

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.1 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 dropped two-tenths of a percentage point from 7.3 percent in August to 7.1 percent in September. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 2,700 in September, a result of 1,900 fewer unemployed and 800 fewer employed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined three-tenths of a percentage point in September, falling to 7.8 percent.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "The number of both employed and unemployed Arkansans declined this month, resulting in a decrease in the size of the civilian labor force. This combination of losses triggered the drop in Arkansas' unemployment rate. This decline in the rate mirrors the trend seen at the national level."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	September 2012	August 2012	September 2011	Change From August 2012	Change From September 2011
Civilian Labor Force	1,376,800	1,379,500	1,369,500	-2,700	7,300
Employment	1,278,500	1,279,300	1,259,200	-800	19,300
Unemployment	98,300	100,200	110,300	-1,900	-12,000
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.3	8.1	-0.2	-1.0
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.8	8.1	9.0	-0.3	-1.2

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 30, 2012.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 12,300 in September to total 1,174,100. Four major industry sectors posted gains, more than offsetting moderate declines in six sectors. One industry remained stable. **Government** enjoyed a large seasonal increase (+14,200). All gains occurred in state (+5,500) and local (+8,800) government, as public school employment continued to increase. **Educational and health services** added 700 jobs, mostly attributed to private school employment. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 1,100. Retail trade posted a majority of the loss, with decreases reported at general merchandise stores, clothing-accessories stores and building material-garden supply stores.

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Since September 2011, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 12,900. Seven major industry sectors reported growth, with three sectors adding 2,300 or more jobs, each. Four industry sectors posted employment declines. **Leisure and hospitality** enjoyed the largest gain (+6,500). Most of the expansion occurred in food services (+5,600). Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 5,300. The largest increase was in the health care and social assistance subsector (+3,600), which includes activities such as individual-family services and general medical-surgical hospitals. **Government** added 2,300 jobs. Local government posted the largest gain (+2,000), mostly related to growth in public education. **Professional and business services** added 1,900 jobs, largely in the professional, scientific, and technical services subsector (+1,300). Increases were attributed to reported growth in management consulting and in architectural-engineering services. **Construction** posted the largest decline (-3,100). Most of the loss occurred in specialty trade contractors (-2,400), with reported decreases in building equipment contracting and building finishing contracting.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	September 2012	August 2012	September 2011	Change From August 2012	Change From September 2011
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,174,100	1,161,800	1,161,200	12,300	12,900
Goods Producing	213,900	214,000	217,400	-100	-3,500
Mining & Logging	11,200	11,400	11,100	-200	100
Construction	46,600	46,300	49,700	300	-3,100
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,300	27,500	29,700	-200	-2,400
Manufacturing	156,100	156,300	156,600	-200	-500
Durable Goods	81,000	81,300	79,400	-300	1,600
Nondurable Goods	75,100	75,000	77,200	100	-2,100
Service Providing	960,200	947,800	943,800	12,400	16,400
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	233,700	234,800	232,800	-1,100	900
Wholesale Trade	46,000	46,200	45,500	-200	500
Retail Trade	126,800	128,000	127,100	-1,200	-300
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	60,900	60,600	60,200	300	700
Information	14,100	14,100	14,300	0	-200
Financial Activities	46,700	47,400	47,700	-700	-1,000
Finance & Insurance	34,300	34,900	34,800	-600	-500
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,400	12,500	12,900	-100	-500
Professional & Business Services	118,600	119,200	116,700	-600	1,900
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	37,000	37,500	35,700	-500	1,300
Management of Companies	27,000	26,900	26,200	100	800
Administrative & Support Services	54,600	54,800	54,800	-200	-200
Educational & Health Services	172,900	172,200	167,600	700	5,300
Health Care & Social Assistance	156,900	157,000	153,300	-100	3,600
Ambulatory Health Care	47,600	47,400	46,800	200	800
Social Assistance	35,400	35,200	34,200	200	1,200
Leisure & Hospitality	105,500	105,900	99,000	-400	6,500
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10,100	11,000	9,600	-900	500
Accommodation & Food Services	95,400	94,900	89,400	500	6,000
Accommodation Services	11,800	12,100	11,400	-300	400
Food Services	83,600	82,800	78,000	800	5,600
Other Services	44,300	44,000	43,600	300	700
Government	224,400	210,200	222,100	14,200	2,300
Federal Government	20,200	20,300	20,500	-100	-300
State Government	78,300	72,800	77,700	5,500	600
Local Government	125,900	117,100	123,900	8,800	2,000

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.