

# News Release



For Immediate Release: August 17, 2012  
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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 rose one-tenth of a percentage point from 7.2 percent in June to 7.3 percent in July. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 3,400, a result of 1,400 more unemployed and 4,800 fewer employed Arkansans. At 8.3 percent, the United States' jobless rate also increased one-tenth of a percentage point in July.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate rose one-tenth of a percentage point, as the number of employed Arkansans decreased. This minor rate increase is within historical trends for July. There are still 28,800 more employed Arkansans than in July 2011."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	July 2012	June 2012	July 2011	Change From June 2012	Change From July 2011
Civilian Labor Force	1,383,000	1,386,400	1,364,900	-3,400	18,100
Employment	1,282,300	1,287,100	1,253,500	-4,800	28,800
Unemployment	100,700	99,300	111,400	1,400	-10,700
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.2	8.2	0.1	-0.9
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.2	9.1	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 August 29, 2012.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs declined 16,800 in July to total 1,156,600. Seven major industry sectors posted decreases, more than offsetting gains in two sectors. Job totals in two industry sectors remained the same. Jobs in **government** decreased 14,400, reflecting seasonal summer declines at public schools and universities. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** dropped 1,200. All losses occurred in accommodation and food services, largely attributed to education-related food service contractors. Jobs in **manufacturing** rose 1,000. Durable goods (+900) reported gains in fabricated metal product manufacturing and in wood product manufacturing.

Since July 2011, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 9,700. Five major industry sectors enjoyed growth, with three adding 3,400 or more jobs, each. Three major sectors reported losses, while employment in three others remained stable. **Educational and health services** posted the largest gain (+7,200). Most of the increase occurred in health care and social assistance (+5,000). **Government** added 3,600 jobs. The growth in local government (+5,100) more than offset the declines in both federal (-900) and state (-600) government. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 3,400. Food services (+3,000) reported a majority of the gain. Employment in **construction** decreased 4,800. Declines were reported in utility system construction, building equipment contracting, and nonresidential building construction.

**ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS**  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	July 2012	June 2012	July 2011	Change From June 2012	Change From July 2011
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,156,600	1,173,400	1,146,900	-16,800	9,700
Goods Producing	213,500	212,800	218,000	700	-4,500
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>44,700</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>49,500</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-4,800</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	26,800	27,400	30,100	-600	-3,300
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>157,500</b>	<b>156,500</b>	<b>157,500</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>
Durable Goods	82,000	81,100	78,700	900	3,300
Nondurable Goods	75,500	75,400	78,800	100	-3,300
Service Providing	943,100	960,600	928,900	-17,500	14,200
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>236,300</b>	<b>236,500</b>	<b>235,400</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>900</b>
Wholesale Trade	47,000	47,100	45,600	-100	1,400
Retail Trade	129,200	128,700	130,000	500	-800
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	60,100	60,700	59,800	-600	300
<b>Information</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>14,300</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-300</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>47,900</b>	<b>47,700</b>	<b>47,900</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>0</b>
Finance & Insurance	35,300	35,000	34,900	300	400
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,600	12,700	13,000	-100	-400
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>117,300</b>	<b>117,800</b>	<b>117,900</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-600</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	36,400	37,000	36,800	-600	-400
Management of Companies	26,600	26,800	26,100	-200	500
Administrative & Support Services	54,300	54,000	55,000	300	-700
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>171,800</b>	<b>163,800</b>	<b>-800</b>	<b>7,200</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	156,000	156,300	151,000	-300	5,000
Ambulatory Health Care	47,400	47,700	45,800	-300	1,600
Social Assistance	33,800	34,400	32,800	-600	1,000
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>106,700</b>	<b>107,900</b>	<b>103,300</b>	<b>-1,200</b>	<b>3,400</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11,600	11,500	11,100	100	500
Accommodation & Food Services	95,100	96,400	92,200	-1,300	2,900
Accommodation Services	12,200	12,300	12,300	-100	-100
Food Services	82,900	84,100	79,900	-1,200	3,000
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>43,700</b>	<b>44,300</b>	<b>43,700</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>205,900</b>	<b>220,300</b>	<b>202,300</b>	<b>-14,400</b>	<b>3,600</b>
Federal Government	20,500	20,300	21,400	200	-900
State Government	71,200	72,900	71,800	-1,700	-600
Local Government	114,200	127,100	109,100	-12,900	5,100

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.