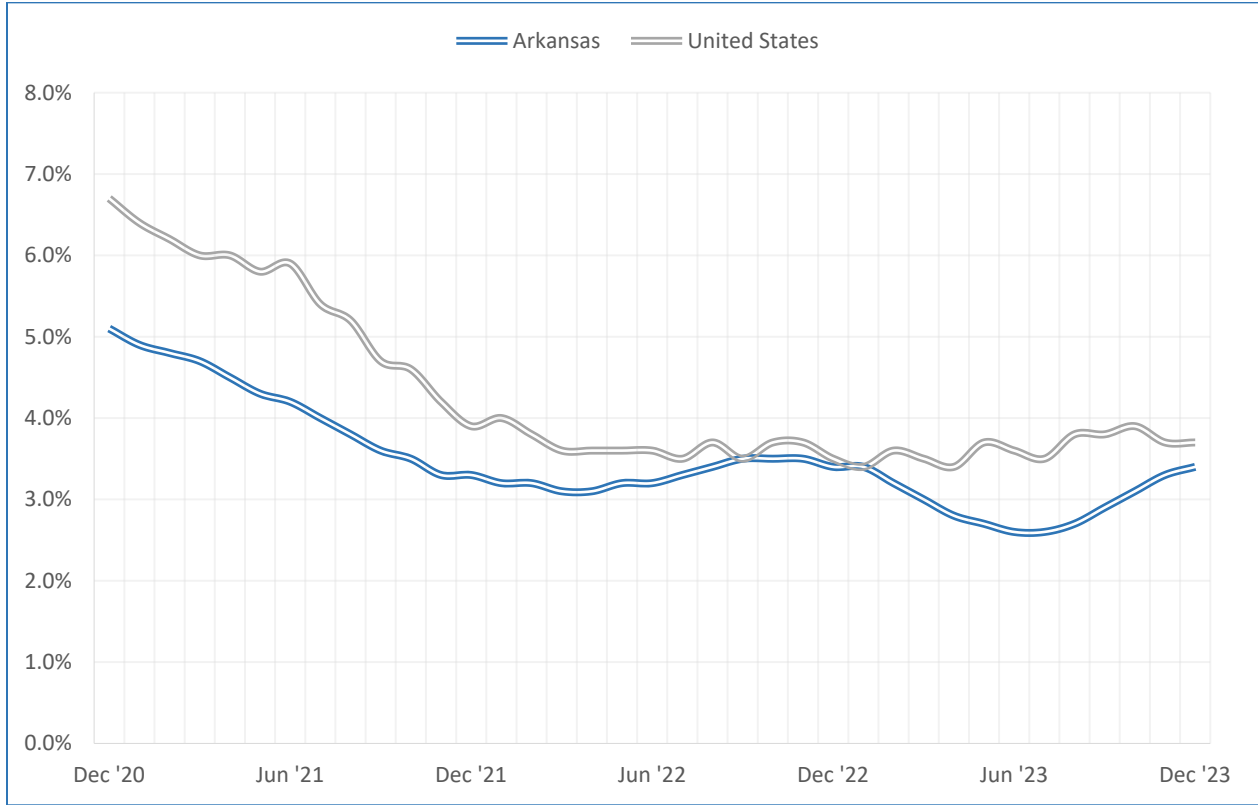
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	December 2023	November 2023	December 2022	Change from November 2023	Change from December 2022
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1369.0	1365.6	1354.5	3.4	14.5
Goods Producing	234.3	231.2	228.0	3.1	6.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	71.7	70.9	64.2	0.8	7.5
Mining & Logging	5.0	4.9	5.1	0.1	-0.1
Construction	66.7	66.0	59.1	0.7	7.6
Specialty Trade Contractors	41.6	41.2	36.5	0.4	5.1
Manufacturing	162.6	160.3	163.8	2.3	-1.2
Durable Goods	78.6	76.5	79.7	2.1	-1.1
Nondurable Goods	84.0	83.8	84.1	0.2	-0.1
Service Providing	1134.7	1134.4	1126.5	0.3	8.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	274.0	272.3	280.1	1.7	-6.1
Wholesale Trade	53.1	53.3	53.0	-0.2	0.1
Retail Trade	144.0	142.8	146.9	1.2	-2.9
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	76.9	76.2	80.2	0.7	-3.3
Information	11.5	11.5	12.8	0.0	-1.3
Financial Activities	71.9	71.0	71.2	0.9	0.7
Finance & Insurance	57.2	56.3	56.4	0.9	0.8
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.7	14.7	14.8	0.0	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	150.3	151.5	150.8	-1.2	-0.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	51.1	49.9	48.2	1.2	2.9
Management of Companies	41.0	40.9	39.0	0.1	2.0
Administrative & Support Services	58.2	60.7	63.6	-2.5	-5.4
Private Education & Health Services	212.2	210.4	203.0	1.8	9.2
Educational Services	19.6	19.5	19.2	0.1	0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	192.6	190.9	183.8	1.7	8.8
Ambulatory Health Care	68.5	67.7	63.7	0.8	4.8
Social Assistance	39.9	39.7	37.7	0.2	2.2
Leisure & Hospitality	126.0	129.7	122.5	-3.7	3.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.9	13.3	12.4	-0.4	0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	113.1	116.4	110.1	-3.3	3.0
Accommodation Services	11.3	11.7	11.0	-0.4	0.3
Food Services	101.8	104.7	99.1	-2.9	2.7
Other Services	74.7	73.9	73.5	0.8	1.2
Government	214.1	214.1	212.6	0.0	1.5
Federal Government	22.0	21.6	20.9	0.4	1.1
State Government	77.5	77.9	77.6	-0.4	-0.1
State Government, Educational Services	31.4	31.8	31.4	-0.4	0.0
State Government, Excluding Education	46.1	46.1	46.2	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	114.6	114.6	114.1	0.0	0.5
Local Government, Educational Services	71.0	70.8	70.8	0.2	0.2
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.6	43.8	43.3	-0.2	0.3

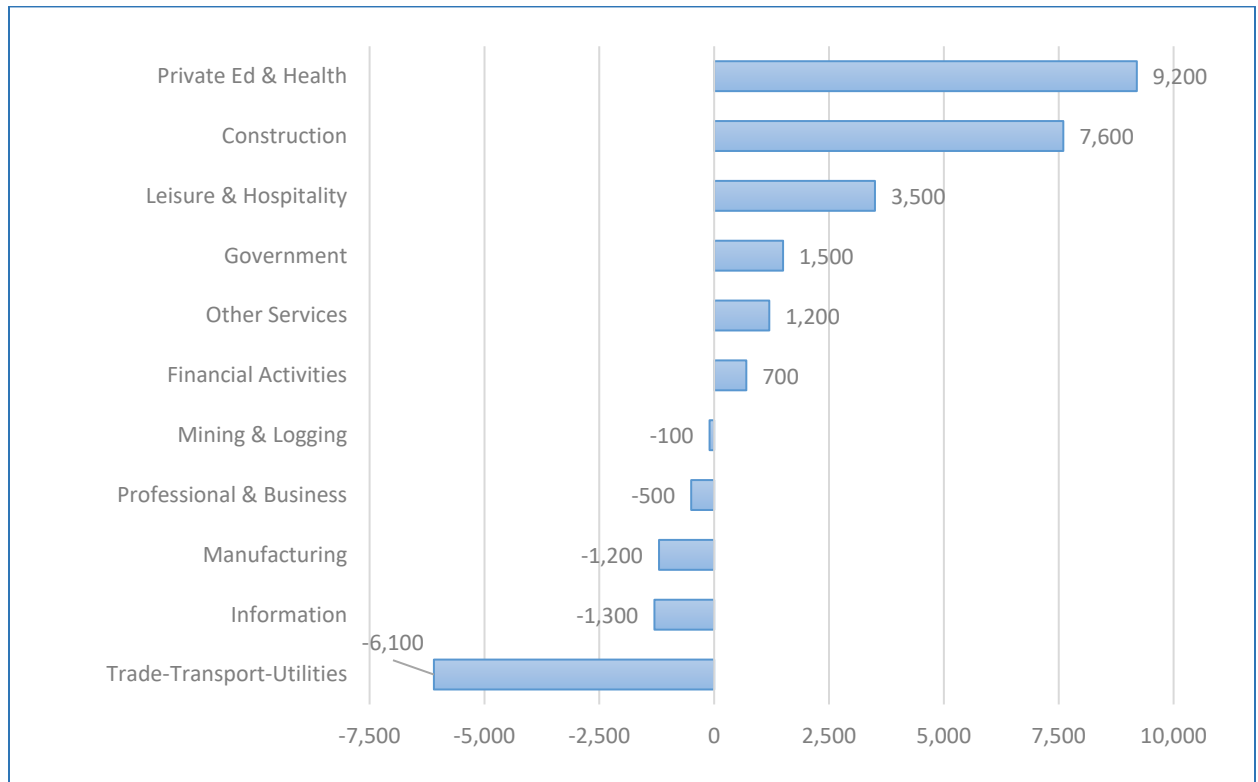
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2022 benchmark.

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 December 2022 to December 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at www.discover.arkansas.gov

2024 Arkansas Publication Schedule

Reference Month	State Press Release	MSA's & Counties**
January	03/11/24*	03/13/24
February	03/22/24	04/03/24
March	04/19/24	05/01/24
April	05/17/24	05/29/24
May	06/25/24*	07/03/24
June	07/19/24	07/30/24
July	08/16/24	08/28/24
August	09/20/24	10/02/24
September	10/22/24*	10/30/24
October	11/19/24*	11/27/24
November	12/20/24	01/03/25
December	01/28/25*	02/05/25

*Indicates a Monday or Tuesday release date; All other releases occur on Friday.

**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.



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.

www.dws.arkansas.gov | Facebook: facebook.com/arkdws | Twitter: [@ArkansasDWS](https://twitter.com/ArkansasDWS)



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.