

# News Release



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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines 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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.6 percent in May to 3.5 percent in June. Arkansas' civilian labor increased 741, a result of 1,949 additional employed and 1,208 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate increased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.6 percent in May to 3.7 percent in June.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate declined to 3.5 percent in June, setting a new record low. The addition of 1,949 employed Arkansans also set a new record, with employment reaching record high levels for the last five consecutive months."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	June 2019	May 2019	June 2018	Change From May 2019	Change From June 2018
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,362,631	1,361,890	1,349,597	741	13,034
<b>Employment</b>	1,315,337	1,313,388	1,300,124	1,949	15,213
<b>Unemployment</b>	47,294	48,502	49,473	-1,208	-2,179
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.5	3.6	3.7	-0.1	-0.2
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	3.7	3.6	4.0	0.1	-0.3

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online August 1, 2019.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased 5,100 in June to total 1,278,000. Declines were posted in five major industry sectors, more than offsetting gains in six sectors. Employment in **government** dropped 6,200. Losses in state (-4,600) and local (-2,000) government were related to summer break at public schools and universities. Jobs in **educational and health services** decreased 2,600, attributed to seasonal closures in educational services (-2,100). **Professional and business services** declined 1,900. Most of the loss was in administrative and support services (-2,000), a subsector which includes employment agencies. The largest increase occurred in **leisure and hospitality** (+3,300), an expected seasonal expansion.

Compared to June 2018, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 19,300. Employment in nine major industry sectors increased, with four adding 2,400 or more jobs, each. **Leisure and hospitality** gained 5,500 jobs, all in accommodation and food services (+5,800). Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 3,800. Expansions were posted in both durable (+2,300) and nondurable (+1,500) goods manufacturing. **Construction** added 2,900 jobs, related in part to on-going large projects around the state. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 2,400. All gains were in retail (+2,000) and wholesale (+900) trade. Notable additions were also posted in **educational and health services** (+1,900), **professional and business services** (+1,800), and **financial activities** (+1,000).

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	June 2019	May 2019	June 2018	Change From May 2019	Change From June 2018
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1278.0	1283.1	1258.7	-5.1	19.3
Goods Producing	224.4	221.7	218.0	2.7	6.4
Mining, Logging, & Construction	60.3	58.9	57.7	1.4	2.6
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>-0.3</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>54.5</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>51.6</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	33.8	33.5	32.6	0.3	1.2
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>164.1</b>	<b>162.8</b>	<b>160.3</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>3.8</b>
Durable Goods	78.6	77.8	76.3	0.8	2.3
Nondurable Goods	85.5	85.0	84.0	0.5	1.5
Service Providing	1053.6	1061.4	1040.7	-7.8	12.9
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>252.9</b>	<b>254.3</b>	<b>250.5</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>2.4</b>
Wholesale Trade	48.2	48.7	47.3	-0.5	0.9
Retail Trade	140.3	140.7	138.3	-0.4	2.0
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	64.4	64.9	64.9	-0.5	-0.5
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>10.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>-0.1</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>61.7</b>	<b>60.6</b>	<b>60.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Finance & Insurance	47.7	46.8	46.8	0.9	0.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	14.0	13.8	13.9	0.2	0.1
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>146.3</b>	<b>148.2</b>	<b>144.5</b>	<b>-1.9</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	43.9	44.3	43.4	-0.4	0.5
Management of Companies	35.5	35.0	34.9	0.5	0.6
Administrative & Support Services	66.9	68.9	66.2	-2.0	0.7
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>190.7</b>	<b>193.3</b>	<b>188.8</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Educational Services	13.3	15.4	13.0	-2.1	0.3
Health Care & Social Assistance	177.4	177.9	175.8	-0.5	1.6
Ambulatory Health Care	58.8	59.0	58.2	-0.2	0.6
Social Assistance	39.9	40.8	39.7	-0.9	0.2
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>126.5</b>	<b>123.2</b>	<b>121.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	13.2	12.1	13.5	1.1	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	113.3	111.1	107.5	2.2	5.8
Accommodation Services	12.3	11.5	12.1	0.8	0.2
Food Services	101.0	99.6	95.4	1.4	5.6
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>54.1</b>	<b>54.4</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>210.3</b>	<b>216.5</b>	<b>210.1</b>	<b>-6.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Federal Government	20.5	20.1	20.2	0.4	0.3
State Government	74.6	79.2	74.5	-4.6	0.1
Local Government	115.2	117.2	115.4	-2.0	-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.