

News Release



For Immediate Release: March 18, 2013
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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Rises to 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 increased one-tenth of a percentage point from 7.1 percent in December to 7.2 percent in January. Arkansas' civilian labor force decreased 3,300, a result of 4,100 fewer employed and 800 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate also increased one-tenth of a percentage point, reaching 7.9 percent in January.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate rose slightly in January, related in large part to the decline in employment. The rate increase was not unexpected and mirrors the trend seen at the national level."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

| | January 2013 | December 2012 | January 2012 | Change From December 2012 | Change From January 2012 |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,344,500 | 1,347,800 | 1,367,700 | -3,300 | -23,200 |
| Employment | 1,248,000 | 1,252,100 | 1,265,900 | -4,100 | -17,900 |
| Unemployment | 96,500 | 95,700 | 101,800 | 800 | -5,300 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.2 | 7.1 | 7.4 | 0.1 | -0.2 |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate | 7.9 | 7.8 | 8.3 | 0.1 | -0.4 |

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 March 22, 2013.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs declined 20,800 in January to total 1,163,700. Losses were posted in all eleven major industry sectors. Jobs in **government** dropped 6,100. Most of the decreases occurred in state (-4,200) and local (-1,400) government, attributed to the holiday break in public schools. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** employment fell 5,800. A majority of the losses occurred in retail trade (-3,400), related to the end of the holiday shopping season. Jobs in **construction** declined 2,700, a typical seasonal fluctuation. **Professional and business services** decreased 1,900. Most of the contractions occurred in administrative and support services (-1,700), which includes employment agencies.

Since January 2012, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 5,300. Five major industry sectors posted job growth, more than offsetting declines in six sectors. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 8,300 jobs, with a majority of the gains occurring in the retail trade subsector (+6,300). Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 2,400. Most of the growth was reported in health care and social assistance (+2,000), particularly in ambulatory health care. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 1,300. Food services added a majority of the jobs (+1,000), with reported hiring split between both full service and limited service restaurants. **Construction** posted the greatest loss (-2,700). Employment declines were reported in highway, street and bridge construction, related to project completions.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012 | January 2013 | December 2012 | January 2012 | Change From December 2012 | Change From January 2012 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1,163,700 | 1,184,500 | 1,158,400 | -20,800 | 5,300 |
| Goods Producing | 207,900 | 211,100 | 212,700 | -3,200 | -4,800 |
| Mining & Logging | 9,700 | 10,100 | 11,300 | -400 | -1,600 |
| Construction | 42,900 | 45,600 | 45,600 | -2,700 | -2,700 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 28,300 | 30,100 | 27,600 | -1,800 | 700 |
| Manufacturing | 155,300 | 155,400 | 155,800 | -100 | -500 |
| Durable Goods | 76,900 | 77,300 | 76,400 | -400 | 500 |
| Nondurable Goods | 78,400 | 78,100 | 79,400 | 300 | -1,000 |
| Service Providing | 955,800 | 973,400 | 945,700 | -17,600 | 10,100 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 246,500 | 252,300 | 238,200 | -5,800 | 8,300 |
| Wholesale Trade | 46,200 | 47,300 | 46,500 | -1,100 | -300 |
| Retail Trade | 137,200 | 140,600 | 130,900 | -3,400 | 6,300 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 63,100 | 64,400 | 60,800 | -1,300 | 2,300 |
| Information | 14,300 | 14,500 | 14,600 | -200 | -300 |
| Financial Activities | 48,900 | 49,400 | 48,500 | -500 | 400 |
| Finance & Insurance | 35,900 | 36,000 | 35,500 | -100 | 400 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 13,000 | 13,400 | 13,000 | -400 | 0 |
| Professional & Business Services | 118,700 | 120,600 | 120,600 | -1,900 | -1,900 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 39,300 | 39,500 | 39,100 | -200 | 200 |
| Management of Companies | 31,800 | 31,800 | 30,500 | 0 | 1,300 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 47,600 | 49,300 | 51,000 | -1,700 | -3,400 |
| Educational & Health Services | 172,800 | 174,100 | 170,400 | -1,300 | 2,400 |
| Educational Services | 14,900 | 15,500 | 14,500 | -600 | 400 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 157,900 | 158,600 | 155,900 | -700 | 2,000 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 47,800 | 47,900 | 46,600 | -100 | 1,200 |
| Social Assistance | 35,800 | 35,500 | 36,100 | 300 | -300 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 97,900 | 99,100 | 96,600 | -1,200 | 1,300 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 8,600 | 8,400 | 8,300 | 200 | 300 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 89,300 | 90,700 | 88,300 | -1,400 | 1,000 |
| Accommodation Services | 9,900 | 10,300 | 9,900 | -400 | 0 |
| Food Services | 79,400 | 80,400 | 78,400 | -1,000 | 1,000 |
| Other Services | 43,000 | 43,600 | 42,800 | -600 | 200 |
| Government | 213,700 | 219,800 | 214,000 | -6,100 | -300 |
| Federal Government | 20,300 | 20,800 | 20,600 | -500 | -300 |
| State Government | 73,600 | 77,800 | 72,400 | -4,200 | 1,200 |
| Local Government | 119,800 | 121,200 | 121,000 | -1,400 | -1,200 |

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.

Changes Affecting 2011, 2012, and 2013 Data

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Statistics:

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor guidelines, Arkansas' Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates for 2011 and 2012 are currently undergoing annual processing. The purpose of annual processing is to incorporate more complete and accurate information into the estimation process. All levels of data are being revised, including the state, counties, cities, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

The revised 2011 and 2012 CLF estimates for the statewide level have already been updated and can be found at www.discover.arkansas.gov. Revised 2011 and 2012 CLF estimates for all sub-state areas will be released to the public on April 19, 2013, at www.bls.gov. The sub-state estimates will be updated on the Discover Arkansas website in early May 2013.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs:

Nonfarm payroll employment estimates from April 2011 through December 2012 recently underwent the annual updating process. The revised estimates will be available March 18, 2013, on the Discover Arkansas website.

Beginning with the January 2013 estimates, the **educational and health services** industry sector will again include educational services as a subsector. Educational services was a published subsector until December 2004, when it was discontinued due to reduced sample size. As part of the series re-establishment, a historical reconstruction is being performed back to January 2005.