

News Release



For Immediate Release: September 21, 2012
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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 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 remained stable at 7.3 percent in August. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 3,600, a result of 3,000 fewer employed and 600 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point from 8.3 percent in July to 8.1 percent in August.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "Reductions in both employment and unemployment made for a smaller civilian labor force. This collective combination of decreases produced no change in the unemployment rate. There are still 11,000 fewer unemployed Arkansans than in August 2011."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2012	July 2012	August 2011	Change From July 2012	Change From August 2011
Civilian Labor Force	1,379,400	1,383,000	1,366,500	-3,600	12,900
Employment	1,279,300	1,282,300	1,255,400	-3,000	23,900
Unemployment	100,100	100,700	111,100	-600	-11,000
Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.3	8.1	0.0	-0.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.1	8.3	9.1	-0.2	-1.0

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 October 3, 2012.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 4,900 in August to total 1,161,400. Five major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting declines in six sectors. **Government** posted a seasonal gain of 4,500 jobs. Local (+2,900) and state (+1,600) government increased as public schools began hiring for the 2012/2013 school year. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,700. While some of the gain was attributed to private school employment, a majority was posted in social assistance (+1,400). **Construction** added 1,500 jobs, a result of reported hiring in heavy and civil engineering construction, building equipment contractors and other specialty trade contractors. **Manufacturing** posted the largest decrease (-1,200). Declines were reported in both durable goods (-700) and nondurable goods (-500) manufacturing.

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Since August 2011, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 9,600. Seven major industry sectors enjoyed growth, while four sectors posted declines. **Educational and health services** reported the largest increase (+7,500). Most of the gain occurred in health care and social assistance (+5,500), particularly in individual-family services and ambulatory health care services. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 4,300. A majority of the growth was related to food services (+3,700). **Construction** posted the largest decrease (-2,400). The greatest losses were reported in utility system construction and building equipment contractors. Employment in **manufacturing** decreased 1,200. Declines in nondurable goods (-3,400) more than offset reported growth in durable goods manufacturing (+2,200).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	August 2012	July 2012	August 2011	Change From	Change From
				July 2012	August 2011
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,161,400	1,156,500	1,151,800	4,900	9,600
Goods Producing	213,600	213,400	216,900	200	-3,300
Mining & Logging	11,300	11,400	11,000	-100	300
Construction	46,000	44,500	48,400	1,500	-2,400
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,500	26,800	29,000	700	-1,500
Manufacturing	156,300	157,500	157,500	-1,200	-1,200
Durable Goods	81,300	82,000	79,100	-700	2,200
Nondurable Goods	75,000	75,500	78,400	-500	-3,400
Service Providing	947,800	943,100	934,900	4,700	12,900
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	235,200	236,000	235,400	-800	-200
Wholesale Trade	46,300	46,900	46,200	-600	100
Retail Trade	128,200	128,900	129,500	-700	-1,300
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	60,700	60,200	59,700	500	1,000
Information	14,200	14,300	14,500	-100	-300
Financial Activities	47,600	47,700	47,300	-100	300
Finance & Insurance	35,000	35,100	34,400	-100	600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,600	12,600	12,900	0	-300
Professional & Business Services	118,200	118,000	117,700	200	500
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	37,100	37,000	35,700	100	1,400
Management of Companies	26,900	26,800	26,100	100	800
Administrative & Support Services	54,200	54,200	55,900	0	-1,700
Educational & Health Services	172,300	170,600	164,800	1,700	7,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	157,100	155,600	151,600	1,500	5,500
Ambulatory Health Care	47,500	47,500	45,800	0	1,700
Social Assistance	35,200	33,800	33,700	1,400	1,500
Leisure & Hospitality	106,100	107,000	101,800	-900	4,300
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11,000	11,600	10,500	-600	500
Accommodation & Food Services	95,100	95,400	91,300	-300	3,800
Accommodation Services	12,000	12,300	11,900	-300	100
Food Services	83,100	83,100	79,400	0	3,700
Other Services	44,000	43,800	43,900	200	100
Government	210,200	205,700	209,500	4,500	700
Federal Government	20,300	20,300	21,100	0	-800
State Government	72,800	71,200	73,400	1,600	-600
Local Government	117,100	114,200	115,000	2,900	2,100

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.