

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases 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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.7 percent in July to 3.6 percent in August. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 1,693, a result of 1,419 fewer unemployed and 274 less employed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained unchanged at 3.9 percent in August.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Down to 3.6 percent in August, Arkansas' unemployment rate decreased for the second month in a row. This is due in part to declines in the number of unemployed over the last several months."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2018	July 2018	August 2017	Change From July 2018	Change From August 2017
Civilian Labor Force	1,346,758	1,348,451	1,357,615	-1,693	-10,857
Employment	1,298,627	1,298,901	1,307,228	-274	-8,601
Unemployment	48,131	49,550	50,387	-1,419	-2,256
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.7	3.7	-0.1	-0.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.9	3.9	4.4	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 October 3, 2018.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 1,000 in August to total 1,238,900. Two major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting the declines in seven industry sectors. Jobs in **government** increased 3,200. Hiring in local (+1,800) and state (+1,500) government reflect the start of the 2018-2019 public school year. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 900. Gains in educational services (+900) were attributed to seasonal hiring at private educational facilities. Jobs in **manufacturing** decreased 1,200. Most of the decline was in durable goods (-1,000), due to reported losses in wood product manufacturing and machinery manufacturing.

Compared to August 2017, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 8,000. Growth was posted in six major industry sectors, while five sectors declined. **Professional and business services** added 6,000 jobs. A majority of the gains were in administrative and support services (+5,800), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **construction** increased 1,900, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+1,300). Employment in **manufacturing** rose 1,900. The bulk of the expansion was in nondurable goods manufacturing (+1,800). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 1,000. Small gains in retail trade (+300) were more than offset by losses in wholesale trade (-1,200) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (-100). Jobs in **information** declined 1,000. This sector includes activities such as publishing, telecommunications, and related services.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	August 2018	July 2018	August 2017	Change From July 2018	Change From August 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1238.9	1237.9	1230.9	1.0	8.0
Goods Producing	219.0	220.3	215.5	-1.3	3.5
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.3	59.4	57.7	-0.1	1.6
Mining & Logging	5.6	5.6	5.9	0.0	-0.3
Construction	53.7	53.8	51.8	-0.1	1.9
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.3	33.1	32.0	0.2	1.3
Manufacturing	159.7	160.9	157.8	-1.2	1.9
Durable Goods	75.0	76.0	74.9	-1.0	0.1
Nondurable Goods	84.7	84.9	82.9	-0.2	1.8
Service Providing	1019.9	1017.6	1015.4	2.3	4.5
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	250.5	250.6	251.5	-0.1	-1.0
Wholesale Trade	45.9	47.1	47.1	-1.2	-1.2
Retail Trade	140.8	139.7	140.5	1.1	0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	63.8	63.8	63.9	0.0	-0.1
Information	12.1	12.3	13.1	-0.2	-1.0
Financial Activities	54.3	54.4	53.5	-0.1	0.8
Finance & Insurance	40.3	40.4	39.8	-0.1	0.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	14.0	14.0	13.7	0.0	0.3
Professional & Business Services	148.2	149.1	142.2	-0.9	6.0
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42.1	42.3	42.2	-0.2	-0.1
Management of Companies	35.0	34.8	34.7	0.2	0.3
Administrative & Support Services	71.1	72.0	65.3	-0.9	5.8
Educational & Health Services	186.2	185.3	185.9	0.9	0.3
Educational Services	13.8	12.9	12.0	0.9	1.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.4	172.4	173.9	0.0	-1.5
Ambulatory Health Care	56.7	57.5	57.2	-0.8	-0.5
Social Assistance	38.7	38.1	39.6	0.6	-0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	118.9	119.4	119.4	-0.5	-0.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.0	12.5	12.4	-0.5	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	106.9	106.9	107.0	0.0	-0.1
Accommodation Services	11.4	11.9	11.7	-0.5	-0.3
Food Services	95.5	95.0	95.3	0.5	0.2
Other Services	49.0	49.0	48.8	0.0	0.2
Government	200.7	197.5	201.0	3.2	-0.3
Federal Government	19.8	19.9	20.0	-0.1	-0.2
State Government	74.3	72.8	74.5	1.5	-0.2
Local Government	106.6	104.8	106.5	1.8	0.1

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2017 benchmark.

Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.