



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- September 19, 2023

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

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 2.7% in August

Little Rock, Ark., September 19, 2023- Today the Arkansas Division of Workforce Services, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, announced Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 2.6% in July to 2.7% in August. The United States' jobless rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point, from 3.5% in July to 3.8% in August.

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Summary:

- In August, the civilian labor force in Arkansas increased by 2,556 while adding 895 more employed Arkansans. Both remain at record-high levels. Unemployment rose for the first time since October 2022, with 1,661 more Arkansans actively looking for work in August. Arkansas' labor force participation rate was unchanged at 57.7% over the month.
- Compared to August 2022, there are 28,229 more employed and 9,525 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The State unemployment rate is down seven-tenths of a percentage point while the labor force participation rate is up a slight one-tenth of a percentage point.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

- In August, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 5,100. Gains were largely seasonal and related to the start of the school year. The largest growth occurred in Government (+4,000), Professional and Business Services (+2,400), Leisure and Hospitality (+1,300), and Private Educational and Health Services (+1,000).
- Compared to August 2022, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 29,700. Notable annual growth was reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+12,900); Private Education and Health Services (+7,000); Construction (+5,800); and Other Services (+2,800).

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force (Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	Change from July 2023	Change from August 2022
Civilian Labor Force	1,389,550	1,386,994	1,370,846	2,556	18,704
Employment	1,352,265	1,351,370	1,324,036	895	28,229
Unemployment	37,285	35,624	46,810	1,661	-9,525
Unemployment Rate	2.7%	2.6%	3.4%	0.1%	-0.7%
Labor Force Participation Rate	57.7%	57.7%	57.6%	0.0%	0.1%

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>

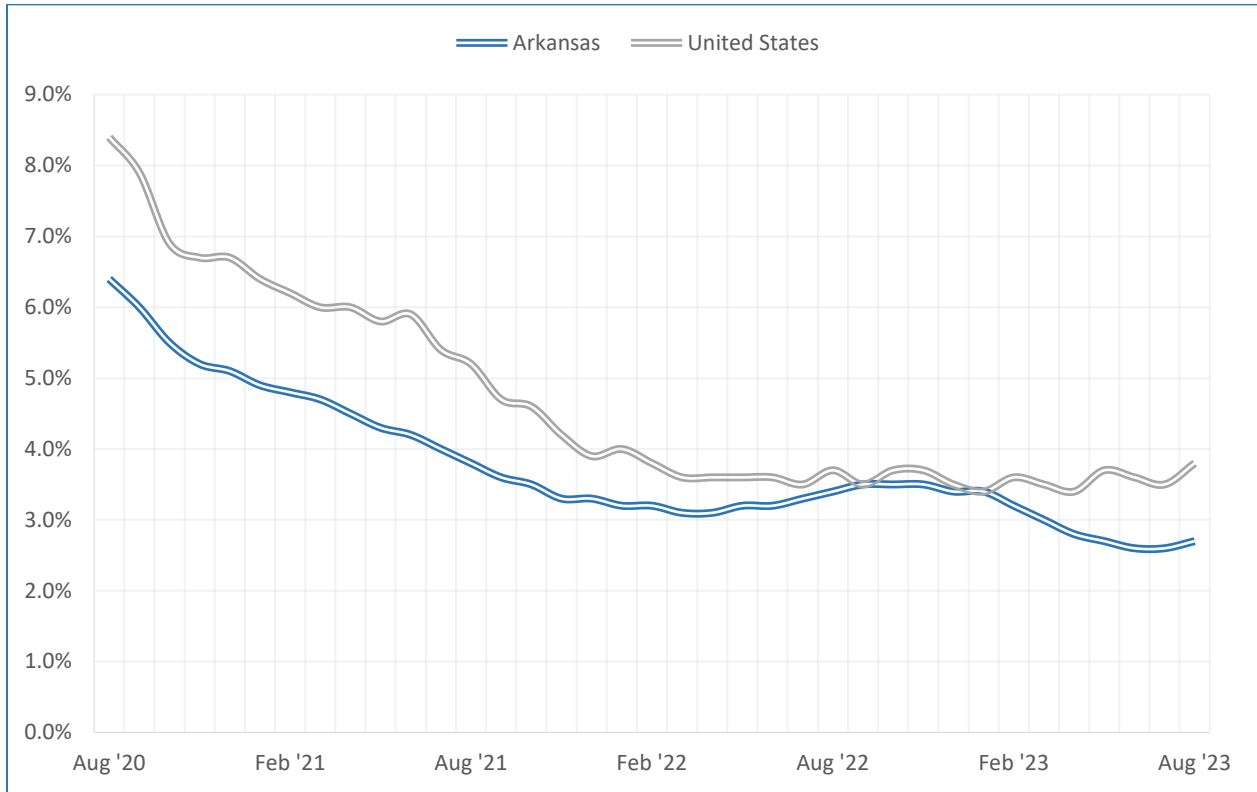
Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted, In Thousands)

Industry Sector based on 2022 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)	August 2023	July 2023	August 2022	Change from July 2023	Change from August 2022
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1359.1	1354.0	1329.4	5.1	29.7
Goods Producing	234.3	235.0	227.7	-0.7	6.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	69.8	69.7	64.2	0.1	5.6
Mining & Logging	5.0	4.9	5.2	0.1	-0.2
Construction	64.8	64.8	59.0	0.0	5.8
Specialty Trade Contractors	39.8	40.0	36.9	-0.2	2.9
Manufacturing	164.5	165.3	163.5	-0.8	1.0
Durable Goods	80.4	81.1	79.1	-0.7	1.3
Nondurable Goods	84.1	84.2	84.4	-0.1	-0.3
Service Providing	1124.8	1119.0	1101.7	5.8	23.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	271.2	273.2	269.6	-2.0	1.6
Wholesale Trade	55.3	55.5	51.4	-0.2	3.9
Retail Trade	140.9	142.9	143.1	-2.0	-2.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	75.0	74.8	75.1	0.2	-0.1
Information	11.9	12.1	12.8	-0.2	-0.9
Financial Activities	70.6	71.6	71.6	-1.0	-1.0
Finance & Insurance	55.9	56.7	56.5	-0.8	-0.6
Real Estate, Rental, & Leasing	14.7	14.9	15.1	-0.2	-0.4
Professional & Business Services	153.1	150.7	153.7	2.4	-0.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	50.0	50.6	48.1	-0.6	1.9
Management of Companies	41.2	39.6	38.2	1.6	3.0
Administrative & Support Services	61.9	60.5	67.4	1.4	-5.5
Private Education & Health Services	206.2	205.2	199.2	1.0	7.0
Educational Services	16.9	16.1	15.9	0.8	1.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	189.3	189.1	183.3	0.2	6.0
Ambulatory Health Care	66.4	66.4	63.2	0.0	3.2
Social Assistance	39.1	39.3	37.3	-0.2	1.8
Leisure & Hospitality	138.1	136.8	125.2	1.3	12.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	16.9	17.6	13.9	-0.7	3.0
Accommodation & Food Services	121.2	119.2	111.3	2.0	9.9
Accommodation Services	12.6	12.7	11.6	-0.1	1.0
Food Services	108.6	106.5	99.7	2.1	8.9
Other Services	74.5	74.2	71.7	0.3	2.8
Government	199.2	195.2	197.9	4.0	1.3
Federal Government	21.3	21.3	20.5	0.0	0.8
State Government	73.1	71.2	73.2	1.9	-0.1
State Government, Educational Services	26.9	25.0	26.8	1.9	0.1
State Government, Excluding Education	46.2	46.2	46.4	0.0	-0.2
Local Government	104.8	102.7	104.2	2.1	0.6
Local Government, Educational Services	60.1	57.2	59.7	2.9	0.4
Local Government, Excluding Education	44.7	45.5	44.5	-0.8	0.2

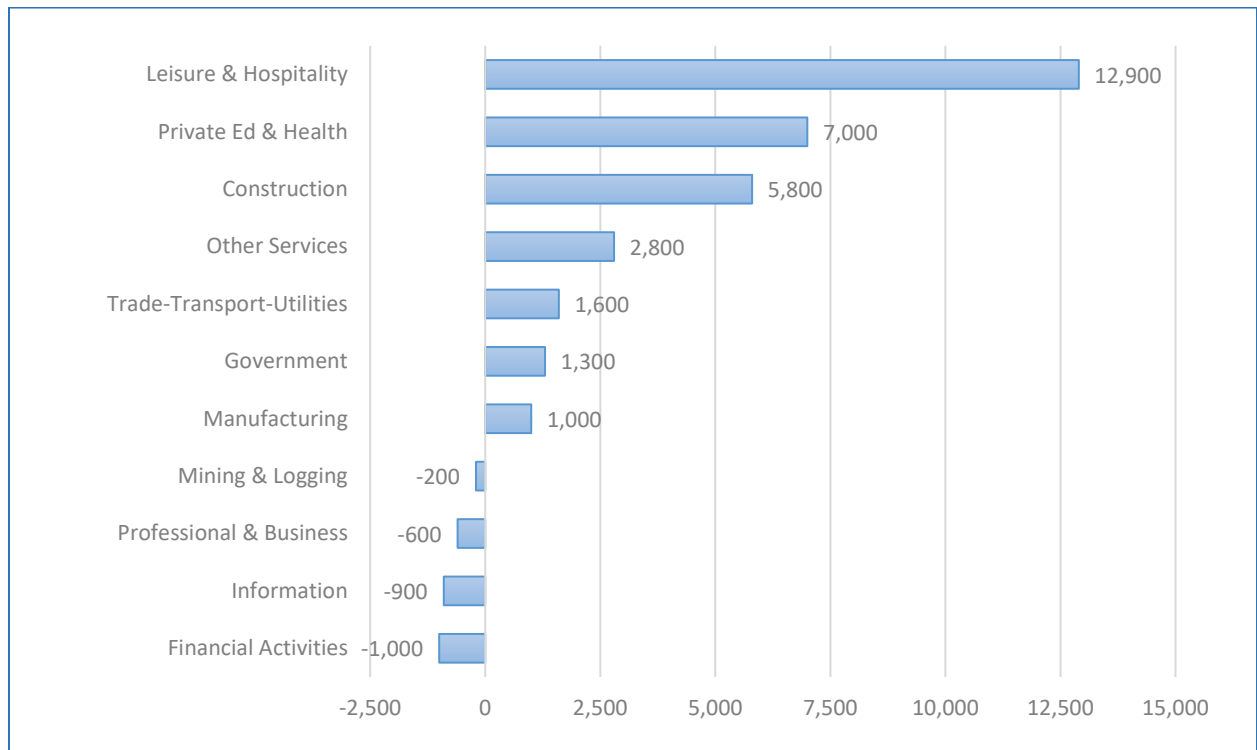
Source: Monthly Survey of Employers, based on 1st Quarter 2022 benchmark.

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 August 2022 to August 2023 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



For more Labor Market Data, visit our website at 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.



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.

www.dws.arkansas.gov | Facebook: facebook.com/arkdws | Twitter: [@ArkansasDWS](https://twitter.com/ArkansasDWS)



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.