



## NEWS RELEASE

June 19, 2020

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 9.5 Percent in May

### 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 declined one and three-tenths of a percentage point, from 10.8 percent in April (revised up from the preliminary April estimate of 10.2 percent) to 9.5 percent in May. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 33,715, a result of 46,378 more employed and 12,663 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate decreased from 14.7 percent in April to 13.3 percent in May.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Due to the partial re-opening of the economy, the number of employed Arkansans rose 46,378 in May. The increase in employment and the decline in unemployment resulted in an unemployment rate drop of over one full percentage point."

Details of the BLS methodology and the impact of COVID-19 on the April and May estimation process can be found [here](#).

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 25,900 in May to total 1,191,200. Eight major industry sectors posted job gains, while two sectors declined. **Leisure and hospitality** added 13,400 jobs, related to the partial re-opening of restaurants and recreation centers. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 9,100. All expansions were in health care and social assistance (+9,200), as non-essential medical offices began to open. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** gained 4,300 jobs, largely in retail trade (+4,600). The greatest loss was in **government**, down 4,400 jobs. Most of the decline was related to educational services in state and local government, due to the official end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Compared to May 2019, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are down 92,800. Ten major industry sectors posted losses, mostly attributed to the COVID-19 response and the related impact on businesses. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** fell 31,100. Losses were posted in all subsectors, with food services reporting a majority of the contractions (-25,600). Employment in **manufacturing** dropped 18,500. Durable goods reported most of the decrease (-14,600), particularly in transportation equipment manufacturing and fabricated metal product manufacturing. **Government** jobs declined 12,400. All losses were in local (-7,700) and state (-5,200) government, mixed between educational and non-educational jobs. Employment in **educational and health services** is down 9,200. Health care and social assistance posted most of the decrease (-7,400). **Professional and business services** declined 6,600. Most of the contractions were in administrative and support services (-7,300), the subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** dropped 6,100, with losses in retail trade (-7,800) more than offsetting gains in other subsectors.

## ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Chg From Apr 2020	Chg From May 2019
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,343,396	1,309,681	1,360,506	33,715	-17,110
<b>Employment</b>	1,215,161	1,168,783	1,312,287	46,378	-97,126
<b>Unemployment</b>	128,235	140,898	48,219	-12,663	80,016
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	9.5	10.8	3.5	-1.3	6.0
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	13.3	14.7	3.6	-1.4	9.7

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	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	Chg From Apr 2020	Chg From May 2019
<b>Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs</b>	<b>1191.2</b>	<b>1165.3</b>	<b>1284.0</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>-92.8</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>202.0</b>	<b>201.1</b>	<b>220.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>-18.6</b>
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.2	56.9	58.3	1.3	-0.1
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>51.8</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.5	32.5	33.3	1.0	0.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>143.8</b>	<b>144.2</b>	<b>162.3</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>-18.5</b>
Durable Goods	63.4	62.9	78.0	0.5	-14.6
Nondurable Goods	80.4	81.3	84.3	-0.9	-3.9
<b>Service Providing</b>	<b>989.2</b>	<b>964.2</b>	<b>1063.4</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>-74.2</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>245.3</b>	<b>241.0</b>	<b>251.4</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>-6.1</b>
Wholesale Trade	48.1	49.1	47.8	-1.0	0.3
Retail Trade	128.6	124.0	136.4	4.6	-7.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	68.6	67.9	67.2	0.7	1.4
<b>Information</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>61.1</b>	<b>60.9</b>	<b>62.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-1.6</b>
Finance & Insurance	48.0	47.9	48.7	0.1	-0.7
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	13.1	13.0	14.0	0.1	-0.9
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>139.9</b>	<b>138.2</b>	<b>146.5</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>-6.6</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.3	44.1	44.5	-0.8	-1.2
Management of Companies	35.2	34.8	33.3	0.4	1.9
Administrative & Support Services	61.4	59.3	68.7	2.1	-7.3
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>184.3</b>	<b>175.2</b>	<b>193.5</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>-9.2</b>
Educational Services	14.4	14.5	16.2	-0.1	-1.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	169.9	160.7	177.3	9.2	-7.4
Ambulatory Health Care	58.7	49.6	59.5	9.1	-0.8
Social Assistance	36.2	35.5	39.8	0.7	-3.6
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>91.8</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>122.9</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>-31.1</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.2	10.6	12.5	0.6	-1.3
Accommodation & Food Services	80.6	67.8	110.4	12.8	-29.8
Accommodation Services	7.6	7.4	11.8	0.2	-4.2
Food Services	73.0	60.4	98.6	12.6	-25.6
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>53.6</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-6.2</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>202.8</b>	<b>207.2</b>	<b>215.2</b>	<b>-4.4</b>	<b>-12.4</b>
Federal Government	20.7	20.5	20.2	0.2	0.5
State Government	74.0	76.9	79.2	-2.9	-5.2
State Government, Educational Services	26.4	29.2	31.4	-2.8	-5.0
State Government, Excluding Education	47.6	47.7	47.8	-0.1	-0.2
Local Government	108.1	109.8	115.8	-1.7	-7.7
Local Government, Education Services	66.4	68.0	71.3	-1.6	-4.9
Local Government, Excluding Education	41.7	41.8	44.5	-0.1	-2.8

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019 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’s 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.