

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 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 was unchanged at 3.4 percent between July and August. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 873, a result of 832 fewer employed and 41 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate was also stable between July and August, remaining at 3.7 percent.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Mirroring the trend seen at the national level, Arkansas' unemployment rate remained stable in August. At 3.4 percent, the State maintains its lowest unemployment rate on record."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2019	July 2019	August 2018	Change From July 2019	Change From August 2018
Civilian Labor Force	1,362,514	1,363,387	1,350,487	-873	12,027
Employment	1,315,649	1,316,481	1,301,386	-832	14,263
Unemployment	46,865	46,906	49,101	-41	-2,236
Unemployment Rate	3.4	3.4	3.6	0.0	-0.2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.7	3.8	0.0	-0.1

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 2, 2019.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 3,000 in August to total 1,269,700. Gains were reported in four major industry sectors, more than offsetting declines in six sectors. The largest increase occurred in **government** (+4,000), as public schools and universities began the 2019-2020 school year. **Educational and health services** added 2,500 jobs. Much of the expansion was in social assistance (+1,400), which includes education-related activities such as child and youth services, vocational rehabilitation, and day care centers. Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 1,300, with the largest gains in durable goods manufacturing (+800). The greatest decrease occurred in **leisure and hospitality** (-1,900). The biggest loss was in food services (-1,000), due to reported contractions at limited service restaurants and snack bars. Notable declines were also posted in **trade-transportation-utilities** (-1,800) and in **professional and business services** (-1,100).

Compared to August 2018, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs are up 14,800. Seven major industry sectors added jobs, all increasing by 1,400 or more jobs, each. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 3,400. All growth was in food services (+3,600). Jobs in **manufacturing** expanded 3,300, with reported hiring in both durable (+1,900) and nondurable (+1,400) goods manufacturing. Employment in **construction** is up 2,700, as large projects continue. **Financial activities** rose 2,200. A majority of the gains were reported in finance and insurance (+1,700). **Educational and health services** added 1,900 jobs, mostly in health care and social assistance (+1,700). Sizable growth also occurred in **government** (+1,500) and **trade-transportation-utilities** (+1,400). **Professional and business services** posted the largest decline (-1,200). Most of the loss was reported in administrative and support services (-2,000), a subsector which includes employment agencies.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	August 2019	July 2019	August 2018	Change From July 2019	Change From August 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1269.7	1266.7	1254.9	3.0	14.8
Goods Producing	224.2	223.2	218.4	1.0	5.8
Mining, Logging, & Construction	60.1	60.4	57.6	-0.3	2.5
Mining & Logging	5.8	5.9	6.0	-0.1	-0.2
Construction	54.3	54.5	51.6	-0.2	2.7
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.4	33.7	32.8	-0.3	0.6
Manufacturing	164.1	162.8	160.8	1.3	3.3
Durable Goods	78.4	77.6	76.5	0.8	1.9
Nondurable Goods	85.7	85.2	84.3	0.5	1.4
Service Providing	1045.5	1043.5	1036.5	2.0	9.0
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	253.0	254.8	251.6	-1.8	1.4
Wholesale Trade	49.1	49.4	47.4	-0.3	1.7
Retail Trade	138.7	140.3	138.8	-1.6	-0.1
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65.2	65.1	65.4	0.1	-0.2
Information	11.0	11.0	11.1	0.0	-0.1
Financial Activities	63.4	62.9	61.2	0.5	2.2
Finance & Insurance	49.0	48.6	47.3	0.4	1.7
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	14.4	14.3	13.9	0.1	0.5
Professional & Business Services	144.5	145.6	145.7	-1.1	-1.2
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.2	44.5	44.0	-1.3	-0.8
Management of Companies	36.3	35.9	34.7	0.4	1.6
Administrative & Support Services	65.0	65.2	67.0	-0.2	-2.0
Educational & Health Services	191.5	189.0	189.6	2.5	1.9
Educational Services	12.8	12.6	12.6	0.2	0.2
Health Care & Social Assistance	178.7	176.4	177.0	2.3	1.7
Ambulatory Health Care	59.3	59.1	58.6	0.2	0.7
Social Assistance	40.6	39.2	39.9	1.4	0.7
Leisure & Hospitality	125.5	127.4	122.1	-1.9	3.4
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.6	13.1	12.7	-0.5	-0.1
Accommodation & Food Services	112.9	114.3	109.4	-1.4	3.5
Accommodation Services	11.8	12.2	11.9	-0.4	-0.1
Food Services	101.1	102.1	97.5	-1.0	3.6
Other Services	53.7	53.9	53.8	-0.2	-0.1
Government	202.9	198.9	201.4	4.0	1.5
Federal Government	20.5	20.3	20.1	0.2	0.4
State Government	74.7	72.9	74.3	1.8	0.4
Local Government	107.7	105.7	107.0	2.0	0.7

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.