

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains at 3.5 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 3.5 percent between September and October. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 881, a result of 670 more employed and 211 additional unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent in October.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "After dropping for three month's in a row, Arkansas' unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.5 percent in October. The stable jobless rate reflects the trend seen at the national level."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Change From September 2018	Change From October 2017
Civilian Labor Force	1,346,556	1,345,675	1,357,679	881	-11,123
Employment	1,299,115	1,298,445	1,307,175	670	-8,060
Unemployment	47,441	47,230	50,504	211	-3,063
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.5	3.7	0.0	-0.2
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 November 29, 2018.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 3,600 in October to total 1,263,300. Five major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting small declines in four sectors. Two sectors were unchanged over the month. Employment in **government** increased 1,800. Gains in both state (+1,200) and local (+700) government were related in large part to continued hiring at public schools and universities. **Educational and health services** added 1,500 jobs. Most of the expansions were seen in health care and social assistance (+1,000).

Compared to October 2017, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 9,200. Growth was posted in five major industry sectors, all adding 1,100 or more jobs, each. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 5,500. A majority of the gains were reported in administrative and support services (+3,700). Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 3,200, with growth in both subsectors. **Manufacturing** added 2,200 jobs. Most of the expansion occurred in nondurable goods manufacturing (+1,400), largely related to reported hiring in food manufacturing. Employment in **financial activities** rose 1,400, mostly in finance and insurance (+1,000). **Construction** jobs are up 1,100, due to ongoing projects across the state. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the largest decline (-1,600), with all subsectors reporting losses. Employment in **other services** decreased 1,200. The subsector includes activities such as repair-maintenance and membership organizations.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	October 2018	September 2018	October 2017	Change From September 2018	Change From October 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1263.3	1259.7	1254.1	3.6	9.2
Goods Producing	219.1	219.8	216.1	-0.7	3.0
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.2	59.4	58.4	-0.2	0.8
Mining & Logging	5.5	5.5	5.8	0.0	-0.3
Construction	53.7	53.9	52.6	-0.2	1.1
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.5	33.4	32.0	0.1	1.5
Manufacturing	159.9	160.4	157.7	-0.5	2.2
Durable Goods	75.5	75.7	74.7	-0.2	0.8
Nondurable Goods	84.4	84.7	83.0	-0.3	1.4
Service Providing	1044.2	1039.9	1038.0	4.3	6.2
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	251.8	250.9	251.9	0.9	-0.1
Wholesale Trade	47.4	47.0	47.0	0.4	0.4
Retail Trade	140.0	139.5	141.0	0.5	-1.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.4	64.4	63.9	0.0	0.5
Information	12.0	12.0	13.0	0.0	-1.0
Financial Activities	54.4	54.3	53.0	0.1	1.4
Finance & Insurance	40.5	40.5	39.5	0.0	1.0
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.9	13.8	13.5	0.1	0.4
Professional & Business Services	153.2	152.4	147.7	0.8	5.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.7	43.0	42.8	0.7	0.9
Management of Companies	35.9	35.5	35.0	0.4	0.9
Administrative & Support Services	73.6	73.9	69.9	-0.3	3.7
Educational & Health Services	192.2	190.7	189.0	1.5	3.2
Educational Services	16.8	16.3	15.5	0.5	1.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	175.4	174.4	173.5	1.0	1.9
Ambulatory Health Care	57.9	57.5	57.7	0.4	0.2
Social Assistance	39.7	39.1	39.7	0.6	0.0
Leisure & Hospitality	117.5	117.9	119.1	-0.4	-1.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.3	11.0	10.7	-0.7	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	107.2	106.9	108.4	0.3	-1.2
Accommodation Services	11.0	11.2	11.4	-0.2	-0.4
Food Services	96.2	95.7	97.0	0.5	-0.8
Other Services	47.8	48.2	49.0	-0.4	-1.2
Government	215.3	213.5	215.3	1.8	0.0
Federal Government	19.7	19.8	20.0	-0.1	-0.3
State Government	80.3	79.1	79.9	1.2	0.4
Local Government	115.3	114.6	115.4	0.7	-0.1

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.