

# News Release



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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Steady at 3.5 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 stable at 3.5 percent between August and September. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 1,435, a result of 938 more unemployed and an additional 497 employed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.4 percent in August to 4.2 percent in September.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate remained stable at 3.5 percent in September. While the number of employed Arkansans increased slightly from last month, there are 43,387 more employed than in September 2016."

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

	September 2017	August 2017	September 2016	Change From August 2017	Change From September 2016
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	<b>1,379,592</b>	<b>1,378,157</b>	<b>1,341,482</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>38,110</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>1,330,925</b>	<b>1,330,428</b>	<b>1,287,538</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>43,387</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>48,667</b>	<b>47,729</b>	<b>53,944</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>-5,277</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.7</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 November 1, 2017.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 15,500 in September to total 1,258,300. Six major industries added jobs, while employment in four sectors declined. The largest increase occurred in **government** (+12,400). Expansions in local (+7,700) and state (+4,600) government reflect seasonal hiring at public schools and universities. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 3,100. A majority of the gain was posted in educational services (+2,800), related to hiring at private facilities. **Professional and business services** added 2,900 jobs, largely in administrative and support services (+2,600). Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 1,300. Gains occurred in both nondurable goods (+700) and durable goods (+600) manufacturing. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the greatest declined (-4,000). Employment fell in all subsectors, due in part to seasonal factors.

Compared to September 2016, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 20,900. Seven major industry sectors posted growth, with five adding 2,100 or more jobs, each. **Educational and health services** increased 5,300. Gains occurred in both health care and social assistance (+2,800) and educational services (+2,500). Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 4,700, all in nondurable goods manufacturing (+5,000). **Professional and business services** added 4,700 jobs. Expansions were largely in administrative and support services (+4,700), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **other services** increased 2,300. This sector includes activities such as automotive repair, dry cleaning services, and civic organizations. **Construction** added 2,100 jobs, mostly in specialty trade construction (+1,800).

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	September 2017	August 2017	September 2016	Change From August 2017	Change From September 2016
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1258.3	1242.8	1237.4	15.5	20.9
Goods Producing	219.7	217.3	213.0	2.4	6.7
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.5	58.4	57.5	1.1	2.0
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>52.3</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.6	34.0	32.8	0.6	1.8
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>160.2</b>	<b>158.9</b>	<b>155.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Durable Goods	73.8	73.2	74.1	0.6	-0.3
Nondurable Goods	86.4	85.7	81.4	0.7	5.0
Service Providing	1038.6	1025.5	1024.4	13.1	14.2
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>253.5</b>	<b>255.5</b>	<b>252.2</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Wholesale Trade	47.4	48.3	46.3	-0.9	1.1
Retail Trade	140.9	141.9	141.7	-1.0	-0.8
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.2	65.3	64.2	-0.1	1.0
<b>Information</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Finance & Insurance	38.1	38.0	37.9	0.1	0.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.1	13.3	13.3	-0.2	-0.2
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>148.9</b>	<b>146.0</b>	<b>144.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.0	43.3	42.0	0.7	2.0
Management of Companies	33.5	33.9	35.5	-0.4	-2.0
Administrative & Support Services	71.4	68.8	66.7	2.6	4.7
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>190.6</b>	<b>187.5</b>	<b>185.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Educational Services	18.5	15.7	16.0	2.8	2.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.1	171.8	169.3	0.3	2.8
Ambulatory Health Care	58.7	58.4	55.3	0.3	3.4
Social Assistance	38.7	38.2	39.6	0.5	-0.9
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>119.2</b>	<b>123.2</b>	<b>117.5</b>	<b>-4.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.5	12.6	10.9	-1.1	0.6
Accommodation & Food Services	107.7	110.6	106.6	-2.9	1.1
Accommodation Services	12.6	12.8	11.6	-0.2	1.0
Food Services	95.1	97.8	95.0	-2.7	0.1
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>49.8</b>	<b>48.8</b>	<b>47.5</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>212.3</b>	<b>199.9</b>	<b>213.1</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Federal Government	20.3	20.2	20.2	0.1	0.1
State Government	79.1	74.5	79.0	4.6	0.1
Local Government	112.9	105.2	113.9	7.7	-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.