

News Release



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Contact Person: Susan Price
Susan.Price@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 3.5 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 3.6 percent in March to 3.5 percent in April. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 6,782, a result of 7,693 more employed and 911 fewer unemployed Arkansans. At 4.4 percent, the United States' jobless rate also declined one-tenth of a percentage point between March and April.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "For the fourth month in a row, Arkansas' unemployment rate has declined to record setting lows. Starting the year at 3.8 percent, the rate has decreased one-tenth of a percentage point each month to 3.5 percent in April."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Change From March 2017	Change From April 2016
Civilian Labor Force	1,347,934	1,341,152	1,345,119	6,782	2,815
Employment	1,300,237	1,292,544	1,290,523	7,693	9,714
Unemployment	47,697	48,608	54,596	-911	-6,899
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	4.1	-0.1	-0.6
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.5	5.0	-0.1	-0.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online May 31, 2017.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 11,000 in April to total 1,251,600. Increases were posted in eight major industry sectors. Employment in one industry sector declined, while two remained stable. **Leisure and hospitality** added 4,100 jobs. Seasonal gains occurred in both accommodation and food services (+2,800) and in arts, entertainment, and recreation (+1,300). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 2,200, attributed in part to seasonal hiring in retail trade (+1,100). Employment in **professional and business services** increased 1,600. A majority of the growth occurred in administrative and support services (+1,500), a subsector which includes employment agencies. **Construction** added 1,300 jobs, a typical seasonal expansion.

Compared to April 2016, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 19,700. Seven major industry sectors added jobs, while employment in four sectors declined slightly. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 7,000, mostly in health care and social assistance (+5,200). Employment in **professional and business services** increased 5,700. Administrative and support services posted a majority of the growth (+4,400). **Manufacturing** added 3,500 jobs, with expansions in nondurable goods (+4,500) more than offsetting losses in durable goods (-1,000). Moderate gains were reported in **leisure and hospitality** (+2,500), **trade-transportation-utilities** (+2,400) and **other services** (+1,300). Jobs in **government** decreased 1,900. Most of the decline was in local government (-1,300), attributed in part to reported staff reductions at various public school districts across the state.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	April 2017	March 2017	April 2016	Change From March 2017	Change From April 2016
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1251.6	1240.6	1231.9	11.0	19.7
Goods Producing	213.3	211.3	210.3	2.0	3.0
Mining, Logging, & Construction	56.1	54.8	56.6	1.3	-0.5
Mining & Logging	6.0	6.0	6.3	0.0	-0.3
Construction	50.1	48.8	50.3	1.3	-0.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	31.5	31.3	32.1	0.2	-0.6
Manufacturing	157.2	156.5	153.7	0.7	3.5
Durable Goods	73.5	73.6	74.5	-0.1	-1.0
Nondurable Goods	83.7	82.9	79.2	0.8	4.5
Service Providing	1038.3	1029.3	1021.6	9.0	16.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	253.7	251.5	251.3	2.2	2.4
Wholesale Trade	47.5	46.6	46.4	0.9	1.1
Retail Trade	141.6	140.5	142.0	1.1	-0.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.6	64.4	62.9	0.2	1.7
Information	13.1	13.1	13.6	0.0	-0.5
Financial Activities	51.4	50.9	51.2	0.5	0.2
Finance & Insurance	38.3	37.9	38.0	0.4	0.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.1	13.0	13.2	0.1	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	149.6	148.0	143.9	1.6	5.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.6	44.1	43.2	0.5	1.4
Management of Companies	34.3	34.7	34.4	-0.4	-0.1
Administrative & Support Services	70.7	69.2	66.3	1.5	4.4
Educational & Health Services	187.4	186.7	180.4	0.7	7.0
Educational Services	17.1	17.0	15.3	0.1	1.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	170.3	169.7	165.1	0.6	5.2
Ambulatory Health Care	56.5	56.0	52.9	0.5	3.6
Social Assistance	40.5	40.1	39.8	0.4	0.7
Leisure & Hospitality	119.2	115.1	116.7	4.1	2.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.5	10.2	11.5	1.3	0.0
Accommodation & Food Services	107.7	104.9	105.2	2.8	2.5
Accommodation Services	11.3	10.9	11.1	0.4	0.2
Food Services	96.4	94.0	94.1	2.4	2.3
Other Services	48.3	48.2	47.0	0.1	1.3
Government	215.6	215.8	217.5	-0.2	-1.9
Federal Government	20.1	20.3	20.2	-0.2	-0.1
State Government	80.5	80.2	81.0	0.3	-0.5
Local Government	115.0	115.3	116.3	-0.3	-1.3

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2016 benchmark.

Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.