

News Release



For Immediate Release: September 20, 2013
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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 7.4 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 in August at 7.4 percent. Arkansas' civilian labor force declined 4,800, a result of 5,300 fewer employed and 500 more unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 7.4 percent in July to 7.3 percent in August.

DWS Program Operations Manager Bernadette Coleman said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate was unchanged between July and August. The number of employed declined, though the drop was not enough to change the jobless rate. This is the fifth time in 2013 that the jobless rate has remained stable between months."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2013	July 2013	August 2012	Change From July 2013	Change From August 2012
Civilian Labor Force	1,323,000	1,327,800	1,350,400	-4,800	-27,400
Employment	1,224,600	1,229,900	1,251,200	-5,300	-26,600
Unemployment	98,400	97,900	99,200	500	-800
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.4	7.3	0.0	0.1
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.3	7.4	8.1	-0.1	-0.8

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 2, 2013.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 3,500 in August to total 1,178,100. Eight major industry sectors posted gains, while three sectors declined. Jobs in **government** rose 3,900. Increases occurred in both local (+2,500) and state (+1,500) government, reflecting the start of the 2013/2014 school year. **Construction** added 1,200 jobs. A majority of the increase occurred in specialty trade contractors (+900), with reported hiring in site preparation contractors and plumbing-heating-air conditioning contractors. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** dropped 1,900. Most of the loss occurred in wholesale (-900) and retail (-900) trade. **Leisure and hospitality** decreased 1,000. Accommodation and food services posted a majority of the decline (-800).

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Since August 2012, Arkansas' nonfarm employment rose 10,300. Five major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting decreases in six sectors. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** enjoyed the greatest increase, adding 8,400 jobs. A majority of the gain was reported in retail trade (+6,200). Employment in **educational and health services** rose 4,600. Growth was posted in both health care and social assistance (+2,700) and educational services (+1,900). Jobs in **professional and business services** increased 1,800. Most of the additions were reported in professional, scientific, and technical services (+1,500), which includes activities such as architecture firms, bookkeeping services, and marketing consulting. **Leisure and hospitality** declined 1,900. Most of the loss occurred in food services (-1,100). Employment in **other services** is down 1,400. The industry includes activities such as repair-maintenance and membership organizations.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	August 2013	July 2013	August 2012	Change From July 2013	Change From August 2012
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,178,100	1,174,600	1,167,800	3,500	10,300
Goods Producing	213,800	212,300	215,000	1,500	-1,200
Mining & Logging	10,500	10,400	10,400	100	100
Construction	48,300	47,100	48,500	1,200	-200
Specialty Trade Contractors	30,800	29,900	29,900	900	900
Manufacturing	155,000	154,800	156,100	200	-1,100
Durable Goods	78,400	78,600	77,700	-200	700
Nondurable Goods	76,600	76,200	78,400	400	-1,800
Service Providing	964,300	962,300	952,800	2,000	11,500
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	250,100	252,000	241,700	-1,900	8,400
Wholesale Trade	46,100	47,000	47,500	-900	-1,400
Retail Trade	138,700	139,600	132,500	-900	6,200
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65,300	65,400	61,700	-100	3,600
Information	14,400	14,600	14,500	-200	-100
Financial Activities	49,700	49,300	49,300	400	400
Finance & Insurance	36,200	35,900	35,900	300	300
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,500	13,400	13,400	100	100
Professional & Business Services	125,900	125,800	124,100	100	1,800
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	39,500	39,500	38,000	0	1,500
Management of Companies	32,000	32,000	31,100	0	900
Administrative & Support Services	54,400	54,300	55,000	100	-600
Educational & Health Services	174,900	174,400	170,300	500	4,600
Educational Services	14,100	13,400	12,200	700	1,900
Health Care & Social Assistance	160,800	161,000	158,100	-200	2,700
Ambulatory Health Care	49,200	50,200	48,000	-1,000	1,200
Social Assistance	37,500	36,800	35,900	700	1,600
Leisure & Hospitality	104,100	105,100	106,000	-1,000	-1,900
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10,600	10,800	11,100	-200	-500
Accommodation & Food Services	93,500	94,300	94,900	-800	-1,400
Accommodation Services	11,400	11,600	11,700	-200	-300
Food Services	82,100	82,700	83,200	-600	-1,100
Other Services	42,100	41,900	43,500	200	-1,400
Government	203,100	199,200	203,400	3,900	-300
Federal Government	19,900	20,000	20,500	-100	-600
State Government	73,000	71,500	72,200	1,500	800
Local Government	110,200	107,700	110,700	2,500	-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.