

News Release



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

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains at 3.4 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 unchanged at 3.4 percent between June and July. Arkansas' civilian labor force added 9,168, a result of 9,058 additional employed and 110 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 4.4 percent in June to 4.3 percent in July.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate has been stable since May, leveling out at 3.4 percent. The rate is down six-tenths of a percentage point compared to July 2016, with an additional 39,229 more employed in the State."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	July 2017	June 2017	July 2016	Change From June 2017	Change From July 2016
Civilian Labor Force	1,374,616	1,365,448	1,343,287	9,168	31,329
Employment	1,328,119	1,319,061	1,288,890	9,058	39,229
Unemployment	46,497	46,387	54,397	110	-7,900
Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.4	4.0	0.0	-0.6
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.4	4.9	-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 August 30, 2017.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas declined 11,200 in July to total 1,244,500. Employment dropped in six major industry sectors, while minor gains were posted in four sectors. The greatest loss occurred in **government** (-12,100). Employment fell in both local (-10,600) and state (-1,600) government, due to the summer break at public schools and universities. **Leisure and hospitality** decreased 1,000. Jobs in arts, entertainment, and recreation declined 900, due in part to reported losses in performing arts and spectator sports. The largest increase was posted in **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+1,500). Gains occurred in both wholesale (+1,000) and retail (+700) trade. Jobs in **construction** rose 1,100.

Compared to July 2016, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 32,900. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, with five adding 3,700 or more jobs, each. Employment in three sectors declined. **Educational and health services** increased 8,200. Gains occurred in health care and social assistance (+5,200) and in educational services (+3,000). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 7,100, mostly in accommodation and food services (+6,800). **Professional and business services** added 6,700 jobs. Growth was posted in administrative and support services (+6,700), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 5,400. Gains were seen across all three subsectors. **Manufacturing** rose 3,700, all in nondurable goods manufacturing (+5,200). **Government** reported the largest decline, down 1,100. Losses occurred in local (-900) and state (-400) government.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	July 2017	June 2017	July 2016	Change From June 2017	Change From July 2016
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1244.5	1255.7	1211.6	-11.2	32.9
Goods Producing	217.7	216.0	212.8	1.7	4.9
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.8	57.7	57.6	1.1	1.2
Mining & Logging	6.1	6.1	6.2	0.0	-0.1
Construction	52.7	51.6	51.4	1.1	1.3
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.3	33.2	32.9	1.1	1.4
Manufacturing	158.9	158.3	155.2	0.6	3.7
Durable Goods	73.1	73.6	74.6	-0.5	-1.5
Nondurable Goods	85.8	84.7	80.6	1.1	5.2
Service Providing	1026.8	1039.7	998.8	-12.9	28.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	257.7	256.2	252.3	1.5	5.4
Wholesale Trade	49.0	48.0	46.5	1.0	2.5
Retail Trade	143.1	142.4	142.4	0.7	0.7
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.6	65.8	63.4	-0.2	2.2
Information	13.1	13.2	13.6	-0.1	-0.5
Financial Activities	51.9	52.4	51.5	-0.5	0.4
Finance & Insurance	38.6	39.1	38.0	-0.5	0.6
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.3	13.3	13.5	0.0	-0.2
Professional & Business Services	146.7	147.4	140.0	-0.7	6.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.9	44.1	42.3	-0.2	1.6
Management of Companies	33.7	34.0	35.3	-0.3	-1.6
Administrative & Support Services	69.1	69.3	62.4	-0.2	6.7
Educational & Health Services	186.3	185.8	178.1	0.5	8.2
Educational Services	14.4	14.9	11.4	-0.5	3.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	171.9	170.9	166.7	1.0	5.2
Ambulatory Health Care	57.7	57.2	53.8	0.5	3.9
Social Assistance	39.3	39.8	38.9	-0.5	0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	124.4	125.4	117.3	-1.0	7.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.9	13.8	12.6	-0.9	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	111.5	111.6	104.7	-0.1	6.8
Accommodation Services	13.2	13.5	12.1	-0.3	1.1
Food Services	98.3	98.1	92.6	0.2	5.7
Other Services	49.6	50.1	47.8	-0.5	1.8
Government	197.1	209.2	198.2	-12.1	-1.1
Federal Government	20.5	20.4	20.3	0.1	0.2
State Government	73.0	74.6	73.4	-1.6	-0.4
Local Government	103.6	114.2	104.5	-10.6	-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.

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