

**COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS  
STATE OF ARKANSAS  
CALENDAR YEAR 2019**

**ASA HUTCHINSON, GOVERNOR  
STATE OF ARKANSAS**

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

**PUBLISHED BY  
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>**

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

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

**RELEASED: MAY 2020**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION OF DATA	PAGE
Description and Classification of Data	1
Definition of Covered Employment and Earnings	2
Significant Developments During Calendar Year 2019	3



EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS  
UNDER THE ARKANSAS EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW  
ANNUAL 2019

**DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF DATA**

This publication contains covered employment and payroll data by industry and county for the Calendar Year 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Division 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 CALENDAR YEAR 2019

### AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Covered employment averaged 1,197,772 during the Calendar Year 2019 (see Table 1, page 5), an increase of 6,828 from the previous year. The greatest employment gain occurred in Leisure & Hospitality (+2,155). The largest annual loss occurred in State & Local Government (-1,120), mostly due to the reorganization of State Government.

**Average Covered Employment by NAICS**

<b>Industry Classification</b>	<b>Percent of Employment</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	1.4
Construction	4.4
Manufacturing	13.5
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	20.8
Information	0.9
Financial Activities	4.3
Professional & Business Services	12.2
Education & Health Services	15.7
Leisure & Hospitality	10.1
Other Services	2.1
State & Local Government	14.7

### EMPLOYMENT CHANGES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019

Nine of the eleven major industry sectors recorded over-the-year employment gains (see Table 1). The Leisure & Hospitality subsector had an average of 120,573 jobs, an increase of 2,155 from 2018. Growth can be mostly attributed to expansion in Accommodation & Food Services (1,853). Jobs in Construction grew to 52,519; an increase of 1,682 jobs. Two major industry sectors experienced over-the-year losses. State & Local Government had the most significant decline in average employment (-1,120). The only other over-the-year decline occurred in Professional & Business Services (-671).

### EMPLOYMENT CHANGES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2019

Pulaski County posted the highest average covered employment for Arkansas counties in 2019 at 242,572. Benton County averaged 121,958 in covered employment, slightly higher than Washington County with 107,553. Sebastian County had the fourth highest average covered employment with 63,583, followed by Craighead County with 51,731. Four of the five leading counties experienced over the year growth in employment ranging from a low of 605 added jobs in Pulaski County to 2,630 jobs in Washington County. Sebastian County lost 938 jobs from 2018 to 2019.

### COVERED WAGES

Wages paid to covered workers totaled \$53,910,916,863 for the Calendar Year 2019 (see Table 1), for an average weekly wage of \$865.56 (see Table 5). Employees in Benton County recorded the highest average weekly wage (\$1,201.34), and workers in Newton County the lowest (\$521.31) (see Table 6).

**Average Weekly Wage by Industry**

<b>Industry Classification</b>	<b>Average Weekly Wage</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	<b>928.88</b>
Construction	<b>953.25</b>
Manufacturing	<b>946.19</b>
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	<b>825.02</b>
Information	<b>1,113.81</b>
Financial Activities	<b>1,156.98</b>
Professional and Business Services	<b>1,216.64</b>
Education and Health Services	<b>845.67</b>
Leisure and Hospitality	<b>332.68</b>
Other Services	<b>694.20</b>
State and Local Government	<b>834.60</b>

For table on Statewide, County, or Local Workforce Development area please click link below: <http://www.discover.arkansas.gov/Data-Search-Tool/QCEW>