

News Release



For Immediate Release: January 26, 2016

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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.8 Percent

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 Department of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point, from 5.0 percent in November to 4.8 percent in December. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 1,400, a result of 3,700 more employed and 2,300 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remain stable at 5.0 percent in December.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate fell to 4.8 percent in December, dropping nine-tenths of a percentage point since December 2014. The jobless rate has steadily declined for seven consecutive months."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	December 2015	November 2015	December 2014	Change From November 2015	Change From December 2014
Civilian Labor Force	1,337,500	1,336,100	1,312,400	1,400	25,100
Employment	1,273,000	1,269,300	1,238,100	3,700	34,900
Unemployment	64,500	66,800	74,300	-2,300	-9,800
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.0	5.7	-0.2	-0.9
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.0	5.6	0.0	-0.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Notes: Unemployment rates were computed from unrounded data.

Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online February 3, 2016.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 2,600 in December to total 1,227,900. Six major industry sectors added jobs, while five sectors slightly declined. The largest increase occurred in **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+2,500). Gains in retail trade (+1,300) reflected seasonal hiring for the holiday shopping season. **Manufacturing** added 1,300 jobs. A majority of the increase was in nondurable goods manufacturing (+1,000), with hiring reported in food manufacturing.

Compared to December 2014, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 19,500. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, with five adding 1,500 or more jobs, each. Three sectors decreased over the year. Employment in **educational and health services** increased 7,000. Gains in health care and social assistance (+7,400) more than offset minor declines in educational services (-400). **Professional and business services** added 6,400 jobs, with expansions across all three subsectors. Jobs in **construction** rose 5,300, all in specialty trade contractors (+6,400). Employment in **leisure and hospitality** is up 2,800, mostly in food services (+2,300). **Other services** increased 1,500. The industry includes activities such as laundry services and membership organizations. Employment in **manufacturing** decreased 4,500. Most of the losses were reported in durable goods manufacturing, down 3,800.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	December 2015	November 2015	December 2014	Change From November 2015	Change From December 2014
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,227,900	1,225,300	1,208,400	2,600	19,500
Goods Producing	213,800	212,400	213,800	1,400	0
Mining & Logging	8,100	8,200	8,900	-100	-800
Construction	52,800	52,600	47,500	200	5,300
Specialty Trade Contractors	36,200	35,200	29,800	1,000	6,400
Manufacturing	152,900	151,600	157,400	1,300	-4,500
Durable Goods	74,300	74,000	78,100	300	-3,800
Nondurable Goods	78,600	77,600	79,300	1,000	-700
Service Providing	1,014,100	1,012,900	994,600	1,200	19,500
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	253,600	251,100	252,900	2,500	700
Wholesale Trade	47,900	47,800	47,200	100	700
Retail Trade	140,700	139,400	140,000	1,300	700
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65,000	63,900	65,700	1,100	-700
Information	14,100	14,000	13,500	100	600
Financial Activities	50,700	51,200	49,800	-500	900
Finance & Insurance	37,700	38,200	37,000	-500	700
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,000	13,000	12,800	0	200
Professional & Business Services	140,200	140,500	133,800	-300	6,400
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42,200	41,200	40,300	1,000	1,900
Management of Companies	35,400	35,000	33,300	400	2,100
Administrative & Support Services	62,600	64,300	60,200	-1,700	2,400
Educational & Health Services	181,400	181,100	174,400	300	7,000
Educational Services	14,200	14,400	14,600	-200	-400
Health Care & Social Assistance	167,200	166,700	159,800	500	7,400
Ambulatory Health Care	52,800	52,100	50,200	700	2,600
Social Assistance	39,300	39,400	37,500	-100	1,800
Leisure & Hospitality	111,700	112,300	108,900	-600	2,800
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,900	10,100	9,500	-200	400
Accommodation & Food Services	101,800	102,200	99,400	-400	2,400
Accommodation Services	10,600	10,900	10,500	-300	100
Food Services	91,200	91,300	88,900	-100	2,300
Other Services	45,400	44,900	43,900	500	1,500
Government	217,000	217,800	217,400	-800	-400
Federal Government	20,700	20,400	20,500	300	200
State Government	79,800	80,600	79,200	-800	600
Local Government	116,500	116,800	117,700	-300	-1,200

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2014 benchmark.

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

2016 Arkansas Publication Schedule

Reference Month	State Press Release	MSA's & Counties*
January	03/14/16	03/18/16
February	03/25/16	04/06/16
March	04/15/16	04/27/16
April	05/20/16	06/01/16
May	06/17/16	06/29/16
June	07/22/16	08/03/16
July	08/19/16	08/31/16
August	09/20/16	09/28/16
September	10/21/16	11/02/16
October	11/18/16	11/30/16
November	12/16/16	12/29/16
December	01/20/17	02/01/17

*Date when Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and county labor force statistics will be available on the Discover Arkansas website.