

News Release



For Immediate Release: April 20, 2018
Contact Person: Cara Benton-Kozon
Cara.Benton@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 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 remained unchanged at 3.8 percent between February and March. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 742, a result of 1,291 fewer employed and 549 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 4.1 percent in March.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate remained at 3.8 percent in March, mirroring the trend seen at the national level. The State's jobless rate is currently three-tenths of a percentage point lower than that of the U.S."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	Change From February 2018	Change From March 2017
Civilian Labor Force	1,353,025	1,353,767	1,350,593	-742	2,432
Employment	1,301,673	1,302,964	1,301,684	-1,291	-11
Unemployment	51,352	50,803	48,909	549	2,443
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.8	3.6	0.0	0.2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.1	4.5	0.0	-0.4

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

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online May 2, 2018.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 9,700 in March to total 1,243,300. Seven major industry sectors posted gains, with four adding 1,100 or more jobs, each. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 3,400, a typical seasonal expansion. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 2,900. Growth occurred in all three subsectors, signaling the start of the spring shopping season. **Professional and business services** added 1,900 jobs, almost all in administrative and support services (+2,000). Employment in **government** increased 1,100. Typical spring hiring began in both state (+600) and local (+500) government.

Compared to March 2017, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 4,900. Growth was reported in seven major industry sectors, while jobs in four sectors declined. **Manufacturing** added 2,000 jobs. Hiring occurred in both nondurable (+1,200) and durable (+800) goods manufacturing. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 1,900. Additions in health care and social assistance (+2,300) more than offset the minor loss in educational services (-400). Notable gains were also posted in **leisure and hospitality** (+1,200) and **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+1,000). Jobs in **construction** declined 1,200 over the year, due in part to recent weather events. Employment in **information** is down 1,200.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	March 2018	February 2018	March 2017	Change From February 2018	Change From March 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1243.3	1233.6	1238.4	9.7	4.9
Goods Producing	213.5	213.0	213.0	0.5	0.5
Mining, Logging, & Construction	55.1	55.1	56.6	0.0	-1.5
Mining & Logging	5.5	5.5	5.8	0.0	-0.3
Construction	49.6	49.6	50.8	0.0	-1.2
Specialty Trade Contractors	30.0	30.2	31.8	-0.2	-1.8
Manufacturing	158.4	157.9	156.4	0.5	2.0
Durable Goods	75.5	74.9	74.7	0.6	0.8
Nondurable Goods	82.9	83.0	81.7	-0.1	1.2
Service Providing	1029.8	1020.6	1025.4	9.2	4.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	249.7	246.8	248.7	2.9	1.0
Wholesale Trade	46.1	45.5	46.8	0.6	-0.7
Retail Trade	139.9	138.2	139.3	1.7	0.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	63.7	63.1	62.6	0.6	1.1
Information	12.2	12.3	13.4	-0.1	-1.2
Financial Activities	53.4	53.1	52.8	0.3	0.6
Finance & Insurance	40.2	39.9	39.7	0.3	0.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.2	13.2	13.1	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	145.7	143.8	144.8	1.9	0.9
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42.9	43.1	43.6	-0.2	-0.7
Management of Companies	34.8	34.7	36.0	0.1	-1.2
Administrative & Support Services	68.0	66.0	65.2	2.0	2.8
Educational & Health Services	189.0	188.4	187.1	0.6	1.9
Educational Services	15.4	15.6	15.8	-0.2	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	173.6	172.8	171.3	0.8	2.3
Ambulatory Health Care	57.0	56.5	55.8	0.5	1.2
Social Assistance	40.2	40.2	39.3	0.0	0.9
Leisure & Hospitality	116.5	113.1	115.3	3.4	1.2
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.8	10.3	10.4	0.5	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	105.7	102.8	104.9	2.9	0.8
Accommodation Services	11.2	10.8	11.3	0.4	-0.1
Food Services	94.5	92.0	93.6	2.5	0.9
Other Services	47.9	48.8	48.5	-0.9	-0.6
Government	215.4	214.3	214.8	1.1	0.6
Federal Government	19.5	19.5	20.0	0.0	-0.5
State Government	80.1	79.5	80.2	0.6	-0.1
Local Government	115.8	115.3	114.6	0.5	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.