

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 7.2 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 7.2 percent in February. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 7,000, a result of 6,400 fewer employed and 600 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate dropped two-tenths of a percentage point, from 7.9 percent in January to 7.7 percent in February.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "While Arkansas' unemployment rate remained steady this month, the rate is still one-tenth of a percentage point lower than it was in February 2012. The rate is significantly lower than in February 2011, when the rate was 8.0 percent."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	February 2013	January 2013	February 2012	Change From January 2013	Change From February 2012
Civilian Labor Force	1,337,500	1,344,500	1,366,900	-7,000	-29,400
Employment	1,241,600	1,248,000	1,266,600	-6,400	-25,000
Unemployment	95,900	96,500	100,300	-600	-4,400
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.2	7.3	0.0	-0.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.9	8.3	-0.2	-0.6

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 April 10, 2013.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 7,600 in February to total 1,170,800. Seven major industry sectors posted gains, while three declined. One major industry remained the same. **Government** added 5,200 jobs. Most of the increase occurred in state government (+4,600), as public school employment returned to normal levels after the winter break. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 2,100. A majority of the expansions were posted in administrative and support services (+1,500), related to reported gains in employment services and business support services. **Leisure and hospitality** added 1,100 jobs, a typical seasonal increase. Employment in **other services** dropped 1,600.

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment increased 4,000 since February 2012. Five major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting declines in six sectors. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** enjoyed the greatest increase (+8,900). A majority of the expansion was reported in retail trade (+5,700). **Educational and health services** added 2,600 jobs, mostly in health care and social assistance (+2,100). **Construction** posted the largest decline (-2,900), attributed in part to the completion of recent highway projects. Employment in **other services** decreased 1,900. Losses were reported throughout the industry.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	February 2013	January 2013	February 2012	Change From January 2013	Change From February 2012
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,170,800	1,163,200	1,166,800	7,600	4,000
Goods Producing	208,600	208,100	212,700	500	-4,100
Mining & Logging	9,800	9,800	11,200	0	-1,400
Construction	43,200	43,000	46,100	200	-2,900
Specialty Trade Contractors	28,500	28,200	27,600	300	900
Manufacturing	155,600	155,300	155,400	300	200
Durable Goods	77,300	76,900	76,400	400	900
Nondurable Goods	78,300	78,400	79,000	-100	-700
Service Providing	962,200	955,100	954,100	7,100	8,100
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	245,900	245,800	237,000	100	8,900
Wholesale Trade	47,200	46,000	46,600	1,200	600
Retail Trade	135,500	136,800	129,800	-1,300	5,700
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	63,200	63,000	60,600	200	2,600
Information	14,100	14,300	14,600	-200	-500
Financial Activities	48,800	49,100	48,600	-300	200
Finance & Insurance	35,800	36,000	35,600	-200	200
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,000	13,100	13,000	-100	0
Professional & Business Services	120,700	118,600	121,600	2,100	-900
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	39,700	39,200	39,600	500	100
Management of Companies	31,900	31,800	30,600	100	1,300
Administrative & Support Services	49,100	47,600	51,400	1,500	-2,300
Educational & Health Services	173,700	173,000	171,100	700	2,600
Educational Services	15,800	15,000	15,300	800	500
Health Care & Social Assistance	157,900	158,000	155,800	-100	2,100
Ambulatory Health Care	47,800	47,900	46,600	-100	1,200
Social Assistance	36,100	35,700	36,100	400	0
Leisure & Hospitality	99,000	97,900	98,300	1,100	700
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,800	8,500	8,600	300	200
Accommodation & Food Services	90,200	89,400	89,700	800	500
Accommodation Services	9,900	9,800	10,100	100	-200
Food Services	80,300	79,600	79,600	700	700
Other Services	41,100	42,700	43,000	-1,600	-1,900
Government	218,900	213,700	219,900	5,200	-1,000
Federal Government	20,200	20,300	20,400	-100	-200
State Government	78,200	73,600	77,500	4,600	700
Local Government	120,500	119,800	122,000	700	-1,500

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2012 benchmark.

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