

News Release



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Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.2 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 dropped two-tenths of a percentage point from 7.4 percent in March to 7.2 percent in April. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 500, a result of 3,300 more employed and 2,800 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate declined one-tenth of a percentage point from 8.2 percent in March to 8.1 percent in April.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "The number of employed Arkansans increased for the ninth straight month. Higher employment in April contributed to the decrease in the unemployment rate. Compared to a year ago, there are 30,700 more employed Arkansans."

ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	April 2012	March 2012	April 2011	Change From March 2012	Change From April 2011
Civilian Labor Force	1,390,000	1,389,500	1,368,800	500	21,200
Employment	1,289,400	1,286,100	1,258,700	3,300	30,700
Unemployment	100,600	103,400	110,100	-2,800	-9,500
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.4	8.0	-0.2	-0.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.1	8.2	9.0	-0.1	-0.9

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 May 30, 2012.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 6,100 in April to total 1,171,200. Eight major industry sectors posted gains, while one sector declined and two remained the same. **Leisure and hospitality** enjoyed the largest expansion (+3,700). Hiring was mostly seasonal, with food services adding a majority of the jobs (+2,100). **Educational and health services** gained 1,100 jobs. Most of the increase occurred in health care and social assistance (+800), attributed to reported hiring in nursing-residential care facilities and at hospitals. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 600. Seasonal gains in retail (+800) and wholesale (+700) trade more than offset the losses in transportation-warehousing-utilities (-900).

Since April 2011, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment decreased 5,400. Six major industry sectors reported declines, more than offsetting growth in four sectors. Employment in **mining and logging** remained stable. Jobs in **professional and business services** dropped 5,500. Losses in administrative and support services (-3,500) were attributed to reported declines in office administrative services and in employment services. Jobs in **manufacturing** fell 5,000, related to continued layoffs and closures. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** employment decreased 2,500. A majority of the loss occurred in retail trade (-2,000), related in part to reported reductions at general merchandise stores. **Leisure and hospitality** added 4,800 jobs. The growth occurred in accommodation and food services. Jobs in **government** increased 3,700. Gains in local government (+4,800) more than offset the declines in federal government (-1,100). Employment in **educational and health services** rose 3,700, mostly in health care and social assistance (+2,500).

ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	April 2012	March 2012	April 2011	Change From March 2012	Change From April 2011
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,171,200	1,165,100	1,176,600	6,100	-5,400
Goods Producing	211,300	210,700	218,700	600	-7,400
Mining & Logging	11,000	10,900	11,000	100	0
Construction	44,700	44,500	47,100	200	-2,400
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,800	28,000	28,000	-200	-200
Manufacturing	155,600	155,300	160,600	300	-5,000
Durable Goods	80,100	79,600	78,900	500	1,200
Nondurable Goods	75,500	75,700	81,700	-200	-6,200
Service Providing	959,900	954,400	957,900	5,500	2,000
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	235,500	234,900	238,000	600	-2,500
Wholesale Trade	46,400	45,700	46,800	700	-400
Retail Trade	129,400	128,600	131,400	800	-2,000
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	59,700	60,600	59,800	-900	-100
Information	14,200	14,200	14,900	0	-700
Financial Activities	46,900	46,900	48,700	0	-1,800
Finance & Insurance	34,500	34,600	35,500	-100	-1,000
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,400	12,300	13,200	100	-800
Professional & Business Services	115,400	115,600	120,900	-200	-5,500
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	36,800	36,800	40,000	0	-3,200
Management of Companies	26,900	26,700	25,700	200	1,200
Administrative & Support Services	51,700	52,100	55,200	-400	-3,500
Educational & Health Services	171,700	170,600	168,000	1,100	3,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	156,000	155,200	153,500	800	2,500
Ambulatory Health Care	47,400	47,500	46,200	-100	1,200
Social Assistance	35,600	35,300	34,800	300	800
Leisure & Hospitality	106,400	102,700	101,600	3,700	4,800
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	10,100	8,700	10,100	1,400	0
Accommodation & Food Services	96,300	94,000	91,500	2,300	4,800
Accommodation Services	11,500	11,300	11,000	200	500
Food Services	84,800	82,700	80,500	2,100	4,300
Other Services	44,300	44,100	44,000	200	300
Government	225,500	225,400	221,800	100	3,700
Federal Government	20,100	20,200	21,200	-100	-1,100
State Government	78,900	78,700	78,900	200	0
Local Government	126,500	126,500	121,700	0	4,800

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2011 benchmark.

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