

# News Release



For Immediate Release: November 22, 2011  
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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 8.2 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 decreased one-tenth of a percentage point, from 8.3 percent in September to 8.2 percent in October. Arkansas' civilian labor force rose 6,900, a result of 7,500 more employed and 600 fewer unemployed Arkansans. The United States' jobless rate also declined one-tenth of a percentage point, down to 9.0 percent in October.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "This is the first time Arkansas' unemployment rate has declined since March 2011. The drop in the rate relates to a gain of 7,500 employed, which is the largest monthly employment increase of the year."

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

	October 2011	September 2011	October 2010	Change From September 2011	Change From October 2010
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	<b>1,358,300</b>	<b>1,351,400</b>	<b>1,356,000</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>2,300</b>
<b>Employment</b>	<b>1,246,500</b>	<b>1,239,000</b>	<b>1,249,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>-3,000</b>
<b>Unemployment</b>	<b>111,800</b>	<b>112,400</b>	<b>106,500</b>	<b>-600</b>	<b>5,300</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>0.3</b>
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>-0.1</b>	<b>-0.7</b>

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 December 6, 2011.

### Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Job Summary:

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 3,000 in October to total 1,180,500. Four major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting declines in six major sectors. One sector remained the same. **Government** posted the largest increase (+3,800). Most of the gains occurred in local government (+2,500), which continues to reflect seasonal public school employment. **Educational and health services** added 2,100 jobs. The increase was mostly related to jobs in private education. Employment in **professional and business services** rose 1,200. Hiring was spread throughout all three subsectors. Jobs in **construction** declined 1,400, as many businesses finished seasonal projects. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** experienced a decrease of 1,400 jobs, mostly in transportation-

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warehousing-utilities. This industry includes all types of transport, including air, rail, water, truck, and passenger transportation.

Since October 2010, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased 1,200. Two major industry sectors posted job losses, more than offsetting the growth seen in six industries. Three sectors remained the same. Jobs in **manufacturing** decreased 6,400. Most of the drop occurred in nondurable goods manufacturing (-4,000), related to multiple layoffs and business closures. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** posted a decline of 2,900 jobs. A majority of the drop occurred in retail trade (-3,200), partially offset by gains in transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+1,000). **Government** enjoyed the largest annual growth (+4,000), mostly at the local level. Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 1,900. A majority of the increase occurred in health care and social assistance (+1,500). **Financial activities** added 1,200 jobs, related to expansions in finance and insurance.

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

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group 2007	October 2011	September 2011	October 2010	Change From September 2011	Change From October 2010
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,180,500	1,177,500	1,181,700	3,000	-1,200
Goods Producing	214,500	217,100	220,600	-2,600	-6,100
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>11,000</b>	<b>10,600</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>50,400</b>	<b>49,000</b>	<b>-1,400</b>	<b>0</b>
Specialty Trade Contractors	29,200	29,800	29,100	-600	100
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>154,600</b>	<b>155,700</b>	<b>161,000</b>	<b>-1,100</b>	<b>-6,400</b>
Durable Goods	76,000	76,800	78,400	-800	-2,400
Nondurable Goods	78,600	78,900	82,600	-300	-4,000
Service Providing	966,000	960,400	961,100	5,600	4,900
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>233,000</b>	<b>234,400</b>	<b>235,900</b>	<b>-1,400</b>	<b>-2,900</b>
Wholesale Trade	45,800	45,700	46,500	100	-700
Retail Trade	127,500	127,600	130,700	-100	-3,200
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	59,700	61,100	58,700	-1,400	1,000
<b>Information</b>	<b>15,500</b>	<b>15,600</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>50,300</b>	<b>49,900</b>	<b>49,100</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>1,200</b>
Finance & Insurance	36,600	36,200	35,600	400	1,000
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,700	13,700	13,500	0	200
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>122,300</b>	<b>121,100</b>	<b>122,300</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	37,800	37,100	38,200	700	-400
Management of Companies	26,700	26,400	26,400	300	300
Administrative & Support Services	57,800	57,600	57,700	200	100
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>171,000</b>	<b>168,900</b>	<b>169,100</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>1,900</b>
Health Care & Social Assistance	155,400	154,900	153,900	500	1,500
Ambulatory Health Care	46,200	46,000	46,300	200	-100
Social Assistance	34,700	35,100	34,300	-400	400
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>104,200</b>	<b>104,600</b>	<b>104,200</b>	<b>-400</b>	<b>0</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,700	10,700	9,800	-1,000	-100
Accommodation & Food Services	94,500	93,900	94,400	600	100
Accommodation Services	11,400	11,800	11,500	-400	-100
Food Services	83,100	82,100	82,900	1,000	200
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>45,300</b>	<b>45,300</b>	<b>44,700</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>224,400</b>	<b>220,600</b>	<b>220,400</b>	<b>3,800</b>	<b>4,000</b>
Federal Government	20,500	20,100	21,300	400	-800
State Government	77,700	76,800	77,300	900	400
Local Government	126,200	123,700	121,800	2,500	4,400

Source: Monthly Survey of Employers.

Notes: Estimates are based on the first quarter 2010 benchmark.

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