

# News Release



For Immediate Release: April 20, 2012  
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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 two-tenths of a percentage point from 7.6 percent in February to 7.4 percent in March. Arkansas' civilian labor force increased 3,600, a result of 5,500 more employed and 1,900 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate decreased one-tenth of a percentage point from 8.3 percent in February to 8.2 percent in March.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "Arkansas' unemployment rate continues to show signs of improvement. The last time we experienced a rate of 7.4 percent was in June 2009. Additionally, March was the eighth consecutive month of employment growth."

#### ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY (Seasonally Adjusted)

	March 2012	February 2012	March 2011	Change From February 2012	Change From March 2011
Civilian Labor Force	1,389,600	1,386,000	1,370,100	3,600	19,500
Employment	1,286,200	1,280,700	1,260,100	5,500	26,100
Unemployment	103,400	105,300	110,000	-1,900	-6,600
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.6	8.0	-0.2	-0.6
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.3	8.9	-0.1	-0.7

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 2, 2012.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 10,900 in March to total 1,166,600. Eight major industry sectors reported gains, as two declined slightly and one remained the same. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the largest increase (+4,900). Most of the growth was attributed to seasonal hiring in accommodation and food services (+4,500). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 3,300 jobs. A majority of the expansions were seasonal, occurring in retail trade (+1,900). Employment in **educational and health services** rose 1,100. All increases were reflected in health care and social assistance.

Since March 2011, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 6,000. Seven major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting declines in four industries. **Leisure and hospitality** enjoyed the greatest expansion (+5,200). Most of the additions were in food services (+4,400). Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 4,700. Health care and social assistance reported a majority of the gain (+3,700). **Government** added 3,400 jobs. The growth in local (+3,500) and state (+700) government was related to expansions in public education. Employment in **manufacturing** fell 5,000. The losses in nondurable goods (-6,000) more than offset the moderate increases in durable goods (+1,000). Jobs in **professional and business services** dropped 3,000. Professional-scientific-technical services posted a majority of the decrease (-2,400), related in part to reported declines in advertising and public relations services and in management consulting.

**ARKANSAS NONFARM PAYROLL JOBS**  
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2012	March 2012	February 2012	March 2011	Change From February 2012	Change From March 2011
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,166,600	1,155,700	1,160,600	10,900	6,000
Goods Producing	212,000	210,400	216,500	1,600	-4,500
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>45,800</b>	<b>45,300</b>	<b>45,500</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>300</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	28,500	27,600	26,800	900	1,700
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>155,300</b>	<b>154,500</b>	<b>160,300</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>-5,000</b>
Durable Goods	79,600	79,000	78,600	600	1,000
Nondurable Goods	75,700	75,500	81,700	200	-6,000
Service Providing	954,600	945,300	944,100	9,300	10,500
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>235,300</b>	<b>232,000</b>	<b>233,900</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>1,400</b>
Wholesale Trade	45,900	45,100	45,800	800	100
Retail Trade	128,600	126,700	129,100	1,900	-500
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	60,800	60,200	59,000	600	1,800
<b>Information</b>	<b>14,200</b>	<b>14,200</b>	<b>14,900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-700</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>46,900</b>	<b>47,000</b>	<b>48,200</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>-1,300</b>
Finance & Insurance	34,600	34,800	35,300	-200	-700
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,300	12,200	12,900	100	-600
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>115,700</b>	<b>116,300</b>	<b>118,700</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>-3,000</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	36,800	36,900	39,200	-100	-2,400
Management of Companies	26,800	26,700	25,600	100	1,200
Administrative & Support Services	52,100	52,700	53,900	-600	-1,800
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>171,400</b>	<b>170,300</b>	<b>166,700</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>4,700</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	155,800	154,600	152,100	1,200	3,700
Ambulatory Health Care	47,700	47,200	45,600	500	2,100
Social Assistance	35,300	34,900	34,300	400	1,000
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>102,500</b>	<b>97,600</b>	<b>97,300</b>	<b>4,900</b>	<b>5,200</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	8,700	8,300	8,600	400	100
Accommodation & Food Services	93,800	89,300	88,700	4,500	5,100
Accommodation Services	11,200	10,500	10,500	700	700
Food Services	82,600	78,800	78,200	3,800	4,400
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>43,800</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>800</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>224,600</b>	<b>224,100</b>	<b>221,200</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>3,400</b>
Federal Government	20,200	20,100	21,000	100	-800
State Government	78,700	78,000	78,000	700	700
Local Government	125,700	126,000	122,200	-300	3,500

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.