

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 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 was stable at 3.9 percent in July (due to the upward revision of the June rate from 3.8 percent to 3.9 percent). Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 2,430, a result of 2,700 fewer employed and 270 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate was unchanged in July, remaining at 4.9 percent.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' jobless rate remained stable between June and July, mirroring the trend seen at the national level. Compared to July 2015, the unemployment rate is down one and three-tenths of a percentage point."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	July 2016	June 2016	July 2015	Change From June 2016	Change From July 2015
Civilian Labor Force	1,357,310	1,359,740	1,330,447	-2,430	26,863
Employment	1,304,601	1,307,301	1,261,457	-2,700	43,144
Unemployment	52,709	52,439	68,990	270	-16,281
Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.9	5.2	0.0	-1.3
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.9	5.3	0.0	-0.4

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 August 31, 2016.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas declined 16,700 in July to total 1,215,000. Six major industry sectors decreased, more than offsetting gains in three sectors. **Government** posted the largest drop (-12,300). Seasonal losses occurred in local (-10,600) and state (-1,700) government, related to summer break at public schools. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 2,300. A majority of the decrease was in retail trade (-1,400), attributed to reported losses at various retail establishments. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** is down 2,300. Most of the contraction occurred in food services (-1,800), related in part to temporary shutdowns in school cafeterias and contract services. **Construction** added 1,200 jobs, related to seasonal hiring and on-going large-scale projects.

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Compared to July 2015, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 21,300. Growth was reported in eight major industry sectors, while two decreased. **Professional and business services** added 9,100 jobs. Gains occurred in all three subsectors. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 6,600. Most of the growth was reported in health care and social assistance (+5,700), an on-going employment trend. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 4,000, mostly in retail trade (+3,000). **Leisure and hospitality** added 2,400 jobs. A majority of the growth occurred in food services (+1,800). Jobs in **manufacturing** declined 1,300. Losses in durable goods (-2,400) more than offset gains in nondurable goods (+1,100). **Mining and logging** lost 1,200 jobs, attributed to recent layoffs and closures.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	July 2016	June 2016	July 2015	Change From June 2016	Change From July 2015
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1215.0	1231.7	1193.7	-16.7	21.3
Goods Producing	211.2	210.8	213.7	0.4	-2.5
Mining, Logging, & Construction	57.5	56.2	58.7	1.3	-1.2
Mining & Logging	6.7	6.6	7.9	0.1	-1.2
Construction	50.8	49.6	50.8	1.2	0.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.4	32.8	31.8	0.6	1.6
Manufacturing	153.7	154.6	155.0	-0.9	-1.3
Durable Goods	73.6	73.7	76.0	-0.1	-2.4
Nondurable Goods	80.1	80.9	79.0	-0.8	1.1
Service Providing	1003.8	1020.9	980.0	-17.1	23.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	255.9	258.2	251.9	-2.3	4.0
Wholesale Trade	48.8	49.3	47.6	-0.5	1.2
Retail Trade	143.4	144.8	140.4	-1.4	3.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	63.7	64.1	63.9	-0.4	-0.2
Information	14.0	14.0	13.7	0.0	0.3
Financial Activities	50.0	49.5	49.6	0.5	0.4
Finance & Insurance	36.8	36.4	36.2	0.4	0.6
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.2	13.1	13.4	0.1	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	145.3	145.3	136.2	0.0	9.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.8	43.3	41.0	0.5	2.8
Management of Companies	35.1	35.2	33.6	-0.1	1.5
Administrative & Support Services	66.4	66.8	61.6	-0.4	4.8
Educational & Health Services	178.5	179.1	171.9	-0.6	6.6
Educational Services	12.1	12.6	11.2	-0.5	0.9
Health Care & Social Assistance	166.4	166.5	160.7	-0.1	5.7
Ambulatory Health Care	53.0	52.9	51.2	0.1	1.8
Social Assistance	39.0	39.6	37.7	-0.6	1.3
Leisure & Hospitality	116.1	118.4	113.7	-2.3	2.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.4	12.8	12.3	-0.4	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	103.7	105.6	101.4	-1.9	2.3
Accommodation Services	12.4	12.5	11.9	-0.1	0.5
Food Services	91.3	93.1	89.5	-1.8	1.8
Other Services	45.0	45.1	44.3	-0.1	0.7
Government	199.0	211.3	198.7	-12.3	0.3
Federal Government	20.6	20.6	20.4	0.0	0.2
State Government	73.4	75.1	72.9	-1.7	0.5
Local Government	105.0	115.6	105.4	-10.6	-0.4

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.