

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 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 decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.8 percent in February to 3.7 percent in March. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 1,610, a result of 2,079 additional employed and 469 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate was stable at 3.8 percent between February and March.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "With the addition of 2,079 more employed Arkansans in March, employment in the State has increased for three consecutive months. The number of employed is up 8,585 compared to March 2018."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	Change From February 2019	Change From March 2018
Civilian Labor Force	1,359,436	1,357,826	1,350,994	1,610	8,442
Employment	1,308,697	1,306,618	1,300,112	2,079	8,585
Unemployment	50,739	51,208	50,882	-469	-143
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.8	3.8	-0.1	-0.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.8	3.8	4.0	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 May 1, 2019.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 5,400 in March to total 1,270,100. Seven major industries added jobs, while three sectors reported employment declines. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 3,100. Typical seasonal gains were reported in both accommodation and food services (+2,500) and arts-entertainment-recreation (+600). Employment in **construction** increased 1,100, due to seasonal hiring. Jobs in **manufacturing** declined 1,000. All losses occurred in durable goods manufacturing, with reported contractions across multiple industries.

Compared to March 2018, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 9,900. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, with four adding 1,300 or more jobs, each. Employment in **manufacturing** increased 3,300, mostly in durable goods manufacturing (+2,800). **Leisure and hospitality** added 2,500 jobs. All gains were in accommodation and food services (+2,700). Employment in **educational and health services** rose 1,800, all in health care and social assistance (+1,900). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 1,300. Expansions occurred in whole trade (+900) and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+700). Jobs in **professional and business services** declined 1,100. All losses were in administrative and support services (-1,700), a subsector comprised largely of employment agencies.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	March 2019	February 2019	March 2018	Change From February 2019	Change From March 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1270.1	1264.7	1260.2	5.4	9.9
Goods Producing	219.4	219.3	215.5	0.1	3.9
Mining, Logging, & Construction	56.0	54.9	55.4	1.1	0.6
Mining & Logging	5.7	5.7	5.9	0.0	-0.2
Construction	50.3	49.2	49.5	1.1	0.8
Specialty Trade Contractors	31.7	30.9	31.1	0.8	0.6
Manufacturing	163.4	164.4	160.1	-1.0	3.3
Durable Goods	78.9	79.9	76.1	-1.0	2.8
Nondurable Goods	84.5	84.5	84.0	0.0	0.5
Service Providing	1050.7	1045.4	1044.7	5.3	6.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	250.9	250.0	249.6	0.9	1.3
Wholesale Trade	48.0	48.2	47.1	-0.2	0.9
Retail Trade	137.9	136.7	138.2	1.2	-0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.0	65.1	64.3	-0.1	0.7
Information	11.1	11.0	11.2	0.1	-0.1
Financial Activities	60.2	60.5	59.7	-0.3	0.5
Finance & Insurance	46.8	47.1	46.4	-0.3	0.4
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.4	13.4	13.3	0.0	0.1
Professional & Business Services	146.2	145.4	147.3	0.8	-1.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.8	45.3	44.2	-0.5	0.6
Management of Companies	35.1	35.1	35.1	0.0	0.0
Administrative & Support Services	66.3	65.0	68.0	1.3	-1.7
Educational & Health Services	193.1	192.8	191.3	0.3	1.8
Educational Services	16.1	15.9	16.2	0.2	-0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	177.0	176.9	175.1	0.1	1.9
Ambulatory Health Care	59.4	59.0	57.5	0.4	1.9
Social Assistance	40.1	40.3	40.2	-0.2	-0.1
Leisure & Hospitality	119.6	116.5	117.1	3.1	2.5
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.6	10.0	10.8	0.6	-0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	109.0	106.5	106.3	2.5	2.7
Accommodation Services	11.1	10.6	11.0	0.5	0.1
Food Services	97.9	95.9	95.3	2.0	2.6
Other Services	53.3	53.4	53.0	-0.1	0.3
Government	216.3	215.8	215.5	0.5	0.8
Federal Government	20.0	20.1	19.9	-0.1	0.1
State Government	79.9	79.5	80.1	0.4	-0.2
Local Government	116.4	116.2	115.5	0.2	0.9

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.