

# News Release



**For Immediate Release:** May 20, 2016  
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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Down to 3.9 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 Arkansas Department of Workforce Services, show Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined two-tenths of a percentage point, from 4.1 percent in March (revised up from 4.0 percent) to 3.9 percent in April. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 2,860, a result of 5,309 more employed and 2,449 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate remained stable at 5.0 percent in April.

BLS Program Operations Manager Susan Price said, "Arkansas' employment in April reached a new record high of 1,309,268, breaking the previous record set in May 2008. The employment increase helped push the unemployment rate down to 3.9 percent, breaking last month's record low of 4.1 percent."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

	April 2016	March 2016	April 2015	Change From March 2016	Change From April 2015
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,361,951	1,359,091	1,325,923	2,860	36,028
<b>Employment</b>	1,309,268	1,303,959	1,253,095	5,309	56,173
<b>Unemployment</b>	52,683	55,132	72,828	-2,449	-20,145
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.9	4.1	5.5	-0.2	-1.6
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	5.0	5.0	5.4	0.0	-0.4

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 June 1, 2016.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 8,400 in April to total 1,232,800. Seven major industry sectors posted gains, while four sectors declined slightly. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 2,900 jobs. Seasonal hiring occurred in both retail (+2,500) and wholesale (+1,300) trade. **Leisure and hospitality** (+1,900) posted expected gains across all subsectors. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 1,700. Most of the increase occurred in administrative and support services, up 1,200. **Construction** added 1,600 jobs, a typical spring expansion.

Since April 2015, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment increased 26,100. Growth was reported in nine major industry sectors, while two sectors declined. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 8,800. Most of the gains were in retail trade (+6,300). **Professional and business services** added 5,300 jobs, spread throughout all three subsectors. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 5,300. A majority of the expansion occurred in health care and social assistance (+4,600). Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 5,300, mostly in food services (+4,900). **Construction** added 1,800 jobs. Declines were reported in both **mining and logging** (-1,400) and in **manufacturing** (-1,300).

### ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS

Not Seasonally Adjusted

(In Thousands)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	April 2016	March 2016	April 2015	Change From March 2016	Change From April 2015
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1232.8	1224.4	1206.7	8.4	26.1
Goods Producing	209.3	207.3	210.2	2.0	-0.9
Mining, Logging, & Construction	55.9	54.4	55.5	1.5	0.4
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>47.4</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>1.8</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	32.0	30.7	30.0	1.3	2.0
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>153.4</b>	<b>152.9</b>	<b>154.7</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-1.3</b>
Durable Goods	73.9	73.9	76.4	0.0	-2.5
Nondurable Goods	79.5	79.0	78.3	0.5	1.2
Service Providing	1023.5	1017.1	996.5	6.4	27.0
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>258.3</b>	<b>255.4</b>	<b>249.5</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>8.8</b>
Wholesale Trade	49.2	47.9	47.1	1.3	2.1
Retail Trade	145.4	142.9	139.1	2.5	6.3
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	63.7	64.6	63.3	-0.9	0.4
<b>Information</b>	<b>13.8</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>0.6</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>48.9</b>	<b>49.0</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.2</b>
Finance & Insurance	36.2	36.0	36.0	0.2	0.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13.0	12.9	13.0	0.1	0.0
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>143.9</b>	<b>142.2</b>	<b>138.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	44.4	44.4	41.9	0.0	2.5
Management of Companies	34.6	34.1	33.0	0.5	1.6
Administrative & Support Services	64.9	63.7	63.7	1.2	1.2
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>179.9</b>	<b>180.1</b>	<b>174.6</b>	<b>-0.2</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Educational Services	15.3	15.2	14.6	0.1	0.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	164.6	164.9	160.0	-0.3	4.6
Ambulatory Health Care	51.9	52.2	50.5	-0.3	1.4
Social Assistance	40.4	41.5	38.7	-1.1	1.7
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>116.9</b>	<b>115.0</b>	<b>111.6</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>5.3</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11.1	10.1	10.9	1.0	0.2
Accommodation & Food Services	105.8	104.9	100.7	0.9	5.1
Accommodation Services	11.2	11.0	11.0	0.2	0.2
Food Services	94.6	93.9	89.7	0.7	4.9
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>44.5</b>	<b>43.3</b>	<b>-0.3</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>217.3</b>	<b>217.0</b>	<b>216.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>
Federal Government	20.3	20.3	20.3	0.0	0.0
State Government	81.0	80.7	80.4	0.3	0.6
Local Government	116.0	116.0	116.0	0.0	0.0

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2015 benchmark.

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