

News Release



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Contact Person: Susan Price

Susan.Price@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable 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 stable at 4.0 percent between September and October. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 2,173, a result of 1,805 fewer employed and 368 less unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 5.0 percent in September to 4.9 percent in October.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate remained unchanged at four percent in October, as the fluctuations in employment and unemployment were not significant enough to impact the rate. Arkansas' jobless rate is down nine-tenths of a percentage point over the year."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	October 2016	September 2016	October 2015	Change From September 2016	Change From October 2015
Civilian Labor Force	1,354,538	1,356,711	1,334,668	-2,173	19,870
Employment	1,299,979	1,301,784	1,269,557	-1,805	30,422
Unemployment	54,559	54,927	65,111	-368	-10,552
Unemployment Rate	4.0	4.0	4.9	0.0	-0.9
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.0	5.0	-0.1	-0.1

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 November 30, 2016.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 4,300 in October to total 1,237,800. Seven major industry sectors posted gains, while four sectors declined. **Government** added 1,900 jobs. Expansions occurred in both local (+1,100) and state (+800) government, as public school employment reaches full capacity. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,700, mostly in health care and social assistance (+1,300). **Professional and business services** increased 1,500. Most of the gains were posted in administrative and support services (+1,300), a subsector which includes employment agencies. **Leisure and hospitality** declined 1,500. A majority of the loss occurred in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-1,000), a typical seasonal decrease.

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Compared to October 2015, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas is up 11,700. Growth was posted in six major industry sectors, while employment in four sectors decreased. **Educational and health services** rose 7,500. A majority of the increase occurred in health care and social assistance (+7,200). **Professional and business services** added 4,600 jobs, spread throughout all three subsectors. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 1,600, mostly in food services (+1,300). Employment in **financial activities** is up 1,100. All additions were posted in finance and insurance. **Manufacturing** declined 1,500. Losses in durable goods (-3,300) more than offset gains in nondurable goods (+1,800). Jobs in **mining and logging** decreased 1,300.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	October 2016	September 2016	October 2015	Change From September 2016	Change From October 2015
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1237.8	1233.5	1226.1	4.3	11.7
Goods Producing	211.1	210.5	214.3	0.6	-3.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	57.4	56.6	59.1	0.8	-1.7
Mining & Logging	6.4	6.5	7.7	-0.1	-1.3
Construction	51.0	50.1	51.4	0.9	-0.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	32.7	32.9	32.5	-0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	153.7	153.9	155.2	-0.2	-1.5
Durable Goods	72.4	73.6	75.7	-1.2	-3.3
Nondurable Goods	81.3	80.3	79.5	1.0	1.8
Service Providing	1026.7	1023.0	1011.8	3.7	14.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	254.2	254.9	254.3	-0.7	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	47.0	47.6	47.0	-0.6	0.0
Retail Trade	143.0	143.3	142.7	-0.3	0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.2	64.0	64.6	0.2	-0.4
Information	13.6	13.5	13.5	0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	50.6	50.0	49.5	0.6	1.1
Finance & Insurance	37.4	36.8	36.3	0.6	1.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.2	13.2	13.2	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	145.9	144.4	141.3	1.5	4.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.1	42.8	41.4	0.3	1.7
Management of Companies	34.9	35.0	34.4	-0.1	0.5
Administrative & Support Services	67.9	66.6	65.5	1.3	2.4
Educational & Health Services	186.0	184.3	178.5	1.7	7.5
Educational Services	15.8	15.4	15.5	0.4	0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	170.2	168.9	163.0	1.3	7.2
Ambulatory Health Care	53.5	53.0	51.6	0.5	1.9
Social Assistance	41.2	40.3	39.7	0.9	1.5
Leisure & Hospitality	114.5	116.0	112.9	-1.5	1.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.2	11.2	10.0	-1.0	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	104.3	104.8	102.9	-0.5	1.4
Accommodation Services	11.5	11.7	11.4	-0.2	0.1
Food Services	92.8	93.1	91.5	-0.3	1.3
Other Services	44.8	44.7	44.7	0.1	0.1
Government	217.1	215.2	217.1	1.9	0.0
Federal Government	20.5	20.5	20.2	0.0	0.3
State Government	81.0	80.2	80.4	0.8	0.6
Local Government	115.6	114.5	116.5	1.1	-0.9

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.