

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Falls to 6.9 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 fell two-tenths of a percentage point, from 7.1 percent in February to 6.9 percent in March. Arkansas' civilian labor force was unchanged, as the addition of 2,400 employed offset the loss of 2,400 unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 6.7 percent in March.

DWS Communications Director Becky Heflin said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate dropped below seven percent in March for the first time since January 2009. This is the sixth consecutive month that Arkansas' jobless rate has declined."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	March 2014	February 2014	March 2013	Change From February 2014	Change From March 2013
Civilian Labor Force	1,330,600	1,330,600	1,327,500	0	3,100
Employment	1,238,900	1,236,500	1,228,700	2,400	10,200
Unemployment	91,700	94,100	98,800	-2,400	-7,100
Unemployment Rate	6.9	7.1	7.4	-0.2	-0.5
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.7	7.5	0.0	-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 April 29, 2014.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 12,900 in March to total 1,189,600. All major industry sectors posted gains. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** increased 3,200. Gains were related to typical seasonal hiring, with accommodation and food services adding 2,700 jobs. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 3,000. A majority of the growth was seen in retail trade (+1,600), as stores begin preparing for seasonal spring shopping. **Construction** added 1,900 jobs. Most of the hiring occurred in specialty trade contractors (+1,100), another expected seasonal increase. Jobs in **government** rose 1,200. A majority of the gains were in state government (+700), as educational facilities and tourism-related agencies reported expansions.

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Since March 2013, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas have increased 13,000. Eight major sectors added jobs, more than offsetting minor declines in three sectors. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the greatest gains (+4,400). Expansion occurred in all subsectors, with food services adding 3,500 jobs. Employment in **educational and health services** rose 2,900. Most of the growth was seen in health care and social assistance (+2,500). Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** are up 2,200. Increases were posted in all three subsectors, with wholesale and retail trade both adding 900 jobs each. **Construction** added 1,600 jobs over the year. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 1,100. A majority of the growth was posted in administrative and support services (+1,300).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	March 2014	February 2014	March 2013	Change From February 2014	Change From March 2013
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,189,600	1,176,700	1,176,600	12,900	13,000
Goods Producing	209,800	206,800	207,900	3,000	1,900
Mining & Logging	9,500	9,300	9,600	200	-100
Construction	46,900	45,000	45,300	1,900	1,600
Specialty Trade Contractors	30,000	28,900	28,200	1,100	1,800
Manufacturing	153,400	152,500	153,000	900	400
Durable Goods	76,500	75,800	75,300	700	1,200
Nondurable Goods	76,900	76,700	77,700	200	-800
Service Providing	979,800	969,900	968,700	9,900	11,100
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	241,900	238,900	239,700	3,000	2,200
Wholesale Trade	48,000	47,400	47,100	600	900
Retail Trade	132,300	130,700	131,400	1,600	900
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	61,600	60,800	61,200	800	400
Information	13,700	13,600	14,200	100	-500
Financial Activities	49,700	49,000	49,100	700	600
Finance & Insurance	36,800	36,300	36,200	500	600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,900	12,700	12,900	200	0
Professional & Business Services	129,300	128,400	128,200	900	1,100
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	39,900	40,100	40,300	-200	-400
Management of Companies	31,700	31,600	31,500	100	200
Administrative & Support Services	57,700	56,700	56,400	1,000	1,300
Educational & Health Services	174,400	173,900	171,500	500	2,900
Educational Services	14,800	14,800	14,400	0	400
Health Care & Social Assistance	159,600	159,100	157,100	500	2,500
Ambulatory Health Care	49,600	49,200	47,800	400	1,800
Social Assistance	38,100	37,900	36,300	200	1,800
Leisure & Hospitality	107,300	104,100	102,900	3,200	4,400
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,900	9,400	9,300	500	600
Accommodation & Food Services	97,400	94,700	93,600	2,700	3,800
Accommodation Services	11,000	10,500	10,700	500	300
Food Services	86,400	84,200	82,900	2,200	3,500
Other Services	43,800	43,500	43,000	300	800
Government	219,700	218,500	220,100	1,200	-400
Federal Government	20,000	19,900	20,400	100	-400
State Government	79,600	78,900	79,000	700	600
Local Government	120,100	119,700	120,700	400	-600

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2013 benchmark.

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