

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 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 rose from 3.5 percent in October to 3.6 percent in November. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 1,604, a result of 867 more employed and 737 additional unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained unchanged at 3.7 percent between October and November.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate increased to 3.6 percent in November, after two months at 3.5 percent. The number of employed in the State increased for the second month in a row, but is still down slightly over-the-year."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	November 2018	October 2018	November 2017	Change From October 2018	Change From November 2017
Civilian Labor Force	1,348,194	1,346,590	1,357,161	1,604	-8,967
Employment	1,300,010	1,299,143	1,306,710	867	-6,700
Unemployment	48,184	47,447	50,451	737	-2,267
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.5	3.7	0.1	-0.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	4.1	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 January 3, 2019.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 1,100 in November to total 1,264,800. Six major industry sectors added jobs, while employment in five sectors declined. The greatest gain occurred in **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+3,200). Most of the expansion was in retail trade (+3,100), as stores began seasonal hiring for the winter holidays. Jobs in **government** increased 1,100. A majority of the growth was posted in local government (+800), related to typical winter hiring at the city and county levels. Employment in **professional and business services** declined 2,300. All of the loss occurred in administrative and support services (-2,700), a subsector which includes a broad range of activities such as temporary help services, tour operators, and landscaping services.

Compared to November 2017, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 12,500. Growth was posted in eight major industry sectors, while three sectors decreased slightly. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 3,400. Expansions occurred in all three subsectors. **Educational and health services** added 2,200 jobs, mostly in educational services (+1,300). Jobs in **manufacturing** increased 2,000. Gains were posted in both durable (+1,300) and nondurable (+700) good manufacturing. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 1,700. All growth was in food services (+2,100). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 1,600 jobs, with hiring in both wholesale (+1,200) and retail (+600) trade.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	November 2018	October 2018	November 2017	Change From October 2018	Change From November 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1264.8	1263.7	1252.3	1.1	12.5
Goods Producing	219.6	219.5	216.5	0.1	3.1
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.1	59.5	58.0	-0.4	1.1
Mining & Logging	5.5	5.6	5.8	-0.1	-0.3
Construction	53.6	53.9	52.2	-0.3	1.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	32.9	33.5	31.7	-0.6	1.2
Manufacturing	160.5	160.0	158.5	0.5	2.0
Durable Goods	76.2	75.6	74.9	0.6	1.3
Nondurable Goods	84.3	84.4	83.6	-0.1	0.7
Service Providing	1045.2	1044.2	1035.8	1.0	9.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	255.2	252.0	253.6	3.2	1.6
Wholesale Trade	48.2	47.4	47.0	0.8	1.2
Retail Trade	143.3	140.2	142.7	3.1	0.6
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	63.7	64.4	63.9	-0.7	-0.2
Information	12.2	12.0	13.0	0.2	-0.8
Financial Activities	54.4	54.2	53.1	0.2	1.3
Finance & Insurance	40.5	40.4	39.7	0.1	0.8
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.9	13.8	13.4	0.1	0.5
Professional & Business Services	150.9	153.2	147.5	-2.3	3.4
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.0	43.7	43.5	0.3	0.5
Management of Companies	36.0	35.9	35.0	0.1	1.0
Administrative & Support Services	70.9	73.6	69.0	-2.7	1.9
Educational & Health Services	191.5	192.4	189.3	-0.9	2.2
Educational Services	16.8	16.8	15.5	0.0	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	174.7	175.6	173.8	-0.9	0.9
Ambulatory Health Care	58.0	57.9	57.4	0.1	0.6
Social Assistance	39.6	39.7	40.0	-0.1	-0.4
Leisure & Hospitality	116.6	117.3	114.9	-0.7	1.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.6	10.3	9.8	-0.7	-0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	107.0	107.0	105.1	0.0	1.9
Accommodation Services	10.9	11.0	11.1	-0.1	-0.2
Food Services	96.1	96.0	94.0	0.1	2.1
Other Services	48.0	47.8	48.2	0.2	-0.2
Government	216.4	215.3	216.2	1.1	0.2
Federal Government	20.0	19.7	20.0	0.3	0.0
State Government	80.3	80.3	80.1	0.0	0.2
Local Government	116.1	115.3	116.1	0.8	0.0

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.