



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

NEWS RELEASE

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Zoe Calkins, Communications Director
Arkansas Division of Workforce Services
zoe.calkins@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 2.8% in April

Little Rock, Ark., May 19, 2023- Today, the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point, from 3.0% in March to 2.8% in April. Down to 3.4% in April, the United States' jobless rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point over the month.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- In April, Arkansas' civilian labor force increased by 2,945. There were 4,831 more employed and 1,886 fewer unemployed in the State, pushing the unemployment rate down to a new record low of 2.8%. Employment has increased for seven consecutive months, with the labor force participation rate increasing to 57.5% in April.
- Compared to April 2022, there are 12,869 more employed Arkansans. The unemployment rate is down three-tenths of a percentage point over the year, while the labor force participation rate remains two-tenths of a percentage point lower than last April.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- In April, nonfarm payroll jobs increased to 1,360,700, setting a new record high. Jobs in Leisure and Hospitality rose 6,900, mostly in Food Services (+5,500). Jobs in Construction increased 1,900, a typical season expansion. Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services, and Government added 1,100 jobs each.
- Compared to April 2022, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 33,800. The largest increases were in Leisure and Hospitality (+9,100), Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,500), Private Education and Health Services (+5,700), Construction (+5,300), and Manufacturing (+2,300).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	April 2023	March 2023	April 2022	Change from March 2023	Change from April 2022
Civilian Labor Force	1,378,367	1,375,422	1,369,620	2,945	8,747
Employment	1,339,385	1,334,554	1,326,516	4,831	12,869
Unemployment	38,982	40,868	43,104	-1,886	-4,122
Unemployment Rate	2.8%	3.0 %	3.1%	-0.2%	-0.3%
Labor Force Participation Rate	57.5%	57.4 %	57.7%	0.1%	-0.2%

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>

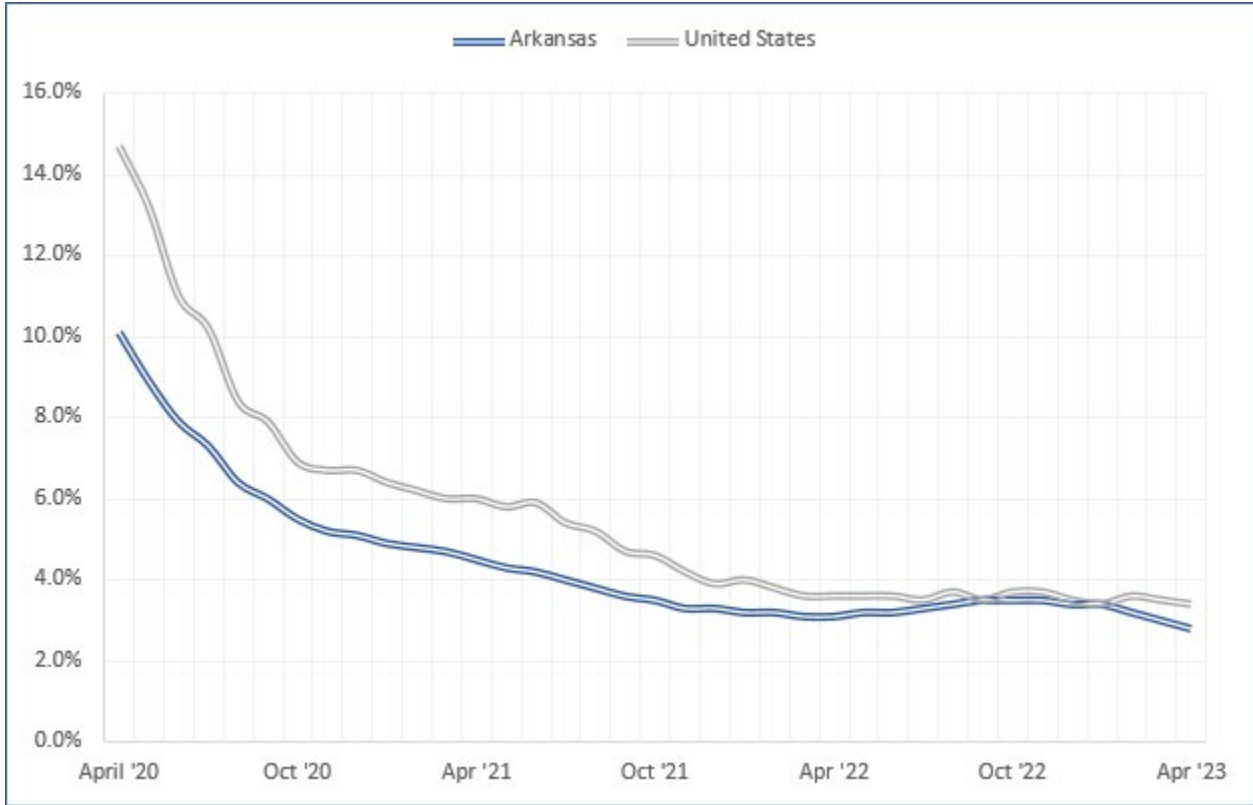
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	April 2023	March 2023	April 2022	Change from March 2023	Change from April 2022
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1360.7	1349.8	1326.9	10.9	33.8
Goods Producing	229.5	228.1	222.1	1.4	7.4
Mining, Logging, & Construction	66.4	64.5	61.3	1.9	5.1
Mining & Logging	4.9	4.9	5.1	0.0	-0.2
Construction	61.5	59.6	56.2	1.9	5.3
Specialty Trade Contractors	37.8	36.6	35.6	1.2	2.2
Manufacturing	163.1	163.6	160.8	-0.5	2.3
Durable Goods	79.6	79.8	77.9	-0.2	1.7
Nondurable Goods	83.5	83.8	82.9	-0.3	0.6
Service Providing	1131.2	1121.7	1104.8	9.5	26.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	273.4	274.7	266.9	-1.3	6.5
Wholesale Trade	54.1	53.6	50.0	0.5	4.1
Retail Trade	142.8	144.0	143.5	-1.2	-0.7
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	76.5	77.1	73.4	-0.6	3.1
Information	12.7	12.5	12.6	0.2	0.1
Financial Activities	70.3	69.2	70.1	1.1	0.2
Finance & Insurance	55.8	55.1	55.6	0.7	0.2
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.5	14.1	14.5	0.4	0.0
Professional & Business Services	152.9	151.8	151.7	1.1	1.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	49.5	48.7	47.6	0.8	1.9
Management of Companies	40.0	40.4	36.3	-0.4	3.7
Administrative & Support Services	63.4	62.7	67.8	0.7	-4.4
Private Education & Health Services	203.6	203.6	197.9	0.0	5.7
Educational Services	19.2	19.2	18.2	0.0	1.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	184.4	184.4	179.7	0.0	4.7
Ambulatory Health Care	64.7	64.1	62.1	0.6	2.6
Social Assistance	37.3	37.4	37.1	-0.1	0.2
Leisure & Hospitality	131.6	124.7	122.5	6.9	9.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	13.7	12.8	13.2	0.9	0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	117.9	111.9	109.3	6.0	8.6
Accommodation Services	11.8	11.3	11.1	0.5	0.7
Food Services	106.1	100.6	98.2	5.5	7.9
Other Services	73.4	73.0	71.3	0.4	2.1
Government	213.3	212.2	211.8	1.1	1.5
Federal Government	21.0	20.9	20.5	0.1	0.5
State Government	78.6	78.2	78.6	0.4	0.0
State Government, Educational Services	32.4	32.0	32.2	0.4	0.2
State Government, Excluding Education	46.2	46.2	46.4	0.0	-0.2
Local Government	113.7	113.1	112.7	0.6	1.0
Local Government, Educational Services	70.2	70.1	69.7	0.1	0.5
Local Government, Excluding Education	43.5	43.0	43.0	0.5	0.5

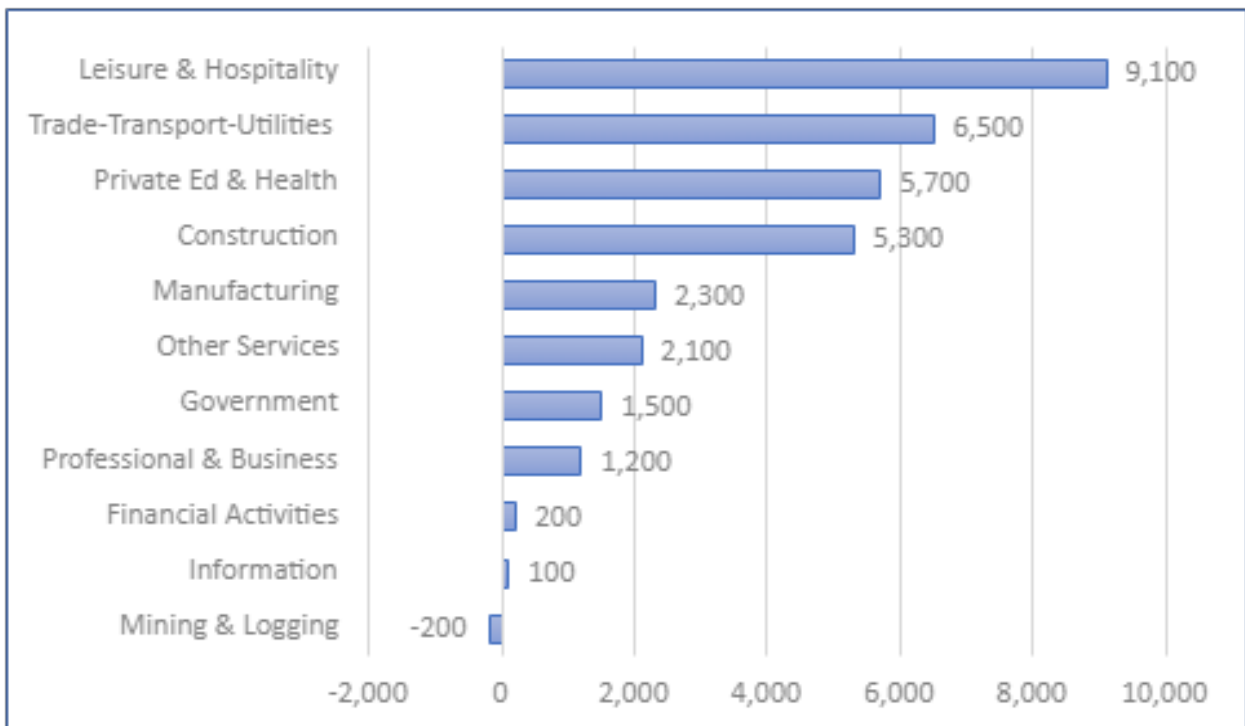
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2022 benchmark.

Notes: Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates Arkansas vs. United States (3-Year Comparison)



Job Gains/Losses by Major Industry Sectors April 2022 to April 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



For more labor market data, visit www.discover.arkansas.gov.



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.



Arkansas Division of
Workforce Services

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.

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U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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.