

# News Release

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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.3 Percent

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** – Labor force data, produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and released today by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), shows Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.3 percent in August 2006. The United States' jobless rate, at 4.7 percent, was down one-tenth of a percentage point from its rate in July.

Total employment in Arkansas rose 1,500 to 1,310,900 in August. The number of unemployed Arkansans decreased 1,300 to 72,800.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "The increase in employment combined with the decrease in the number of unemployed Arkansans resulted in a drop in the unemployment rate."

Table 1  
**ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY**  
 (Seasonally Adjusted)

	August 2006	July 2006	August 2005	Net Change From July 2006	Net Change From August 2005
<b>Civilian Labor Force</b>	1,383,700	1,383,500	1,367,700	200	16,000
<b>Employment</b>	1,310,900	1,309,400	1,300,900	1,500	10,000
<b>Unemployment</b>	72,800	74,100	66,800	-1,300	6,000
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	5.3	5.4	4.9	-0.1	0.4
<b>U.S. Unemployment Rate</b>	4.7	4.8	4.9	-0.1	-0.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: Unemployment rates were computed from unrounded data.

# Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

## Significant Monthly Employment Activity July 2006 to August 2006

The **government** sector accounted for more than 50 percent of the monthly improvement. The end of summer break and the subsequent rehiring of the staff needed to meet the demands of the school year resulted in additions to state and local government of 1,900 and 2,500, respectively.

**Professional and business services** had a net gain of 1,800 jobs. The administrative and support services subsector experienced an increase of 1,700.

**Educational and health services** reported a workforce of 148,900, up 1,200. Health care and social assistance was responsible for the advancement.

**Manufacturing** employment figures slipped 300, ending the month at 197,100. Durable goods industries accounted for the drop, as nondurable goods remained steady.

## Significant Yearly Employment Activity August 2005 to August 2006

**Professional and business services** (+4,800) posted the most significant over-the-year increase. Administrative and support services accounted for 75 percent of the gain.

The number of jobs in the **trade, transportation, and utilities** sector rose 3,300. Additions were noted in retail trade (+1,700), wholesale trade (+1,000), and transportation-warehousing-utilities (+600).

Employment in **educational and health services** climbed 3,100. The health care and social assistance subsector contributed 3,500 jobs.

The **leisure and hospitality** sector expanded by 2,500 jobs. Accommodations and food services gained 2,100 jobs.

Additions to state and local government of 1,100 and 1,300, respectively, positively impacted the **government** sector (+2,100).

**Manufacturing** experienced a loss of 3,500 jobs. Nondurable goods accounted for 2,100 of this decline, with paper and printing industries dropping by 500. Durable goods contributed 1,400 to the decrease.

**Table 2**  
**NON-FARM PAYROLL JOBS**  
**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group	August 2006	July 2006	August 2005	Net Change From July 2006	Net Change From August 2005
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,192,100	1,184,600	1,176,200	7,500	15,900
Goods Producing	262,500	262,700	264,500	-200	-2,000
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>7,300</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>
Mining	4,900	4,900	4,300	0	600
<b>Construction</b>	<b>57,800</b>	<b>57,700</b>	<b>56,600</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>1,200</b>
Construction of Buildings	12,800	12,800	13,000	0	-200
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	11,400	11,200	11,000	200	400
Specialty Trade Contractors	33,600	33,700	32,600	-100	1,000
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>197,100</b>	<b>197,400</b>	<b>200,600</b>	<b>-300</b>	<b>-3,500</b>
Durable Goods	105,400	105,700	106,800	-300	-1,400
Wood Products	13,600	13,800	13,900	-200	-300
Primary Metals	8,300	8,200	8,000	100	300
Fabricated Metals	18,100	18,100	18,200	0	-100
Machinery	13,800	13,900	14,000	-100	-200
Electrical Equipment	12,900	12,900	13,000	0	-100
Transportation Equipment	16,600	16,600	16,500	0	100
Furniture & Related Products	6,600	6,700	7,100	-100	-500
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	5,700	5,700	5,700	0	0
Nondurable Goods	91,700	91,700	93,800	0	-2,100
Food	50,500	50,400	50,900	100	-400
Paper & Printing	16,100	16,200	16,600	-100	-500
Plastics & Rubber Products	12,500	12,400	12,900	100	-400
Service Providing	929,600	921,900	911,700	7,700	17,900
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>248,700</b>	<b>248,300</b>	<b>245,400</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>3,300</b>
Wholesale Trade	48,800	48,900	47,800	-100	1,000
Retail Trade	133,200	132,900	131,500	300	1,700
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	18,300	18,300	18,200	0	100
General Merchandise Stores	38,100	38,000	36,000	100	2,100
Department Stores	8,800	8,700	8,600	100	200
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	66,700	66,500	66,100	200	600
Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,600	0	200
Truck Transportation	36,300	36,200	35,100	100	1,200
Warehousing & Storage	10,300	10,200	9,700	100	600
<b>Information</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>20,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>300</b>
Publishing Industries	6,700	6,700	6,400	0	300
Telecommunications	9,000	9,000	8,800	0	200
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>53,100</b>	<b>53,100</b>	<b>52,100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,000</b>
Finance & Insurance	39,200	39,200	38,100	0	1,100
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,900	13,900	14,000	0	-100
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>118,100</b>	<b>116,300</b>	<b>113,300</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>4,800</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	36,300	36,200	35,400	100	900
Management of Companies	24,000	24,000	23,700	0	300
Administrative & Support Services	57,800	56,100	54,200	1,700	3,600
Employment Services	29,700	28,200	27,500	1,500	2,200
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>148,900</b>	<b>147,700</b>	<b>145,800</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>3,100</b>
Educational Services	10,000	10,000	10,400	0	-400
Health Care & Social Assistance	138,900	137,700	135,400	1,200	3,500
Ambulatory Health Care	43,200	43,000	41,900	200	1,300
Hospitals	42,800	42,700	42,100	100	700
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	27,500	27,300	26,800	200	700
Social Assistance	25,400	24,700	24,600	700	800
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>99,600</b>	<b>99,400</b>	<b>97,100</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>2,500</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	11,000	11,200	10,600	-200	400
Accommodations & Food Services	88,600	88,200	86,500	400	2,100
Accommodation Services	12,100	12,300	11,800	-200	300
Food Services	76,500	75,900	74,700	600	1,800
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>43,200</b>	<b>43,400</b>	<b>42,400</b>	<b>-200</b>	<b>800</b>
Repair and Maintenance	9,400	9,400	9,300	0	100
<b>Government</b>	<b>197,600</b>	<b>193,300</b>	<b>195,500</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>2,100</b>
Federal Government	20,600	20,700	20,900	-100	-300
State Government	65,700	63,800	64,600	1,900	1,100
Local Government	111,300	108,800	110,000	2,500	1,300

Source: Department of Workforce Services, Monthly Survey of Employers.  
 Estimates are based on first quarter 2005 benchmark.  
 Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

## Metropolitan Statistical Area Labor Force

Employment and unemployment numbers for the Metropolitan Statistical Areas for August 2006 (not seasonally adjusted) will be available September 20, 2006. Please log on to our website at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov) for MSA and county data.

### Unemployment Comparisons: Minority and Youth

Utilizing data from the monthly BLS Current Population Survey, the Department of Workforce Services estimated the August unemployment rate for minorities in Arkansas at 9.9 percent. The jobless rate for whites was 4.3 percent. The youth unemployment rate was estimated at 18.7 percent. The jobless rate for minority youth was 27.2 percent, while the unemployment rate for white youth was 16.3 percent.

**Table 3**  
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR MINORITIES AND YOUTH**  
**ARKANSAS AND UNITED STATES**  
**(Seasonally Adjusted)**

	August 2006 Arkansas	August 2006 U.S.	July 2006 Arkansas	July 2006 U.S.	August 2005 Arkansas	August 2005 U.S.
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	5.3	4.7	5.4	4.8	4.9	4.9
<b>Minority</b>	9.9	8.8	10.1	9.5	9.3	9.7
<b>White</b>	4.3	4.1	4.4	4.1	4.0	4.2
<b>Youth (16 to 19)</b>	18.7	16.2	19.0	15.5	17.6	16.4
<b>Minority Youth</b>	27.2	28.8	27.6	31.6	25.7	35.9
<b>White Youth</b>	16.3	14.1	16.5	12.9	15.2	13.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: The minority, white, and youth unemployment rates for Arkansas were calculated by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) by applying ratios from the 2000 Census to data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.