

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Steady at 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 remained unchanged at 4.0 percent between October and November. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 5,059, a result of 3,929 fewer employed and 1,130 less unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined three-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.9 percent in October to 4.6 percent in November.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate remained at four percent for the third consecutive month, despite small declines in both employment and unemployment. Compared to November 2015, there are currently 24,265 more employed Arkansans."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	November 2016	October 2016	November 2015	Change From October 2016	Change From November 2015
Civilian Labor Force	1,349,512	1,354,571	1,335,905	-5,059	13,607
Employment	1,295,992	1,299,921	1,271,727	-3,929	24,265
Unemployment	53,520	54,650	64,178	-1,130	-10,658
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.0	4.8	0.0	-0.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.9	5.0	-0.3	-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 December 29, 2016.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased 800 in November to total 1,236,900. Four major industry sectors posted declines, more than offsetting minor gains in six sectors. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** dropped 2,000. Seasonal losses occurred in both accommodation-food services (-1,200) and arts-entertainment-recreation (-800). Jobs in **construction** decreased 1,700, a typical seasonal reduction. **Educational and health services** lost 1,500 jobs, all in health care and social assistance. Declines were reported at hospitals, nursing care facilities, and physician's offices. Jobs in **government** rose 1,600. Most of the gains were in local government (+1,200), related in part to temporary hiring for the recent elections. **Trade-transportation-utilities** (+1,400) and **professional-business services** (+1,000) also posted increases.

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Compared to November 2015, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 8,700. Six major industry sectors added jobs, while five sectors posted declines. Employment in **professional and business services** increased 5,800. A majority of the gains were in administrative and support services (+3,300). Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 5,800, mostly in health care and social assistance (+5,400). **Financial activities, leisure and hospitality**, and **other services** added 500 jobs, each. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** lost 2,800, attributed in large part to reported declines in retail trade (-2,500). Employment in **mining and logging** decreased 1,100. The industry has suffered from ongoing layoffs and closures.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	November 2016	October 2016	November 2015	Change From October 2016	Change From November 2015
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1236.9	1237.7	1228.2	-0.8	8.7
Goods Producing	209.3	210.4	210.9	-1.1	-1.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	55.6	57.2	57.1	-1.6	-1.5
Mining & Logging	6.5	6.4	7.6	0.1	-1.1
Construction	49.1	50.8	49.5	-1.7	-0.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	31.8	32.7	31.6	-0.9	0.2
Manufacturing	153.7	153.2	153.8	0.5	-0.1
Durable Goods	72.7	72.5	74.3	0.2	-1.6
Nondurable Goods	81.0	80.7	79.5	0.3	1.5
Service Providing	1027.6	1027.3	1017.3	0.3	10.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	255.8	254.4	258.6	1.4	-2.8
Wholesale Trade	47.5	47.1	47.2	0.4	0.3
Retail Trade	143.0	143.1	145.5	-0.1	-2.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.3	64.2	65.9	1.1	-0.6
Information	13.6	13.6	13.8	0.0	-0.2
Financial Activities	50.2	50.5	49.7	-0.3	0.5
Finance & Insurance	37.2	37.3	36.6	-0.1	0.6
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.0	13.2	13.1	-0.2	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	146.5	145.5	140.7	1.0	5.8
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.4	43.1	41.6	0.3	1.8
Management of Companies	35.3	34.9	34.6	0.4	0.7
Administrative & Support Services	67.8	67.5	64.5	0.3	3.3
Educational & Health Services	184.6	186.1	178.8	-1.5	5.8
Educational Services	15.9	15.9	15.5	0.0	0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	168.7	170.2	163.3	-1.5	5.4
Ambulatory Health Care	52.9	53.4	51.9	-0.5	1.0
Social Assistance	40.6	41.1	39.8	-0.5	0.8
Leisure & Hospitality	113.3	115.3	112.8	-2.0	0.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.4	10.2	9.2	-0.8	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	103.9	105.1	103.6	-1.2	0.3
Accommodation Services	11.4	11.6	11.2	-0.2	0.2
Food Services	92.5	93.5	92.4	-1.0	0.1
Other Services	44.9	44.8	44.4	0.1	0.5
Government	218.7	217.1	218.5	1.6	0.2
Federal Government	20.7	20.5	20.3	0.2	0.4
State Government	81.2	81.0	80.6	0.2	0.6
Local Government	116.8	115.6	117.6	1.2	-0.8

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.