

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 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 decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.6 percent in August to 3.5 percent in September. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 1,220, a result of 891 fewer unemployed and 329 less employed Arkansans. At 3.7 percent, the United States' jobless rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point in September, down from 3.9 percent in August.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate declined for the third consecutive month. September's rate of 3.5 percent is the lowest in Arkansas' recorded history, breaking last year's record low of 3.6 percent."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	September 2018	August 2018	September 2017	Change From August 2018	Change From September 2017
Civilian Labor Force	1,345,646	1,346,866	1,357,918	-1,220	-12,272
Employment	1,298,402	1,298,731	1,307,414	-329	-9,012
Unemployment	47,244	48,135	50,504	-891	-3,260
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	3.7	-0.1	-0.2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.9	4.2	-0.2	-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 November 6, 2018.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 19,000 in September to total 1,259,000. Six major industry sectors posted gains, while jobs in four sectors declined. **Government** added 12,900 jobs. Expansions were in local (+8,000) and state (+4,800) government, related to seasonal hiring at public schools and universities. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 3,900, attributed in large part to hiring in educational services (+2,300). Employment in **professional and business services** rose 3,600. Gains occurred in all subsectors, with the largest posted in administrative and support services (+2,700). **Leisure and hospitality** declined 1,300. Most of the contraction was in arts, entertainment, and recreation (-1,100), an expected seasonal loss.

Compared to September 2017, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 10,700. Growth occurred in six major industry sectors, while five sectors posted declines. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 6,700. A majority of the hiring was posted in administrative and support services (+5,200), a subsector which includes employment agencies. **Manufacturing** added 2,300 jobs. Expansions occurred in both nondurable (+1,500) and durable (+800) goods manufacturing. Employment in **construction** increased 1,500, related to ongoing projects throughout the state. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 1,300. Most of the gains were in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+1,200). **Financial activities** added 1,000 jobs. The sector includes businesses such as real estate, insurance, and banking. Employment in **information** is down 1,000.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	September 2018	August 2018	September 2017	Change From August 2018	Change From September 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1259.0	1240.0	1248.3	19.0	10.7
Goods Producing	219.3	218.7	216.0	0.6	3.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.1	59.2	58.1	-0.1	1.0
Mining & Logging	5.4	5.6	5.9	-0.2	-0.5
Construction	53.7	53.6	52.2	0.1	1.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	32.9	33.2	32.2	-0.3	0.7
Manufacturing	160.2	159.5	157.9	0.7	2.3
Durable Goods	75.7	75.3	74.9	0.4	0.8
Nondurable Goods	84.5	84.2	83.0	0.3	1.5
Service Providing	1039.7	1021.3	1032.3	18.4	7.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	252.0	251.6	250.7	0.4	1.3
Wholesale Trade	47.2	46.4	47.0	0.8	0.2
Retail Trade	139.7	141.3	139.8	-1.6	-0.1
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.1	63.9	63.9	1.2	1.2
Information	12.0	12.0	13.0	0.0	-1.0
Financial Activities	53.9	54.3	52.9	-0.4	1.0
Finance & Insurance	40.1	40.3	39.6	-0.2	0.5
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.8	14.0	13.3	-0.2	0.5
Professional & Business Services	151.9	148.3	145.2	3.6	6.7
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42.8	42.2	42.0	0.6	0.8
Management of Companies	35.2	34.9	34.5	0.3	0.7
Administrative & Support Services	73.9	71.2	68.7	2.7	5.2
Educational & Health Services	190.4	186.5	189.5	3.9	0.9
Educational Services	16.0	13.7	15.2	2.3	0.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	174.4	172.8	174.3	1.6	0.1
Ambulatory Health Care	57.6	56.8	57.3	0.8	0.3
Social Assistance	38.8	38.2	39.6	0.6	-0.8
Leisure & Hospitality	117.7	119.0	118.5	-1.3	-0.8
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.0	12.1	11.3	-1.1	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	106.7	106.9	107.2	-0.2	-0.5
Accommodation Services	11.3	11.4	11.5	-0.1	-0.2
Food Services	95.4	95.5	95.7	-0.1	-0.3
Other Services	48.2	48.9	48.7	-0.7	-0.5
Government	213.6	200.7	213.8	12.9	-0.2
Federal Government	19.9	19.8	20.0	0.1	-0.1
State Government	79.1	74.3	79.1	4.8	0.0
Local Government	114.6	106.6	114.7	8.0	-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.

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