



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

NEWS RELEASE

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 3.4% in April

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (May 17, 2024) Today, the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.5% in March to 3.4% in April. At 3.9%, the United States' jobless rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point between March and April.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- Arkansas' civilian labor force increased by 2,731 in April, as 3,557 more Arkansans are employed since March. The civilian labor force and the number of employed are both at record high levels. The unemployment rate declined to 3.4%, while the States' labor force participation rate increased by one-tenth of a percentage point.
- Compared to April 2023, employment is up by 6,594. There are now 8,424 more unemployed Arkansans actively looking for work, pushing the unemployment rate up six-tenths of a percentage point. The labor force participation rate remained stable over the year.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- In April, nonfarm payroll jobs rose by 13,900 to reach 1,377,000. This total sets a new record high level of jobs in Arkansas. Leisure and Hospitality (+5,100) and Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+2,100) added the most jobs over the month.
- Compared to April 2023, there are 24,100 more jobs in the State. The largest annual growth was posted in Private Education and Health Services (+7,200), Construction (+5,000), Trade-Transportation-Utilities (+4,400), and Leisure and Hospitality (+4,400).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	Change from March 2024	Change from April 2023
Civilian Labor Force	1,388,357	1,385,626	1,373,339	2,731	15,018
Employment	1,340,867	1,337,310	1,334,273	3,557	6,594
Unemployment	47,490	48,316	39,066	-826	8,424
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.5%	2.8%	-0.1%	0.6%
Labor Force Participation Rate	57.5%	57.4%	57.5%	0.1%	0.0%

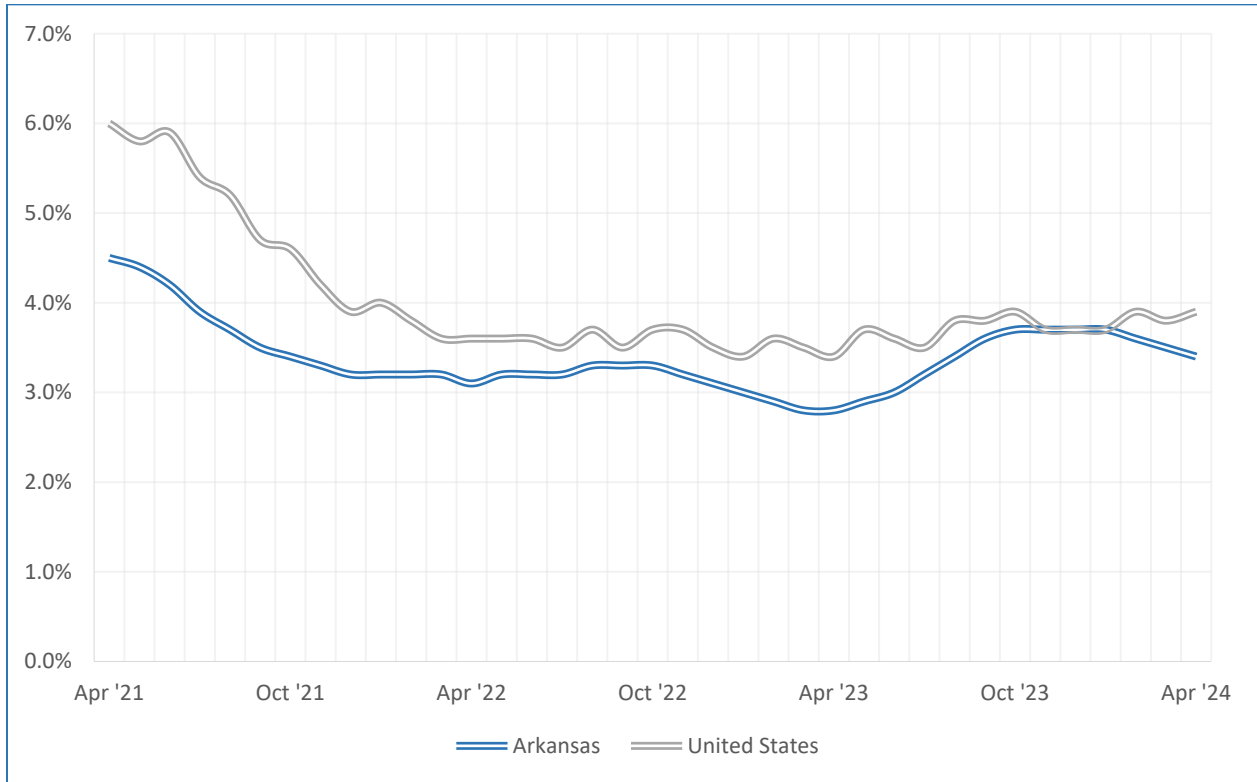
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey. More information about the data is available at <https://www.bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm>

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

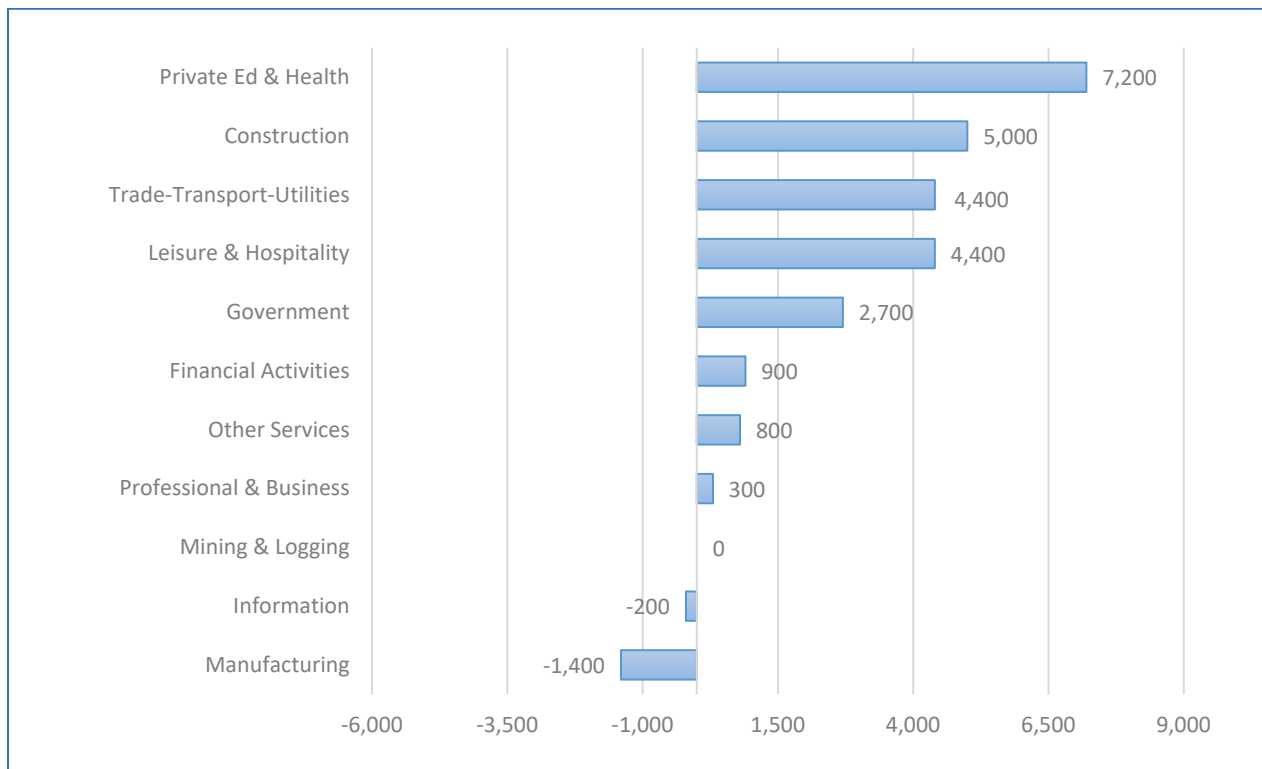
Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	April 2024	March 2024	April 2023	Change from March 2024	Change from April 2023
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1377.0	1363.1	1352.9	13.9	24.1
Goods Producing	233.6	232.2	230.0	1.4	3.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	72.8	71.9	67.8	0.9	5.0
Mining & Logging	5.2	5.2	5.2	0.0	0.0
Construction	67.6	66.7	62.6	0.9	5.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	42.8	42.1	39.2	0.7	3.6
Manufacturing	160.8	160.3	162.2	0.5	-1.4
Durable Goods	77.2	77.2	78.7	0.0	-1.5
Nondurable Goods	83.6	83.1	83.5	0.5	0.1
Service Providing	1143.4	1130.9	1122.9	12.5	20.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	269.9	267.8	265.5	2.1	4.4
Wholesale Trade	51.7	51.5	52.1	0.2	-0.4
Retail Trade	146.0	145.0	142.0	1.0	4.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	72.2	71.3	71.4	0.9	0.8
Information	12.7	12.4	12.9	0.3	-0.2
Financial Activities	70.9	70.0	70.0	0.9	0.9
Finance & Insurance	55.9	55.1	54.9	0.8	1.0
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	15.0	14.9	15.1	0.1	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	159.0	157.9	158.7	1.1	0.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	50.4	50.6	50.6	-0.2	-0.2
Management of Companies	38.0	37.8	37.6	0.2	0.4
Administrative & Support Services	70.6	69.5	70.5	1.1	0.1
Private Education & Health Services	213.9	212.9	206.7	1.0	7.2
Educational Services	19.4	19.5	19.2	-0.1	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	194.5	193.4	187.5	1.1	7.0
Ambulatory Health Care	68.6	67.7	64.9	0.9	3.7
Social Assistance	39.6	40.3	39.0	-0.7	0.6
Leisure & Hospitality	132.4	127.3	128.0	5.1	4.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	14.4	13.4	13.4	1.0	1.0
Accommodation & Food Services	118.0	113.9	114.6	4.1	3.4
Accommodation Services	11.8	11.4	11.8	0.4	0.0
Food Services	106.2	102.5	102.8	3.7	3.4
Other Services	67.9	66.9	67.1	1.0	0.8
Government	216.7	215.7	214.0	1.0	2.7
Federal Government	21.8	21.9	21.0	-0.1	0.8
State Government	78.6	78.2	78.6	0.4	0.0
State Government, Educational Services	32.5	32.1	32.4	0.4	0.1
State Government, Excluding Education	46.1	46.1	46.2	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	116.3	115.6	114.4	0.7	1.9
Local Government, Educational Services	71.6	71.4	70.6	0.2	1.0
Local Government, Excluding Education	44.7	44.2	43.8	0.5	0.9

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2023 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 April 2023 to April 2024 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



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



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.

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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.