

News Release



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Contact Person: Cara Benton-Kozon

Cara.Benton@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 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 rose one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.4 percent in August to 3.5 percent in September. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 319, a result of 552 fewer employed and 233 additional unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined to 3.5 percent in September, down from 3.7 percent in August.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Although Arkansas' unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point in September, the civilian labor force remained statistically stable. Compared to September 2018, Arkansas' labor force has grown by 10,487."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	September 2019	August 2019	September 2018	Change From August 2019	Change From September 2018
Civilian Labor Force	1,362,193	1,362,512	1,351,706	-319	10,487
Employment	1,315,091	1,315,643	1,302,425	-552	12,666
Unemployment	47,102	46,869	49,281	233	-2,179
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.4	3.6	0.1	-0.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.7	3.7	-0.2	-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 October 30, 2019.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 16,600 in September to total 1,286,200. Four major industry sectors posted gains, more than offsetting declines in five sectors. **Government** added 13,000 jobs, mostly due to the return of teachers and staff at public schools and universities. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 4,100. A majority of the expansion occurred in educational services (+2,800), related to staffing at private schools. Employment in **professional and business services** increased 2,200. All hiring was reported in administrative and support services (+2,400), a subsector which includes employment agencies. **Construction** added 1,200 jobs, as work continues on several major projects. **Manufacturing** posted the largest decline, down 1,400 jobs. Most of the losses were reported in durable goods (-1,200), related to reductions in fabricated metal product manufacturing and in machinery manufacturing.

Compared to September 2018, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 15,900. Growth occurred in seven major industry sectors, while three sectors posted minor declines. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 4,700, mostly in food services (+4,500). **Construction** added 3,500, related to on-going projects. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 2,900. A majority of the gains were in social assistance (+2,000), which includes activities such as day care services and vocational rehabilitation. Jobs in **financial activities** rose 2,500, largely in finance and insurance (+2,100). Notable expansions were also reported in **government** (+1,600), **manufacturing** (+1,300), and **trade-transportation-utilities** (+1,200).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	September 2019	August 2019	September 2018	Change From August 2019	Change From September 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1286.2	1269.6	1270.3	16.6	15.9
Goods Producing	223.6	223.8	219.0	-0.2	4.6
Mining, Logging, & Construction	61.2	60.0	57.9	1.2	3.3
Mining & Logging	5.8	5.8	6.0	0.0	-0.2
Construction	55.4	54.2	51.9	1.2	3.5
Specialty Trade Contractors	34.0	33.3	32.8	0.7	1.2
Manufacturing	162.4	163.8	161.1	-1.4	1.3
Durable Goods	77.1	78.3	76.6	-1.2	0.5
Nondurable Goods	85.3	85.5	84.5	-0.2	0.8
Service Providing	1062.6	1045.8	1051.3	16.8	11.3
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	252.3	253.1	251.1	-0.8	1.2
Wholesale Trade	48.4	49.2	47.3	-0.8	1.1
Retail Trade	138.3	138.8	137.9	-0.5	0.4
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.6	65.1	65.9	0.5	-0.3
Information	11.0	11.0	11.0	0.0	0.0
Financial Activities	63.3	63.6	60.8	-0.3	2.5
Finance & Insurance	49.3	49.1	47.2	0.2	2.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	14.0	14.5	13.6	-0.5	0.4
Professional & Business Services	146.9	144.7	147.7	2.2	-0.8
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.2	43.3	43.5	-0.1	-0.3
Management of Companies	36.2	36.3	34.7	-0.1	1.5
Administrative & Support Services	67.5	65.1	69.5	2.4	-2.0
Educational & Health Services	195.6	191.5	192.7	4.1	2.9
Educational Services	15.9	13.1	15.8	2.8	0.1
Health Care & Social Assistance	179.7	178.4	176.9	1.3	2.8
Ambulatory Health Care	59.0	59.1	58.7	-0.1	0.3
Social Assistance	41.8	41.0	39.8	0.8	2.0
Leisure & Hospitality	124.6	125.4	119.9	-0.8	4.7
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.3	12.6	11.1	-1.3	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	113.3	112.8	108.8	0.5	4.5
Accommodation Services	11.6	11.8	11.6	-0.2	0.0
Food Services	101.7	101.0	97.2	0.7	4.5
Other Services	53.1	53.7	53.9	-0.6	-0.8
Government	215.8	202.8	214.2	13.0	1.6
Federal Government	20.6	20.5	20.1	0.1	0.5
State Government	79.3	74.7	79.1	4.6	0.2
Local Government	115.9	107.6	115.0	8.3	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.