

# News Release



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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 3.4 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 Division of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.5 percent in June to 3.4 percent in July. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 410, a result of 802 more employed and 392 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 3.7 percent between June and July.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Dropping another one-tenth of percentage point in July, Arkansas' jobless rate decreased for the third consecutive month. The unemployment rate of 3.4 percent is a new record low, breaking the record low of 3.5 percent set last month."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	Change From June 2019	Change From July 2018
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,363,167	1,362,757	1,349,795	410	13,372
<b>Employment</b>	1,316,265	1,315,463	1,300,640	802	15,625
<b>Unemployment</b>	46,902	47,294	49,155	-392	-2,253
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.4	3.5	3.6	-0.1	-0.2
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	3.7	3.7	3.9	0.0	-0.2

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

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online August 28, 2019.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs dropped 13,900 to total 1,265,100. Employment declined in seven major industry sectors. The greatest loss was in **government** (-11,200), attributed to summer break at public schools and universities. Jobs in **manufacturing** decreased 1,500. All reductions were in durable goods manufacturing (-1,500), related to several recent layoffs and closures. **Educational and health services** declined 1,400, due to seasonal hiring trends in both subsectors. **Financial activities** posted the largest increase, adding 1,000 jobs. Gains were reported in both finance and insurance (+700) and in real estate-rental-leasing (+300).

Compared to July 2018, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 19,200. Nine major industry sectors posted gains, with five adding 2,000 or more jobs, each. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 7,000. Most of the expansion was in food services (+6,900). **Construction** increased 2,800, related to ongoing large projects. **Trade-transportation-utilities** added 2,400 jobs, with hiring in both wholesale (+1,400) and retail (+1,200) trade. Jobs in **financial activities** rose 2,100. The sector includes businesses such as banks, insurance carriers, and real estate agencies. Employment in **manufacturing** increased 2,000. Most of the gains occurred in nondurable goods manufacturing (+1,200).

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017				Change From	Change From
	July 2019	June 2019	July 2018	June 2019	July 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1265.1	1279.0	1245.9	-13.9	19.2
Goods Producing	223.1	224.5	218.3	-1.4	4.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	60.4	60.3	57.6	0.1	2.8
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.7	33.9	32.8	-0.2	0.9
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>162.7</b>	<b>164.2</b>	<b>160.7</b>	<b>-1.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Durable Goods	77.3	78.8	76.5	-1.5	0.8
Nondurable Goods	85.4	85.4	84.2	0.0	1.2
Service Providing	1042.0	1054.5	1027.6	-12.5	14.4
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>253.3</b>	<b>253.8</b>	<b>250.9</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Wholesale Trade	48.9	48.3	47.5	0.6	1.4
Retail Trade	139.6	140.8	138.4	-1.2	1.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.8	64.7	65.0	0.1	-0.2
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>63.1</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>61.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Finance & Insurance	48.7	48.0	47.1	0.7	1.6
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	14.4	14.1	13.9	0.3	0.5
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>145.7</b>	<b>146.4</b>	<b>145.0</b>	<b>-0.7</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.6	43.8	43.8	0.8	0.8
Management of Companies	35.7	35.5	34.9	0.2	0.8
Administrative & Support Services	65.4	67.1	66.3	-1.7	-0.9
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>188.8</b>	<b>190.2</b>	<b>187.5</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Educational Services	12.7	13.2	11.7	-0.5	1.0
Health Care & Social Assistance	176.1	177.0	175.8	-0.9	0.3
Ambulatory Health Care	58.8	58.8	58.4	0.0	0.4
Social Assistance	39.2	40.1	39.3	-0.9	-0.1
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>127.2</b>	<b>126.7</b>	<b>120.2</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>7.0</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	13.1	13.2	13.2	-0.1	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	114.1	113.5	107.0	0.6	7.1
Accommodation Services	12.2	12.3	12.0	-0.1	0.2
Food Services	101.9	101.2	95.0	0.7	6.9
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>54.0</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>198.9</b>	<b>210.1</b>	<b>198.0</b>	<b>-11.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>
Federal Government	20.3	20.3	20.1	0.0	0.2
State Government	72.9	74.6	72.8	-1.7	0.1
Local Government	105.7	115.2	105.1	-9.5	0.6

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.