

News Release



For Immediate Release: December 20, 2013
Contact Person: Becky Heflin
Becky.Heflin@arkansas.gov

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 7.5 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 7.5 percent between October and November. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 3,700, which is a result of 4,400 more employed and 700 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined three-tenths of a percentage point, from 7.3 percent in October to 7.0 percent in November.

DWS Communications Director Becky Heflin said, "The number of employed in Arkansas rose 4,400 in November, the first employment increase since May. Although employment rose and unemployment declined, the change was not enough to bring down the unemployment rate."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

| | November 2013 | October 2013 | November 2012 | Change From October 2013 | Change From November 2012 |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Civilian Labor Force | 1,325,300 | 1,321,600 | 1,348,100 | 3,700 | -22,800 |
| Employment | 1,226,200 | 1,221,800 | 1,251,600 | 4,400 | -25,400 |
| Unemployment | 99,100 | 99,800 | 96,500 | -700 | 2,600 |
| Unemployment Rate | 7.5 | 7.5 | 7.2 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| U.S. Unemployment Rate | 7.0 | 7.3 | 7.8 | -0.3 | -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 January 7, 2014.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 1,700 in November to total 1,202,400. Five major industry sectors posted gains, more than offsetting declines in six sectors. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 1,600. A majority of the increase occurred in retail trade (+1,500), reflecting the start of the holiday shopping season. **Professional and business services** added 1,200 jobs. Most of these gains were in professional, scientific, and technical services (+900), due to reported hiring in architectural-engineering services and in advertising-public relations services. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** decreased 1,400. Typical seasonal losses were posted throughout all subsectors.

Since November 2012, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 13,500. Seven major industry sectors reported growth, with five adding 1,000 or more jobs, each. Four sectors posted declines. **Professional and business services** enjoyed the largest increase (+5,900). Gains were reported throughout all subsectors, with administrative and support services capturing a majority of the growth (+2,800). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 3,900 jobs. Most of the increase occurred in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+3,700). Employment in **educational and health services** rose 3,400. Health care and social assistance posted the majority of the gains (+2,500). Jobs in **construction** rose by 2,500, related in part to ongoing large projects throughout the state. **Financial activities** added 1,000 jobs, all in finance and insurance. The subsector includes activities such as commercial banking and insurance carriers. Employment in **government** decreased (-1,000), largely at the federal level.

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012 | November 2013 | October 2013 | November 2012 | Change From October 2013 | Change From November 2012 |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs | 1,202,400 | 1,200,700 | 1,188,900 | 1,700 | 13,500 |
| Goods Producing | 213,400 | 214,000 | 211,200 | -600 | 2,200 |
| Mining & Logging | 10,300 | 10,400 | 10,100 | -100 | 200 |
| Construction | 48,200 | 48,400 | 45,700 | -200 | 2,500 |
| Specialty Trade Contractors | 30,700 | 31,300 | 29,600 | -600 | 1,100 |
| Manufacturing | 154,900 | 155,200 | 155,400 | -300 | -500 |
| Durable Goods | 78,500 | 78,800 | 77,400 | -300 | 1,100 |
| Nondurable Goods | 76,400 | 76,400 | 78,000 | 0 | -1,600 |
| Service Providing | 989,000 | 986,700 | 977,700 | 2,300 | 11,300 |
| Trade, Transportation, & Utilities | 255,500 | 253,900 | 251,600 | 1,600 | 3,900 |
| Wholesale Trade | 45,500 | 45,400 | 48,000 | 100 | -2,500 |
| Retail Trade | 142,900 | 141,400 | 140,200 | 1,500 | 2,700 |
| Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities | 67,100 | 67,100 | 63,400 | 0 | 3,700 |
| Information | 14,400 | 14,200 | 14,500 | 200 | -100 |
| Financial Activities | 50,500 | 50,600 | 49,500 | -100 | 1,000 |
| Finance & Insurance | 37,100 | 37,300 | 36,100 | -200 | 1,000 |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 13,400 | 13,300 | 13,400 | 100 | 0 |
| Professional & Business Services | 126,800 | 125,600 | 120,900 | 1,200 | 5,900 |
| Professional, Scientific, & Technical | 40,700 | 39,800 | 38,500 | 900 | 2,200 |
| Management of Companies | 32,500 | 32,100 | 31,600 | 400 | 900 |
| Administrative & Support Services | 53,600 | 53,700 | 50,800 | -100 | 2,800 |
| Educational & Health Services | 178,400 | 178,200 | 175,000 | 200 | 3,400 |
| Educational Services | 16,900 | 16,900 | 16,000 | 0 | 900 |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 161,500 | 161,300 | 159,000 | 200 | 2,500 |
| Ambulatory Health Care | 49,400 | 50,000 | 47,300 | -600 | 2,100 |
| Social Assistance | 39,500 | 38,500 | 36,400 | 1,000 | 3,100 |
| Leisure & Hospitality | 102,200 | 103,600 | 101,800 | -1,400 | 400 |
| Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation | 8,200 | 9,000 | 8,400 | -800 | -200 |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 94,000 | 94,600 | 93,400 | -600 | 600 |
| Accommodation Services | 10,600 | 10,800 | 10,700 | -200 | -100 |
| Food Services | 83,400 | 83,800 | 82,700 | -400 | 700 |
| Other Services | 41,200 | 41,500 | 43,400 | -300 | -2,200 |
| Government | 220,000 | 219,100 | 221,000 | 900 | -1,000 |
| Federal Government | 19,600 | 19,700 | 20,600 | -100 | -1,000 |
| State Government | 79,300 | 79,100 | 78,700 | 200 | 600 |
| Local Government | 121,100 | 120,300 | 121,700 | 800 | -600 |

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.