

**COVERED EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS
STATE OF ARKANSAS
CALENDAR YEAR 2021**

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EMPLOYMENT AND EARNINGS
UNDER THE ARKANSAS EMPLOYMENT SECURITY LAW
ANNUAL 2021

DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF DATA

This publication contains covered employment and payroll data by industry and county for the Calendar Year 2021 and a record for total covered employment by month, quarterly payroll data, average weekly earnings, and total taxable earnings for 2014 through 2021. 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 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 2021

AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Covered employment averaged 1,183,810 during the Calendar Year 2021 (see Table 1, page 5), an increase of 28,452 from the previous year. Nine major industry groups reported over-the-year gains. The largest increase occurred in Leisure & Hospitality (9,692). Two major industries reported losses. The only large decline occurred in State & Local Government (-2,320).

Average Covered Employment by NAICS

Industry Classification	Percent of Employment
Natural Resources & Mining	1.3
Construction	4.7
Manufacturing	13.3
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	21.4
Information	1.0
Financial Activities	4.5
Professional & Business Services	12.3
Education & Health Services	15.3
Leisure & Hospitality	9.8
Other Services	2.1
State & Local Government	14.4

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

Nine of eleven major industry sectors recorded over-the-year employment gains (see Table 1). The Leisure & Hospitality subsector had an average of 116,062 jobs: an increase of 9,692 from 2020. Gains can be mostly attributed to Accommodation & Food Services (8,390). Jobs in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities increased 8,452 over-the-year. Declines occurred in State & Local Government (-2,320) and Natural Resources & Mining (-372).

EMPLOYMENT CHANGES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

Pulaski County posted the highest average covered employment for Arkansas counties in 2021 at 233,829. Benton County averaged 126,791 in covered employment, slightly higher than Washington County with 108,441. Sebastian County had the fourth highest average covered employment with 62,034, followed by Craighead County with 51,604. All five leading counties experienced higher average covered employment, with Pulaski County (4,443) leading the way.

COVERED WAGES

Wages paid to covered workers totaled \$60,436,397,807 for the Calendar Year 2021 (see Table 1), for an average weekly wage of \$981.78 (see Table 5). Employees in Benton County recorded the highest average weekly wage (\$1,365.73), and workers in Searcy the lowest (\$600.84) (see Table 6).

The Information sector recorded the highest average weekly wage for the State of Arkansas at \$1,441.80. The Leisure and Hospitality sector reported the lowest average weekly wage at \$393.60 (see Table 5).

Average Weekly Wage by Industry

Industry Classification	Average Weekly Wage
Natural Resources and Mining	986.28
Construction	1,045.43
Manufacturing	1,043.60
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	944.86
Information	1,441.80
Financial Activities	1,303.31
Professional and Business Services	1,402.16
Education and Health Services	964.06
Leisure and Hospitality	393.60
Other Services	794.86
State and Local Government	914.27

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

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