**N E W S R E L E A SE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Arkansas’ Unemployment Rate Declines to 3.1 Percent in December**

# 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 three-tenths of a percentage point, from 3.4 percent in November to 3.1 percent in December. Arkansas’ civilian labor force decreased by 1,098, a result of 3,750 fewer unemployed and 2,652 additional employed Arkansans. The United States’ jobless rate declined to 3.9 percent in December, down three-tenths of a percentage point from 4.2 percent in November.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, “The unemployment rate in Arkansas dropped to 3.1 percent in December, a new record low rate for the State. While employment has increased for a second month, there are slightly fewer employed Arkansans compared to December 2020. Unemployment is down over the year, as the number of Arkansans actively looking for work has declined for the last six months.”

# Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas’ nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 1,500 in December to total 1,291,100. Six major industry sectors posted declines, more than offsetting gains in four major sectors. **Educational and health services** reported the greatest loss, down 2,200 jobs. All decreases were in health care and social assistance (-2,300), with reported contractions in activities such as childcare services, individual and family services, and offices of specialty health practitioners. Small, mostly seasonal declines were posted in **construction** (-600) and **leisure and hospitality** (-500). The largest increase occurred in **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+2,000). Most of the gains were related to holiday hiring in retail trade (+1,200) and wholesale trade (+900).

Compared to December 2020, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 27,300. Growth was reported in eight major industry sectors, with five sectors adding 4,300 or more jobs each. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 9,600. Most of the gains occurred in administrative and support services (+7,400). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 5,200 jobs, mostly in wholesale trade (+2,500) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+2,300). Jobs in **manufacturing** are up 4,900, all in durable goods (+7,100). Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 4,400, with expansions in all subsectors. **Financial activities** increased 4,300. Most of the gains were in finance and insurance (+3,900). Annual losses were posted in **construction** (-2,300) and **government** (-1,900).

# ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **December 2021** | **November 2021** | **December 2020** | **Chg From Nov 2021** | **Chg From Dec 2020** |
| **Civilian Labor Force** | 1,353,108 | 1,354,206 | 1,379,313 | -1,098 | -26,205 |
| **Employment** | 1,310,499 | 1,307,847 | 1,312,142 | 2,652 | -1,643 |
| **Unemployment** | 42,609 | 46,359 | 67,171 | -3,750 | -24,562 |
| **Unemployment Rate** | 3.1 | 3.4 | 4.9 | -0.3 | -1.8 |
| **U.S. Unemployment Rate** | 3.9 | 4.2 | 6.7 | -0.3 | -2.8 |

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** | **December****2021** | **November****2021** | **December****2020** | **Chg From Nov 2021** | **Chg From Dec 2020** |
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1291.1 | 1292.6 | 1263.8 | -1.5 | 27.3 |
| Goods Producing | 219.6 | 219.9 | 216.6 | -0.3 | 3.0 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 57.4 | 58.0 | 59.3 | -0.6 | -1.9 |
| **Mining & Logging** | **5.7** | **5.7** | **5.3** | **0.0** | **0.4** |
| **Construction** | **51.7** | **52.3** | **54.0** | **-0.6** | **-2.3** |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 32.6 | 32.6 | 34.4 | 0.0 | -1.8 |
| **Manufacturing** | **162.2** | **161.9** | **157.3** | **0.3** | **4.9** |
| Durable Goods | 83.0 | 83.0 | 75.9 | 0.0 | 7.1 |
| Nondurable Goods | 79.2 | 78.9 | 81.4 | 0.3 | -2.2 |
| Service Providing | 1071.5 | 1072.7 | 1047.2 | -1.2 | 24.3 |
| **Trade, Transportation, & Utilities** | **263.4** | **261.4** | **258.2** | **2.0** | **5.2** |
| Wholesale Trade | 48.5 | 47.6 | 46.0 | 0.9 | 2.5 |
| Retail Trade | 144.1 | 142.9 | 143.7 | 1.2 | 0.4 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 70.8 | 70.9 | 68.5 | -0.1 | 2.3 |
| **Information** | **12.7** | **12.6** | **11.6** | **0.1** | **1.1** |
| **Financial Activities** | **67.8** | **68.2** | **63.5** | **-0.4** | **4.3** |
| Finance & Insurance | 54.1 | 54.3 | 50.2 | -0.2 | 3.9 |
| Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing | 13.7 | 13.9 | 13.3 | -0.2 | 0.4 |
| **Professional & Business Services** | **152.4** | **151.7** | **142.8** | **0.7** | **9.6** |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 43.8 | 43.8 | 43.3 | 0.0 | 0.5 |
| Management of Companies | 35.7 | 35.8 | 34.0 | -0.1 | 1.7 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 72.9 | 72.1 | 65.5 | 0.8 | 7.4 |
| **Educational & Health Services** | **189.0** | **191.2** | **189.2** | **-2.2** | **-0.2** |
| Educational Services | 17.5 | 17.4 | 15.9 | 0.1 | 1.6 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 171.5 | 173.8 | 173.3 | -2.3 | -1.8 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 59.9 | 60.5 | 59.6 | -0.6 | 0.3 |
| Social Assistance | 35.7 | 36.6 | 36.6 | -0.9 | -0.9 |
| **Leisure & Hospitality** | **112.2** | **112.7** | **107.8** | **-0.5** | **4.4** |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 11.5 | 11.4 | 10.0 | 0.1 | 1.5 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 100.7 | 101.3 | 97.8 | -0.6 | 2.9 |
| Accommodation Services | 9.9 | 10.0 | 8.7 | -0.1 | 1.2 |
| Food Services | 90.8 | 91.3 | 89.1 | -0.5 | 1.7 |
| **Other Services** | **66.9** | **67.4** | **65.1** | **-0.5** | **1.8** |
| **Government** | **207.1** | **207.5** | **209.0** | **-0.4** | **-1.9** |
| Federal Government | 21.1 | 21.0 | 20.8 | 0.1 | 0.3 |
| State Government | 78.0 | 78.4 | 77.4 | -0.4 | 0.6 |
| State Government, Educational Services | 31.6 | 32.0 | 30.8 | -0.4 | 0.8 |
| State Government, Excluding Education | 46.4 | 46.4 | 46.6 | 0.0 | -0.2 |
| Local Government | 108.0 | 108.1 | 110.8 | -0.1 | -2.8 |
| Local Government, Education Services | 65.1 | 65.0 | 68.0 | 0.1 | -2.9 |
| Local Government, Excluding Education | 42.9 | 43.1 | 42.8 | -0.2 | 0.1 |

Source**:** Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2020 benchmark. Notes: Current month’s data are preliminary; previous month’s data are revised.

**2022 Arkansas Publication Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference Month** | **State Press Release** | **MSA’s & Counties\*** |
| January | 03/14/22 | 03/18/22 |
| February | 03/25/22 | 04/06/22 |
| March | 04/15/22 | 04/27/22 |
| April | 05/20/22 | 06/01/22 |
| May | 06/17/22 | 06/29/22 |
| June | 07/22/22 | 08/03/22 |
| July | 08/19/22 | 08/31/22 |
| August | 09/16/22 | 09/28/22 |
| September | 10/21/22 | 11/02/22 |
| October | 11/18/22 | 12/01/22 |
| November | 12/16/22 | 12/29/22 |
| December | 01/24/23 | 02/01/23 |

\*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. 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.