

# News Release



**For Immediate Release:** June 16, 2017  
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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 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 decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.5 percent in April to 3.4 percent in May. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 7,539, a result of 8,604 more employed and 1,065 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined from 4.4 percent in April to 4.3 percent in May.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate continued to decline in May, setting another record low at 3.4 percent. Employment rose to 1,309,035, the highest number of employed Arkansans since August 2008."

#### ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	Change From April 2017	Change From May 2016
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	<b>1,355,668</b>	<b>1,348,129</b>	<b>1,344,508</b>	<b>7,539</b>	<b>11,160</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>1,309,035</b>	<b>1,300,431</b>	<b>1,290,032</b>	<b>8,604</b>	<b>19,003</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>46,633</b>	<b>47,698</b>	<b>54,476</b>	<b>-1,065</b>	<b>-7,843</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>

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

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online June 28, 2017.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 3,700 in May to total 1,255,900. Five major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting minor declines in five sectors. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 2,200. All gains were in administrative and support services (+3,900), attributed in large part to expansions in employment agencies and seasonal activities such as landscaping services. **Leisure and hospitality** added 1,700 jobs, with seasonal hiring in both arts-entertainment-recreation (+1,200) and accommodation-food services (+500). Jobs in **government** declined 1,000. Losses in state government (-1,700) were related to the start of summer break at some public colleges and universities.

Compared to May 2016, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 22,800. Eight major industry sectors reported growth, with four adding 2,200 or more jobs, each. **Professional and business services** increased 9,000. A majority of the expansion occurred in administrative and support services (+8,200). **Educational and health services** added 6,200 jobs, mostly in health care and social assistance (+4,700). Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 3,400. All gains were posted in nondurable goods (+4,100), attributed in part to reported growth in food manufacturing. **Other services** increased 2,200. The sector includes activities such as repair-maintenance and membership organizations. **Government** declined 1,400. Losses were posted in both local (-1,000) and state (-500) government.

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	May 2017	April 2017	May 2016	Change From	Change From
				April 2017	May 2016
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1255.9	1252.2	1233.1	3.7	22.8
Goods Producing	214.2	213.7	210.6	0.5	3.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	56.9	56.1	56.7	0.8	0.2
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>50.1</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	32.4	31.5	32.2	0.9	0.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>157.3</b>	<b>157.6</b>	<b>153.9</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Durable Goods	73.8	74.0	74.5	-0.2	-0.7
Nondurable Goods	83.5	83.6	79.4	-0.1	4.1
Service Providing	1041.7	1038.5	1022.5	3.2	19.2
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>252.9</b>	<b>253.4</b>	<b>252.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Wholesale Trade	46.7	47.4	46.6	-0.7	0.1
Retail Trade	141.9	141.4	142.6	0.5	-0.7
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.3	64.6	63.0	-0.3	1.3
<b>Information</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Finance & Insurance	38.8	38.4	37.9	0.4	0.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.3	13.1	13.3	0.2	0.0
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>152.0</b>	<b>149.8</b>	<b>143.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>9.0</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.5	44.7	42.0	-1.2	1.5
Management of Companies	33.8	34.3	34.5	-0.5	-0.7
Administrative & Support Services	74.7	70.8	66.5	3.9	8.2
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>186.7</b>	<b>187.3</b>	<b>180.5</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>
Educational Services	16.5	16.9	15.0	-0.4	1.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	170.2	170.4	165.5	-0.2	4.7
Ambulatory Health Care	56.2	56.5	53.2	-0.3	3.0
Social Assistance	40.0	40.5	39.9	-0.5	0.1
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>121.0</b>	<b>119.3</b>	<b>118.9</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.6	11.4	12.8	1.2	-0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	108.4	107.9	106.1	0.5	2.3
Accommodation Services	11.7	11.2	11.6	0.5	0.1
Food Services	96.7	96.7	94.5	0.0	2.2
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>49.3</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>47.1</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>214.6</b>	<b>215.6</b>	<b>216.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
Federal Government	20.3	20.1	20.2	0.2	0.1
State Government	78.8	80.5	79.3	-1.7	-0.5
Local Government	115.5	115.0	116.5	0.5	-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.