



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 3.2 Percent in May

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 remained unchanged at 3.2 percent between April and May. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose by 2,545, a result of 2,367 more employed and 178 additional unemployed Arkansans. At 3.6 percent, the United States' jobless rate was also stable between April and May.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate remained at 3.2 percent in May, as gains in employment and unemployment were not large enough to impact the rate. The number of employed Arkansans continues to grow each month, with 34,671 more employed in the State compared to May 2021."

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 1,300 in May to total 1,315,800, setting a record high number of jobs for a second consecutive month. Gains were posted in six major industry sectors. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose by 1,500, mostly in accommodation and food services (+1,300). **Financial activities** added 1,100 jobs. Hiring occurred in both finance and insurance (+700) and real estate, rental, and leasing (+400). Jobs in **professional and business services** increased by 1,100. Expansions were posted in administrative and support services (+1,300) and management of companies (+600). **Educational and health services** declined by 2,000. Losses were reported across all subsectors. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** decreased by 1,200. Most of the contraction was in retail trade (-1,600).

Compared to May 2021, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 33,200. Seven major industry sectors posted growth, as five sectors increased by 2,600 or more jobs each. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 12,500 jobs, all in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+7,800) and wholesale trade (+5,000). Jobs in **manufacturing** rose by 7,500, with expansions in both nondurable goods (+4,600) and durable goods (+2,900) manufacturing. **Leisure and hospitality** added 7,200 jobs, due to hiring in all subsectors. Employment in **professional and business services** increased by 3,600. Growth in management of companies (+5,000) was offset by declines in administrative and support services (-1,800). **Government** added 2,600 jobs, mostly in local government-educational services (+2,200). Jobs in **construction** declined by 2,000. All losses were in specialty trade contractors, down 2,000.

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY, Seasonally Adjusted

	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Chg From Apr 2022	Chg From May 2021
Civilian Labor Force	1,352,098	1,349,553	1,332,758	2,545	19,340
Employment	1,309,327	1,306,960	1,274,656	2,367	34,671
Unemployment	42,771	42,593	58,102	178	-15,331
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.2%	4.4%	0.0%	-1.2%
Labor Participation Rate	56.9%	56.8%	56.6%	0.1%	0.3%
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.6%	3.6%	5.8%	0.0%	-2.2%

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	May 2022	April 2022	May 2021	Chg From April 2022	Chg From May 2021
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1315.8	1314.5	1282.6	1.3	33.2
Goods Producing	221.5	221.2	216.3	0.3	5.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.4	58.4	60.7	0.0	-2.3
Mining & Logging	5.0	5.0	5.3	0.0	-0.3
Construction	53.4	53.4	55.4	0.0	-2.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.6	33.8	35.6	-0.2	-2.0
Manufacturing	163.1	162.8	155.6	0.3	7.5
Durable Goods	77.6	77.8	74.7	-0.2	2.9
Nondurable Goods	85.5	85.0	80.9	0.5	4.6
Service Providing	1094.3	1093.3	1066.3	1.0	28.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	265.4	266.6	252.9	-1.2	12.5
Wholesale Trade	52.2	51.6	47.2	0.6	5.0
Retail Trade	138.6	140.2	138.9	-1.6	-0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	74.6	74.8	66.8	-0.2	7.8
Information	12.6	12.4	11.6	0.2	1.0
Financial Activities	67.6	66.5	66.0	1.1	1.6
Finance & Insurance	52.9	52.2	51.8	0.7	1.1
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.7	14.3	14.2	0.4	0.5
Professional & Business Services	149.7	148.6	146.1	1.1	3.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	45.0	45.8	44.6	-0.8	0.4
Management of Companies	38.7	38.1	33.7	0.6	5.0
Administrative & Support Services	66.0	64.7	67.8	1.3	-1.8
Educational & Health Services	195.2	197.2	195.6	-2.0	-0.4
Educational Services	17.4	17.8	16.6	-0.4	0.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	177.8	179.4	179.0	-1.6	-1.2
Ambulatory Health Care	61.3	62.4	61.0	-1.1	0.3
Social Assistance	35.2	35.6	36.7	-0.4	-1.5
Leisure & Hospitality	124.1	122.6	116.9	1.5	7.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.5	12.3	11.3	0.2	1.2
Accommodation & Food Services	111.6	110.3	105.6	1.3	6.0
Accommodation Services	11.6	11.3	10.4	0.3	1.2
Food Services	100.0	99.0	95.2	1.0	4.8
Other Services	67.1	66.5	67.2	0.6	-0.1
Government	212.6	212.9	210.0	-0.3	2.6
Federal Government	20.6	20.6	20.5	0.0	0.1
State Government	77.7	78.6	77.6	-0.9	0.1
State Government, Educational Services	31.3	32.2	31.1	-0.9	0.2
State Government, Excluding Education	46.4	46.4	46.5	0.0	-0.1
Local Government	114.3	113.7	111.9	0.6	2.4
Local Government, Educational Services	71.0	71.1	68.8	-0.1	2.2
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.3	42.6	43.1	0.7	0.2

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.