

# News Release



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**Contact Person:** Susan Price

Susan.Price@arkansas.gov

## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remained Stable at 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 Division of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained stable at 3.5 percent between September and October. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 1,626, a result of an additional 937 employed and 689 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.5 percent in September to 3.6 percent in October.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.5 percent in October, as gains in employment and unemployment were small. Despite recent fluctuations in employment, there are currently 12,736 more employed Arkansans compared to October 2018."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Change From September 2019	Change From October 2018
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,363,806	1,362,180	1,352,808	1,626	10,998
<b>Employment</b>	1,316,012	1,315,075	1,303,276	937	12,736
<b>Unemployment</b>	47,794	47,105	49,532	689	-1,738
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.5	3.5	3.7	0.0	-0.2
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6	3.5	3.8	0.1	-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 November 27, 2019.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 5,800 in October to total 1,291,700. Gains were posted in eight major industry sectors, while three sectors slightly declined. **Manufacturing** added 2,100 jobs. Expansions occurred in both nondurable (+1,100) and durable (+1,000) goods manufacturing, due to seasonal hiring at food manufacturing facilities and recalled workers. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 1,800. Most of the gains were in professional-scientific-technical services (+1,000), related in part to hiring for the upcoming tax season. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 1,400. Hiring was reported in all three subsectors, due to preparation for the holiday shopping season.

Since October 2018, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are up 18,500. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, with five adding 2,000 or more jobs, each. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** increased 4,600. A majority of the gains occurred in food services (+4,300). Jobs in **construction** rose 3,800, related to continuing projects. **Manufacturing** added 3,700 jobs, largely in nondurable goods manufacturing (+2,500). Jobs in **financial activities** are up 2,000. Most of the growth was reported in finance and insurance (+1,700). **Educational and health services** increased 2,000, related to expansions in health care and social assistance (+1,900).

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted  
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	October 2019	September 2019	October 2018	Change From September 2019	Change From October 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1291.7	1285.9	1273.2	5.8	18.5
Goods Producing	225.4	223.2	218.3	2.2	7.1
Mining, Logging, & Construction	61.2	61.1	57.8	0.1	3.4
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.4</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>55.5</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>51.7</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.8	33.9	32.9	0.9	1.9
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>164.2</b>	<b>162.1</b>	<b>160.5</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>
Durable Goods	77.7	76.7	76.5	1.0	1.2
Nondurable Goods	86.5	85.4	84.0	1.1	2.5
Service Providing	1066.3	1062.7	1054.9	3.6	11.4
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>253.9</b>	<b>252.5</b>	<b>252.0</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Wholesale Trade	48.9	48.6	47.8	0.3	1.1
Retail Trade	139.0	138.2	138.5	0.8	0.5
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	66.0	65.7	65.7	0.3	0.3
<b>Information</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>62.8</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>60.8</b>	<b>-0.5</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Finance & Insurance	48.9	49.3	47.2	-0.4	1.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.9	14.0	13.6	-0.1	0.3
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>148.8</b>	<b>147.0</b>	<b>148.0</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.2	43.2	44.0	1.0	0.2
Management of Companies	36.6	36.2	34.9	0.4	1.7
Administrative & Support Services	68.0	67.6	69.1	0.4	-1.1
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>196.3</b>	<b>195.6</b>	<b>194.3</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Educational Services	16.3	15.9	16.2	0.4	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	180.0	179.7	178.1	0.3	1.9
Ambulatory Health Care	59.5	59.3	59.0	0.2	0.5
Social Assistance	41.7	41.6	40.4	0.1	1.3
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>123.8</b>	<b>124.7</b>	<b>119.2</b>	<b>-0.9</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10.9	11.3	10.7	-0.4	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	112.9	113.4	108.5	-0.5	4.4
Accommodation Services	11.5	11.6	11.4	-0.1	0.1
Food Services	101.4	101.8	97.1	-0.4	4.3
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>216.6</b>	<b>215.8</b>	<b>216.1</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.5</b>
Federal Government	20.5	20.6	20.1	-0.1	0.4
State Government	80.0	79.3	79.7	0.7	0.3
Local Government	116.1	115.9	116.3	0.2	-0.2

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.