

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 3.7 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 was stable at 3.7 percent between November and December. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 10,088, a result of 10,167 fewer employed and 79 more unemployed Arkansans. At 4.1 percent, the United States' jobless rate was also unchanged over the month.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' jobless rate remained stable in December, mirroring the trend seen at the national level. While the size of the civilian labor force declined, it was not enough to impact the unemployment rate."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	December 2017	November 2017	December 2016	Change From November 2017	Change From December 2016
Civilian Labor Force	1,362,173	1,372,261	1,337,311	-10,088	24,862
Employment	1,311,977	1,322,144	1,284,532	-10,167	27,445
Unemployment	50,196	50,117	52,779	79	-2,583
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	3.9	0.0	-0.2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	4.7	0.0	-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 February 2, 2018.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment decreased 7,300 in December to total 1,256,700. Nine major industry sectors posted job declines, while two reported small gains. The greatest loss was in **leisure and hospitality** (-2,300). Most of the decrease occurred in food services (-1,900), due to a combination of seasonal factors and recent restaurant closures. Employment in **professional and business services** dropped 2,100. A majority of the loss was posted in administrative and support services (-2,000), an expected seasonal decline for the subsector. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 1,200, largely affected by retail trade (-1,500). This was due in part to reported contractions at stores that do not typically see holiday hiring, such as convenience stores, pharmacies, and grocery stores. **Construction** is down 1,100, a typical seasonal drop.

Compared to December 2016, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 16,100. Seven major industries reported growth, with four adding 3,100 or more jobs, each. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 5,800. Gains were posted in both health care and social assistance (+3,100) and educational services (+2,700). **Manufacturing** increased 5,200, largely in nondurable goods manufacturing (+5,000). **Professional and business services** added 3,200 jobs. Expansions in administrative-support services (+2,900) and professional-scientific-technical services (+2,000) more than offset the losses in management of companies (-1,700). Jobs in **construction** rose 3,100, with specialty trade construction up 1,800. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 1,800. Most of the loss was posted in retail trade (-1,800). Jobs in **government** are down 1,100, mostly in local government (-1,000).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	December 2017	November 2017	December 2016	Change From November 2017	Change From December 2016
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1256.7	1264.0	1240.6	-7.3	16.1
Goods Producing	219.3	220.8	211.1	-1.5	8.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.2	59.4	55.2	-1.2	3.0
Mining & Logging	6.0	6.1	6.1	-0.1	-0.1
Construction	52.2	53.3	49.1	-1.1	3.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.0	33.7	31.2	-0.7	1.8
Manufacturing	161.1	161.4	155.9	-0.3	5.2
Durable Goods	73.7	73.8	73.5	-0.1	0.2
Nondurable Goods	87.4	87.6	82.4	-0.2	5.0
Service Providing	1037.4	1043.2	1029.5	-5.8	7.9
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	255.5	256.7	257.3	-1.2	-1.8
Wholesale Trade	47.1	47.8	46.5	-0.7	0.6
Retail Trade	142.5	144.0	144.3	-1.5	-1.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.9	64.9	66.5	1.0	-0.6
Information	13.0	13.2	13.4	-0.2	-0.4
Financial Activities	51.7	51.2	51.5	0.5	0.2
Finance & Insurance	38.5	38.1	38.2	0.4	0.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.2	13.1	13.3	0.1	-0.1
Professional & Business Services	148.2	150.3	145.0	-2.1	3.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	45.2	45.3	43.2	-0.1	2.0
Management of Companies	33.8	33.8	35.5	0.0	-1.7
Administrative & Support Services	69.2	71.2	66.3	-2.0	2.9
Educational & Health Services	191.5	191.9	185.7	-0.4	5.8
Educational Services	19.0	19.3	16.3	-0.3	2.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.5	172.6	169.4	-0.1	3.1
Ambulatory Health Care	59.0	59.0	55.5	0.0	3.5
Social Assistance	39.2	39.1	39.6	0.1	-0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	113.2	115.5	112.6	-2.3	0.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.5	9.6	9.2	-0.1	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	103.7	105.9	103.4	-2.2	0.3
Accommodation Services	11.7	12.0	10.6	-0.3	1.1
Food Services	92.0	93.9	92.8	-1.9	-0.8
Other Services	49.9	49.2	48.5	0.7	1.4
Government	214.4	215.2	215.5	-0.8	-1.1
Federal Government	20.2	20.2	20.8	0.0	-0.6
State Government	79.6	80.4	79.1	-0.8	0.5
Local Government	114.6	114.6	115.6	0.0	-1.0

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.

2018 Arkansas Publication Schedule

Reference Month	State Press Release	MSA's & Counties*
January	03/12/18	03/16/18
February	03/23/18	04/04/18
March	04/20/18	05/02/18
April	05/18/18	05/30/18
May	06/15/18	06/27/18
June	07/20/18	08/01/18
July	08/17/18	08/29/18
August	09/21/18	10/03/18
September	10/19/18	11/06/18
October	11/16/18	11/29/18
November	12/21/18	01/03/19
December	01/18/19	01/30/19

*Date when Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and county labor force statistics will be available on the Discover Arkansas website.