

# News Release



**For Immediate Release:** November 17, 2017  
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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 3.6 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 rose from 3.5 percent in September to 3.6 percent in October. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 1,191, a result of 1,870 fewer employed and 679 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined to 4.1 percent in October, down from 4.2 percent in September.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate rose one-tenth a percentage point in October, as employment declined slightly over the month. Even with this decrease, there are still 42,501 more employed in Arkansas compared to October 2016."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	October 2017	September 2017	October 2016	Change From September 2017	Change From October 2016
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,378,419	1,379,610	1,340,169	-1,191	38,250
<b>Employment</b>	1,329,105	1,330,975	1,286,604	-1,870	42,501
<b>Unemployment</b>	49,314	48,635	53,565	679	-4,251
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6	3.5	4.0	0.1	-0.4
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	4.1	4.2	4.8	-0.1	-0.7

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

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online November 30, 2017.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 8,000 in October to total 1,266,800. Eight major industry sectors posted gains, while three sectors reported minor declines. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 3,200, mostly in retail trade (+1,700). **Government** added 2,100 jobs. A majority of the hiring occurred at public education facilities, with expansions in both local (+1,100) and state (+1,000) government. Employment in **professional and business services** increased 1,700. Gains were posted in all three subsectors.

Compared to October 2016, nonfarm payroll employment is up 23,500. Growth occurred in seven major industry sectors, with four adding 4,200 or more jobs, each. **Manufacturing** increased 5,700, mostly in nondurable goods manufacturing (+5,300). Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 4,400. Hiring was reported across all three subsectors, with the greatest expansion in wholesale trade (+2,500). **Professional and businesses services** added 4,400 jobs. The largest gains were posted in administrative and support services (+4,400). Employment in **educational and health services** increased 4,200. Additions occurred in both educational services (+2,500) and health care and social assistance (+1,700). Growth was also reported in **other services** (+2,300), **construction** (+2,000), and **leisure and hospitality** (+2,000).

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	October 2017	September 2017	October 2016	Change From September 2017	Change From October 2016
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1266.8	1258.8	1243.3	8.0	23.5
Goods Producing	220.6	219.9	213.0	0.7	7.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.9	59.8	58.0	0.1	1.9
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>53.7</b>	<b>51.9</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.2	34.6	32.5	-0.4	1.7
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>160.7</b>	<b>160.1</b>	<b>155.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>5.7</b>
Durable Goods	73.6	73.8	73.2	-0.2	0.4
Nondurable Goods	87.1	86.3	81.8	0.8	5.3
Service Providing	1046.2	1038.9	1030.3	7.3	15.9
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>257.1</b>	<b>253.9</b>	<b>252.7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Wholesale Trade	48.5	47.7	46.0	0.8	2.5
Retail Trade	142.9	141.2	142.1	1.7	0.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.7	65.0	64.6	0.7	1.1
<b>Information</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>51.0</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Finance & Insurance	37.9	38.2	38.2	-0.3	-0.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.1	13.1	13.3	0.0	-0.2
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>150.2</b>	<b>148.5</b>	<b>145.8</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>4.4</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.3	44.0	42.7	0.3	1.6
Management of Companies	34.0	33.5	35.6	0.5	-1.6
Administrative & Support Services	71.9	71.0	67.5	0.9	4.4
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>191.5</b>	<b>190.9</b>	<b>187.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Educational Services	19.3	19.1	16.8	0.2	2.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.2	171.8	170.5	0.4	1.7
Ambulatory Health Care	59.3	58.5	55.7	0.8	3.6
Social Assistance	38.7	38.6	40.4	0.1	-1.7
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>118.9</b>	<b>119.2</b>	<b>116.9</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.4	11.4	10.0	-1.0	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	108.5	107.8	106.9	0.7	1.6
Accommodation Services	12.3	12.6	11.4	-0.3	0.9
Food Services	96.2	95.2	95.5	1.0	0.7
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>47.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>214.3</b>	<b>212.2</b>	<b>214.9</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>-0.6</b>
Federal Government	20.2	20.2	20.2	0.0	0.0
State Government	80.1	79.1	79.7	1.0	0.4
Local Government	114.0	112.9	115.0	1.1	-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.