

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 3.6 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 stable at 3.6 percent between April and May. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 1,410, a result of 2,543 more employed and 1,133 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate was also unchanged at 3.6 percent in May.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Nonfarm payroll jobs rose 3,900 in May to hit a new record high. Two major industry sectors-- Leisure and Hospitality and Other Services-- reached record high levels. Compared to May 2018, nonfarm payroll jobs are up 14,300."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	May 2019	April 2019	May 2018	Change From April 2019	Change From May 2018
Civilian Labor Force	1,361,929	1,360,519	1,350,032	1,410	11,897
Employment	1,313,429	1,310,886	1,300,064	2,543	13,365
Unemployment	48,500	49,633	49,968	-1,133	-1,468
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.6	3.7	0.0	-0.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.6	3.8	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 July 3, 2019.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 3,900 in May to total 1,283,400. Five major industry sectors added jobs, with **leisure and hospitality** and **other services** setting new record high job totals. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 2,900. Most of the gains were in retail trade (+2,400), a result of seasonal hiring. **Leisure and hospitality** added 1,200 jobs. Growth was posted in all three subsectors, a typical seasonal expansion. **Other services** set record high employment, with 600 new jobs over the month.

Compared to May 2018, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 14,300. Nine major industry sectors posted gains, with six adding 1,400 or more jobs, each. Employment in **trade-transportation-utilities** is up 3,300, with hiring across all three subsectors. Jobs in **manufacturing** increased 3,100. Expansions occurred in both durable (+1,800) and nondurable (+1,300) goods manufacturing. **Construction** added 2,400 jobs, due to multiple large-scale projects. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 2,100, with all hiring in food services (+2,500). **Educational and health services** increased 1,400. Gains in health care and social assistance (+2,000) were offset by a small decline in educational services (-600). **Government** added 1,400 jobs, with small additions posted across all levels of government.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted
(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	May 2019	April 2019	May 2018	Change From April 2019	Change From May 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1283.4	1279.5	1269.1	3.9	14.3
Goods Producing	221.7	221.9	216.5	-0.2	5.2
Mining, Logging, & Construction	58.9	58.4	56.8	0.5	2.1
Mining & Logging	5.7	5.7	6.0	0.0	-0.3
Construction	53.2	52.7	50.8	0.5	2.4
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.5	33.2	32.1	0.3	1.4
Manufacturing	162.8	163.5	159.7	-0.7	3.1
Durable Goods	77.8	78.6	76.0	-0.8	1.8
Nondurable Goods	85.0	84.9	83.7	0.1	1.3
Service Providing	1061.7	1057.6	1052.6	4.1	9.1
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	254.5	251.6	251.2	2.9	3.3
Wholesale Trade	49.0	48.7	47.2	0.3	1.8
Retail Trade	140.6	138.2	139.4	2.4	1.2
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.9	64.7	64.6	0.2	0.3
Information	10.9	10.9	11.2	0.0	-0.3
Financial Activities	60.6	60.6	60.4	0.0	0.2
Finance & Insurance	46.8	46.9	46.7	-0.1	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.8	13.7	13.7	0.1	0.1
Professional & Business Services	148.2	148.4	148.1	-0.2	0.1
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.2	45.3	43.6	-1.1	0.6
Management of Companies	35.0	34.8	34.6	0.2	0.4
Administrative & Support Services	69.0	68.3	69.9	0.7	-0.9
Educational & Health Services	193.4	193.1	192.0	0.3	1.4
Educational Services	15.5	15.9	16.1	-0.4	-0.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	177.9	177.2	175.9	0.7	2.0
Ambulatory Health Care	58.9	59.1	58.1	-0.2	0.8
Social Assistance	40.8	40.4	40.1	0.4	0.7
Leisure & Hospitality	123.2	122.0	121.1	1.2	2.1
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.1	11.5	12.5	0.6	-0.4
Accommodation & Food Services	111.1	110.5	108.6	0.6	2.5
Accommodation Services	11.5	11.4	11.5	0.1	0.0
Food Services	99.6	99.1	97.1	0.5	2.5
Other Services	54.4	53.8	53.5	0.6	0.9
Government	216.5	217.2	215.1	-0.7	1.4
Federal Government	20.1	20.2	19.9	-0.1	0.2
State Government	79.2	80.4	78.7	-1.2	0.5
Local Government	117.2	116.6	116.5	0.6	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.