

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 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 declined one-tenth of a percentage point, from 7.5 percent in November to 7.4 percent in December. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 2,600, a result of 3,200 more employed and 600 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate dropped three-tenths of a percentage point, from 7.0 percent in November to 6.7 percent in December.

DWS Communications Director Becky Heflin said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate declined in December, largely the result of a gain in employment and a corresponding increase in the size of the civilian labor force. This is the second month in a row that Arkansas' employment has increased."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	December 2013	November 2013	December 2012	Change From November 2013	Change From December 2012
Civilian Labor Force	1,327,900	1,325,300	1,347,800	2,600	-19,900
Employment	1,229,400	1,226,200	1,252,100	3,200	-22,700
Unemployment	98,500	99,100	95,700	-600	2,800
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.5	7.1	-0.1	0.3
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.7	7.0	7.9	-0.3	-1.2

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 February 5, 2014.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs declined 4,200 in December to total 1,197,400. Five sectors reported job losses, while three sectors posted gains. Three major sectors were unchanged. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the largest decrease (-2,600). A majority of the loss occurred in food services (-2,000), a typical seasonal trend. **Government** employment dropped 1,300. Declines were posted in both state (-900) and local (-500) government due to the holiday break at public schools. Employment in **professional and business services** declined 1,300. Most of the loss was reported in administrative and support services (-1,000), which includes seasonal activities such as travel agencies and landscaping services. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 1,600 jobs, mostly due to holiday hiring in retail trade (+1,300).

Compared to December 2012, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas have increased 12,900. Seven major industry sectors posted growth, as four sectors reported losses. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** enjoyed the largest increase (+4,900). Employment gains were attributed to reported growth in retail trade (+3,700) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+2,400). **Professional and business services** added 4,200 jobs. Administrative and support services captured a majority of the growth (+2,900), attributed in large part to reported hiring in temporary employment services. **Educational and health services** increased 3,500. Most of the gains occurred in health care and social assistance (+2,700). Jobs in **other services** declined 2,400. The sector 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	December 2013	November 2013	December 2012	Change From November 2013	Change From December 2012
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,197,400	1,201,600	1,184,500	-4,200	12,900
Goods Producing	212,400	213,200	211,100	-800	1,300
Mining & Logging	10,300	10,300	10,100	0	200
Construction	47,000	48,000	45,600	-1,000	1,400
Specialty Trade Contractors	31,000	30,700	30,100	300	900
Manufacturing	155,100	154,900	155,400	200	-300
Durable Goods	79,200	78,500	77,300	700	1,900
Nondurable Goods	75,900	76,400	78,100	-500	-2,200
Service Providing	985,000	988,400	973,400	-3,400	11,600
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	257,200	255,600	252,300	1,600	4,900
Wholesale Trade	46,100	45,500	47,300	600	-1,200
Retail Trade	144,300	143,000	140,600	1,300	3,700
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	66,800	67,100	64,400	-300	2,400
Information	14,300	14,300	14,500	0	-200
Financial Activities	51,500	50,500	49,400	1,000	2,100
Finance & Insurance	37,900	37,100	36,000	800	1,900
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,600	13,400	13,400	200	200
Professional & Business Services	124,800	126,100	120,600	-1,300	4,200
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	40,100	40,500	39,500	-400	600
Management of Companies	32,500	32,400	31,800	100	700
Administrative & Support Services	52,200	53,200	49,300	-1,000	2,900
Educational & Health Services	177,600	178,400	174,100	-800	3,500
Educational Services	16,300	16,900	15,500	-600	800
Health Care & Social Assistance	161,300	161,500	158,600	-200	2,700
Ambulatory Health Care	49,200	49,500	47,900	-300	1,300
Social Assistance	39,100	39,300	35,500	-200	3,600
Leisure & Hospitality	99,700	102,300	99,100	-2,600	600
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,100	8,200	8,400	-100	-300
Accommodation & Food Services	91,600	94,100	90,700	-2,500	900
Accommodation Services	10,200	10,700	10,300	-500	-100
Food Services	81,400	83,400	80,400	-2,000	1,000
Other Services	41,200	41,200	43,600	0	-2,400
Government	218,700	220,000	219,800	-1,300	-1,100
Federal Government	19,700	19,600	20,800	100	-1,100
State Government	78,400	79,300	77,800	-900	600
Local Government	120,600	121,100	121,200	-500	-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.

2014 Arkansas Publication Schedule

Reference Month	State Press Release	MSA's & Counties*
January	3/17/14	3/21/14
February	3/31/14	4/9/14
March	4/18/14	4/29/14
April	5/16/14	5/28/14
May	6/20/14	7/1/14
June	7/18/14	7/30/14
July	8/18/14	8/27/14
August	9/19/14	10/1/14
September	10/21/14	10/29/14
October	11/21/14	12/9/14
November	12/19/14	1/5/15
December	1/27/15	2/4/15

*Date when Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) and county labor force statistics will be available on the Discover Arkansas website.