

# News Release



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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 3.9 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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.0 percent in November to 3.9 percent in December. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 6,702, a result of 5,357 fewer employed and 1,345 less unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, rising from 4.6 percent in November to 4.7 percent in December.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate declined to 3.9 percent in December, after starting the year at 4.4 percent. The unemployed rate steadily decreased in early 2016, before becoming fairly stable in the latter half of the year."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	December 2016	November 2016	December 2015	Change From November 2016	Change From December 2015
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	<b>1,343,243</b>	<b>1,349,945</b>	<b>1,336,983</b>	<b>-6,702</b>	<b>6,260</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>1,290,950</b>	<b>1,296,307</b>	<b>1,273,479</b>	<b>-5,357</b>	<b>17,471</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>52,293</b>	<b>53,638</b>	<b>63,504</b>	<b>-1,345</b>	<b>-11,211</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>4.6</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>

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 1, 2017.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment decreased 2,700 in December to total 1,235,700. The losses posted in seven major industry sectors were largely seasonal and offset the gains reported in three sectors. Jobs in **professional and business services** fell 1,800. All declines occurred in administrative and support services (-2,100), a subsector that includes seasonal activities such as landscaping. Employment in **government** decreased 1,100. Expected losses were reported in state (-800) and local (-600) government, related to the winter break at public educational facilities. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 2,300 jobs. Gains were posted in all subsectors, as the holiday shopping season triggered seasonal hiring across the industry.

Compared to December 2015, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 3,000. Six major industry sectors reported employment gains, while five sectors declined. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 5,300, mostly in health care and social assistance (+5,100). **Professional and business services** added 4,000 jobs. Most of the growth was posted in administrative and support services (+3,100), a sector that includes employment services. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** fell 3,200, with the largest drop seen in retail trade (-1,700). Jobs in **manufacturing** decreased 2,000. All losses were in durable goods manufacturing (-2,100).

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	December 2016	November 2016	December 2015	Change From November 2016	Change From December 2015
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1235.7	1238.4	1232.7	-2.7	3.0
Goods Producing	207.9	209.5	212.1	-1.6	-4.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	54.8	55.5	57.0	-0.7	-2.2
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>48.3</b>	<b>49.1</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>-1.2</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	31.5	31.8	32.0	-0.3	-0.5
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>153.1</b>	<b>154.0</b>	<b>155.1</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>-2.0</b>
Durable Goods	72.5	72.7	74.6	-0.2	-2.1
Nondurable Goods	80.6	81.3	80.5	-0.7	0.1
Service Providing	1027.8	1028.9	1020.6	-1.1	7.2
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>259.2</b>	<b>256.9</b>	<b>262.4</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>-3.2</b>
Wholesale Trade	47.7	47.4	48.1	0.3	-0.4
Retail Trade	145.0	144.3	146.7	0.7	-1.7
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	66.5	65.2	67.6	1.3	-1.1
<b>Information</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>49.6</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Finance & Insurance	37.1	37.3	36.4	-0.2	0.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.2	13.0	13.2	0.2	0.0
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>144.7</b>	<b>146.5</b>	<b>140.7</b>	<b>-1.8</b>	<b>4.0</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.6	43.4	42.9	0.2	0.7
Management of Companies	35.2	35.1	35.0	0.1	0.2
Administrative & Support Services	65.9	68.0	62.8	-2.1	3.1
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>184.7</b>	<b>184.8</b>	<b>179.4</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Educational Services	15.5	15.9	15.3	-0.4	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	169.2	168.9	164.1	0.3	5.1
Ambulatory Health Care	53.1	52.9	52.6	0.2	0.5
Social Assistance	40.9	40.6	40.0	0.3	0.9
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>112.4</b>	<b>113.2</b>	<b>112.2</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.5	9.5	9.2	0.0	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	102.9	103.7	103.0	-0.8	-0.1
Accommodation Services	10.9	11.4	10.9	-0.5	0.0
Food Services	92.0	92.3	92.1	-0.3	-0.1
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>45.4</b>	<b>44.9</b>	<b>45.0</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>217.6</b>	<b>218.7</b>	<b>217.5</b>	<b>-1.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Federal Government	21.0	20.7	20.6	0.3	0.4
State Government	80.4	81.2	79.8	-0.8	0.6
Local Government	116.2	116.8	117.1	-0.6	-0.9

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2015 benchmark.

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

## 2017 Arkansas Publication Schedule

<b>Reference Month</b>	<b>State Press Release</b>	<b>MSA's &amp; Counties*</b>
January	03/13/17	03/17/17
February	03/24/17	04/05/17
March	04/21/17	05/03/17
April	05/19/17	05/31/17
May	06/16/17	06/28/17
June	07/21/17	08/02/17
July	08/18/17	08/30/17
August	09/15/17	09/27/17
September	10/20/17	11/01/17
October	11/17/17	11/30/17
November	12/22/17	01/04/18
December	01/23/18	02/01/18

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