

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 3.7 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 3.7 percent between December 2018 and January 2019. The December 2018 rate was revised up from 3.6 percent to 3.7 percent. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 2,154, a result of 1,334 more employed and 820 additional unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.9 percent in December 2018 to 4.0 percent in January 2019.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Employment in Arkansas is up 4,696 compared to January 2018. Additionally, the annual revision shows that there were more employed Arkansans in the second half of 2018 than originally estimated."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	Change From December 2018	Change From January 2018
Civilian Labor Force	1,355,245	1,353,091	1,351,032	2,154	4,213
Employment	1,304,727	1,303,393	1,300,031	1,334	4,696
Unemployment	50,518	49,698	51,001	820	-483
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	3.8	0.0	-0.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.0	3.9	4.1	0.1	-0.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online March 15, 2019.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas declined 19,200 in January to total 1,254,100. Eight major industry sectors posted job losses, most of which were seasonal. The largest decrease occurred in **trade-transportation-utilities** (-5,400). A majority of the contraction was in retail trade (-3,800), marking the end of temporary holiday hiring. **Government** employment was down 4,600, related to public schools and universities closing for winter break. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** declined 3,100. Most of the loss was reported in food services (-2,500), due in part to the temporary shutdown of food service contractors at colleges. Employment in **educational and health services** decreased 2,300, with losses in both in health care and social assistance (-1,500) and educational services (-800).

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Compared to January 2018, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 11,300. Growth was reported in eight major industry sectors, while two sectors had minor declines. **Manufacturing** added 3,100 jobs, all in durable goods manufacturing (+3,700). Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 2,000. Expansions in transportation-warehousing-utilities (+1,800) and wholesale trade (+1,600) were offset by losses in retail trade (-1,400). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 1,600, all in food services (+1,800). **Construction** added 1,400 jobs, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+1,100). Notable gains were also posted in **financial activities** (+1,300) and in **other services** (+1,100).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	January 2019	December 2018	January 2018	Change From December 2018	Change From January 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1254.1	1273.3	1242.8	-19.2	11.3
Goods Producing	217.7	219.6	213.2	-1.9	4.5
Mining, Logging, & Construction	55.7	56.0	54.3	-0.3	1.4
Mining & Logging	5.8	5.8	5.8	0.0	0.0
Construction	49.9	50.2	48.5	-0.3	1.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	31.5	31.7	30.4	-0.2	1.1
Manufacturing	162.0	163.6	158.9	-1.6	3.1
Durable Goods	79.0	78.9	75.3	0.1	3.7
Nondurable Goods	83.0	84.7	83.6	-1.7	-0.6
Service Providing	1036.4	1053.7	1029.6	-17.3	6.8
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	251.1	256.5	249.1	-5.4	2.0
Wholesale Trade	48.3	48.6	46.7	-0.3	1.6
Retail Trade	137.2	141.0	138.6	-3.8	-1.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.6	66.9	63.8	-1.3	1.8
Information	11.0	11.2	11.4	-0.2	-0.4
Financial Activities	61.1	61.1	59.8	0.0	1.3
Finance & Insurance	47.6	47.4	46.4	0.2	1.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.5	13.7	13.4	-0.2	0.1
Professional & Business Services	142.5	144.5	142.8	-2.0	-0.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.5	44.3	43.5	0.2	1.0
Management of Companies	35.0	35.1	34.9	-0.1	0.1
Administrative & Support Services	63.0	65.1	64.4	-2.1	-1.4
Educational & Health Services	190.6	192.9	189.7	-2.3	0.9
Educational Services	15.0	15.8	15.6	-0.8	-0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	175.6	177.1	174.1	-1.5	1.5
Ambulatory Health Care	58.5	59.4	57.2	-0.9	1.3
Social Assistance	40.1	40.5	39.6	-0.4	0.5
Leisure & Hospitality	114.2	117.3	112.6	-3.1	1.6
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9.6	9.7	9.8	-0.1	-0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	104.6	107.6	102.8	-3.0	1.8
Accommodation Services	10.4	10.9	10.4	-0.5	0.0
Food Services	94.2	96.7	92.4	-2.5	1.8
Other Services	53.8	53.5	52.7	0.3	1.1
Government	212.1	216.7	211.5	-4.6	0.6
Federal Government	19.8	20.4	20.0	-0.6	-0.2
State Government	76.7	79.4	76.9	-2.7	-0.2
Local Government	115.6	116.9	114.6	-1.3	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.

Changes Affecting Data

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force:

In accordance with guidelines from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Arkansas' Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates are undergoing annual processing. The purpose of annual processing is to incorporate more complete and accurate information into the estimation process.

All levels of data—State, counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), Micropolitan Statistical Areas, Local Workforce Development Areas, and cities—are being revised from January 2010 through December 2018. The new Statewide CLF data will be published today at www.discover.arkansas.gov. Updated sub-state CLF estimates are still being produced but are scheduled for publication on April 19, 2019 on the Discover Arkansas website or at www.bls.gov.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs:

In accordance with the same guidelines, the Current Employment Statistics program also re-estimated the Nonfarm Payroll Job series to include more comprehensive and precise information into the calculations. Statewide estimates were revised back to the beginning of the current series in January 1976. MSA estimates were also revised back to the start of the series, which dates back to January 1990. All revised Nonfarm Payroll Jobs data are being updated today on the Discover Arkansas website.