

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Unchanged 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 remained stable between July and August at 3.9 percent. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 1,520, a result of 1,787 fewer employed and 267 more unemployed Arkansans. At 4.9 percent, the United States' jobless rate was unchanged over the month.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The unemployment rate in Arkansas remained stable this month, as did the national unemployment rate. While jobless rates in Arkansas and the U.S. were both at 5.1 percent in August 2015, Arkansas has declined at a faster pace. We are now one full percentage point lower than the national rate."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2016	July 2016	August 2015	Change From July 2016	Change From August 2015
Civilian Labor Force	1,355,931	1,357,451	1,331,901	-1,520	24,030
Employment	1,302,761	1,304,548	1,264,414	-1,787	38,347
Unemployment	53,170	52,903	67,487	267	-14,317
Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.9	5.1	0.0	-1.2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.9	5.1	0.0	-0.2

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 September 28, 2016.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 5,000 in August to total 1,220,000. Jobs in four major industry sectors increased, more than offsetting minor declines in six sectors. **Government** added 3,200 jobs. Gains in state (+1,600) and local (+1,600) government were related to the start of the 2016-2017 school year. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 1,500. Seasonal hiring was reported across all three subsectors. Employment in **educational and health services** increased 1,400. Typical expansions occurred in both health care and social assistance (+900) and in educational services (+500).

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Compared to August 2015, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 16,900. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, while employment in three sectors declined. Jobs in **professional and business services** increased 7,600. The majority of the hiring was reported in administrative and support services (+3,800), a subsector that includes employment agencies. **Educational and health services** added 6,400 jobs, mostly in health care and social assistance (+5,800). Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 3,400. Most of the gains were in retail trade (+2,200). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** increased 1,600. Expansions in accommodation and food services accounted for a majority of the growth. Employment in **manufacturing** decreased 1,800. Losses in durable goods (-2,300) offset the gains in nondurable goods (+500). **Mining and logging** declined 1,300, due to layoffs and closures.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	August 2016	July 2016	August 2015	Change From July 2016	Change From August 2015
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1220.0	1215.0	1203.1	5.0	16.9
Goods Producing	210.6	211.4	213.9	-0.8	-3.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	57.6	57.8	59.1	-0.2	-1.5
Mining & Logging	6.5	6.7	7.8	-0.2	-1.3
Construction	51.1	51.1	51.3	0.0	-0.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.2	33.8	31.9	0.4	2.3
Manufacturing	153.0	153.6	154.8	-0.6	-1.8
Durable Goods	73.6	73.5	75.9	0.1	-2.3
Nondurable Goods	79.4	80.1	78.9	-0.7	0.5
Service Providing	1009.4	1003.6	989.2	5.8	20.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	256.8	255.3	253.4	1.5	3.4
Wholesale Trade	49.0	48.5	47.6	0.5	1.4
Retail Trade	143.8	143.1	141.6	0.7	2.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.0	63.7	64.2	0.3	-0.2
Information	13.8	13.9	13.4	-0.1	0.4
Financial Activities	49.8	50.0	49.7	-0.2	0.1
Finance & Insurance	36.6	36.8	36.3	-0.2	0.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.2	13.2	13.4	0.0	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	145.1	145.2	137.5	-0.1	7.6
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42.9	43.7	40.6	-0.8	2.3
Management of Companies	35.3	35.1	33.8	0.2	1.5
Administrative & Support Services	66.9	66.4	63.1	0.5	3.8
Educational & Health Services	180.6	179.2	174.2	1.4	6.4
Educational Services	12.6	12.1	12.0	0.5	0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	168.0	167.1	162.2	0.9	5.8
Ambulatory Health Care	52.9	53.3	51.5	-0.4	1.4
Social Assistance	40.1	39.0	38.6	1.1	1.5
Leisure & Hospitality	116.7	116.0	115.1	0.7	1.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.2	12.4	12.1	-0.2	0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	104.5	103.6	103.0	0.9	1.5
Accommodation Services	12.0	12.3	11.6	-0.3	0.4
Food Services	92.5	91.3	91.4	1.2	1.1
Other Services	44.4	45.0	44.0	-0.6	0.4
Government	202.2	199.0	201.9	3.2	0.3
Federal Government	20.6	20.6	20.3	0.0	0.3
State Government	75.0	73.4	74.4	1.6	0.6
Local Government	106.6	105.0	107.2	1.6	-0.6

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.

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