

# News Release



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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 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 remained unchanged at 3.6 percent between November and December. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 2,202, a result of 1,276 more employed and 926 additional unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point to 3.9 percent in December, up from 3.7 percent in November.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate remained fairly stable throughout 2018, ending the year down one-tenth of a percentage point compared to January. While the U.S. jobless rate also trended down over the year, Arkansas is still three-tenths of a percentage point below the national rate."

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

	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	Change From November 2018	Change From December 2017
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,350,399	1,348,197	1,356,940	2,202	-6,541
<b>Employment</b>	1,301,288	1,300,012	1,306,527	1,276	-5,239
<b>Unemployment</b>	49,111	48,185	50,413	926	-1,302
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6	3.6	3.7	0.0	-0.1
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	3.9	3.7	4.1	0.2	-0.2

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 30, 2019.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs declined 3,500 in December to total 1,261,400. Seven major industry sectors posted losses, as employment in three sectors increased. The greatest decrease was in **leisure and hospitality** (-2,000). Typical seasonal contractions were reported across all subsectors. Employment in **professional and business services** is down 1,200. A majority of the decline occurred in administrative and support services (-1,000), which includes some seasonal business activities and employment agencies. **Manufacturing** posted the largest gain, adding 1,400 jobs. Expansions were reported in both nondurable (+900) and durable (+500) goods manufacturing.

Compared to December 2017, nonfarm payroll jobs increased 16,500. Growth occurred in eight major industry sectors, with five adding 2,100 or more jobs, each. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 4,200. Gains were posted across the industry, with administrative and support services adding 2,600 jobs. **Manufacturing** increased 3,900, with reported hiring in both subsectors. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 2,700. Expansions in accommodation and food services (+3,000) more than offset minor losses in arts-entertainment-recreation (-300). **Educational and health services** added 2,200 jobs, mostly in educational services (+1,300). Employment in **construction** increased 2,100, related in part to ongoing projects across the state.

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	December 2018	November 2018	December 2017	Change From November 2018	Change From December 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1261.4	1264.9	1244.9	-3.5	16.5
Goods Producing	220.2	219.4	214.7	0.8	5.5
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.3	58.9	56.7	-0.6	1.6
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>-0.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	32.6	32.8	30.8	-0.2	1.8
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>161.9</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>158.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Durable Goods	76.6	76.1	74.5	0.5	2.1
Nondurable Goods	85.3	84.4	83.5	0.9	1.8
Service Providing	1041.2	1045.5	1030.2	-4.3	11.0
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>255.3</b>	<b>254.9</b>	<b>253.5</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Wholesale Trade	48.3	48.2	46.4	0.1	1.9
Retail Trade	143.0	143.2	142.0	-0.2	1.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.0	63.5	65.1	0.5	-1.1
<b>Information</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>54.3</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Finance & Insurance	40.4	40.5	40.0	-0.1	0.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.9	13.9	13.5	0.0	0.4
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>150.0</b>	<b>151.2</b>	<b>145.8</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>4.2</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.2	44.2	43.4	0.0	0.8
Management of Companies	35.8	36.0	35.0	-0.2	0.8
Administrative & Support Services	70.0	71.0	67.4	-1.0	2.6
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>190.8</b>	<b>191.7</b>	<b>188.6</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>2.2</b>
Educational Services	16.5	16.7	15.2	-0.2	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	174.3	175.0	173.4	-0.7	0.9
Ambulatory Health Care	58.1	57.9	57.3	0.2	0.8
Social Assistance	39.6	40.0	40.1	-0.4	-0.5
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>114.7</b>	<b>116.7</b>	<b>112.0</b>	<b>-2.0</b>	<b>2.7</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.5	9.6	9.8	-0.1	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	105.2	107.1	102.2	-1.9	3.0
Accommodation Services	10.5	10.9	10.7	-0.4	-0.2
Food Services	94.7	96.2	91.5	-1.5	3.2
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>48.1</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>215.6</b>	<b>216.4</b>	<b>215.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Federal Government	20.2	20.0	20.0	0.2	0.2
State Government	79.3	80.3	79.2	-1.0	0.1
Local Government	116.1	116.1	116.2	0.0	-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.

## 2019 Arkansas Publication Schedule

<b>Reference Month</b>	<b>State Press Release</b>	<b>MSA's &amp; Counties*</b>
January	03/11/19	03/15/19
February	03/22/19	04/03/19
March	04/19/19	05/01/19
April	05/17/19	05/29/19
May	06/21/19	07/03/19
June	07/19/19	08/01/19
July	08/16/19	08/28/19
August	09/20/19	10/02/19
September	10/18/19	10/30/19
October	11/19/19	11/27/19
November	12/20/19	01/03/20
December	01/24/20	02/05/20

\*Date when Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and county labor force statistics will be available on the Discover Arkansas website.