

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases 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 increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.4 percent in July to 3.5 percent in August. Arkansas' civilian labor force added 3,272, a result of 2,038 additional employed and 1,234 more unemployed Arkansans. Reaching 4.4 percent, the United States' jobless rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point between July and August.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point in August, as the number of employed and unemployed both rose slightly. The movement in the jobless rate mirrored the trend seen at the national level."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	Change From July 2017	Change From August 2016
Civilian Labor Force	1,377,710	1,374,438	1,342,501	3,272	35,209
Employment	1,329,979	1,327,941	1,288,269	2,038	41,710
Unemployment	47,731	46,497	54,232	1,234	-6,501
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.4	4.0	0.1	-0.5
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.4	4.3	4.9	0.1	-0.5

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

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online September 27, 2017.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 2,600 in August to total 1,241,200. Seven major industry sectors posted declines, while three sectors added jobs. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** dropped 3,000. A majority of the loss occurred in wholesale trade (-1,600), attributed in part to reported contractions in farm supplies merchant wholesalers. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** decreased 1,100. Accommodation and food services posted most of the decline (-800). **Government** added 2,800 jobs. Expansions occurred in local (+1,600) and state (+1,500) government, as public educational facilities begin the new school year.

Compared to August 2016, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 22,500. Growth occurred in seven major industry sectors, with four adding 3,300 or more jobs, each. Employment is down in four industry sectors. **Educational and health services** reported the largest increase, up 6,600. Gains were seen in both health care and social assistance (+3,600) and educational services (+3,000). **Professional and business** services added 5,100 jobs. Most of the expansion occurred in administrative and support services (+5,200), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 4,600, largely in food services (+3,000). **Manufacturing** increased 3,300, all in nondurable goods manufacturing (+4,500). Gains was also reported in **other services** (+1,800), **trade-transportation-utilities** (+1,700), and **construction** (+1,600). **Government** posted the largest decline, down 1,500.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	August 2017	July 2017	August 2016	Change From July 2017	Change From August 2016
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1241.2	1243.8	1218.7	-2.6	22.5
Goods Producing	217.0	217.5	212.2	-0.5	4.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.6	58.9	57.1	-0.3	1.5
Mining & Logging	6.1	6.1	6.2	0.0	-0.1
Construction	52.5	52.8	50.9	-0.3	1.6
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.1	34.3	32.6	-0.2	1.5
Manufacturing	158.4	158.6	155.1	-0.2	3.3
Durable Goods	73.1	73.2	74.3	-0.1	-1.2
Nondurable Goods	85.3	85.4	80.8	-0.1	4.5
Service Providing	1024.2	1026.3	1006.5	-2.1	17.7
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	254.1	257.1	252.4	-3.0	1.7
Wholesale Trade	47.3	48.9	46.4	-1.6	0.9
Retail Trade	141.8	142.7	142.5	-0.9	-0.7
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.0	65.5	63.5	-0.5	1.5
Information	13.2	13.1	13.5	0.1	-0.3
Financial Activities	51.2	51.9	51.5	-0.7	-0.3
Finance & Insurance	37.9	38.6	38.0	-0.7	-0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.3	13.3	13.5	0.0	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	146.4	147.2	141.3	-0.8	5.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.6	44.2	42.2	-0.6	1.4
Management of Companies	34.0	33.7	35.5	0.3	-1.5
Administrative & Support Services	68.8	69.3	63.6	-0.5	5.2
Educational & Health Services	186.9	186.0	180.3	0.9	6.6
Educational Services	15.6	14.3	12.6	1.3	3.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	171.3	171.7	167.7	-0.4	3.6
Ambulatory Health Care	58.3	57.6	53.9	0.7	4.4
Social Assistance	37.8	39.1	39.5	-1.3	-1.7
Leisure & Hospitality	123.2	124.3	118.6	-1.1	4.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.7	13.0	12.3	-0.3	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	110.5	111.3	106.3	-0.8	4.2
Accommodation Services	12.9	13.2	11.7	-0.3	1.2
Food Services	97.6	98.1	94.6	-0.5	3.0
Other Services	49.3	49.6	47.5	-0.3	1.8
Government	199.9	197.1	201.4	2.8	-1.5
Federal Government	20.2	20.5	20.3	-0.3	-0.1
State Government	74.5	73.0	75.0	1.5	-0.5
Local Government	105.2	103.6	106.1	1.6	-0.9

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.