

2019

ANNUAL REPORT



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

WORKFORCE

AT A GLANCE

Annual Average
Unemployment Rate

3.6%

Annual Average
Labor Force

1,362,014

Annual Average
Labor Force
Participation Rate

58%

Year Over
Annual Job
Growth

+1.5%

Year Over
Annual Average
Wage Growth

+2.3%

Top 3 Industries for Annual Average Growth at Super Sector Level

1. Construction = +4.0%
2. Professional and Business Services = +3.4%
3. Education and Health Services = +3.1%

Labor Force Education Levels (percent of labor force aged 25 and over)

Less than HS = 8.0%
High School = 31.8%
Some College/Associate = 27.7%
Bachelor's degree + = 32.5%

Financial Status

UI Trust Fund Status

Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund December 31, 2019

Balance, Beginning of Year	742,674,834.45
Unemployment Insurance Contributions	178,259,831.68
Reimbursement from Other States	4,236,957.12
Advanced Interest Proceeds	138,099.11
FUTA Tax Credits	39,097.46
Interest Income	19,480,610.99
Total Revenues	202,154,596.36
Expenditures	
Unemployment Benefit Payments	92,353,241.00
Interstate Benefits	6,291,225.98
Total Expenditures	98,644,466.98
Collected Over Expenditures	103,510,129.38
Balance, End of Year	846,046,864.72

This report covers DWS agency sections as they stood prior to July 1, 2019, when the Transformation and Efficiencies Act of 2019 went into effect. Therefore, information on Adult Education and Division of Services for the Blind are not included in this report.

Funded Appropriation**Grants****SFY 2018-2019**

Unemployment Insurance Benefits	615,000,001
Operations	75,995,106
Transitional Employment Program	40,009,700
Workforce Investment Act	50,000,000
Reed Act	1
UI Trust Fund Loan Interest	3,000,001
Training Allowances & Payments	5,000,000
Special Fund	10,000,026
Disaster Relief Payments	5,000,000
Loans to Workforce Investment Boards	1,500,000
UI Administration Fund	6,000,000
Training Trust Fund	3,256,577
Workforce Development Grant	10,000,000
Total:	\$824,761,412

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Unemployment Insurance

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

- Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits totaling **\$89,312,344** were paid to **91,223** individuals from January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019.
- Disaster Unemployment Benefits totaling **\$10,245** have been paid to **7** individuals in 2019.
- Total number of employers filing quarterly wage reports: **71,652**
- From that total, the total number of employers filing quarterly wage reports online: **52,797** or **73.69%**
- Total amount of contributions paid by employers: **\$192,497,057.52**
- Total amount of contributions paid through the online portal: **\$70,451,645.74**
- Number of Initial, Additional and Reopened Unemployment Insurance claims taken through ADWS Claims Processing Hotline: **70,759**
- Number of general Unemployment Insurance program questions responded to through the UI Claims Processing Hotline: **144,234**
- **SB298, now Act 512 of 2019**, was signed by Governor Asa Hutchinson on March 19, 2019. Act 512 of 2019 amends the taxable wage base by creating a sliding scale for which the taxable wage base will be adjusted annually based on the insured unemployment rate and the UI Trust Fund balance. **As a result of Act 512 of 2019, the taxable wage base for calendar year 2020 was reduced from \$10,000 to \$7,000.**

New Hire Registry

New Hires in Arkansas

- In 2019, employers reported 921,761 new hires in Arkansas.

Governor's Dislocated Worker Task Force

Rapid Response

- In calendar year 2019, **79** companies reported actual or anticipated layoffs or closures impacting **3,901** workers (all companies may not have reported numbers).

Trade Adjustment Assistance

- In calendar year 2019: TAA field personnel provided case management services for **130** clients across the state.
- **130** trade clients successfully completed TAA approved and subsidized training programs.
- **\$1,069,781.00** in training-related payments was remitted on behalf of trade program participants.
- **\$4,147.90** in job search and/or relocation payments was remitted on behalf of trade program participants.
- **\$803,089.00** in TRA payments was remitted to TAA clients.
- **\$121,455.41** in reemployment trade adjustment assistance payments was remitted on behalf of trade program participants.

Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessments

- Total number of Job Search Workshops conducted throughout the state: **216**
- Total number of participants selected to participate: **6,165**
- Total number of participants that received intensive services: **3,947**

ADWS on Wheels

- In 2019, the mobile units supported **194** events to assist job seekers and employers across the state.

Reentry Initiatives

- In 2019, **78** job search workshops were conducted by RES and Task Force staff, assisting **1,464** returning citizens, parolees, and probationers.
- During National Reentry Week, April 22-26, 2019, ADWS staff and the Governor's Dislocated Worker Task Force supported more than **30** events designed to help prepare inmates for release.

Labor Market Information

Discover Arkansas

www.discover.arkansas.gov

- Customers accessed information through the Discover Arkansas LMI Portal approximately 632,000 times in 2019.
- The LMI department distributed more than 143,000 print and electronic publications in 2019.
- In calendar year 2019, LMI staff conducted 12 training sessions and attended 11 career fairs and conferences reaching another 2,900 LMI customers.

Real-life Arkansas

www.real-life.arkansas.gov

In calendar year 2019, Real-Life Arkansas was utilized more than 58,000 times.

Career Watch Arkansas

www.careerwatch.org

- Career Watch Arkansas was viewed online at www.careerwatch.org more than 22,000 times in calendar year 2019.

TORQ Occupational Skills Assessments

Between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019, **19,499** Occupational Skills Assessments (TORQ) were created statewide.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit

WOTC

- **50,266** Applications Received
- **20,211** Applications Certified
- **\$53,974,600.00** in Potential Tax Credits for Arkansas Employers

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Program Purpose

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program is designed to help needy families achieve self-sufficiency and become less dependent on government assistance. States receive block grants to design and operate programs that accomplish one or more of the purposes of TANF:

The four purposes of the TANF program are to:

1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own home.
2. Reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage.
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

Case assistance grants, known in Arkansas as Transitional Employment Assistance (TEA), is a required program states must provide under purpose two. Arkansas also operates a post-employment program called Work Pays to support those parents transitioning from TEA to the workforce. In SFY 2019, over 71% served were children.

Number of Participants	SFY 2018		SFY 2019	
	TEA	Work Pays	TEA	Work Pays
Children	8,815	1,507	7,748	1,188
Adults	3,728	812	3,154	637

Work Requirements and Support Services

Federal law requires at least 50 percent of all work-eligible adults receiving Transitional Employment Assistance benefits to participate in work activities. This can include such things as on-the-job training, community service, and education directly related to employment. Arkansas provides supportive services that help families overcome barriers they may face to achieving self-sufficiency. Depending on the family and the circumstances, this can involve anything from help preventing eviction, help with transportation, help with childcare, to job training.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Arkansas Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs, Inc.

There are 45 Boys & Girls Club sites in Arkansas. During the 2019 grant year, the clubs served 2,306 youth utilizing TANF funding.

Arkansas Better Chance (ABC) Program

Act 937 of 2011 requires ADWS-TANF to transfer TANF funding of \$7,500,000 to the Department of Education for the ABC program. These resources provide comprehensive childcare services to pre-school children ages 3-5 at state licensed childcare centers which included 3,616 children during this reporting period.

Arkansas College and Career Coach Program (ACCCP) – Career Exploration Camp (CEC)

The Career Exploration Camps are a component of the ACCCP, which is designed to provide college and career planning services and activities for middle or high school students. In Program Year 2019, ACCCP served 33,482 students in 35 counties.

Responsible Fatherhood – Arkansas Better Dads (ABD) Program

Arkansas Better Dads Fatherhood Initiative implemented three components: Inspiration, Instruction, and Interaction to help men become better dads. The organization utilizes the Arkansas Better Dad Challenge as a metric of the number of dads who pledge to be an influential part of their children's lives. In 2019, a total of 2,632 men accepted the challenge. The organization and its partner network help 71 events with 6,579 people in attendance to hear the message of responsible fatherhood and becoming a better dad.

Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG) Program

JAG provides on-site paid internships for students so that may achieve academically, and ultimately earn recognized credentials that will make it possible for them to exit school and enter post-secondary education and/or the workforce. Utilizing TANF funding, 2,715 students have been served during State Fiscal Year 2019.

Homelessness Pipeline to Employment**Our House, Inc.**

Our House, Inc., served Pulaski County and surrounding areas, prepares clients for success in the workforce by connecting with Arkansas Employers. During this reporting period Our House served 293 parents utilizing TANF Funding.

Save the Children Federation, Inc.

Save the Children operates two Literacy programs aimed at helping rural Arkansas children succeed. Early Steps to School Success and School-Aged Programs. In 2019, a total of 2,381 children participated in the two programs, with 51.8% showing significant growth in grade level reading.

Arkansas Career Pathways Initiative (CPI)

CPI is a post-secondary program led by the Arkansas Division of Higher Education (ADHE) in conjunction with ADWS and is fully supported by TANF funding. CPI has programs at all state two-year colleges and three technical institutions. The average student age is 31, 90% are female, with 58% being single parents.

Calendar Year	CY2016	CY2017	CY2018	CY2019
Enrollments	4,577	4,500	4,152	4,148
Employability Certificates	1,667	1,314	1,175	933
Technical Certificates	529	547	556	615
Associate Degrees	542	544	538	619
Certificate of Proficiency	656	566	625	509
GEDS	36	27	15	18
Other Certificates	514	539	378	163
Total Attainments	3,944	3,537	3,287	2,857

Employment Assistance

Arkansas JobLink

- **105,591** staff-assisted job seeker registrations in AJL
- **4,433** staff-assisted Veteran registrations in AJL
- **9,946** employer contacts in AJL
- **14,489** employer job orders in AJL
- **173,253** employers managed
- **214,325** job seekers who received employment-related services

Veterans Served

There were **5,398** veterans who were served through the Arkansas Workforce Centers in 2019.

Career Readiness Certificates Issued in Arkansas

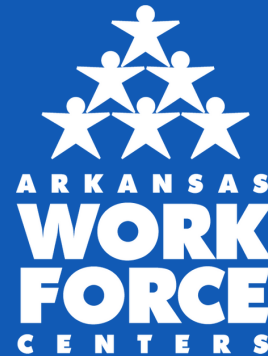
The total number of National Career Ready Certificates issued in Arkansas for calendar year 2019:

- **Bronze: 502**
- **Gold: 400**
- **Silver: 632**
- **Platinum: 220**
- **Total Certificates: 1,754**

Information Desk

Calls and Inquiries

- Number of calls fielded by the Information Desk in calendar year 2019: **20,629**



Equal Opportunity Employers/Programs

Auxiliary aids and services available upon request to disabled individuals.

Voice 1-800-285-1121 | TDD 1-800-285-1131

ADWS maintains many websites to assist job seekers, employers and the general public.

www.dws.arkansas.gov

www.arjoblink.arkansas.gov

www.discover.arkansas.gov

www.careerwarch.org