

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 3.8 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 3.9 percent in April to 3.8 percent in May. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 46, a result of 1,073 more employed and 1,027 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point, falling to 4.7 percent in May.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' jobless rate declined to 3.8 percent in May, as the number of unemployed dropped to 51,773. The number of unemployed in Arkansas has been on a steady decline since February 2011, when unemployment was at a record high of 114,892."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

| | May 2016 | April 2016 | May 2015 | Change From April 2016 | Change From May 2015 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,362,030 | 1,361,984 | 1,327,394 | 46 | 34,636 |
| Employment | 1,310,257 | 1,309,184 | 1,255,531 | 1,073 | 54,726 |
| Unemployment | 51,773 | 52,800 | 71,863 | -1,027 | -20,090 |
| Unemployment Rate | 3.8 | 3.9 | 5.4 | -0.1 | -1.6 |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate | 4.7 | 5.0 | 5.5 | -0.3 | -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 June 29, 2016.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 2,700 in May to total 1,235,400. Eight major industry sectors added jobs, while two declined and one remained stable. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 1,500. All gains occurred in health care and social assistance (+2,000), with reported hiring in nursing care facilities, hospitals, and physicians' offices. **Manufacturing** added 600 jobs, all in durable goods manufacturing. Seasonal losses were posted in both **professional and business services** (-700) and in **government** (-700).

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Compared to May 2015, Arkansas' nonfarm employment has increased 21,900. Nine major industry sectors posted growth, with three adding 4,300 or more jobs, each. Two industries reported job losses. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 7,000. A majority of the gains occurred in health care and social assistance (+6,800). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 6,900 jobs, mostly in retail trade (+4,700). Employment in **professional and business services** increased 4,300. Growth was posted in all three subsectors. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 2,600, with all gains reported in accommodation and food services. The largest decline occurred in **mining and logging** (-1,500), attributed to recent layoffs and closures.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

| North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012 | May 2016 | April 2016 | May 2015 | Change From April 2016 | Change From May 2015 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1235.4 | 1232.7 | 1213.5 | 2.7 | 21.9 |
| Goods Producing | 209.2 | 208.2 | 210.8 | 1.0 | -1.6 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 55.3 | 54.9 | 56.5 | 0.4 | -1.2 |
| Mining & Logging | 6.6 | 6.6 | 8.1 | 0.0 | -1.5 |
| Construction | 48.7 | 48.3 | 48.4 | 0.4 | 0.3 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 32.3 | 31.9 | 30.7 | 0.4 | 1.6 |
| Manufacturing | 153.9 | 153.3 | 154.3 | 0.6 | -0.4 |
| Durable Goods | 74.4 | 73.8 | 76.2 | 0.6 | -1.8 |
| Nondurable Goods | 79.5 | 79.5 | 78.1 | 0.0 | 1.4 |
| Service Providing | 1026.2 | 1024.5 | 1002.7 | 1.7 | 23.5 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 258.6 | 258.1 | 251.7 | 0.5 | 6.9 |
| Wholesale Trade | 49.5 | 49.2 | 47.4 | 0.3 | 2.1 |
| Retail Trade | 145.4 | 145.2 | 140.7 | 0.2 | 4.7 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 63.7 | 63.7 | 63.6 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Information | 14.0 | 13.9 | 13.2 | 0.1 | 0.8 |
| Financial Activities | 49.8 | 49.4 | 49.3 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| Finance & Insurance | 36.7 | 36.4 | 36.1 | 0.3 | 0.6 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 13.1 | 13.0 | 13.2 | 0.1 | -0.1 |
| Professional & Business Services | 143.4 | 144.1 | 139.1 | -0.7 | 4.3 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 42.4 | 44.6 | 40.7 | -2.2 | 1.7 |
| Management of Companies | 34.8 | 34.6 | 33.1 | 0.2 | 1.7 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 66.2 | 64.9 | 65.3 | 1.3 | 0.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 182.0 | 180.5 | 175.0 | 1.5 | 7.0 |
| Educational Services | 14.6 | 15.1 | 14.4 | -0.5 | 0.2 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 167.4 | 165.4 | 160.6 | 2.0 | 6.8 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 52.8 | 52.0 | 50.9 | 0.8 | 1.9 |
| Social Assistance | 41.0 | 40.8 | 38.7 | 0.2 | 2.3 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 117.5 | 117.0 | 114.9 | 0.5 | 2.6 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 12.2 | 11.1 | 12.2 | 1.1 | 0.0 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 105.3 | 105.9 | 102.7 | -0.6 | 2.6 |
| Accommodation Services | 11.6 | 11.3 | 11.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Food Services | 93.7 | 94.6 | 91.4 | -0.9 | 2.3 |
| Other Services | 44.3 | 44.2 | 43.6 | 0.1 | 0.7 |
| Government | 216.6 | 217.3 | 215.9 | -0.7 | 0.7 |
| Federal Government | 20.3 | 20.3 | 20.2 | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| State Government | 79.3 | 81.0 | 78.7 | -1.7 | 0.6 |
| Local Government | 117.0 | 116.0 | 117.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 |

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.