

**COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS
STATE OF ARKANSAS
FIRST QUARTER 2019**

**ASA HUTCHINSON, GOVERNOR
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

**CHERISSE CHILDERS, DIRECTOR
DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES**

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LABOR MARKET INFORMATION
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS PROGRAMS
POST OFFICE BOX 2981
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203-2981
SUSAN PRICE, BLS PROGRAMS MANAGER
TELEPHONE (501) 682-3103**

STATE OF ARKANSAS WEBPAGE: <http://www.arkansas.gov>

DIVISION OF WORKFORCE SERVICES WEBPAGE: <http://www.dws.arkansas.gov/>

WEBPAGE FOR LABOR MARKET INFORMATION: <http://www.discover.arkansas.gov>

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EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS
UNDER THE ARKANSAS EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW
FIRST QUARTER 2019

DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF DATA

This publication contains covered employment and payroll data by industry and county for the First Quarter 2019 and a record for total covered employment by month, quarterly payroll data, average weekly earnings, and total taxable earnings for 2012 through 2019. 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 FIRST QUARTER 2019

AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Covered employment averaged 1,193,228 during the First Quarter 2019 (refer to Table 1), a decrease of 13,549 (-2.0%) from the previous quarter and an increase of 10,921 (1.0%) from the average recorded one year ago. The over-the-year comparison is more significant when used as an economic indicator and allows for seasonal factors that appear when comparing over-the-quarter data to be disregarded.

Average Covered Employment by NAICS

Industry Classification	Percent of Employment
Natural Resources & Mining	1.3
Construction	4.2
Manufacturing	13.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	20.7
Information	0.9
Financial Activities	4.3
Professional & Business Services	12.2
Education & Health Services	15.7
Leisure & Hospitality	9.8
Other Services	2.1
State & Local Government	15.1

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES FROM FOURTH QUARTER 2018

Over the quarter increases were recorded in two of the eleven industry groups. Gains occurred in Manufacturing (598) and Information (106). Over-the quarter losses occurred in nine industry groups. Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-5,659), State & Local Government (-2,986), and Professional & Business Services (-2,318) had the greatest declines. The losses in Trade, Transportation and Utilities were mostly attributed to seasonal declines in Retail Trade (-5,067).

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES FROM FIRST QUARTER 2018 (QUARTER YEAR AGO COMPARISON)

Over-the-year gains were recorded in eight industry groups (refer to Table 1). The largest expansions occurred in Manufacturing (3,102), followed by Education & Health Services (2,764) and Leisure & Hospitality (2,067). Minor over-the-year losses were seen in State & Local Government (-1,266), Professional & Business Services (-332) and Natural Resources & Mining (-94). The losses in State & Local Government are attributed to the temporary closure of State colleges and universities at the end of the Winter Term.

COVERED WAGES

Wages paid to covered workers totaled \$13,795,046,820 for the First Quarter 2019 (refer to Table 1), for an average weekly wage of \$889.32 (refer to Table 5). Benton County workers recorded the highest average weekly wage (\$1,494.36), and employees in Newton County reported the lowest (\$484.60) (refer to Table 6). Professional and Business Services recorded the highest average weekly wage for the State of Arkansas (\$1,440.08). The Leisure & Hospitality sector recorded the lowest (\$322.98) (refer to Table 5).

Average Weekly Wage by Industry

Industry Classification	Average Weekly Wage
Natural Resources and Mining	\$894.85
Construction	\$881.30
Manufacturing	\$936.47
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	\$844.03
Information	\$1,162.15
Financial Activities	\$1,308.72
Professional and Business Services	\$1,440.08
Education and Health Services	\$810.89
Leisure and Hospitality	\$322.98
Other Services	\$695.30
State and Local Government	\$806.34

For table on Statewide, County, or Local Workforce Development area please click link below:

<http://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Data-Search-Tool/QCEW>