

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 3.8 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 decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.9 percent in December 2016 to 3.8 percent in January 2017. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 1,275, a result of 2,098 fewer unemployed and 823 additional employed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point to 4.8 percent in January 2017, up from 4.7 percent in December 2016.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The number of unemployed Arkansans declined 2,098 in January, pushing the unemployment rate down to 3.8 percent. After revising data from previous years, the new series reflects a small but steady decrease in unemployment each month since March 2011."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	January 2017	December 2016	January 2016	Change From December 2016	Change From January 2016
Civilian Labor Force	1,336,036	1,337,311	1,344,399	-1,275	-8,363
Employment	1,285,355	1,284,532	1,287,708	823	-2,353
Unemployment	50,681	52,779	56,691	-2,098	-6,010
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.9	4.2	-0.1	-0.4
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.8	4.7	4.9	0.1	-0.1

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

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online March 17, 2017.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased 24,300 in January to total 1,216,300. Ten major industry sectors posted job losses, the majority of which experienced typical seasonal fluctuations. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** dropped 7,200, attributed to the end of the holiday shopping season. Employment in **government** declined 6,000. Contractions in state (-4,200) and local (-1,400) government were related to the winter break at public schools. Jobs in **professional and business services** decreased 5,900. Most of the loss was in administrative and support services (-5,100), which includes employment agencies. **Leisure and hospitality** declined 2,400, attributed to seasonal contractions in accommodation and food services.

Compared to January 2016, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll job totals are up 11,800. Seven major industry sectors posted growth, while employment in four sectors is down. **Educational and health services** rose 6,500, mostly in health care and social assistance (+5,300). Jobs in **professional and business services** increased 2,700. A majority of the gains occurred in professional-scientific-technical services (+2,400). **Manufacturing** added 2,100 jobs. Growth in nondurable goods (+3,400) offset the losses in durable goods (-1,300), due in part to reported hiring in food manufacturing. Employment in **other services** rose 1,900. The sector includes activities such as repair-maintenance services and membership organizations. The largest decline was posted in **government**, down 1,600. Both local (-1,100) and state (-600) government reported losses over the year.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	January 2017	December 2016	January 2016	Change From December 2016	Change From January 2016
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1216.3	1240.6	1204.5	-24.3	11.8
Goods Producing	210.4	211.1	209.6	-0.7	0.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	54.0	55.2	55.3	-1.2	-1.3
Mining & Logging	5.9	6.1	7.0	-0.2	-1.1
Construction	48.1	49.1	48.3	-1.0	-0.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	30.8	31.2	30.5	-0.4	0.3
Manufacturing	156.4	155.9	154.3	0.5	2.1
Durable Goods	73.7	73.5	75.0	0.2	-1.3
Nondurable Goods	82.7	82.4	79.3	0.3	3.4
Service Providing	1005.9	1029.5	994.9	-23.6	11.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	250.1	257.3	249.8	-7.2	0.3
Wholesale Trade	45.4	46.5	45.9	-1.1	-0.5
Retail Trade	140.4	144.3	140.1	-3.9	0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.3	66.5	63.8	-2.2	0.5
Information	13.0	13.4	13.6	-0.4	-0.6
Financial Activities	51.2	51.5	50.7	-0.3	0.5
Finance & Insurance	38.3	38.2	37.8	0.1	0.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12.9	13.3	12.9	-0.4	0.0
Professional & Business Services	139.1	145.0	136.4	-5.9	2.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.8	43.2	42.4	1.6	2.4
Management of Companies	33.1	35.5	34.2	-2.4	-1.1
Administrative & Support Services	61.2	66.3	59.8	-5.1	1.4
Educational & Health Services	184.4	185.7	177.9	-1.3	6.5
Educational Services	16.0	16.3	14.8	-0.3	1.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	168.4	169.4	163.1	-1.0	5.3
Ambulatory Health Care	55.6	55.5	52.3	0.1	3.3
Social Assistance	39.7	39.6	39.2	0.1	0.5
Leisure & Hospitality	110.2	112.6	108.9	-2.4	1.3
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.2	9.2	9.5	0.0	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	101.0	103.4	99.4	-2.4	1.6
Accommodation Services	10.0	10.6	10.1	-0.6	-0.1
Food Services	91.0	92.8	89.3	-1.8	1.7
Other Services	48.4	48.5	46.5	-0.1	1.9
Government	209.5	215.5	211.1	-6.0	-1.6
Federal Government	20.4	20.8	20.3	-0.4	0.1
State Government	74.9	79.1	75.5	-4.2	-0.6
Local Government	114.2	115.6	115.3	-1.4	-1.1

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.

www.discover.arkansas.gov

Changes Affecting Data

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force:

In accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arkansas' Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates are undergoing annual processing. The purpose of annual processing is to incorporate more complete and accurate information into the estimation process. CLF estimates are being revised back to January 2010.

All levels of data—State, counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Local Workforce Development Areas, and cities—are being revised from January 2010 through December 2016. The new Statewide CLF data has already been published at www.discover.arkansas.gov. Updated sub-state CLF estimates are still being produced but are scheduled to be published on April 21, 2017 at www.bls.gov. Sub-state data will be updated on the Discover Arkansas website by April 28, 2017.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs:

In accordance with the same guidelines, the Current Employment Statistics program also re-estimated the nonfarm payroll job series to include more comprehensive and precise information into the calculations. State and MSA estimates for 2015 and 2016 were recently revised and are being updated today on the Discover Arkansas website.