

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 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 increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.6 percent in October to 3.7 percent in November. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 6,248, a result of 6,784 fewer employed and 536 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate was unchanged at 4.1 percent in November.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "The unemployment rate in Arkansas rose slightly in November, brought on by a decline in employment and the size of the civilian labor force. Compared to November 2016, there are currently 36,308 more employed in the State."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	November 2017	October 2017	November 2016	Change From October 2017	Change From November 2016
Civilian Labor Force	1,372,006	1,378,254	1,338,739	-6,248	33,267
Employment	1,321,879	1,328,663	1,285,571	-6,784	36,308
Unemployment	50,127	49,591	53,168	536	-3,041
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.6	4.0	0.1	-0.3
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	4.6	0.0	-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 January 4, 2018.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas declined 1,800 in November to total 1,263,000. Three major industry sectors posted losses, while six increased and two were unchanged. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** dropped 3,800. A majority of the decline occurred in food services (-2,800), attributed in part to reported staff reductions and closures at full service restaurants. Jobs in **construction** decreased 1,000, a typical seasonal loss. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 2,100 jobs. Most of the increase occurred in retail trade (+2,000), as stores began temporary hiring for the holiday shopping season.

Compared to November 2016, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 21,000. Growth was reported in seven major industry sectors, with four adding 3,000 or more jobs, each. Employment in **educational and health services** increased 5,700. Gains were posted in both health care and social assistance (+3,000) and educational services (+2,700). **Manufacturing** added 4,800 jobs, mostly in nondurable goods manufacturing (+4,700). Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 3,700. Increases occurred in administrative-support services (+3,200) and professional-scientific-technical services (+2,400). **Construction** reported moderate growth, up 3,000. A majority of the expansion was in specialty trade contractors (+2,300). Other notable gains were posted in **trade-transportation-utilities** (+2,300), **leisure and hospitality** (+1,600), and **other services** (+1,200).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	November 2017	October 2017	Current 2016	Change From Previous 2017	Change From Current 2016
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1263.0	1264.8	1242.0	-1.8	21.0
Goods Producing	220.0	220.8	212.2	-0.8	7.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.2	60.1	56.2	-0.9	3.0
Mining & Logging	6.1	6.0	6.1	0.1	0.0
Construction	53.1	54.1	50.1	-1.0	3.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.7	34.3	31.4	-0.6	2.3
Manufacturing	160.8	160.7	156.0	0.1	4.8
Durable Goods	73.7	73.6	73.6	0.1	0.1
Nondurable Goods	87.1	87.1	82.4	0.0	4.7
Service Providing	1043.0	1044.0	1029.8	-1.0	13.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	257.0	254.9	254.7	2.1	2.3
Wholesale Trade	47.9	47.8	46.2	0.1	1.7
Retail Trade	144.2	142.2	143.4	2.0	0.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.9	64.9	65.1	0.0	-0.2
Information	13.1	13.1	13.5	0.0	-0.4
Financial Activities	51.2	51.0	51.3	0.2	-0.1
Finance & Insurance	38.1	37.9	38.2	0.2	-0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.1	13.1	13.1	0.0	0.0
Professional & Business Services	149.9	149.9	146.2	0.0	3.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	45.3	44.4	42.9	0.9	2.4
Management of Companies	33.8	33.8	35.7	0.0	-1.9
Administrative & Support Services	70.8	71.7	67.6	-0.9	3.2
Educational & Health Services	191.7	191.3	186.0	0.4	5.7
Educational Services	19.4	19.3	16.7	0.1	2.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.3	172.0	169.3	0.3	3.0
Ambulatory Health Care	59.1	59.2	55.2	-0.1	3.9
Social Assistance	39.0	38.7	39.9	0.3	-0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	115.7	119.5	114.1	-3.8	1.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.7	10.4	9.3	-0.7	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	106.0	109.1	104.8	-3.1	1.2
Accommodation Services	12.0	12.3	11.1	-0.3	0.9
Food Services	94.0	96.8	93.7	-2.8	0.3
Other Services	49.2	50.0	48.0	-0.8	1.2
Government	215.2	214.3	216.0	0.9	-0.8
Federal Government	20.2	20.2	20.4	0.0	-0.2
State Government	80.4	80.1	80.0	0.3	0.4
Local Government	114.6	114.0	115.6	0.6	-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.