



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 3.1 Percent in February

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 decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.2 percent in January to 3.1 percent in February. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 4,569, a result of 5,028 more employed and 459 fewer unemployed Arkansans. At 3.8 percent, the United States' jobless rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point between January and February.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate declined to a record low of 3.1 percent in February, as employment rose 5,028 and the labor force participation rate increased. There are now 28,287 more employed Arkansans than in February 2021."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 7,700 in February to total 1,300,700. Gains were posted in eight major industry sectors. **Leisure and hospitality** added 2,700 jobs, with hiring across all subsectors. Jobs in **government** rose 1,900. All gains were in state government-educational services (+2,200), reflecting the re-opening of colleges and universities from winter break. **Educational and health services** increased 1,800. Hiring occurred in both educational services (+1,000) and health care and social assistance (+800). **Manufacturing** added 1,000 jobs, mostly in nondurable goods manufacturing (+800).

Compared to February 2021, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 44,300. Nine major industry sectors reported growth, with four sectors adding 6,200 or more jobs each. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** posted the largest increase, up 15,300 jobs. Hiring occurred in all subsectors, with transportation-warehousing-utilities adding 7,200 jobs. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 10,900, mostly in food services (+7,200). Jobs in **professional and business services** increased 6,500. Most of the gains were in management of companies (+3,900) and professional-scientific-technical services (+2,500). **Manufacturing** added 6,200 jobs, with expansions in both durable goods (+3,600) and nondurable goods (+2,600) manufacturing. Notable increases were also seen in **government** (+2,500) and **construction** (+1,600).

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	February 2022	January 2022	February 2021	Chg From Jan 2022	Chg From Feb 2021
Civilian Labor Force	1,339,378	1,334,809	1,332,313	4,569	7,065
Employment	1,297,227	1,292,199	1,268,940	5,028	28,287
Unemployment	42,151	42,610	63,373	-459	-21,222
Unemployment Rate	3.1%	3.2%	4.8%	-0.1%	-1.7%
Labor Participation Rate	56.5%	56.3%	56.7%	0.2%	-0.2%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.8%	4.0%	6.2%	-0.2%	-2.4%

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)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	February 2022	January 2022	February 2021	Chg From Jan 2022	Chg From Feb 2021
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1300.7	1293.0	1256.4	7.7	44.3
Goods Producing	220.7	219.6	213.0	1.1	7.7
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.8	58.7	57.3	0.1	1.5
Mining & Logging	5.1	5.2	5.2	-0.1	-0.1
Construction	53.7	53.5	52.1	0.2	1.6
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.8	34.0	33.5	-0.2	0.3
Manufacturing	161.9	160.9	155.7	1.0	6.2
Durable Goods	77.1	76.9	73.5	0.2	3.6
Nondurable Goods	84.8	84.0	82.2	0.8	2.6
Service Providing	1080.0	1073.4	1043.4	6.6	36.6
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	264.0	263.6	248.7	0.4	15.3
Wholesale Trade	50.7	50.4	46.6	0.3	4.1
Retail Trade	139.8	140.2	135.8	-0.4	4.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	73.5	73.0	66.3	0.5	7.2
Information	12.0	12.3	11.3	-0.3	0.7
Financial Activities	65.7	66.4	65.4	-0.7	0.3
Finance & Insurance	51.4	52.0	51.7	-0.6	-0.3
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.3	14.4	13.7	-0.1	0.6
Professional & Business Services	148.8	148.5	142.3	0.3	6.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	46.4	45.7	43.9	0.7	2.5
Management of Companies	37.0	36.2	33.1	0.8	3.9
Administrative & Support Services	65.4	66.6	65.3	-1.2	0.1
Educational & Health Services	195.6	193.8	195.2	1.8	0.4
Educational Services	17.8	16.8	16.8	1.0	1.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	177.8	177.0	178.4	0.8	-0.6
Ambulatory Health Care	61.6	61.0	60.1	0.6	1.5
Social Assistance	35.2	35.3	36.9	-0.1	-1.7
Leisure & Hospitality	116.4	113.7	105.5	2.7	10.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.4	10.6	9.7	0.8	1.7
Accommodation & Food Services	105.0	103.1	95.8	1.9	9.2
Accommodation Services	10.5	10.3	8.5	0.2	2.0
Food Services	94.5	92.8	87.3	1.7	7.2
Other Services	66.2	65.7	66.2	0.5	0.0
Government	211.3	209.4	208.8	1.9	2.5
Federal Government	20.4	20.6	20.3	-0.2	0.1
State Government	77.8	75.6	77.7	2.2	0.1
State Government, Educational Services	31.4	29.2	31.1	2.2	0.3
State Government, Excluding Education	46.4	46.4	46.6	0.0	-0.2
Local Government	113.1	113.2	110.8	-0.1	2.3
Local Government, Education Services	71.1	71.2	68.8	-0.1	2.3
Local Government, Excluding Education	42.0	42.0	42.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2021 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' 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.