

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 6.2 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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 6.3 percent in August to 6.2 percent in September. Arkansas' civilian labor force added 3,600, a result of 4,500 more employed and 900 fewer unemployed Arkansans.

DWS Communications Director Becky Heflin said, "The number of employed Arkansans rose 4,500 in September, the first employment gain since March 2014. This increase, combined with the drop in unemployment, caused the unemployment rate to decrease to 6.2 percent this month."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	September 2014	August 2014	September 2013	Change From August 2014	Change From September 2013
Civilian Labor Force	1,299,900	1,296,300	1,325,100	3,600	-25,200
Employment	1,218,900	1,214,400	1,223,600	4,500	-4,700
Unemployment	81,000	81,900	101,500	-900	-20,500
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.3	7.7	-0.1	-1.5
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.1	7.2	-0.2	-1.3

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 29, 2014.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 15,200 in September to total 1,198,600. Five major industry sectors added employment, more than offsetting declines in five sectors. One industry sector remained stable. Jobs in **government** rose 13,100. Additions in local (+7,900) and state (+5,200) government reflected typical seasonal hiring at public educational facilities. **Educational and health services** increased 2,300. The majority of the gains were in educational services (+2,100), related to seasonal hiring at private schools and colleges. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 2,000. This sector includes employment agencies and business support services. **Leisure and hospitality** declined 1,100. Most of the losses were in arts-entertainment-recreation (-1,000), as summer-related businesses closed. Jobs in **other services** decreased 1,000.

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Since September 2013, nonfarm payroll employment in Arkansas rose 15,300. Eight major industry sectors reported gains, while two sectors declined slightly. Employment in one major industry sector was unchanged. **Construction** posted the largest increase (+4,700). A majority of the growth occurred in specialty trade contractors (+2,700), which includes activities such as roofing, drywall, and electrical contractors. **Leisure and hospitality** added 3,300 jobs. Most of the gains were in food services (+3,100). Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 2,900. Posting most of the growth, social assistance (+2,800) reported hiring in individual-family services and child day care services. Employment in **manufacturing** is up 2,600. Additions in durable goods (+3,200) offset the losses in nondurable goods (-600) manufacturing. **Professional and businesses services** increased 1,600. Administrative and support services posted a majority of the gains (+1,800).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	September 2014	August 2014	September 2013	Change From August 2014	Change From September 2013
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,198,600	1,183,400	1,183,300	15,200	15,300
Goods Producing	215,900	215,900	208,300	0	7,600
Mining & Logging	10,000	10,000	9,700	0	300
Construction	50,700	50,300	46,000	400	4,700
Specialty Trade Contractors	31,700	31,100	29,000	600	2,700
Manufacturing	155,200	155,600	152,600	-400	2,600
Durable Goods	78,900	78,700	75,700	200	3,200
Nondurable Goods	76,300	76,900	76,900	-600	-600
Service Providing	982,700	967,500	975,000	15,200	7,700
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	242,400	242,600	241,600	-200	800
Wholesale Trade	47,900	48,200	46,900	-300	1,000
Retail Trade	132,900	132,900	133,200	0	-300
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	61,600	61,500	61,500	100	100
Information	13,500	13,600	14,100	-100	-600
Financial Activities	49,500	49,300	49,500	200	0
Finance & Insurance	36,300	36,000	36,200	300	100
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,200	13,300	13,300	-100	-100
Professional & Business Services	131,700	129,700	130,100	2,000	1,600
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	38,700	38,600	39,400	100	-700
Management of Companies	31,600	31,800	31,100	-200	500
Administrative & Support Services	61,400	59,300	59,600	2,100	1,800
Educational & Health Services	175,900	173,600	173,000	2,300	2,900
Educational Services	14,700	12,600	14,600	2,100	100
Health Care & Social Assistance	161,200	161,000	158,400	200	2,800
Ambulatory Health Care	49,300	49,000	48,900	300	400
Social Assistance	39,200	38,900	36,400	300	2,800
Leisure & Hospitality	110,400	111,500	107,100	-1,100	3,300
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10,500	11,500	10,400	-1,000	100
Accommodation & Food Services	99,900	100,000	96,700	-100	3,200
Accommodation Services	11,400	11,900	11,300	-500	100
Food Services	88,500	88,100	85,400	400	3,100
Other Services	43,200	44,200	43,100	-1,000	100
Government	216,100	203,000	216,500	13,100	-400
Federal Government	20,000	20,000	20,300	0	-300
State Government	79,000	73,800	78,500	5,200	500
Local Government	117,100	109,200	117,700	7,900	-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.