

News Release



For Immediate Release: May 17, 2013
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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines 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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point from 7.2 percent in March to 7.1 percent in April. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 900, a result of 1,700 more employed and 800 fewer unemployed Arkansans. At 7.5 percent, the United States' jobless rate also decreased one-tenth of a percentage point in April.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "Employment in Arkansas increased 1,700 in April, the first employment gain since April 2012. This increase, combined with the minor decline in unemployment, was enough to cause the rate to decrease to 7.1 percent."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

| | April 2013 | March 2013 | April 2012 | Change From March 2013 | Change From April 2012 |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,330,900 | 1,330,000 | 1,362,100 | 900 | -31,200 |
| Employment | 1,235,700 | 1,234,000 | 1,263,200 | 1,700 | -27,500 |
| Unemployment | 95,200 | 96,000 | 98,900 | -800 | -3,700 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.3 | -0.1 | -0.2 |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate | 7.5 | 7.6 | 8.1 | -0.1 | -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 May 29, 2013.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 10,400 in April to total 1,192,900. Expansions occurred in eight major industry sectors, with minor losses in two sectors. One industry remained stable. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the greatest increase (+4,400). Gains were largely seasonal, occurring mostly in accommodation and food services (+3,100). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 2,900 jobs. A majority of the hiring was reported in retail trade (+3,100), an expected seasonal expansion. **Professional and business services** increased 2,100. All additions occurred in administrative and support services, which includes activities such as landscaping services and travel agencies. Minor decreases occurred in both the **information** (-400) and **mining-logging** (-100) industries.

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Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment increased 9,200 since April 2012. Five major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting declines in six industries. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 11,600 jobs. A majority of the gain occurred in retail trade (+9,200). Employment in **educational and health services** rose 4,200. Most of the sector's growth was attributed to hiring in health care and social assistance (+3,300). Jobs in **construction** decreased over the year (-2,600), related to the completion of large projects. Employment in **other services** declined 1,500. The sector includes activities such as repair and maintenance, personal and laundry services, and membership associations. **Mining and logging** decreased 1,200. The decline was related to reported losses in support activities for mining.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012 | April 2013 | March 2013 | April 2012 | Change From March 2013 | Change From April 2012 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1,192,900 | 1,182,500 | 1,183,700 | 10,400 | 9,200 |
| Goods Producing | 209,900 | 209,500 | 214,800 | 400 | -4,900 |
| Mining & Logging | 9,900 | 10,000 | 11,100 | -100 | -1,200 |
| Construction | 45,000 | 44,600 | 47,600 | 400 | -2,600 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 29,600 | 29,400 | 28,700 | 200 | 900 |
| Manufacturing | 155,000 | 154,900 | 156,100 | 100 | -1,100 |
| Durable Goods | 77,700 | 77,300 | 77,300 | 400 | 400 |
| Nondurable Goods | 77,300 | 77,600 | 78,800 | -300 | -1,500 |
| Service Providing | 983,000 | 973,000 | 968,900 | 10,000 | 14,100 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 252,200 | 249,300 | 240,600 | 2,900 | 11,600 |
| Wholesale Trade | 47,900 | 47,600 | 47,900 | 300 | 0 |
| Retail Trade | 140,900 | 137,800 | 131,700 | 3,100 | 9,200 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 63,400 | 63,900 | 61,000 | -500 | 2,400 |
| Information | 14,100 | 14,500 | 14,500 | -400 | -400 |
| Financial Activities | 49,300 | 49,100 | 48,900 | 200 | 400 |
| Finance & Insurance | 36,100 | 36,000 | 35,700 | 100 | 400 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 13,200 | 13,100 | 13,200 | 100 | 0 |
| Professional & Business Services | 125,400 | 123,300 | 124,900 | 2,100 | 500 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 40,000 | 40,000 | 39,700 | 0 | 300 |
| Management of Companies | 31,900 | 32,000 | 30,800 | -100 | 1,100 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 53,500 | 51,300 | 54,400 | 2,200 | -900 |
| Educational & Health Services | 175,800 | 175,400 | 171,600 | 400 | 4,200 |
| Educational Services | 16,000 | 16,100 | 15,100 | -100 | 900 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 159,800 | 159,300 | 156,500 | 500 | 3,300 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 48,800 | 48,600 | 47,400 | 200 | 1,400 |
| Social Assistance | 36,900 | 36,900 | 36,200 | 0 | 700 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 104,300 | 99,900 | 104,000 | 4,400 | 300 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 10,200 | 8,900 | 10,100 | 1,300 | 100 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 94,100 | 91,000 | 93,900 | 3,100 | 200 |
| Accommodation Services | 11,100 | 10,200 | 10,900 | 900 | 200 |
| Food Services | 83,000 | 80,800 | 83,000 | 2,200 | 0 |
| Other Services | 42,100 | 41,700 | 43,600 | 400 | -1,500 |
| Government | 219,800 | 219,800 | 220,800 | 0 | -1,000 |
| Federal Government | 19,800 | 20,100 | 20,400 | -300 | -600 |
| State Government | 79,100 | 78,800 | 78,300 | 300 | 800 |
| Local Government | 120,900 | 120,900 | 122,100 | 0 | -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.