

**COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS
STATE OF ARKANSAS
CALENDAR YEAR 2018**

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EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS
UNDER THE ARKANSAS EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW
ANNUAL 2018

DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF DATA

This publication contains covered employment and payroll data by industry and county for the Calendar Year 2018 and a record for total covered employment by month, quarterly payroll data, average weekly earnings, and total taxable earnings for 2011 through 2018. These data are compiled from quarterly contributions and wage reports submitted by employers subject to the Arkansas Employment Security Law.

Employment data have been tabulated for each month of the quarter by industry under the **North American Industry Classification System** (NAICS) by state, county, and workforce area. Payroll data represent the total wages paid during the quarter and are classified by industry for the state and by publishable industry groups for each county and workforce area.

Due to industry classification revisions, previously published data will not always be comparable with current data. For this reason, comparisons should not be made between the same industries under different revisions. For more information, visit the NAICS home page at <http://www.census.gov/naics>.

Industry Classification Revisions

- SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) 1987 to NAICS 2002
- NAICS 2002 to NAICS 2007
- NAICS 2007 to NAICS 2012
- NAICS 2012 to NAICS 2018

The tabulation of this data is a joint effort in conjunction with the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. Data included in this publication are subject to revisions. Revisions are typically reflected in the Annual Covered Employment and Earnings publication.

DEFINITION OF COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS

Covered Employment is the total number of workers employed by establishments subject to the Arkansas Employment Security Law that worked or received pay for the payroll period including the 12th of the month. Earnings include all wages paid to any covered employee by their employer including salaries, bonuses, commissions, fees, fringe benefits, sick pay made directly to employees or dependents, deferred compensation, and reported tips. These wages include both taxable and nontaxable wages. Only the first \$10,000 paid to each worker by an employer in the calendar year is taxable under the Arkansas Employment Security Law.

An Arkansas state unemployment insurance account is required of any entity meeting the definition of an employer. As described by Arkansas Department of Workforce Services Law, the definition of an employer includes, but is not limited to, a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, associations, trust, estate, and receiver or trustee in bankruptcy. The entity must employ one or more individuals for ten or more days in a calendar year, whether or not the days are consecutive.

Currently excluded from coverage is employment covered by the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, some domestic service workers, employees of small agricultural establishments, self-employed workers, unpaid family workers, insurance and real estate agents paid only on a commission basis, and employees of churches and religious organizations except separately incorporated schools.

Civilian federal workers are covered by Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE).

SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS DURING CALENDAR YEAR 2018

AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Covered employment averaged 1,190,944 during the Calendar Year 2018 (see Table 1, page 5), an increase of 10,606 from the previous year. The greatest employment gain occurred in Manufacturing (+3,274). The largest annual loss occurred in Information (-1,860).

Average Covered Employment by NAICS

| Industry Classification | Percent of Employment |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Natural Resources & Mining | 1.4 |
| Construction | 4.3 |
| Manufacturing | 13.5 |
| Trade, Transportation & Utilities | 20.9 |
| Information | 0.9 |
| Financial Activities | 4.3 |
| Professional & Business Services | 12.3 |
| Education & Health Services | 15.6 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 9.9 |
| Other Services | 2.1 |
| State & Local Government | 14.9 |

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018

Eight of the eleven major industry sectors recorded over-the-year employment gains (see Table 1). The Manufacturing subsector had an average of 160,597 jobs, an increase of 3,274 from 2017. The increase in Educational & Health Services brought the sector's employment average to 183,328; this growth was mainly due to the expansion in Health Care & Social Assistance. Jobs in Professional & Business Services grew to 146,671. This increase can be attributed mainly to Administrative & Waste Services which experienced a gain of 1,789. Three major industry sectors experienced over-the-year losses. Information had the most significant decline in average employment (-1,860). Construction (-272) and Natural Resources & Mining (-138) also reported job losses over the year.

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018

Pulaski County posted the highest average covered employment for Arkansas counties in 2018 at 241,967. Benton County averaged 119,328 in covered employment, slightly higher than Washington County with 105,952. Sebastian County had the fourth highest average covered employment with 64,521, followed by Craighead County with 50,710. Four of the five leading counties experienced over the year growth in employment ranging from a low of 128 added jobs in Pulaski County to 2,604 jobs in Washington County. Sebastian County lost 226 jobs from 2017 to 2018.

COVERED WAGES

Wages paid to covered workers totaled \$51,800,994,865 for the Calendar Year 2018 (see Table 1), for an average weekly wage of \$836.46 (see Table 5). Employees in Benton County recorded the highest average weekly wage (\$1,139.71), and workers in Newton County the lowest (\$488.64) (see Table 6).

The Professional & Business Services sector recorded the highest average weekly wage for the State of Arkansas at \$1,159.85. The Leisure and Hospitality sector reported the lowest average weekly wage at \$317.89 (see Table 5).

Average Weekly Wage by Industry

| Industry Classification | Average Weekly Wage |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Natural Resources and Mining | 915.62 |
| Construction | 922.69 |
| Manufacturing | 922.81 |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 797.18 |
| Information | 1,035.08 |
| Financial Activities | 1,117.76 |
| Professional and Business Services | 1,159.85 |
| Education and Health Services | 816.34 |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 317.89 |
| Other Services | 670.36 |
| State and Local Government | 811.98 |

For table on Statewide, County, or Local Workforce Development area please click link below: <http://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Data-Search-Tool/QCEW>