

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 6.3 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 Department of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point from 6.2 percent in July to 6.3 percent in August. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 2,100, a result of 2,800 fewer employed and 700 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 6.1 percent in August.

DWS Communications Director Becky Heflin said, "The drop in employment triggered the rise in the unemployment rate in August. This is the first time that the state's unemployment rate increased in 2014."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2014	July 2014	August 2013	Change From July 2014	Change From August 2013
Civilian Labor Force	1,296,200	1,298,300	1,324,800	-2,100	-28,600
Employment	1,214,400	1,217,200	1,222,800	-2,800	-8,400
Unemployment	81,800	81,100	102,000	700	-20,200
Unemployment Rate	6.3	6.2	7.7	0.1	-1.4
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.2	7.2	-0.1	-1.1

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 November 1, 2014.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 2,600 in August to total 1,182,700. Three major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting minor declines in seven sectors. Employment in **government** increased 2,800. Gains in state (+1,500) and local (+1,400) government were related to the start of the 2014-2015 school year. **Educational and health services** added 1,300 jobs. A majority of the expansion occurred in health care and social assistance (+1,100). Employment in **construction** rose 1,300. Hiring was reported in construction of buildings and in heavy/civil engineering.

Since August 2013, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 15,400. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, with five sectors adding 2,300 or more jobs, each. Three sectors declined slightly. Jobs in **construction** increased 3,600, related in part to ongoing heavy and civil engineering projects. **Leisure and hospitality** added 3,200 jobs. Most of the gains were in food services (+2,900), largely reported in limited service restaurants. Employment in **manufacturing** rose 3,200. Growth in durable goods manufacturing (+3,300) offset minor losses in nondurable goods manufacturing. **Educational and health services** added 3,100 jobs. A majority of the increase was in health care and social assistance (+2,800). Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 2,300. Administrative and support services, which includes employment services, posted most of the growth (+2,700).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	August 2014	July 2014	August 2013	Change From July 2014	Change From August 2013
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,182,700	1,180,100	1,167,300	2,600	15,400
Goods Producing	215,600	214,800	208,600	800	7,000
Mining & Logging	10,000	10,100	9,800	-100	200
Construction	49,900	48,600	46,300	1,300	3,600
Specialty Trade Contractors	30,600	30,200	29,200	400	1,400
Manufacturing	155,700	156,100	152,500	-400	3,200
Durable Goods	78,800	78,700	75,500	100	3,300
Nondurable Goods	76,900	77,400	77,000	-500	-100
Service Providing	967,100	965,300	958,700	1,800	8,400
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	242,200	243,000	242,100	-800	100
Wholesale Trade	48,500	47,800	47,100	700	1,400
Retail Trade	132,300	133,700	133,600	-1,400	-1,300
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	61,400	61,500	61,400	-100	0
Information	13,600	13,800	14,200	-200	-600
Financial Activities	49,400	50,000	49,800	-600	-400
Finance & Insurance	36,000	36,500	36,400	-500	-400
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,400	13,500	13,400	-100	0
Professional & Business Services	129,500	129,500	127,200	0	2,300
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	38,600	39,100	39,600	-500	-1,000
Management of Companies	31,800	31,700	31,200	100	600
Administrative & Support Services	59,100	58,700	56,400	400	2,700
Educational & Health Services	173,500	172,200	170,400	1,300	3,100
Educational Services	12,400	12,200	12,100	200	300
Health Care & Social Assistance	161,100	160,000	158,300	1,100	2,800
Ambulatory Health Care	49,200	48,600	48,800	600	400
Social Assistance	38,900	38,300	36,200	600	2,700
Leisure & Hospitality	111,700	112,200	108,500	-500	3,200
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11,500	11,800	11,400	-300	100
Accommodation & Food Services	100,200	100,400	97,100	-200	3,100
Accommodation Services	11,900	12,300	11,700	-400	200
Food Services	88,300	88,100	85,400	200	2,900
Other Services	44,200	44,400	43,200	-200	1,000
Government	203,000	200,200	203,300	2,800	-300
Federal Government	20,000	20,100	20,400	-100	-400
State Government	73,800	72,300	73,200	1,500	600
Local Government	109,200	107,800	109,700	1,400	-500

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2013 benchmark.

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