

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.2 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 two-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.4 percent in January to 4.2 percent in February. Arkansas' civilian labor force gained 8,360, a result of 10,702 more employed and 2,342 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 4.9 percent in February.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate has been in a steady decline, down one and four-tenths of a percentage point over the year. The state is now seven-tenths of a percentage point lower than the national rate."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	Change From January 2016	Change From February 2015
Civilian Labor Force	1,351,766	1,343,406	1,322,981	8,360	28,785
Employment	1,294,595	1,283,893	1,249,403	10,702	45,192
Unemployment	57,171	59,513	73,578	-2,342	-16,407
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.4	5.6	-0.2	-1.4
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.9	5.5	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 April 6, 2016.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 11,300 in February to total 1,220,500. Seven major industry sectors posted gains, while two sectors declined and two were unchanged. **Government** posted the greatest increase (+5,000). Additions in state (+4,600) and local (+400) government were attributed to the return of public school employees from winter break. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 2,700, a typical seasonal expansion. **Educational and health services** added 1,100 jobs. Most of the gains occurred in educational services (+800). Employment in **professional and business services** increased 1,100. Hiring was reported in administrative-support services (+600) and professional-scientific-technical services (+500).

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Since February 2015, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 27,200. Nine major industry sectors posted job growth, while employment in two sectors declined. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 9,600 jobs. Gains were reported across all subsectors, with retail trade up 5,600. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** increased 8,000. A majority of the expansion occurred in food services (+7,200). Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 6,100, mostly in health care and social assistance (+5,300). **Professional and business services** added 2,200 jobs. Professional-scientific-technical services (+2,000) and management of companies (+1,700) reported gains. Employment in **mining and logging** (-1,600) and **manufacturing** (-1,500) both declined over the year.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	February 2016	January 2016	February 2015	Change From January 2016	Change From February 2015
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1220.5	1209.2	1193.3	11.3	27.2
Goods Producing	208.9	208.2	210.5	0.7	-1.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	54.8	54.0	54.9	0.8	-0.1
Mining & Logging	7.1	7.1	8.7	0.0	-1.6
Construction	47.7	46.9	46.2	0.8	1.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	31.0	30.2	29.3	0.8	1.7
Manufacturing	154.1	154.2	155.6	-0.1	-1.5
Durable Goods	74.9	74.9	77.1	0.0	-2.2
Nondurable Goods	79.2	79.3	78.5	-0.1	0.7
Service Providing	1011.6	1001.0	982.8	10.6	28.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	255.1	254.5	245.5	0.6	9.6
Wholesale Trade	47.7	47.3	46.6	0.4	1.1
Retail Trade	141.9	142.5	136.3	-0.6	5.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.5	64.7	62.6	0.8	2.9
Information	13.7	13.7	13.2	0.0	0.5
Financial Activities	49.5	49.7	48.7	-0.2	0.8
Finance & Insurance	36.4	36.6	35.9	-0.2	0.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.1	13.1	12.8	0.0	0.3
Professional & Business Services	139.4	138.3	137.2	1.1	2.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.2	43.7	42.2	0.5	2.0
Management of Companies	34.1	34.1	32.4	0.0	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	61.1	60.5	62.6	0.6	-1.5
Educational & Health Services	179.4	178.3	173.3	1.1	6.1
Educational Services	15.4	14.6	14.6	0.8	0.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	164.0	163.7	158.7	0.3	5.3
Ambulatory Health Care	52.1	52.3	50.1	-0.2	2.0
Social Assistance	41.0	40.0	38.0	1.0	3.0
Leisure & Hospitality	114.1	111.4	106.1	2.7	8.0
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.6	9.5	9.2	0.1	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	104.5	101.9	96.9	2.6	7.6
Accommodation Services	10.8	10.5	10.4	0.3	0.4
Food Services	93.7	91.4	86.5	2.3	7.2
Other Services	44.1	43.8	43.0	0.3	1.1
Government	216.3	211.3	215.8	5.0	0.5
Federal Government	20.2	20.2	20.1	0.0	0.1
State Government	80.1	75.5	79.5	4.6	0.6
Local Government	116.0	115.6	116.2	0.4	-0.2

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.