

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 7.3 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 increased one-tenth of a percentage point from 7.2 percent in April to 7.3 percent in May. Arkansas' civilian labor force gained 200, a result of 100 fewer employed and 300 more unemployed Arkansans. At 8.2 percent, the United States' jobless rate also rose one-tenth of a percentage point.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "The unemployment rate in Arkansas rose one-tenth of a percentage point in May, mirroring the trend seen at the national level. While the number of unemployed increased slightly this month, there are still 9,500 fewer unemployed and 33,200 more employed Arkansans than in May 2011."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	May 2012	April 2012	May 2011	Change From April 2012	Change From Current 2011
Civilian Labor Force	1,390,400	1,390,200	1,366,700	200	23,700
Employment	1,289,400	1,289,500	1,256,200	-100	33,200
Unemployment	101,000	100,700	110,500	300	-9,500
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.2	8.1	0.1	-0.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.1	9.0	0.1	-0.8

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 June 27, 2012.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 4,100 in May to total 1,176,700. Eight major industry sectors posted gains, more than offsetting minor declines in three sectors. **Manufacturing** added 1,800 jobs. Most of the increase occurred in durable goods (+1,300), attributed to reported hiring in the manufacturing of transportation equipment, miscellaneous products and fabricated metal products. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 1,000, related to reported gains in landscaping services and at employment agencies. **Construction** added 500 jobs, a typical weather-related expansion. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** increased 500. Seasonal hiring in arts, entertainment, and recreation more than offset the decline in food services.

Since May 2011, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 6,200. Five major industry sectors posted gains, with three adding 3,700 or more jobs, each. Six major industries reported declines. **Leisure and hospitality** increased 4,900. A majority of the gain occurred in food services (+4,000). **Educational and health services** added 4,500 jobs. Most of the growth was reported in health care and social assistance (+3,300). Jobs in **government** rose 3,700. The gain occurred in local government (+4,700), attributed mostly to public school expansions. **Manufacturing** decreased 2,900, related to continued layoffs and closures. Employment in **professional and business services** declined 1,800. A majority of the loss occurred in administrative and support services (-1,600), which includes employment agencies and services to buildings and dwellings.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	May 2012	April 2012	May 2011	Change From April 2012	Change From May 2011
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,176,700	1,172,600	1,170,500	4,100	6,200
Goods Producing	213,700	211,300	217,900	2,400	-4,200
Mining & Logging	11,100	11,000	10,800	100	300
Construction	45,200	44,700	46,800	500	-1,600
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,600	27,700	27,600	-100	0
Manufacturing	157,400	155,600	160,300	1,800	-2,900
Durable Goods	81,500	80,200	79,100	1,300	2,400
Nondurable Goods	75,900	75,400	81,200	500	-5,300
Service Providing	963,000	961,300	952,600	1,700	10,400
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	235,700	236,200	236,200	-500	-500
Wholesale Trade	46,500	46,300	46,300	200	200
Retail Trade	128,600	129,500	130,200	-900	-1,600
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	60,600	60,400	59,700	200	900
Information	14,300	14,200	14,800	100	-500
Financial Activities	47,200	46,700	48,300	500	-1,100
Finance & Insurance	34,700	34,400	35,300	300	-600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,500	12,300	13,000	200	-500
Professional & Business Services	117,300	116,300	119,100	1,000	-1,800
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	36,700	36,800	38,100	-100	-1,400
Management of Companies	26,900	26,800	25,700	100	1,200
Administrative & Support Services	53,700	52,700	55,300	1,000	-1,600
Educational & Health Services	171,400	171,600	166,900	-200	4,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	155,800	155,800	152,500	0	3,300
Ambulatory Health Care	47,500	47,300	45,400	200	2,100
Social Assistance	35,000	35,600	34,500	-600	500
Leisure & Hospitality	106,800	106,300	101,900	500	4,900
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10,800	10,100	10,200	700	600
Accommodation & Food Services	96,000	96,200	91,700	-200	4,300
Accommodation Services	11,800	11,500	11,500	300	300
Food Services	84,200	84,700	80,200	-500	4,000
Other Services	44,400	44,500	43,200	-100	1,200
Government	225,900	225,500	222,200	400	3,700
Federal Government	20,100	20,100	21,100	0	-1,000
State Government	77,200	78,900	77,200	-1,700	0
Local Government	128,600	126,500	123,900	2,100	4,700

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2011 benchmark.

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