



# Arkansas Employment Report

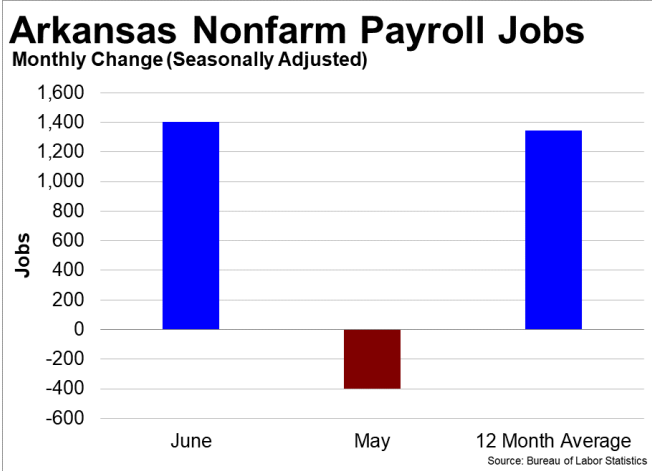
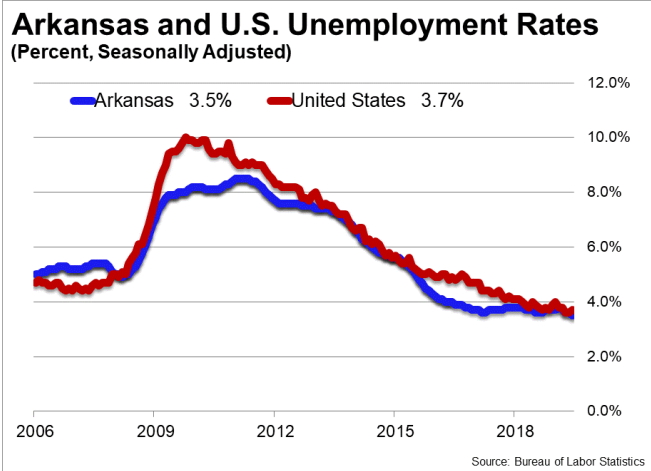
## Joint Economic Committee

Senator Mike Lee, Chairman

July 19, 2019

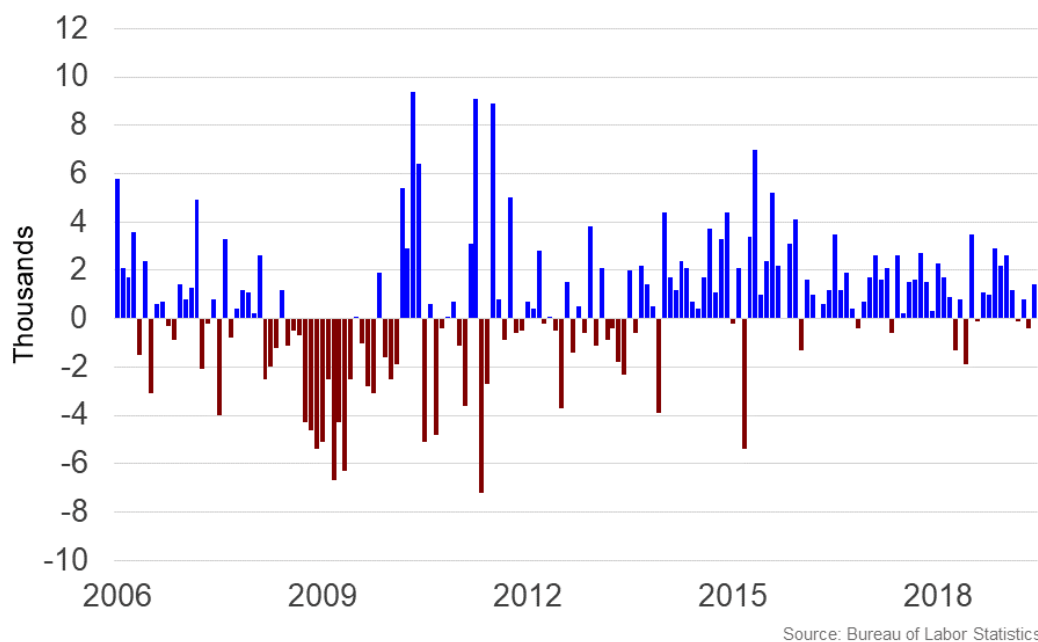
### Summary

- Arkansas added 1,400 jobs and the unemployment rate declined by 0.1 percentage point to 3.5 percent in June according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data.
- Over the past twelve months, Arkansas added 16,100 jobs and the unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point from 3.7 percent.
- In June, Arkansas's private sector added 1,800 jobs and over the past twelve months it created 15,600 jobs.
- The number of unemployed Arkansans fell by 1,208 in June, and over the past year 15,213 Arkansans found jobs.
- Arkansas's labor force participation rate remains unchanged from 58 percent in June. Since last year, the labor force participation rate rose 0.2 percentage point.
- The national unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 3.7 percent in June. State employment and unemployment data for July is scheduled for release on August 16, 2019. The national employment situation report for July will be released on Friday, August 2, 2019.



# Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

Monthly Change (Thousands, Seasonally Adjusted)



## Arkansas Payroll Employment

Arkansas added 1,400 jobs, or 0.11 percent, on a seasonally adjusted basis during June. In the prior month, Arkansas lost 400 jobs. Over the past twelve months, nonfarm payrolls in Arkansas increased by 16,100, or 1.28 percent. Arkansas nonfarm payroll employment has increased in 9 of the past 12 months.

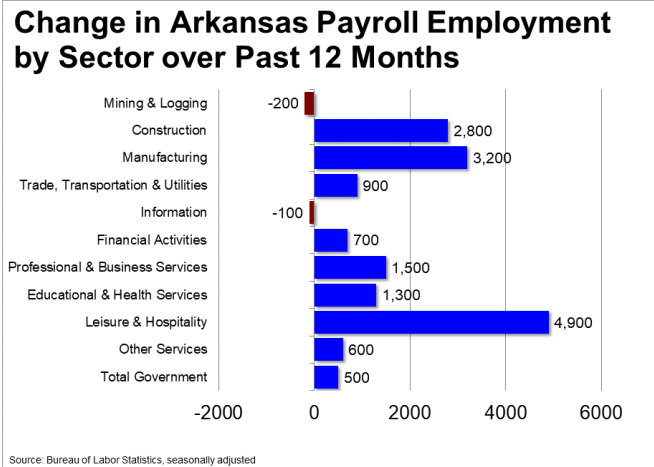
Nationally, nonfarm payrolls increased by 224,000 jobs in June, or 0.15 percent. Over the 12-month period ending June 2019, nonfarm payrolls grew by 2,301,000 jobs, or 1.54 percent. Arkansas ranks 24th among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.

During June, Arkansas's private-sector added 1,800 jobs, or 0.17 percent. The private-sector in Arkansas added 200 jobs in the prior month. Over the past twelve months, private-sector payrolls in Arkansas increased by 15,600, or 1.49 percent. Arkansas private-sector payroll employment has increased in each of the past 12 months.

Nationally, private-sector payroll jobs increased by 191,000 jobs in June, or 0.15 percent. Over the past 12 months, the nation's economy has added 2,201,000 jobs in the private-sector, an increase of 1.74 percent. Arkansas ranks 23rd among the 50 states and the District of Columbia for percentage gain in private-sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

The best performing sectors on a seasonally adjusted basis during June were Leisure & Hospitality (+1,600) and Manufacturing (+300). The poorest performing sectors during the month were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (-500) and Total Government (-400).

The best performing sectors during the last twelve months were Leisure & Hospitality (+4,900) and Manufacturing (+3,200). The poorest performing sectors during the last twelve months were Mining & Logging (-200) and Information (-100).



## Arkansas Labor Force Statistics

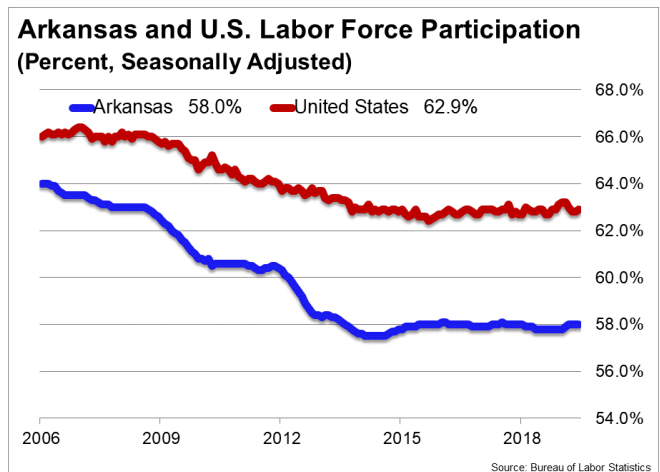
### *Labor Force Participation*

The labor force participation rate in Arkansas was unchanged at 58.0 percent in June. At 58.0 percent, Arkansas has one of the five lowest labor force participation rates in the nation. The labor force participation rate in Arkansas is unchanged from a year earlier. The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas was 61.6 percent in July 2009. The series high for the labor force participation rate in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the labor force participation rate hit 65.1 percent. The 10-year low for the labor force participation rate was 57.5 percent in August 2014. The series low for the labor force participation rate occurred in April 1976 when the labor force participation rate hit 57.3 percent. The national labor force participation rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 62.9 percent in June, but remains near its 41-year low of 62.4 percent.

### *Employment-to-Population Ratio*

The employment-to-population ratio, or the percentage of the Arkansas civilian noninstitutionalized population 16 years and older counted as employed, was unchanged at 56.0 percent in June. At 56.0 percent, Arkansas has one of the five lowest employment-to-population ratios in the nation.



The employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas is 0.3 percentage point higher than a year earlier.

The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas was 56.7 percent in July 2009. The series high for the employment-to-population ratio in Arkansas occurred in January 1995 when the employment-to-population ratio hit 62.0 percent. The 10-year low for the employment-to-population ratio was 53.7 percent in January 2014. The series low for the employment-to-population ratio occurred in March 2014 when the employment-to-population ratio was 53.7 percent.

The national employment-to-population ratio held steady at 60.6 percent in June. That rate was 0.2 percentage point higher than a year earlier. The all-time high for the employment-to-population ratio was 64.7 in April 2000. The 10-year high for the employment-to-population ratio was 63.4 percent in December 2006. The recent low occurred in October 2013 when the employment-to-population ratio dipped to 58.2 percent. The last time the employment-to-population ratio posted a reading lower than 58.2 percent was July 1983.

