

# News Release



**For Immediate Release:** May 18, 2018  
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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 3.8 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 at 3.8 percent between March and April. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 1,093, a result of 1,398 fewer employed and 305 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.1 percent in March to 3.9 percent in April.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Despite the small decline in the size of the civilian labor force, Arkansas' unemployment rate remained unchanged in April. This marks the third consecutive month that the State's jobless rate has been at 3.8 percent."

**ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY**  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	April 2018	March 2018	April 2017	Change From March 2018	Change From April 2017
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,351,983	1,353,076	1,352,265	-1,093	-282
<b>Employment</b>	1,300,327	1,301,725	1,303,273	-1,398	-2,946
<b>Unemployment</b>	51,656	51,351	48,992	305	2,664
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.8	3.8	3.6	0.0	0.2
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	3.9	4.1	4.4	-0.2	-0.5

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 30, 2018.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 6,900 in April to total 1,250,400. Employment increased in seven major industry sectors. Three sectors remained stable, while one declined slightly. **Professional and business services** added 3,400 jobs. Most of the growth occurred in administrative and support services (+2,900), a subsector which includes employment agencies, landscaping services, and travel agencies. Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 1,000. Growth was posted in both nondurable (+600) and durable (+400) goods manufacturing. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 1,000. Gains in retail (+700) and wholesale (+600) trade were attributed mostly to seasonal hiring.

Compared to April 2017, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas is up 6,100. Five major industry sectors posted growth, while six sectors reported minor losses. The largest increase occurred in **professional and business services** (+4,100). Gains in administrative and support services (+4,900) more than offset the decline in management of companies (-800). **Manufacturing** added 3,100 jobs. Expansions were reported in various activities, including food manufacturing and machinery manufacturing. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 1,300. Transportation, warehousing, and utilities posted the greatest increase, up 1,000. **Information** declined 1,000, due in part to reported losses in activities such as telecommunications and data processing.

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	April 2018	March 2018	April 2017	Change From March 2018	Change From April 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1250.4	1243.5	1244.3	6.9	6.1
Goods Producing	214.9	213.3	212.9	1.6	2.0
Mining, Logging, & Construction	55.8	55.2	56.9	0.6	-1.1
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>50.3</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>-0.8</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	30.5	30.0	31.8	0.5	-1.3
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>159.1</b>	<b>158.1</b>	<b>156.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>3.1</b>
Durable Goods	75.8	75.4	74.6	0.4	1.2
Nondurable Goods	83.3	82.7	81.4	0.6	1.9
Service Providing	1035.5	1030.2	1031.4	5.3	4.1
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>250.4</b>	<b>249.4</b>	<b>249.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Wholesale Trade	46.7	46.1	46.7	0.6	0.0
Retail Trade	140.4	139.7	140.1	0.7	0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	63.3	63.6	62.3	-0.3	1.0
<b>Information</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>53.4</b>	<b>53.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>
Finance & Insurance	39.9	40.2	39.6	-0.3	0.3
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.5	13.2	13.4	0.3	0.1
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>149.5</b>	<b>146.1</b>	<b>145.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.6	43.1	43.6	0.5	0.0
Management of Companies	34.8	34.8	35.6	0.0	-0.8
Administrative & Support Services	71.1	68.2	66.2	2.9	4.9
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>188.4</b>	<b>189.0</b>	<b>188.5</b>	<b>-0.6</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
Educational Services	15.6	15.5	16.0	0.1	-0.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.8	173.5	172.5	-0.7	0.3
Ambulatory Health Care	56.9	56.9	56.1	0.0	0.8
Social Assistance	39.8	40.1	40.1	-0.3	-0.3
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>117.5</b>	<b>116.7</b>	<b>118.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.9	10.8	11.4	1.1	0.5
Accommodation & Food Services	105.6	105.9	106.8	-0.3	-1.2
Accommodation Services	11.5	11.2	11.5	0.3	0.0
Food Services	94.1	94.7	95.3	-0.6	-1.2
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>48.4</b>	<b>47.9</b>	<b>48.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>215.6</b>	<b>215.4</b>	<b>215.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.3</b>
Federal Government	19.5	19.5	19.9	0.0	-0.4
State Government	80.3	80.1	80.5	0.2	-0.2
Local Government	115.8	115.8	114.9	0.0	0.9

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2017 benchmark.

Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.