

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 4.0 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 decreased two-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.2 percent in February to 4.0 percent in March. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 7,262, a result of 9,569 more employed and 2,307 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.0 percent in March.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate decreased in March, as employment gains increased the size of the civilian labor force. The number of employed rose 9,569, reaching employment levels not seen since 2008."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	March 2016	February 2016	March 2015	Change From February 2016	Change From March 2015
Civilian Labor Force	1,358,908	1,351,646	1,324,512	7,262	34,396
Employment	1,303,901	1,294,332	1,251,141	9,569	52,760
Unemployment	55,007	57,314	73,371	-2,307	-18,364
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.2	5.5	-0.2	-1.5
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.9	5.5	0.1	-0.5

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 27, 2016.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 4,600 in March to total 1,223,900. Employment gains were posted in six major industry sectors, while declines occurred in four sectors. **Professional and business services** added 3,300 jobs. Most of the expansion occurred in administrative and support services (+3,000), a subsector which includes employment agencies and landscaping services. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 1,200. Seasonal hiring was reported across all subsectors. Employment in **manufacturing** declined 1,400, largely in durable goods manufacturing (-1,200). Losses were due in part to reported contractions in various industries, including transportation equipment manufacturing and fabricated metal product manufacturing.

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Since March 2015, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment has increased 28,900. Nine major industry sectors posted job growth, with four adding 6,400 or more jobs, each. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 8,100. Most of the hiring was in retail trade (+5,600). **Leisure and hospitality** increased 7,200, attributed in large part to expansions in food services (+6,400). **Professional and business services** added 6,500 jobs. Gains were posted across all three subsectors. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 6,400, with most of the growth occurring in health care and social assistance (+5,800). **Manufacturing** jobs dropped 2,500. Declines in durable goods manufacturing (-3,200) were partially offset by gains in nondurable goods manufacturing (+700).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	March 2016	February 2016	March 2015	Change From February 2016	Change From March 2015
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1223.9	1219.3	1195.0	4.6	28.9
Goods Producing	207.3	208.8	209.6	-1.5	-2.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	54.6	54.7	54.4	-0.1	0.2
Mining & Logging	7.1	7.0	8.4	0.1	-1.3
Construction	47.5	47.7	46.0	-0.2	1.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	30.8	31.0	29.3	-0.2	1.5
Manufacturing	152.7	154.1	155.2	-1.4	-2.5
Durable Goods	73.7	74.9	76.9	-1.2	-3.2
Nondurable Goods	79.0	79.2	78.3	-0.2	0.7
Service Providing	1016.6	1010.5	985.4	6.1	31.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	254.8	255.1	246.7	-0.3	8.1
Wholesale Trade	47.5	47.7	46.8	-0.2	0.7
Retail Trade	142.6	142.2	137.0	0.4	5.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.7	65.2	62.9	-0.5	1.8
Information	13.8	13.8	13.1	0.0	0.7
Financial Activities	48.9	49.0	48.7	-0.1	0.2
Finance & Insurance	36.0	36.1	35.9	-0.1	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12.9	12.9	12.8	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	142.6	139.3	136.1	3.3	6.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.4	44.1	41.9	0.3	2.5
Management of Companies	34.1	34.1	32.3	0.0	1.8
Administrative & Support Services	64.1	61.1	61.9	3.0	2.2
Educational & Health Services	179.9	179.1	173.5	0.8	6.4
Educational Services	15.1	15.3	14.5	-0.2	0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	164.8	163.8	159.0	1.0	5.8
Ambulatory Health Care	52.2	52.0	50.2	0.2	2.0
Social Assistance	41.5	40.6	38.2	0.9	3.3
Leisure & Hospitality	115.1	113.9	107.9	1.2	7.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.1	9.6	9.7	0.5	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	105.0	104.3	98.2	0.7	6.8
Accommodation Services	11.0	10.8	10.6	0.2	0.4
Food Services	94.0	93.5	87.6	0.5	6.4
Other Services	44.5	44.0	43.0	0.5	1.5
Government	217.0	216.3	216.4	0.7	0.6
Federal Government	20.3	20.2	20.1	0.1	0.2
State Government	80.7	80.1	80.2	0.6	0.5
Local Government	116.0	116.0	116.1	0.0	-0.1

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.