

# News Release



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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops 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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.7 percent in March to 3.6 percent in April. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 1,001, a result of 2,107 more employed and 1,106 fewer unemployed Arkansans. Down two-tenths of a percentage point, the United States' jobless rate decreased from 3.8 percent in March to 3.6 percent in April.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Employment in Arkansas rose for the fourth straight month, with 10,700 more employed over-the-year. Nonfarm payroll jobs also increased, setting a new record high number of jobs in the State."

#### ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	April 2019	March 2019	April 2018	Change From March 2019	Change From April 2018
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,360,466	1,359,465	1,350,620	1,001	9,846
<b>Employment</b>	1,310,833	1,308,726	1,300,133	2,107	10,700
<b>Unemployment</b>	49,633	50,739	50,487	-1,106	-854
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6	3.7	3.7	-0.1	-0.1
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6	3.8	3.9	-0.2	-0.3

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 29, 2019.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment increased 8,700 in April to total 1,279,000. Nine major industry sectors posted gains, with three adding 2,000 or more jobs, each. Employment in **construction** rose 2,300, due largely to seasonal hiring. Jobs in **professional and business services** increased 2,100. Most of the expansion occurred in administrative and support services (+1,400). **Leisure and hospitality** added 2,000 jobs. Gains were posted in both arts, entertainment, and recreation (+1,000) and in accommodation and food services (+1,000), a typical seasonal growth.

Compared to April 2018, nonfarm payroll jobs have increased 14,300. Expansions were reported in nine major industry sectors. **Manufacturing** added 3,700 jobs, with hiring in both durable (+2,700) and nondurable (+1,000) goods manufacturing. Jobs in **construction** rose 2,800, related to on-going large-scale projects across the State. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** increased 2,100. All growth occurred in accommodation and food services (+2,200). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 1,800 jobs, mostly in wholesale trade (+1,600). **Educational and health services** gained 1,600 jobs, all in health care and social assistance (+2,000). Jobs in **government** rose 1,300. Hiring was reported in both local (+1,000) and federal (+300) government.

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted  
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	April 2019	March 2019	April 2018	Change From March 2019	Change From April 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1279.0	1270.3	1264.7	8.7	14.3
Goods Producing	221.5	220.0	215.2	1.5	6.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.4	56.1	55.8	2.3	2.6
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>52.7</b>	<b>50.4</b>	<b>49.9</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.3	31.7	31.4	1.6	1.9
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>163.1</b>	<b>163.9</b>	<b>159.4</b>	<b>-0.8</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Durable Goods	78.5	78.9	75.8	-0.4	2.7
Nondurable Goods	84.6	85.0	83.6	-0.4	1.0
Service Providing	1057.5	1050.3	1049.5	7.2	8.0
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>251.6</b>	<b>250.8</b>	<b>249.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Wholesale Trade	48.7	48.1	47.1	0.6	1.6
Retail Trade	138.2	137.7	138.6	0.5	-0.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.7	65.0	64.1	-0.3	0.6
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>60.2</b>	<b>60.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Finance & Insurance	46.9	46.8	46.5	0.1	0.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.7	13.4	13.5	0.3	0.2
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>148.5</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>148.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	45.4	44.8	44.4	0.6	1.0
Management of Companies	35.2	35.1	34.8	0.1	0.4
Administrative & Support Services	67.9	66.5	69.2	1.4	-1.3
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>193.2</b>	<b>192.9</b>	<b>191.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Educational Services	15.9	16.1	16.3	-0.2	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	177.3	176.8	175.3	0.5	2.0
Ambulatory Health Care	59.0	59.3	57.9	-0.3	1.1
Social Assistance	40.4	40.1	39.9	0.3	0.5
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>121.5</b>	<b>119.5</b>	<b>119.4</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.6	10.6	11.7	1.0	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	109.9	108.9	107.7	1.0	2.2
Accommodation Services	11.4	11.1	11.3	0.3	0.1
Food Services	98.5	97.8	96.4	0.7	2.1
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>53.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>217.2</b>	<b>216.3</b>	<b>215.9</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Federal Government	20.2	20.0	19.9	0.2	0.3
State Government	80.4	79.9	80.4	0.5	0.0
Local Government	116.6	116.4	115.6	0.2	1.0

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2018 benchmark.

Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.