

News Release



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Contact Person: Cara Benton-Kozon
Cara.Benton@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 3.8 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 from 3.7 percent in January to 3.8 percent in February. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 1,794, a result of 1,811 fewer employed and 17 additional unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 4.1 percent between January and February.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate rose one-tenth of percentage point in February, pushed up by the slight decline in the civilian labor force. Compared to February 2017, Arkansas' civilian labor force has grown by 4,659."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

| | February 2018 | January 2018 | February 2017 | Change From January 2018 | Change From February 2017 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,353,589 | 1,355,383 | 1,348,930 | -1,794 | 4,659 |
| Employment | 1,302,799 | 1,304,610 | 1,299,810 | -1,811 | 2,989 |
| Unemployment | 50,790 | 50,773 | 49,120 | 17 | 1,670 |
| Unemployment Rate | 3.8 | 3.7 | 3.6 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 0.0 | -0.6 |

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

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online April 4, 2018.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 9,200 in February to total 1,232,100. Six major industry sectors added jobs, as four sectors posted minor declines. The largest increase occurred in **government**, up 4,900. Most of the addition was in state government (+4,500), as public colleges and universities returned from the holiday break. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 2,600. All gains were in administrative and support services (+2,700), a subsector which includes employment agencies. **Leisure and hospitality** added 2,200 jobs. Most of the hiring occurred in food services (+1,300), a typical seasonal expansion. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** reported the greatest loss (-1,400), related in large part to seasonal declines in retail trade (-1,000).

Compared to February 2017, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 2,000. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting losses in three sectors. Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 1,500. Most of the gains were in nondurable goods (+1,100), due in large part to reported expansions in food manufacturing. **Educational and health services** added 1,500 jobs, all in health care and social assistance (+1,500). Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 2,000. Retail trade posted the largest loss (-1,600), as the subsector continues to experience layoffs and closures. Jobs in **information** decreased 1,100, related to reported contractions in activities such as telecommunications and data processing-hosting.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

| North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017 | February 2018 | January 2018 | February 2017 | Change From January 2018 | Change From February 2017 |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1232.1 | 1222.9 | 1230.1 | 9.2 | 2.0 |
| Goods Producing | 212.9 | 212.9 | 211.5 | 0.0 | 1.4 |
| Mining, Logging, & Construction | 55.3 | 54.5 | 55.4 | 0.8 | -0.1 |
| Mining & Logging | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.9 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| Construction | 49.8 | 49.0 | 49.5 | 0.8 | 0.3 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 30.3 | 29.8 | 31.2 | 0.5 | -0.9 |
| Manufacturing | 157.6 | 158.4 | 156.1 | -0.8 | 1.5 |
| Durable Goods | 74.9 | 75.0 | 74.5 | -0.1 | 0.4 |
| Nondurable Goods | 82.7 | 83.4 | 81.6 | -0.7 | 1.1 |
| Service Providing | 1019.2 | 1010.0 | 1018.6 | 9.2 | 0.6 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 246.4 | 247.8 | 248.4 | -1.4 | -2.0 |
| Wholesale Trade | 46.0 | 46.0 | 46.4 | 0.0 | -0.4 |
| Retail Trade | 137.8 | 138.8 | 139.4 | -1.0 | -1.6 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 62.6 | 63.0 | 62.6 | -0.4 | 0.0 |
| Information | 12.3 | 12.4 | 13.4 | -0.1 | -1.1 |
| Financial Activities | 53.0 | 53.3 | 52.4 | -0.3 | 0.6 |
| Finance & Insurance | 39.8 | 40.1 | 39.4 | -0.3 | 0.4 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 13.2 | 13.2 | 13.0 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| Professional & Business Services | 143.6 | 141.0 | 143.5 | 2.6 | 0.1 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 43.0 | 43.1 | 43.6 | -0.1 | -0.6 |
| Management of Companies | 34.8 | 34.8 | 36.0 | 0.0 | -1.2 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 65.8 | 63.1 | 63.9 | 2.7 | 1.9 |
| Educational & Health Services | 187.9 | 186.7 | 186.4 | 1.2 | 1.5 |
| Educational Services | 15.5 | 14.6 | 15.5 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 172.4 | 172.1 | 170.9 | 0.3 | 1.5 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 56.2 | 56.4 | 55.6 | -0.2 | 0.6 |
| Social Assistance | 40.1 | 39.5 | 39.3 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 112.9 | 110.7 | 112.5 | 2.2 | 0.4 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 10.3 | 9.8 | 10.0 | 0.5 | 0.3 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 102.6 | 100.9 | 102.5 | 1.7 | 0.1 |
| Accommodation Services | 10.8 | 10.4 | 10.8 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| Food Services | 91.8 | 90.5 | 91.7 | 1.3 | 0.1 |
| Other Services | 48.8 | 48.7 | 48.2 | 0.1 | 0.6 |
| Government | 214.3 | 209.4 | 213.8 | 4.9 | 0.5 |
| Federal Government | 19.5 | 19.8 | 20.1 | -0.3 | -0.6 |
| State Government | 79.5 | 75.0 | 79.5 | 4.5 | 0.0 |
| Local Government | 115.3 | 114.6 | 114.2 | 0.7 | 1.1 |

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.