

News Release



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Contact Person: Susan Price
Susan.Price@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declined to 3.7 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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 3.8 percent in June to 3.7 percent in July. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 857, a result of 1,309 fewer unemployed and 452 more employed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined from 4.0 percent in June to 3.9 percent in July.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate declined to 3.7 percent in July, pushed down by the decrease in the number of unemployed. The drop in the unemployment rate this month mirrors the trend seen at the national level."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Change From June 2018	Change From July 2017
Civilian Labor Force	1,348,409	1,349,266	1,356,874	-857	-8,465
Employment	1,298,862	1,298,410	1,306,789	452	-7,927
Unemployment	49,547	50,856	50,085	-1,309	-538
Unemployment Rate	3.7	3.8	3.7	-0.1	0.0
U.S. Unemployment Rate	3.9	4.0	4.3	-0.1	-0.4

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 29, 2018.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas dropped 13,000 in July to total 1,237,900. Employment in seven major industry sectors decreased, while three sectors added jobs. The largest loss occurred in **government** (-12,100). All declines were in local (-10,500) and state (-1,600) government, as public schools began summer break. Jobs in **educational and health services** were down 1,800. Losses were posted in both health care-social assistance (-1,200) and educational services (-600). **Construction** added 1,200 jobs, an expected seasonal expansion. Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 1,200. Gains in nondurable goods (+1,500) more than offset the small declines in durable goods (-300).

Compared to July 2017, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 14,700. Six major industry sectors posted growth, as four sectors reported minor losses. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 8,300. All gains were in administrative and support services, a subsector which includes employment agencies, office administration services, and telephone call centers. **Manufacturing** added 3,800 jobs, mostly in nondurable goods (+2,900). Employment in **construction** increased 2,000. Expansions are attributed in part to highway and road construction projects across the State. **Educational and health services** added 1,200 jobs. The growth in educational services (+1,600) was offset by minor losses in health care and social assistance (-400).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2017	July 2018	June 2018	July 2017	Change From	
				June 2018	July 2017
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1237.9	1250.9	1223.2	-13.0	14.7
Goods Producing	220.7	218.3	215.4	2.4	5.3
Mining, Logging, & Construction	59.4	58.2	57.9	1.2	1.5
Mining & Logging	5.5	5.5	6.0	0.0	-0.5
Construction	53.9	52.7	51.9	1.2	2.0
Specialty Trade Contractors	32.9	32.2	32.2	0.7	0.7
Manufacturing	161.3	160.1	157.5	1.2	3.8
Durable Goods	75.8	76.1	74.9	-0.3	0.9
Nondurable Goods	85.5	84.0	82.6	1.5	2.9
Service Providing	1017.2	1032.6	1007.8	-15.4	9.4
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	250.1	250.3	250.4	-0.2	-0.3
Wholesale Trade	46.8	46.7	47.1	0.1	-0.3
Retail Trade	139.6	139.7	139.9	-0.1	-0.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	63.7	63.9	63.4	-0.2	0.3
Information	12.3	12.5	13.2	-0.2	-0.9
Financial Activities	53.8	54.1	53.5	-0.3	0.3
Finance & Insurance	39.9	40.3	39.8	-0.4	0.1
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.9	13.8	13.7	0.1	0.2
Professional & Business Services	149.6	149.0	141.3	0.6	8.3
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	42.3	43.0	42.3	-0.7	0.0
Management of Companies	34.9	35.1	34.9	-0.2	0.0
Administrative & Support Services	72.4	70.9	64.1	1.5	8.3
Educational & Health Services	185.4	187.2	184.2	-1.8	1.2
Educational Services	13.0	13.6	11.4	-0.6	1.6
Health Care & Social Assistance	172.4	173.6	172.8	-1.2	-0.4
Ambulatory Health Care	57.7	58.1	56.8	-0.4	0.9
Social Assistance	38.1	38.7	38.9	-0.6	-0.8
Leisure & Hospitality	119.4	120.2	118.5	-0.8	0.9
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	12.5	12.8	12.8	-0.3	-0.3
Accommodation & Food Services	106.9	107.4	105.7	-0.5	1.2
Accommodation Services	11.9	12.1	12.2	-0.2	-0.3
Food Services	95.0	95.3	93.5	-0.3	1.5
Other Services	49.1	49.7	49.1	-0.6	0.0
Government	197.5	209.6	197.6	-12.1	-0.1
Federal Government	19.9	19.9	20.0	0.0	-0.1
State Government	72.8	74.4	73.0	-1.6	-0.2
Local Government	104.8	115.3	104.6	-10.5	0.2

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.