

News Release



For Immediate Release: June 15, 2018
Contact Person: Susan Price
Susan.Price@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Still 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 in May. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 1,616, a result of 1,197 fewer employed and 419 less unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.9 percent in April to 3.8 percent in May.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "For the fourth month in row, Arkansas' unemployment rate remained at 3.8 percent. Fluctuations in the number of employed and unemployed were not significant enough to effect the rate."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	May 2018	April 2018	May 2017	Change From April 2018	Change From May 2017
Civilian Labor Force	1,350,319	1,351,935	1,353,883	-1,616	-3,564
Employment	1,299,095	1,300,292	1,304,613	-1,197	-5,518
Unemployment	51,224	51,643	49,270	-419	1,954
Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.8	3.6	0.0	0.2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.9	4.3	-0.1	-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 June 27, 2018.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 3,700 in May to total 1,253,600. Employment rose in eight major industry sectors, while two sectors declined and one was stable. **Manufacturing** added 1,200 jobs, mostly in nondurable goods manufacturing (+1,000). Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 1,000. All gains were posted in health care and social assistance (+1,000). Seasonal expansions occurred in **trade-transportation-utilities** (+900), **leisure and hospitality** (+900), and **construction** (+700).

Compared to May 2017, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 6,500. Growth was posted in six major industry sectors, while five sectors reported minor losses. The largest increase was in **manufacturing**, up 4,100. Hiring occurred in both nondurable goods (+2,600) and durable goods (+1,500) manufacturing. **Professional and business services** added 2,800 jobs. Gains in administrative and support services (+3,900) more than offset small declines in management of companies (-800) and professional-scientific-technical services (-300). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 1,100. Expansions were reported in both retail trade (+600) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+600).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	May 2018	April 2018	May 2017	Change From April 2018	Change From May 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1253.6	1249.9	1247.1	3.7	6.5
Goods Producing	216.9	215.0	213.6	1.9	3.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	56.6	55.9	57.4	0.7	-0.8
Mining & Logging	5.5	5.5	5.9	0.0	-0.4
Construction	51.1	50.4	51.5	0.7	-0.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	30.6	30.5	32.1	0.1	-1.5
Manufacturing	160.3	159.1	156.2	1.2	4.1
Durable Goods	76.0	75.8	74.5	0.2	1.5
Nondurable Goods	84.3	83.3	81.7	1.0	2.6
Service Providing	1036.7	1034.9	1033.5	1.8	3.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	251.2	250.3	250.1	0.9	1.1
Wholesale Trade	46.8	46.5	46.9	0.3	-0.1
Retail Trade	141.2	140.4	140.6	0.8	0.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	63.2	63.4	62.6	-0.2	0.6
Information	12.4	12.3	13.3	0.1	-0.9
Financial Activities	53.6	53.5	53.2	0.1	0.4
Finance & Insurance	39.8	39.9	39.7	-0.1	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.8	13.6	13.5	0.2	0.3
Professional & Business Services	148.4	148.9	145.6	-0.5	2.8
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42.2	43.7	42.5	-1.5	-0.3
Management of Companies	34.5	34.7	35.3	-0.2	-0.8
Administrative & Support Services	71.7	70.5	67.8	1.2	3.9
Educational & Health Services	189.0	188.0	188.6	1.0	0.4
Educational Services	15.5	15.5	15.7	0.0	-0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	173.5	172.5	172.9	1.0	0.6
Ambulatory Health Care	57.9	56.6	56.4	1.3	1.5
Social Assistance	39.9	39.7	40.3	0.2	-0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	118.9	118.0	119.5	0.9	-0.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.2	11.9	11.8	0.3	0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	106.7	106.1	107.7	0.6	-1.0
Accommodation Services	11.5	11.5	11.7	0.0	-0.2
Food Services	95.2	94.6	96.0	0.6	-0.8
Other Services	48.5	48.3	48.7	0.2	-0.2
Government	214.7	215.6	214.5	-0.9	0.2
Federal Government	19.6	19.5	20.0	0.1	-0.4
State Government	78.7	80.3	78.8	-1.6	-0.1
Local Government	116.4	115.8	115.7	0.6	0.7

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.