

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.4 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 three-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.7 percent in December 2015 (revised down from 4.8 percent) to 4.4 percent in January 2016. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 6,146, a result of 10,142 more employed and 3,996 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 5.0 percent in December 2015 to 4.9 percent in January 2016.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The number of employed in Arkansas rose 10,142 in January, adding to the civilian labor force and contributing to a three-tenths of a percent point drop in the unemployment rate. There are currently 36,167 more employed Arkansans than in January 2015."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	January 2016	December 2015	January 2015	Change From December 2015	Change From January 2015
Civilian Labor Force	1,343,129	1,336,983	1,321,112	6,146	22,017
Employment	1,283,621	1,273,479	1,247,454	10,142	36,167
Unemployment	59,508	63,504	73,658	-3,996	-14,150
Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.7	5.6	-0.3	-1.2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.0	5.7	-0.1	-0.8

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 March 18, 2016.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas dropped 24,500 in January to total 1,208,200. Ten major industry sectors posted employment declines. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** decreased 8,100. Losses throughout all three subsectors were largely attributed to the end of the holiday shopping season. **Government** employment fell 6,200, mostly related to the winter break at public schools and universities. Jobs in **construction** dropped 2,700, due to both seasonal declines and the completion of large-scale projects. **Professional and business services** decreased 2,100. The largest loss occurred in administrative and support services (-2,000), which includes employment agencies.

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Since January 2015, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 26,800. Growth was reported in nine major industry sectors, while two sectors declined slightly. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** posted the largest increase (+8,500). A majority of the expansion occurred in retail trade (+5,900). Employment in **professional and business services** rose 6,700, with gains reported in all three subsectors. **Leisure and hospitality** added 6,500 jobs, mostly in food services (+5,800). Employment in **educational and health services** increased 4,900. Most of the growth occurred in health care and social assistance (+4,400). **Mining and logging** posted the largest loss (-1,700), due to current economic conditions.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	January 2016	December 2015	January 2015	Change From December 2015	Change From January 2015
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1208.2	1232.7	1181.4	-24.5	26.8
Goods Producing	208.2	212.1	210.5	-3.9	-2.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	53.8	57.0	54.6	-3.2	-0.8
Mining & Logging	7.0	7.5	8.7	-0.5	-1.7
Construction	46.8	49.5	45.9	-2.7	0.9
Specialty Trade Contractors	30.2	32.0	29.1	-1.8	1.1
Manufacturing	154.4	155.1	155.9	-0.7	-1.5
Durable Goods	75.1	74.6	77.2	0.5	-2.1
Nondurable Goods	79.3	80.5	78.7	-1.2	0.6
Service Providing	1000.0	1020.6	970.9	-20.6	29.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	254.3	262.4	245.8	-8.1	8.5
Wholesale Trade	47.2	48.1	46.4	-0.9	0.8
Retail Trade	142.5	146.7	136.6	-4.2	5.9
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.6	67.6	62.8	-3.0	1.8
Information	13.7	13.8	13.2	-0.1	0.5
Financial Activities	49.7	49.6	48.8	0.1	0.9
Finance & Insurance	36.6	36.4	35.9	0.2	0.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.1	13.2	12.9	-0.1	0.2
Professional & Business Services	138.6	140.7	131.9	-2.1	6.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.7	42.9	41.8	0.8	1.9
Management of Companies	34.1	35.0	32.4	-0.9	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	60.8	62.8	57.7	-2.0	3.1
Educational & Health Services	177.7	179.4	172.8	-1.7	4.9
Educational Services	14.6	15.3	14.1	-0.7	0.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	163.1	164.1	158.7	-1.0	4.4
Ambulatory Health Care	52.3	52.6	49.9	-0.3	2.4
Social Assistance	39.9	40.0	37.9	-0.1	2.0
Leisure & Hospitality	110.9	112.2	104.4	-1.3	6.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.5	9.2	9.1	0.3	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	101.4	103.0	95.3	-1.6	6.1
Accommodation Services	10.5	10.9	10.2	-0.4	0.3
Food Services	90.9	92.1	85.1	-1.2	5.8
Other Services	43.8	45.0	42.8	-1.2	1.0
Government	211.3	217.5	211.2	-6.2	0.1
Federal Government	20.2	20.6	20.2	-0.4	0.0
State Government	75.5	79.8	74.9	-4.3	0.6
Local Government	115.6	117.1	116.1	-1.5	-0.5

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.

Changes Affecting Published Data

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force:

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor guidelines, Arkansas' Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates are undergoing annual processing. The purpose of annual processing is to incorporate more complete and accurate information into the estimation process. All levels of data are subject to revision, including the counties, cities, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and Micropolitan Statistical Areas. Revised 2010-2015 CLF estimates for all sub-state areas will be released to the public on April 15, 2016, at www.bls.gov. The sub-state estimates will also be updated on the Discover Arkansas website. Revised statewide CLF estimates have already been updated and can be found at www.discover.arkansas.gov.

In addition to the typical data revisions, CLF data will now be published in an unrounded format beginning with the January 2016 estimates. This change will make Arkansas' CLF data more consistent with those published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which have historically been published in an unrounded format. Publishing unrounded estimates will also increase the accuracy of customized calculations performed by data users accessing the data on the Discover Arkansas website. All CLF data already published online will be updated to reflect this change. The unrounded estimates will be available at www.discover.arkansas.gov.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs:

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor guidelines, nonfarm payroll job estimation has also undergone an annual processing. State and MSA estimates for March 2014 through December 2015 were recently revised and are currently available on the Discover Arkansas website.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics added a new statewide Nonfarm Payroll summary cell titled Mining, Logging, and Construction, which is a sum of two major industry sectors-- **mining and logging** and **construction**. The cell is included starting with the January 2016 publication and has also been added to the series dating back to 1990.

Beginning with the publication of the January 2016 data, all nonfarm payroll jobs will be published in thousands. The publication in thousands will only impact the Press Release and the monthly Labor Market Report. All estimates published on the Discover Arkansas website will remain rounded to the hundreds.