

Arkansas Labor Market

January 2012

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.6 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Down 15,900 in January

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.8	8.1
US Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.5	9.1

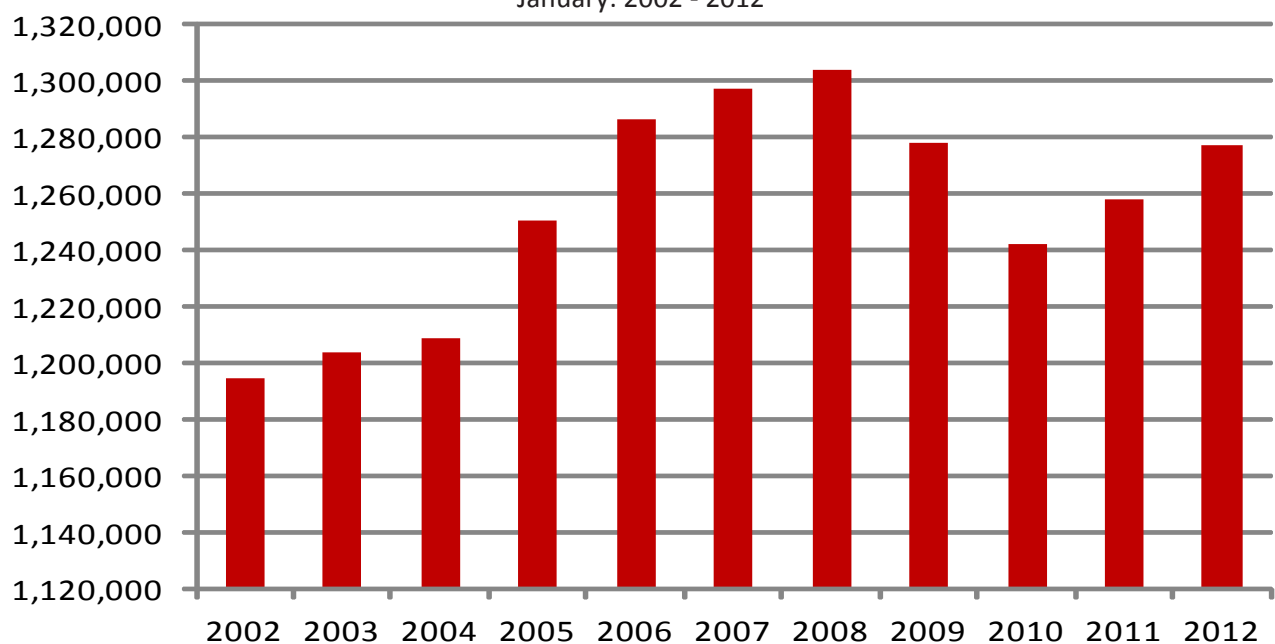
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,148,200	1,164,100	1,144,300
Goods Producing	211,400	212,800	214,000
Service Providing	936,800	951,300	930,300

Number of Employed (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas
January: 2002 - 2012



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

December 2011 - January 2012

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas decreased 15,900 in January to total 1,148,200. Eight major industry sectors posted employment declines, as one sector increased and two remained stable. Jobs in **government** fell 6,500. A majority of the loss occurred in state (-5,000) and local (-1,100) government, as public universities ended the fall semester. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** dropped 6,000. Retail trade posted most of the decline (-5,300), attributed to the end of temporary holiday hiring. Jobs in **professional and business services** decreased 1,600.

January 2011 - January 2012

Since January 2011, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment increased 3,900. Six major industry sectors enjoyed growth, more than offsetting declines in five sectors. The largest expansion occurred in **educational and health services** (+3,700). A majority of the gain occurred in health care and social assistance (+2,900). **Government** added 3,000 jobs, mostly at the local level (+3,900), a result of reported expansions at elementary and secondary schools. Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** increased 2,400. Most of the gain occurred in food services (+2,300). Employment in **construction** grew 1,700, as the sector continues to rebound. **Manufacturing** posted the largest annual decline (-4,400). Nondurable goods manufacturing lost 5,700 jobs due to layoffs and closures, while durable goods manufacturing added 1,300 jobs.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Total Nonfarm	1,148,200	1,164,100	1,144,300
Goods Producing	211,400	212,800	214,000
Mining & Logging	10,700	10,900	10,600
Construction	45,300	45,800	43,600
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,200	27,800	26,200
Manufacturing	155,400	156,100	159,800
Durable Goods	79,100	79,000	77,800
Nondurable Goods	76,300	77,100	82,000
Service Providing	936,800	951,300	930,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	234,700	240,700	233,700
Wholesale Trade	45,000	45,000	45,500
Retail Trade	129,800	135,100	129,400
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	59,900	60,600	58,800
Information	14,200	14,200	15,000
Financial Activities	47,300	48,200	48,200
Finance & Insurance	35,000	35,300	35,400
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,300	12,900	12,800
Professional & Business Services	114,500	116,100	116,200
Professional, Scientific & Technical	36,400	36,000	39,300
Management of Companies	26,700	26,600	25,600
Administrative & Support Services	51,400	53,500	51,300
Educational & Health Services	169,200	169,200	165,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	154,700	154,400	151,800
Ambulatory Health Care	47,400	47,100	45,800
Social Assistance	34,700	35,000	34,000
Leisure & Hospitality	96,200	95,400	93,800
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8,300	7,900	8,400
Accommodation & Food Services	87,900	87,500	85,400
Accommodation Services	10,100	10,500	9,900
Food Services	77,800	77,000	75,500
Other Services	42,600	42,900	42,800
Government	218,100	224,600	215,100
Federal Government	20,200	20,600	21,200
State Government	72,800	77,800	72,700
Local Government	125,100	126,200	121,200

Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Manufacturing	\$638.56	\$633.13	\$570.65	41.6	41.3	40.5	\$15.35	\$15.33	\$14.09
Durable Goods	714.23	724.62	637.97	43.0	42.7	40.2	16.61	16.97	15.87
Nondurable Goods	564.41	543.84	512.86	40.2	39.9	40.8	14.04	13.63	12.57

Spotlight

Changes Affecting 2010, 2011 and 2012 Data

Arkansas Civilian Labor Force Statistics:

In accordance with U.S. Department of Labor guidelines, Arkansas' Civilian Labor Force (CLF) estimates for 2010 and 2011 have undergone annual processing. The purpose of annual processing is to incorporate more complete and accurate information into the estimation process. All levels of data were updated, including data for the state, counties, cities, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, and Micropolitan Statistical Areas.

In addition to annual processing, the Department of Workforce Services, in association with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, implemented an improved system for calculating unemployment insurance claims data, which are a major input into CLF estimation. This new system gives a more detailed representation of unemployment by county and city, resulting in more accurate CLF data. The new process was used to update 2011 data and will be used to estimate monthly data beginning with January 2012. Because of this change, estimates for some counties in Arkansas will reflect a noticeable difference between the preliminary 2011 data and the revised 2011 data. Revised CLF estimates for 2010 and 2011 are available at www.discover.arkansas.gov.

Arkansas Nonfarm Payroll Jobs:

Nonfarm payroll employment estimates for April 2010 through December 2011 underwent annual processing. The updated information is available at www.discover.arkansas.gov.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics also started using an updated North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) beginning in 2012. The changes to NAICS were made to more accurately reflect current business activities and to ensure that new emerging industries will be correctly classified. These changes are minor and have no impact on the statistics used to produce nonfarm payroll job estimates.

2012 Spotlight Topics:

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

A Comparative Look at Unemployment Rates

Mass Layoff Statistics

Business Employment Dynamics

Local Employment Dynamics

Seasonal Employment Trends

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

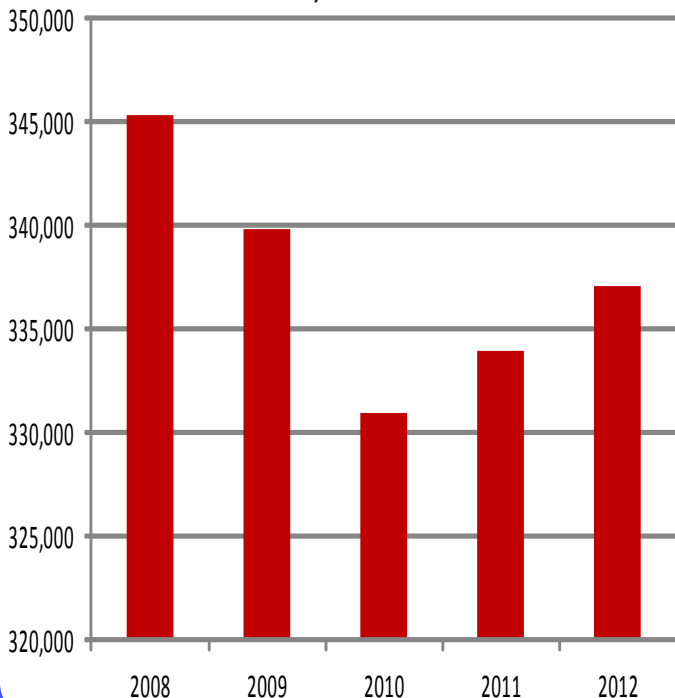
(NAICS)	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Total Nonfarm	337,100	341,600	333,900
Goods Producing	36,000	36,000	35,900
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,900	16,700	16,200
Manufacturing	19,100	19,300	19,700
Service Providing	301,100	305,600	298,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	66,800	68,800	64,800
Wholesale Trade	16,000	16,300	15,900
Retail Trade	37,900	39,300	36,400
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	12,900	13,200	12,500
Information	7,400	7,400	7,800
Financial Activities	18,700	19,000	19,100
Professional & Business Services	42,100	43,100	42,800
Educational & Health Services	49,900	50,200	49,800
Leisure & Hospitality	30,200	29,800	28,300
Other Services	14,900	15,000	14,900
Government	71,100	72,300	70,500
Federal Government	9,400	9,400	9,600
State Government	33,600	34,000	32,600
Local Government	28,100	28,900	28,300

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Civilian Labor Force	347,050	346,275	339,525
Employment	322,300	323,200	313,500
Unemployment	24,750	23,075	26,025
Unemployment Rate	7.1	6.7	7.7

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs January: 2008 - 2012



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

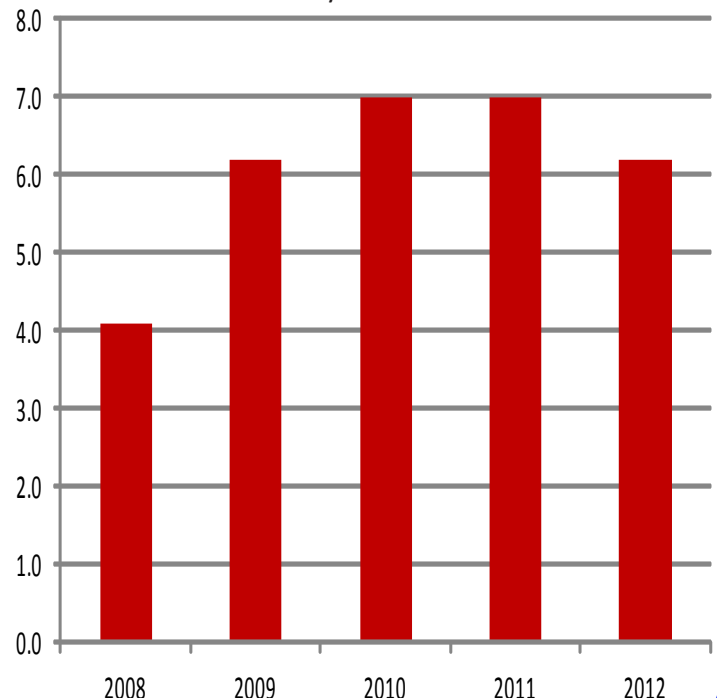
(NAICS)	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Total Nonfarm	202,800	205,000	198,600
Goods Producing	35,100	35,000	35,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,500	7,600	7,200
Manufacturing	27,600	27,400	28,100
Service Providing	167,700	170,000	163,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	46,000	46,800	45,100
Wholesale Trade	9,800	9,800	9,500
Retail Trade	21,100	22,000	20,800
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,100	15,000	14,800
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	6,900	7,000	7,100
Professional & Business Services	36,100	36,000	34,700
Educational & Health Services	23,000	23,000	22,200
Leisure & Hospitality	18,100	18,500	17,400
Other Services	6,900	6,900	6,700
Government	28,800	29,900	28,200
Federal Government	2,300	2,300	2,400
State Government	8,800	9,900	8,600
Local Government	17,700	17,700	17,200

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Civilian Labor Force	231,550	231,725	225,900
Employment	217,125	218,475	210,075
Unemployment	14,425	13,250	15,825
Unemployment Rate	6.2	5.7	7.0

Unemployment Rates January: 2008 - 2012



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Total Nonfarm	108,500	109,900	114,900
Goods Producing	25,200	25,500	27,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,600	6,800	6,500
Manufacturing	18,600	18,700	20,800
Service Providing	83,300	84,400	87,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,300	23,600	23,700
Wholesale Trade	3,900	3,800	4,000
Retail Trade	12,500	12,900	12,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,900	6,900	6,800
Information	1,100	1,100	1,100
Financial Activities	3,600	3,700	4,100
Professional & Business Services	9,200	9,300	10,900
Educational & Health Services	15,500	15,500	16,200
Leisure & Hospitality	7,900	8,000	8,300
Other Services	4,200	4,200	4,400
Government	18,500	19,000	18,900
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,700
State Government	3,000	3,400	3,000
Local Government	13,900	14,000	14,200

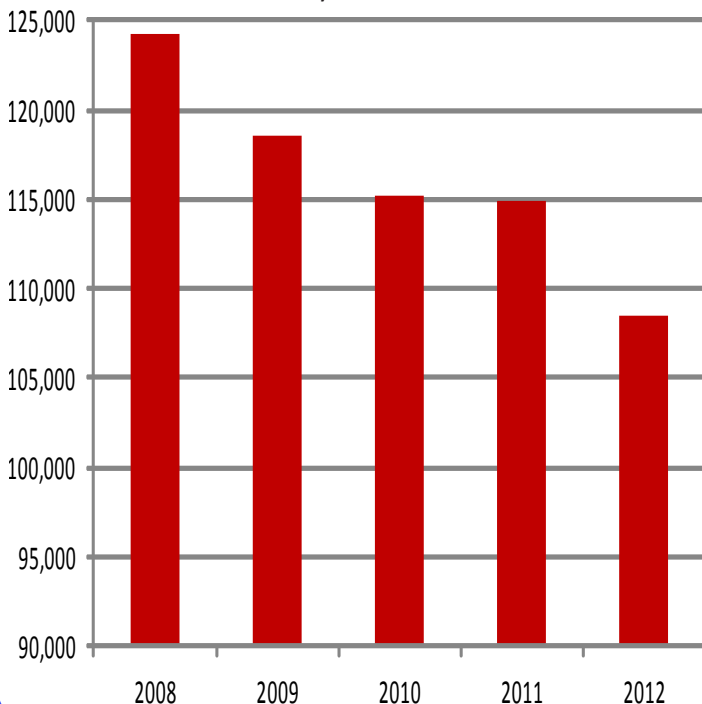
(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Civilian Labor Force	127,175	127,750	133,950
Employment	115,900	116,875	121,300
Unemployment	11,275	10,875	12,650
Unemployment Rate	8.9	8.5	9.4

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

January: 2008 - 2012



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Total Nonfarm	36,600	36,800	36,600
Goods Producing	3,900	4,000	4,000
Service Providing	32,700	32,800	32,600
Government	5,400	5,600	5,000

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Civilian Labor Force	42,350	42,150	41,775
Employment	38,775	38,750	37,875
Unemployment	3,575	3,400	3,900
Unemployment Rate	8.4	8.1	9.3

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Total Nonfarm	48,800	49,200	48,800
Goods Producing	8,500	8,500	8,300
Service Providing	40,300	40,700	40,500
Government	8,600	8,700	8,800

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Civilian Labor Force	58,775	58,725	58,375
Employment	54,075	54,500	53,350
Unemployment	4,700	4,225	5,025
Unemployment Rate	8.0	7.2	8.6

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Total Nonfarm	36,700	36,500	36,300
Goods Producing	7,200	7,300	7,300
Service Providing	29,500	29,200	29,000
Government	10,800	10,900	10,600

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Jan 12	Dec 11	Jan 11
Civilian Labor Force	44,525	44,050	43,700
Employment	39,950	39,775	38,850
Unemployment	4,575	4,275	4,850
Unemployment Rate	10.3	9.7	11.1

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,382,500	1,378,500	1,368,200	4,000	14,300	1,362,200	1,367,100	1,344,800	-4,900	17,400
Employment	1,277,300	1,271,400	1,257,900	5,900	19,400	1,249,200	1,262,200	1,223,900	-13,000	25,300
Unemployment	105,200	107,100	110,300	-1,900	-5,100	113,000	104,900	120,900	8,100	-7,900
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.8	8.1	-0.2	-0.5	8.3	7.7	9.0	0.6	-0.7
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.3	8.5	9.1	-0.2	-0.8	8.8	8.3	9.8	0.5	-1.0

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>		<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	621,775	633,925	615,000	Civilian Labor Force	67,100	67,325	65,825
Employment	563,350	577,600	550,875	Employment	62,050	62,675	60,575
Unemployment	58,425	56,325	64,125	Unemployment	5,050	4,650	5,250
Unemployment Rate	9.4	8.9	10.4	Unemployment Rate	7.5	6.9	8.0

Unemployment Rates by County

Between December 2011 and January 2012, unemployment rates increased in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Sebastian County remained stable over the month. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 5.9 percent in Washington County to a high of 15.9 percent in Clay County.

In January, one county (Washington) enjoyed an unemployment rate below six percent. Twenty-six counties posted rates at or above ten percent, up from 18 counties in December.

Compared to January 2011, jobless rates are down in 67 Arkansas counties. Eight counties posted rate increases, while none were the same over the year.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Jan 12</u>	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Jan 11</u>
43	Arkansas	9.4	9.1	13.8	72	Lee	12.9	10.9	12.6
74	Ashley	14.3	13.6	12.2	58	Lincoln	10.8	9.6	11.1
37	Baxter	9.1	8.7	10.1	21	Little River	8.0	7.2	8.4
4	Benton	6.6	6.1	7.0	25	Logan	8.3	7.5	9.0
32	Boone	8.7	7.3	9.1	6	Lonoke	6.8	6.6	7.9
66	Bradley	11.9	10.3	13.2	2	Madison	6.3	5.9	7.4
43	Calhoun	9.4	8.5	11.7	47	Marion	9.8	9.1	11.2
16	Carroll	7.8	6.2	9.2	8	Miller	7.2	6.9	7.8
70	Chicot	12.6	11.1	13.6	57	Mississippi	10.7	9.8	12.7
63	Clark	11.5	10.0	9.8	49	Monroe	9.9	8.8	10.4
75	Clay	15.9	14.5	14.7	35	Montgomery	8.9	8.0	10.8
23	Cleburne	8.2	7.3	8.8	32	Nevada	8.7	7.9	9.2
16	Cleveland	7.8	7.4	8.8	26	Newton	8.4	8.1	8.6
41	Columbia	9.2	8.4	10.2	56	Ouachita	10.6	9.9	9.5
23	Conway	8.2	7.7	9.4	37	Perry	9.1	8.3	9.2
13	Craighead	7.6	6.7	8.1	67	Phillips	12.4	11.5	12.1
32	Crawford	8.7	8.5	9.3	47	Pike	9.8	8.7	11.2
73	Crittenden	13.1	11.7	14.6	45	Poinsett	9.6	9.3	10.8
37	Cross	9.1	8.2	9.8	36	Polk	9.0	7.7	9.1
61	Dallas	11.4	10.6	12.5	19	Pope	7.9	7.4	8.4
69	Desha	12.5	10.8	13.5	29	Prairie	8.5	8.3	9.5
71	Drew	12.8	11.5	12.9	8	Pulaski	7.2	6.7	7.7
11	Faulkner	7.3	6.8	7.7	64	Randolph	11.6	10.6	11.3
19	Franklin	7.9	7.8	7.5	64	St. Francis	11.6	10.7	11.8
13	Fulton	7.6	6.7	8.3	4	Saline	6.6	6.1	7.2
26	Garland	8.4	8.1	9.3	7	Scott	7.1	6.2	7.4
8	Grant	7.2	6.8	8.3	30	Searcy	8.6	7.9	10.2
53	Greene	10.5	9.7	10.7	26	Sebastian	8.4	8.4	9.3
22	Hempstead	8.1	7.8	10.2	30	Sevier	8.6	7.8	9.0
13	Hot Spring	7.6	7.1	8.8	60	Sharp	11.3	10.0	11.5
16	Howard	7.8	7.6	8.5	59	Stone	10.9	10.0	11.9
42	Independence	9.3	8.6	9.4	51	Union	10.1	9.3	10.8
46	Izard	9.7	9.3	10.7	50	Van Buren	10.0	9.2	11.8
61	Jackson	11.4	10.2	12.4	1	Washington	5.9	5.3	6.8
53	Jefferson	10.5	10.0	11.4	37	White	9.1	8.4	10.3
12	Johnson	7.4	6.4	8.1	67	Woodruff	12.4	10.4	12.9
51	Lafayette	10.1	8.7	11.6	3	Yell	6.5	6.0	7.5
53	Lawrence	10.5	9.3	11.0					

Lowest Rates

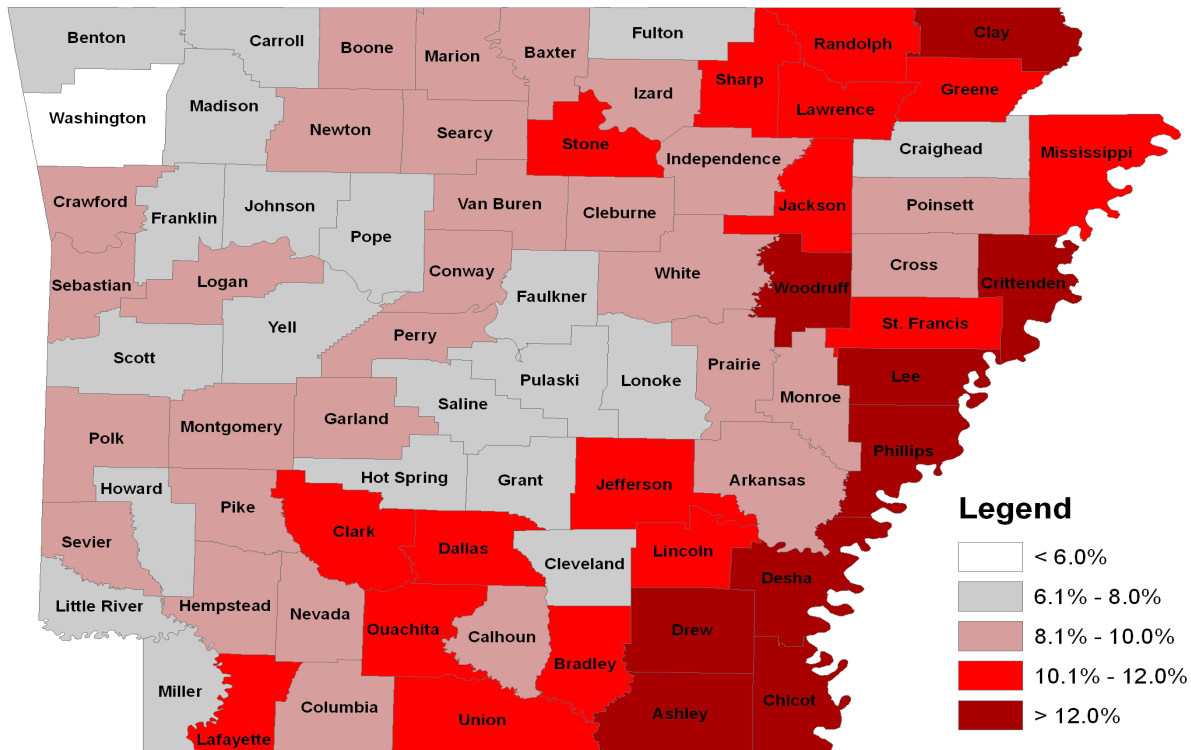
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Washington	5.9
2	Madison	6.3
3	Yell	6.5
4	Benton	6.6
4	Saline	6.6

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Lee	12.9
73	Crittenden	13.1
74	Ashley	14.3
75	Clay	15.9

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 2011 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

January 2012

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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