

# News Release



**For Immediate Release:** March 12, 2018  
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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Constant at 3.7 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 3.7 percent between December 2017 and January 2018. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 1,521, a result of 1,879 fewer employed and 358 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained steady at 4.1 percent between December and January.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "While original estimation showed the number of employed Arkansans declined last year, revised 2017 estimates have been released and now indicate employment trended up throughout 2017. The unemployment rate has also been very consistent over the last year, remaining close to 3.7 percent."

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

	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	Change From December 2017	Change From January 2017
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	<b>1,355,419</b>	<b>1,356,940</b>	<b>1,347,430</b>	<b>-1,521</b>	<b>7,989</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>1,304,648</b>	<b>1,306,527</b>	<b>1,297,815</b>	<b>-1,879</b>	<b>6,833</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>50,771</b>	<b>50,413</b>	<b>49,615</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>1,156</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>0.0</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 March 16, 2018.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased 22,000 in January to total 1,222,900. Employment in nine major industry sectors declined. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** posted the greatest contraction (-6,600). Losses were spread throughout all three subsectors, related in large part to the end of temporary hiring for the holidays. Jobs in **government** fell 6,000. Decreases in state (-4,200) and local (-1,600) government were due to the winter break at public education facilities. **Professional and business services** declined 4,500. Most of the loss occurred in administrative and support services (-4,300), a subsector which includes employment agencies. Seasonal contractions were reported in **construction** (-1,900) and **leisure and hospitality** (-1,900).

Compared to January 2017, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 6,300. Seven major industry sectors posted growth, while four sectors declined. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 3,000. The gains in health care and social assistance (+3,700) were offset by small losses in educational services (-700). **Manufacturing** added 2,400 jobs, mostly in nondurable goods manufacturing (+1,600). Employment in **professional and business services** increased 2,100. Most of the hiring occurred in administrative and support services (+3,000), while management of companies decreased 1,300. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** posted the greatest decline (-2,600). Employment in retail trade is down 2,300, due in large part to recent layoffs and closures within the sector.

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	January 2018	December 2017	January 2017	Change From December 2017	Change From January 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1222.9	1244.9	1216.6	-22.0	6.3
Goods Producing	212.8	214.7	210.3	-1.9	2.5
Mining, Logging, & Construction	54.6	56.7	54.5	-2.1	0.1
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>50.9</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	29.9	30.8	30.7	-0.9	-0.8
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>158.2</b>	<b>158.0</b>	<b>155.8</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Durable Goods	75.0	74.5	74.2	0.5	0.8
Nondurable Goods	83.2	83.5	81.6	-0.3	1.6
Service Providing	1010.1	1030.2	1006.3	-20.1	3.8
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>246.9</b>	<b>253.5</b>	<b>249.5</b>	<b>-6.6</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
Wholesale Trade	46.2	46.4	46.1	-0.2	0.1
Retail Trade	138.3	142.0	140.6	-3.7	-2.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	62.4	65.1	62.8	-2.7	-0.4
<b>Information</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>-1.1</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>53.5</b>	<b>52.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Finance & Insurance	40.2	40.0	39.2	0.2	1.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.2	13.5	12.9	-0.3	0.3
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>141.3</b>	<b>145.8</b>	<b>139.2</b>	<b>-4.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.5	43.4	43.1	0.1	0.4
Management of Companies	34.7	35.0	36.0	-0.3	-1.3
Administrative & Support Services	63.1	67.4	60.1	-4.3	3.0
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>188.1</b>	<b>188.6</b>	<b>185.1</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>
Educational Services	14.5	15.2	15.2	-0.7	-0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	173.6	173.4	169.9	0.2	3.7
Ambulatory Health Care	56.2	57.3	55.4	-1.1	0.8
Social Assistance	39.4	40.1	38.9	-0.7	0.5
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>110.1</b>	<b>112.0</b>	<b>110.6</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>-0.5</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.7	9.8	9.4	-0.1	0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	100.4	102.2	101.2	-1.8	-0.8
Accommodation Services	10.3	10.7	10.6	-0.4	-0.3
Food Services	90.1	91.5	90.6	-1.4	-0.5
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>48.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>209.4</b>	<b>215.4</b>	<b>208.4</b>	<b>-6.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Federal Government	19.8	20.0	20.1	-0.2	-0.3
State Government	75.0	79.2	74.9	-4.2	0.1
Local Government	114.6	116.2	113.4	-1.6	1.2

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.

# Changes Affecting Data

## **Arkansas Civilian Labor Force:**

In accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arkansas' Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates are undergoing annual processing. The purpose of annual processing is to incorporate more complete and accurate information into the estimation process. In addition to the typical annual processing procedure, a new Seasonally Adjusted model has been implemented. Due to the new model calculations, CLF estimates are being revised back to 1976 (the start of the current series).

All levels of data—State, counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Local Workforce Development Areas, and cities—are being revised from January 1976 through December 2017. The new Statewide CLF data has already been published at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov). Updated sub-state CLF estimates are still being produced but are scheduled for publication on April 20, 2018 at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov). Sub-state data will be updated on the Discover Arkansas website by April 27, 2017.

To learn more about the new model and how it will affect the estimates both historically and moving forward, please visit <https://www.bls.gov/lau/ssachanges2018.htm>.

## **Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs:**

In accordance with the same guidelines, the Current Employment Statistics program also re-estimated the nonfarm payroll job series to include more comprehensive and precise information into the calculations. State and MSA estimates for 2016 and 2017 were recently revised and are being updated today on the Discover Arkansas website.