

News Release



For Immediate Release: August 21, 2015
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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Decreases to 5.6 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 decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 5.7 percent in June to 5.6 percent in July. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 300, a result of 1,300 fewer unemployed and 1,000 more employed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 5.3 percent in July.

ADWS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' civilian labor force declined slightly in July, with the drop in the number of unemployed more than offsetting a small gain in employment. There are still 40,300 more Arkansans in the labor force than in July 2014."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

| | July 2015 | June 2015 | July 2014 | Change From June 2015 | Change From July 2014 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,337,000 | 1,337,300 | 1,296,700 | -300 | 40,300 |
| Employment | 1,262,500 | 1,261,500 | 1,218,900 | 1,000 | 43,600 |
| Unemployment | 74,500 | 75,800 | 77,800 | -1,300 | -3,300 |
| Unemployment Rate | 5.6 | 5.7 | 6.0 | -0.1 | -0.4 |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate | 5.3 | 5.3 | 6.2 | 0.0 | -0.9 |

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

Notes: Unemployment rates were computed from unrounded data.

Data for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and minorities and youth will be available online September 1, 2015.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs decreased 14,400 in July to total 1,201,700. Seven major industry sectors declined, while three sectors posted gains. Jobs in **government** fell 12,300, with both local (-10,900) and state (-1,600) government affected by summer break at public schools. **Leisure and hospitality** dropped 2,100. Most of the loss was in food services (-1,700), related in part to the temporary summer closure of educational facilities. **Construction** added 1,500 jobs, related to both new and on-going projects. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 1,300. Gains were mostly in administrative and support services (+1,600), which includes some seasonal activities such as landscaping and travel arrangement.

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Compared to July 2014, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas rose 29,200. Six major industry sectors experienced growth, with minor declines reported in four sectors. **Professional and business services** added 9,700 jobs. Most of the increase was in administrative and support services (+7,900), due in large part to reported gains in employment services. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 6,000. Health care and social assistance posted a majority of the growth (+4,900). **Construction** added 5,900 jobs, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+4,100). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 3,800. Additions were posted across all subsectors.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012 | July 2015 | June 2015 | July 2014 | Change From June 2015 | Change From July 2014 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1,201,700 | 1,216,100 | 1,172,500 | -14,400 | 29,200 |
| Goods Producing | 215,300 | 214,000 | 210,700 | 1,300 | 4,600 |
| Mining & Logging | 8,500 | 8,500 | 8,900 | 0 | -400 |
| Construction | 52,700 | 51,200 | 46,800 | 1,500 | 5,900 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 33,800 | 32,800 | 29,700 | 1,000 | 4,100 |
| Manufacturing | 154,100 | 154,300 | 155,000 | -200 | -900 |
| Durable Goods | 75,800 | 75,900 | 76,800 | -100 | -1,000 |
| Nondurable Goods | 78,300 | 78,400 | 78,200 | -100 | 100 |
| Service Providing | 986,400 | 1,002,100 | 961,800 | -15,700 | 24,600 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 248,400 | 249,300 | 244,600 | -900 | 3,800 |
| Wholesale Trade | 48,600 | 49,100 | 47,000 | -500 | 1,600 |
| Retail Trade | 137,200 | 137,100 | 135,700 | 100 | 1,500 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 62,600 | 63,100 | 61,900 | -500 | 700 |
| Information | 13,800 | 14,000 | 13,800 | -200 | 0 |
| Financial Activities | 51,700 | 51,500 | 50,000 | 200 | 1,700 |
| Finance & Insurance | 38,400 | 38,300 | 36,800 | 100 | 1,600 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 13,300 | 13,200 | 13,200 | 100 | 100 |
| Professional & Business Services | 140,400 | 139,100 | 130,700 | 1,300 | 9,700 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 40,200 | 40,600 | 39,900 | -400 | 300 |
| Management of Companies | 33,900 | 33,800 | 32,400 | 100 | 1,500 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 66,300 | 64,700 | 58,400 | 1,600 | 7,900 |
| Educational & Health Services | 174,600 | 175,600 | 168,600 | -1,000 | 6,000 |
| Educational Services | 12,000 | 12,500 | 10,900 | -500 | 1,100 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 162,600 | 163,100 | 157,700 | -500 | 4,900 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 51,300 | 50,800 | 49,400 | 500 | 1,900 |
| Social Assistance | 37,400 | 38,500 | 36,000 | -1,100 | 1,400 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 114,900 | 117,000 | 110,600 | -2,100 | 4,300 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 12,900 | 13,200 | 12,200 | -300 | 700 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 102,000 | 103,800 | 98,400 | -1,800 | 3,600 |
| Accommodation Services | 11,700 | 11,800 | 12,200 | -100 | -500 |
| Food Services | 90,300 | 92,000 | 86,200 | -1,700 | 4,100 |
| Other Services | 43,600 | 44,300 | 44,400 | -700 | -800 |
| Government | 199,000 | 211,300 | 199,100 | -12,300 | -100 |
| Federal Government | 20,400 | 20,200 | 20,200 | 200 | 200 |
| State Government | 72,900 | 74,500 | 72,300 | -1,600 | 600 |
| Local Government | 105,700 | 116,600 | 106,600 | -10,900 | -900 |

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2014 benchmark.

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