

Arkansas Labor Market

April 2011

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains at 7.7 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 6,400 in April

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.7	7.9
US Unemployment Rate	9.0	8.8	9.8

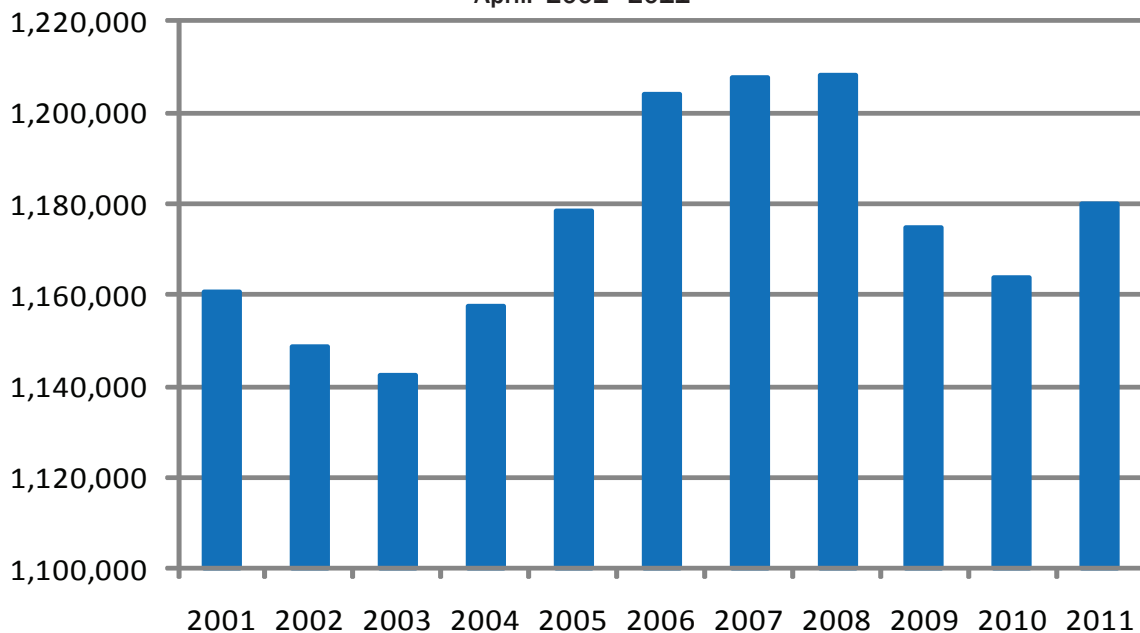
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,179,800	1,173,400	1,163,700
Goods Producing	214,500	213,300	218,900
Service Providing	965,300	960,100	944,800

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State of Arkansas
April: 2001 - 2011



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

March 2011 - April 2011

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 6,400 in April to total 1,179,800. Gains occurred in seven major industry sectors, with four posting minor losses. **Leisure and hospitality** enjoyed the largest increase, adding 3,600 jobs. Most of the seasonal expansion occurred in accommodation and food services (+2,800). Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 1,300. Seasonal gains in administrative and support services (+2,100) more than offset the drop in professional, scientific, and technical services (-800). **Manufacturing** added 1,200 jobs. Increases occurred in nondurable goods, related in part to hiring in food manufacturing.

April 2010 - April 2011

Since April 2010, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 16,100. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting losses in three sectors. The largest increase occurred in **professional and business services** (+6,100), mainly in the administrative and support services subsector. Notable growth occurred in services to buildings and dwellings and in employment services. **Leisure and hospitality** added 5,600 jobs, mostly in accommodation and food services (+5,300). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** gained 5,300 jobs. A majority of the growth occurred in transportation-warehousing-utilities and retail trade. **Construction** posted the greatest annual decrease (-2,700). The sector continues to be affected by the downturn in the housing and commercial construction markets.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Total Nonfarm	1,179,800	1,173,400	1,163,700
Goods Producing	214,500	213,300	218,900
Mining & Logging	10,600	10,400	10,500
Construction	46,100	46,300	48,800
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,700	27,400	28,400
Manufacturing	157,800	156,600	159,600
Durable Goods	76,500	76,500	77,500
Nondurable Goods	81,300	80,100	82,100
Service Providing	965,300	960,100	944,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	237,200	236,200	231,900
Wholesale Trade	46,500	46,000	46,400
Retail Trade	130,200	129,500	127,800
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	60,500	60,700	57,700
Information	15,800	15,700	15,400
Financial Activities	50,200	49,700	48,800
Finance & Insurance	36,600	36,300	35,100
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,600	13,400	13,700
Professional & Business Services	123,800	122,500	117,700
Professional, Scientific & Technical	39,200	40,000	39,100
Management of Companies	25,800	25,800	26,100
Administrative & Support Services	58,800	56,700	52,500
Educational & Health Services	167,800	167,900	166,000
Health Care & Social Assistance	152,400	152,400	151,500
Ambulatory Health Care	45,100	44,700	45,500
Social Assistance	35,400	35,500	34,100
Leisure & Hospitality	105,400	101,800	99,800
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,200	9,400	9,900
Accommodation & Food Services	95,200	92,400	89,900
Accommodation Services	11,400	11,000	11,000
Food Services	83,800	81,400	78,900
Other Services	45,000	45,600	43,100
Government	220,100	220,700	222,100
Federal Government	20,600	20,500	22,300
State Government	77,900	78,100	77,300
Local Government	121,600	122,100	122,500

Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Manufacturing	\$573.20	\$581.40	\$575.46	40.0	40.8	41.7	\$14.33	\$14.25	\$13.80
Durable Goods	643.19	650.35	629.04	40.3	40.8	40.9	15.96	15.94	15.38
Nondurable Goods	513.42	521.02	530.00	39.8	40.8	42.4	12.90	12.77	12.50

Spotlight

Business Employment Dynamics

Business Employment Dynamics, also known as BED statistics, are a relatively new employment statistic. BED is primarily concerned with tracking employment changes at the establishment level, meaning each individual business location.

BED statistics are linked closely to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program and calculated from quarterly reports provided by individual employers. Similarly, BED statistics are produced on a quarterly basis, with longitudinal data dating back to 2002. At this time, BED data are only published at the national and individual state levels. No statistics currently exist to provide data at the county or city level in Arkansas.

The information that can be obtained from BED statistics includes gross job gains and/or losses at establishments with changes in employment. These employment changes occur when establishments open/expand or close/contract. Gross job gains are a combination of jobs created from both openings of new businesses and expansions at existing businesses. Gross job losses are a combination of jobs lost from both existing businesses that close and those that reduce their number of employees.

Gross Job Gains and Losses by Quarter (Private Sector)

State of Arkansas
(seasonally adjusted)

3 months ended

Category	Sep 09	Dec 09	Mar 10	Jun 10	Sep 10*
Employment Levels					
Gross job gains.....	55,002	57,989	52,233	59,161	54,065
Gross job losses.....	62,142	54,247	49,809	52,001	57,243
Net Change.....	-7,140	3,742	2,424	7,160	-3,178

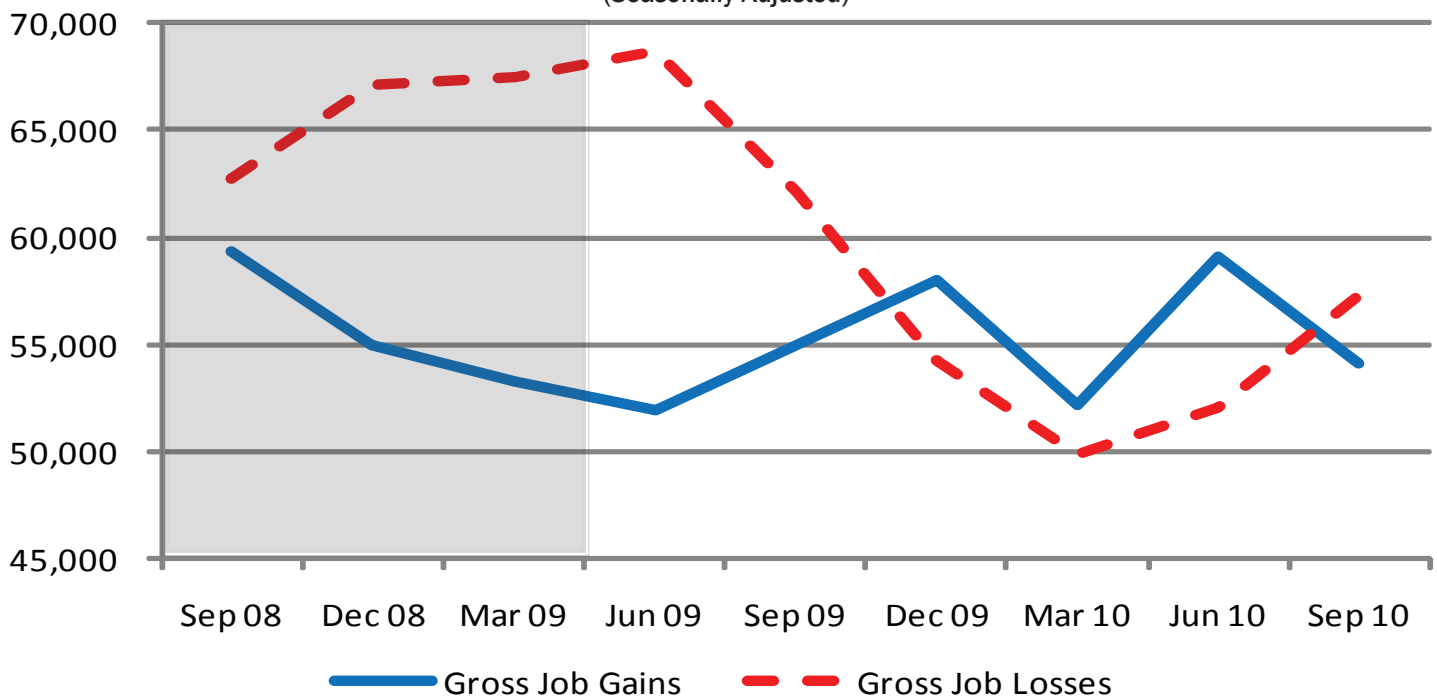
*Most recent BED data available is for 3rd Quarter 2010

The net change is the difference between gross job gains and gross job losses.

The chart below shows gross job gains versus gross job losses for a nine quarter period (3rd Quarter 2008- 3rd Quarter 2010). Note that the area shaded in gray represents the national recession period, as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Gross Job Gains vs. Gross Job Losses (Private Sector)

State of Arkansas
(Seasonally Adjusted)



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

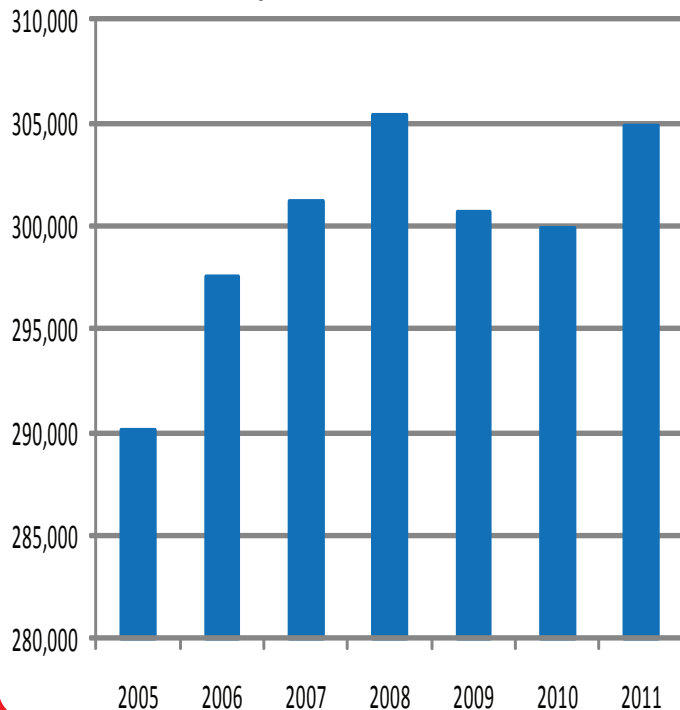
(NAICS)	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Total Nonfarm	342,000	339,800	336,300
Goods Producing	37,200	36,800	36,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	17,300	17,000	16,500
Manufacturing	19,900	19,800	20,000
Service Providing	304,800	303,000	299,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	64,300	64,900	63,800
Wholesale Trade	16,800	16,900	16,800
Retail Trade	35,800	36,100	35,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	11,700	11,900	11,900
Information	7,700	7,700	7,900
Financial Activities	18,600	18,600	18,600
Professional & Business Services	45,600	45,000	43,400
Educational & Health Services	51,300	50,800	50,000
Leisure & Hospitality	31,100	30,000	29,500
Other Services	14,900	14,800	14,900
Government	71,300	71,200	71,700
Federal Government	9,400	9,400	9,700
State Government	33,800	33,800	33,600
Local Government	28,100	28,000	28,400

(The following counties make up the LR-NLR-Conway MSA:
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Civilian Labor Force	349,675	349,275	341,225
Employment	326,925	325,475	318,300
Unemployment	22,750	23,800	22,925
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.8	6.7

Jobs in Service Providing Sectors April: 2005 - 2011



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

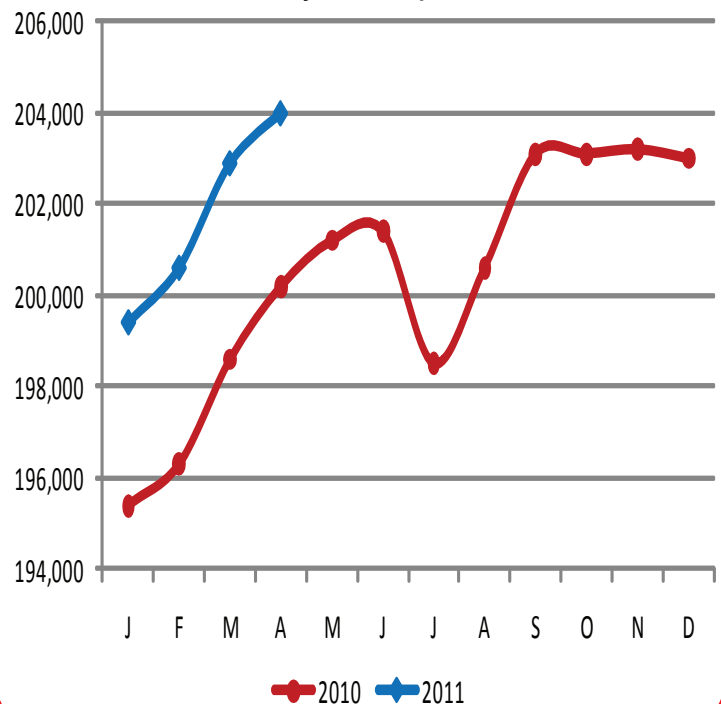
(NAICS)	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Total Nonfarm	204,000	202,900	200,200
Goods Producing	36,400	36,200	36,800
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,900	7,800	7,900
Manufacturing	28,500	28,400	28,900
Service Providing	167,600	166,700	163,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	45,000	45,000	43,800
Wholesale Trade	8,900	8,900	8,800
Retail Trade	20,800	20,800	20,500
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,300	15,300	14,500
Information	2,100	2,100	2,100
Financial Activities	7,300	7,200	7,400
Professional & Business Services	35,200	35,200	34,200
Educational & Health Services	22,700	22,600	21,900
Leisure & Hospitality	19,300	18,600	18,200
Other Services	6,900	6,900	6,600
Government	29,100	29,100	29,200
Federal Government	2,400	2,400	2,600
State Government	9,600	9,700	9,700
Local Government	17,100	17,000	16,900

(The following counties make up the FSR MSA:
Benton, Madison, and Washington in Arkansas and McDonald in Missouri.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Civilian Labor Force	230,275	230,450	226,200
Employment	216,850	216,275	212,400
Unemployment	13,425	14,175	13,800
Unemployment Rate	5.8	6.1	6.1

Nonfarm Payroll Employment January 2010 - April 2011



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Total Nonfarm	117,700	117,400	117,100
Goods Producing	28,500	28,200	28,900
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,400	7,200	7,300
Manufacturing	21,100	21,000	21,600
Service Providing	89,200	89,200	88,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,400	24,400	24,000
Wholesale Trade	4,000	4,000	4,000
Retail Trade	13,100	13,100	12,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,300	7,300	7,100
Information	1,200	1,200	1,200
Financial Activities	4,200	4,100	4,100
Professional & Business Services	12,000	11,900	11,500
Educational & Health Services	16,200	16,200	16,200
Leisure & Hospitality	9,200	8,900	8,600
Other Services	3,600	3,600	3,600
Government	18,400	18,900	19,000
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,700
State Government	3,700	3,700	3,500
Local Government	13,100	13,600	13,800

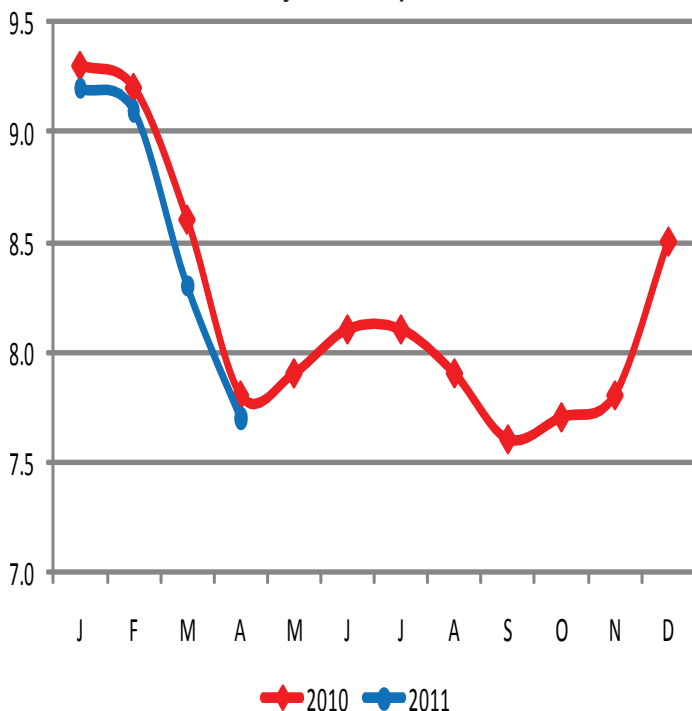
(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Civilian Labor Force	134,625	135,175	134,175
Employment	124,325	123,900	123,700
Unemployment	10,300	11,275	10,475
Unemployment Rate	7.7	8.3	7.8

Unemployment Rates

January 2010 - April 2011



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Total Nonfarm	39,500	38,200	37,900
Goods Producing	4,100	4,100	3,900
Service Providing	35,400	34,100	34,000
Government	4,900	4,900	5,100

(The following county makes up the Hot Springs MSA: Garland.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Civilian Labor Force	44,400	43,925	42,625
Employment	41,075	40,300	39,375
Unemployment	3,325	3,625	3,250
Unemployment Rate	7.5	8.2	7.6

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Total Nonfarm	49,100	48,900	49,300
Goods Producing	8,500	8,500	8,400
Service Providing	40,600	40,400	40,900
Government	9,000	9,000	9,100

(The following counties make up the Jonesboro MSA: Craighead and Poinsett.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Civilian Labor Force	58,150	58,275	58,225
Employment	54,000	53,850	54,075
Unemployment	4,150	4,425	4,150
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.6	7.1

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Total Nonfarm	36,500	36,300	37,700
Goods Producing	7,600	7,500	7,500
Service Providing	28,900	28,800	30,200
Government	10,900	10,900	11,300

(The following counties make up the PB MSA: Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 11	Mar 11	Apr 10
Civilian Labor Force	43,475	43,825	44,375
Employment	39,200	39,425	40,275
Unemployment	4,275	4,400	4,100
Unemployment Rate	9.8	10.1	9.2

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,368,100	1,369,800	1,351,600	-1,700	16,500	1,360,500	1,367,400	1,356,500	-6,900	4,000
Employment	1,262,300	1,263,700	1,245,200	-1,400	17,100	1,257,100	1,258,800	1,253,500	-1,700	3,600
Unemployment	105,800	106,100	106,400	-300	-600	103,400	108,600	103,000	-5,200	400
Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.7	7.9	0.0	-0.2	7.6	7.9	7.6	-0.3	0.0
U.S. Unemployment Rate	9.0	8.8	9.8	0.2	-0.8	8.7	9.2	9.5	-0.5	-0.8

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>
Civilian Labor Force	619,400	612,000	609,950
Employment	556,975	551,300	549,600
Unemployment	62,425	60,700	60,350
Unemployment Rate	10.1	9.9	9.9

	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>
Civilian Labor Force	64,950	65,450	65,300
Employment	60,325	60,625	60,550
Unemployment	4,625	4,825	4,750
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.4	7.3

Unemployment Rates by County

Between March and April, unemployment rates declined in 66 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Five counties posted rate increases, while four remained the same. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 5.7 percent in Benton and Madison counties to a high of 17.8 percent in Arkansas County.

In April, five counties enjoyed unemployment rates below six percent. Fifteen counties posted rates at or above ten percent, down from 23 counties in March.

Since April 2010, jobless rates are up in 39 counties. Twenty-nine counties have lower rates than this time last year, while seven were the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Apr 10</u>
75	Arkansas	17.8	17.9	17.3	62	Lee	10.3	10.9	8.3
63	Ashley	10.6	11.0	9.8	29	Lincoln	7.8	9.0	8.9
34	Baxter	8.2	8.8	8.5	19	Little River	7.1	7.5	7.2
1	Benton	5.7	6.2	6.1	29	Logan	7.8	8.0	7.8
17	Boone	7.0	7.7	6.9	7	Lonoke	6.3	6.8	6.4
65	Bradley	10.8	10.4	9.5	1	Madison	5.7	6.3	5.8
48	Calhoun	9.1	9.5	8.4	47	Marion	8.9	10.0	10.2
7	Carroll	6.3	7.5	6.3	4	Miller	5.9	6.1	6.1
71	Chicot	12.4	12.8	10.7	66	Mississippi	10.9	11.2	11.4
50	Clark	9.2	7.9	6.8	39	Monroe	8.3	8.5	7.6
73	Clay	13.5	14.1	11.1	33	Montgomery	8.0	8.9	7.2
24	Cleburne	7.6	8.2	7.1	64	Nevada	10.7	10.8	8.5
46	Cleveland	8.8	8.5	8.9	11	Newton	6.6	7.1	6.6
42	Columbia	8.6	8.9	9.1	34	Ouachita	8.2	8.4	8.5
32	Conway	7.9	8.1	7.8	26	Perry	7.7	7.8	8.1
13	Craighead	6.8	7.2	6.8	58	Phillips	9.9	10.6	9.0
29	Crawford	7.8	8.0	7.6	50	Pike	9.2	9.6	7.6
70	Crittenden	12.2	11.5	12.8	42	Poinsett	8.6	9.6	8.6
42	Cross	8.6	9.0	8.1	24	Polk	7.6	8.2	7.2
68	Dallas	11.3	11.1	12.4	22	Pope	7.2	7.2	6.9
72	Desha	12.7	13.5	11.7	34	Prairie	8.2	8.5	8.2
69	Drew	11.4	11.7	10.6	9	Pulaski	6.5	6.8	6.6
13	Faulkner	6.8	6.8	7.4	58	Randolph	9.9	10.1	8.6
13	Franklin	6.8	7.1	7.2	56	St. Francis	9.8	10.4	10.1
9	Fulton	6.5	7.1	7.0	6	Saline	6.1	6.6	6.5
23	Garland	7.5	8.2	7.6	11	Scott	6.6	7.1	6.2
16	Grant	6.9	7.4	6.1	34	Searcy	8.2	9.0	8.0
58	Greene	9.9	10.2	9.3	26	Sebastian	7.7	8.0	7.1
39	Hempstead	8.3	8.9	9.4	17	Sevier	7.0	7.2	5.3
19	Hot Spring	7.1	7.4	7.5	53	Sharp	9.5	10.3	8.9
34	Howard	8.2	8.2	7.5	56	Stone	9.8	11.2	8.5
26	Independence	7.7	8.1	7.9	54	Union	9.6	9.9	10.5
42	Izard	8.6	9.4	8.9	55	Van Buren	9.7	10.4	9.4
67	Jackson	11.0	11.1	10.3	3	Washington	5.8	5.9	5.9
61	Jefferson	10.2	10.4	9.3	41	White	8.4	8.6	8.2
19	Johnson	7.1	7.1	6.8	74	Woodruff	13.7	14.0	12.7
48	Lafayette	9.1	9.9	9.2	4	Yell	5.9	6.2	5.9
50	Lawrence	9.2	9.7	8.4					

Lowest Rates

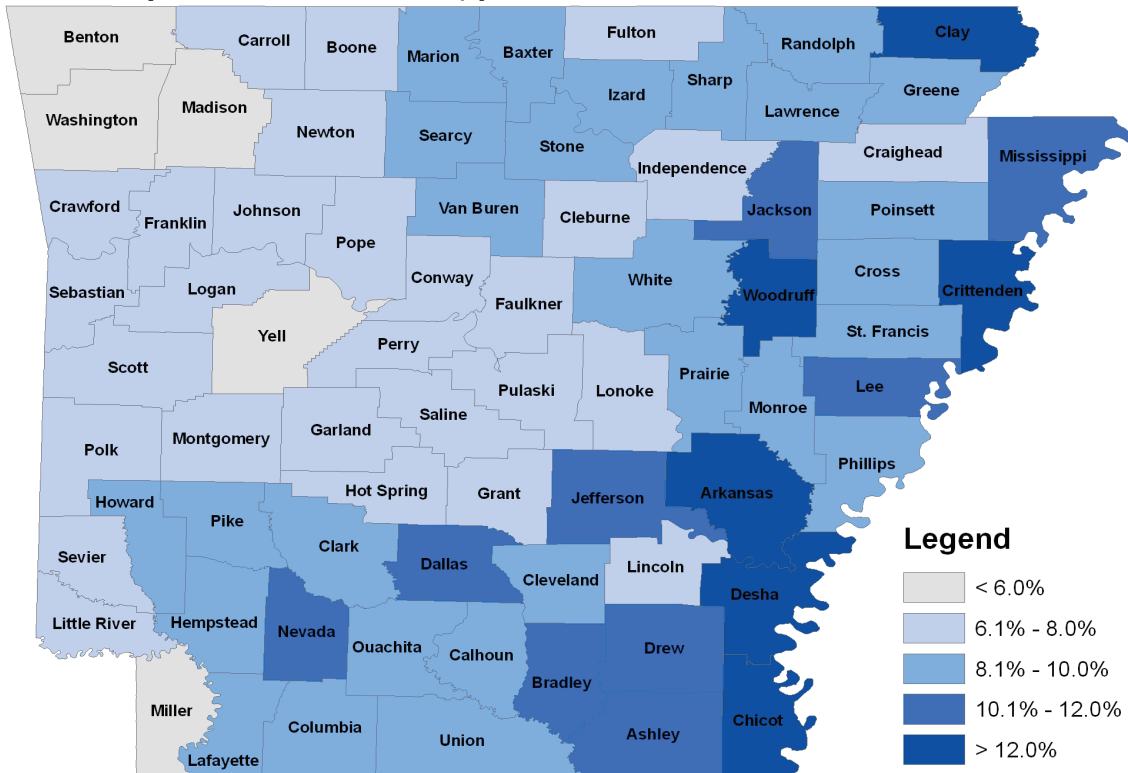
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Benton	5.7
1	Madison	5.7
3	Washington	5.8
4	Miller	5.9
4	Yell	5.9

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
71	Chicot	12.4
72	Desha	12.7
73	Clay	13.5
74	Woodruff	13.7
75	Arkansas	17.8

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

For complete County Labor Force Statistics, please visit our website at www.discover.arkansas.gov



Technical Notes

The *Arkansas Labor Market* is prepared monthly in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). The current month's estimates are preliminary, while previous data are subject to revision.

Estimates of nonfarm payroll jobs show the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work. Hours and earnings estimates are based on payroll and worker-hour data collected for production workers in manufacturing industries.

Industries are classified according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). All estimates are based on a first quarter 2010 benchmark.

Explanation of Terms and Concepts

Monthly Business Survey of Employers

A monthly sample survey designed to provide industry information on nonfarm payroll jobs. Data are compiled each month from mail surveys and telephone interviews conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics in cooperation with Department of Workforce Services. The data are based on establishment records and include all workers, full-or part-time, who received pay during the payroll period which includes the 12th of the

month. Approximately 3,000 Arkansas business establishments are surveyed.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)

A term applied by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to counties that have one or more central cities and that meet specified criteria of population density, commuting patterns and social and economic integration.

Current Population Survey (CPS)

A monthly sample survey of the population 16 years of age and over, designed to provide data on the labor force, the employed and the unemployed. The survey is conducted each month by the Bureau of the Census for BLS. The information is collected by trained interviewers from a sample of about 60,000 households. The data collected are based on the activity reported for the calendar week including the 12th of the month. Approximately 800 Arkansas households are represented in the sample survey.

Civilian Labor Force

The sum of all employed and unemployed persons 16 years of age or older. Members of the Armed Forces are excluded.

Employment

An estimate of the number of persons who worked any time for pay or profit or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in a family business during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month. Also included are those who, although not working, had some job attachment and were not looking for work, and persons involved in labor management disputes.

Unemployment

An estimate of the number of persons who did not have a job, but were available for work and actively seeking work during the calendar week which includes the 12th of the month.

Unemployment Rate

The number of unemployed as a percentage of the civilian labor force. Unemployment rates in this publication are calculated from unrounded data.

Seasonal Adjustment

A statistical technique applied to monthly data to eliminate changes that normally occur during the year due to seasonal events such as weather, major holidays, shifts in schedules, harvest times, and the opening/closing of schools.

Arkansas Labor Market

April 2011

The *Arkansas Labor Market* is produced by the Department of Workforce Services, Bureau of Labor Statistics. All Statistics are published in cooperation with the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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