

Arkansas Labor Market

April 2012

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.2 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 6,100 in April

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.4	8.0
US Unemployment Rate	8.1	8.2	9.0

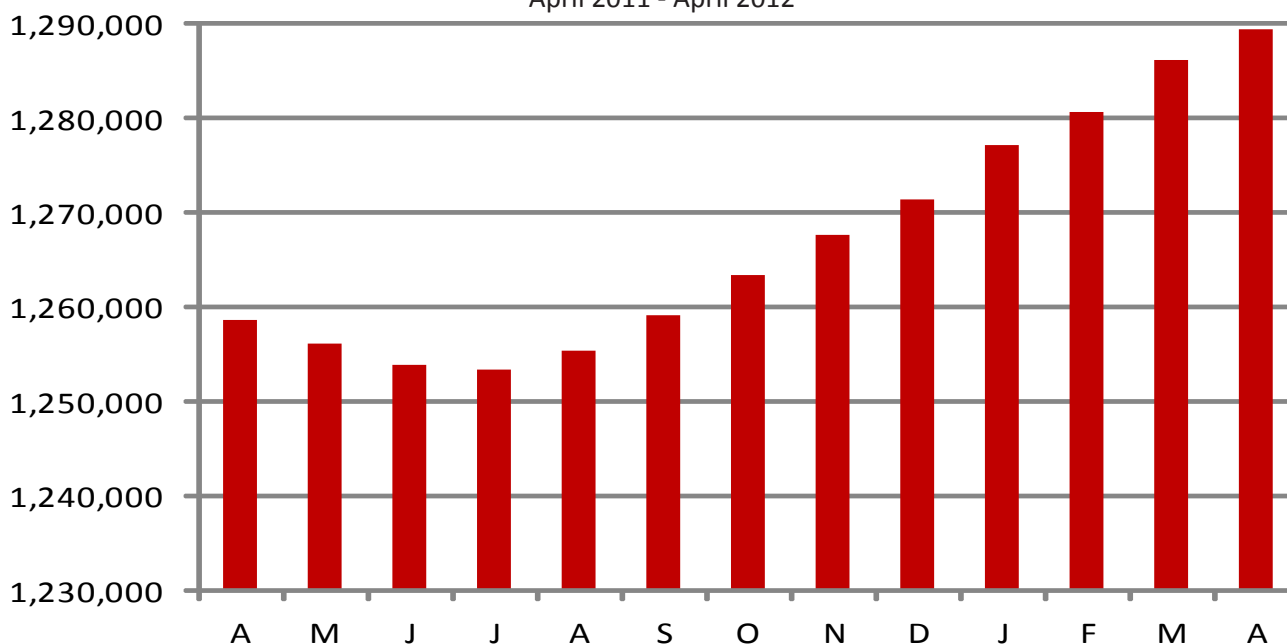
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,171,200	1,165,100	1,176,600
Goods Producing	211,300	210,700	218,700
Service Providing	959,900	954,400	957,900

Number of Employed (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas
April 2011 - April 2012



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

March 2012 - April 2012

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 6,100 in April to total 1,171,200. Eight major industry sectors posted gains, while one sector declined and two remained the same. **Leisure and hospitality** enjoyed the largest expansion (+3,700). Hiring was mostly seasonal, with food services adding a majority of the jobs (+2,100). **Educational and health services** gained 1,100 jobs. Most of the increase occurred in health care and social assistance (+800). Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 600. Seasonal gains in retail (+800) and wholesale (+700) trade more than offset the losses in transportation-warehousing-utilities (-900).

April 2011 - April 2012

Since April 2011, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment decreased 5,400. Six major industry sectors reported declines, more than offsetting growth in four sectors. Jobs in **professional and business services** dropped 5,500. Losses in administrative and support services (-3,500) were attributed to reported declines in office administrative services and in employment services. Jobs in **manufacturing** fell 5,000, related to continued layoffs and closures. **Trade, transportation, and utilities** employment decreased 2,500. A majority of the loss occurred in retail trade (-2,000). **Leisure and hospitality** added 4,800 jobs. The growth occurred in accommodation and food services.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs				
(NAICS)	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11	
Total Nonfarm	1,171,200	1,165,100	1,176,600	
Goods Producing	211,300	210,700	218,700	
Mining & Logging	11,000	10,900	11,000	
Construction	44,700	44,500	47,100	
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,800	28,000	28,000	
Manufacturing	155,600	155,300	160,600	
Durable Goods	80,100	79,600	78,900	
Nondurable Goods	75,500	75,700	81,700	
Service Providing	959,900	954,400	957,900	
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	235,500	234,900	238,000	
Wholesale Trade	46,400	45,700	46,800	
Retail Trade	129,400	128,600	131,400	
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	59,700	60,600	59,800	
Information	14,200	14,200	14,900	
Financial Activities	46,900	46,900	48,700	
Finance & Insurance	34,500	34,600	35,500	
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,400	12,300	13,200	
Professional & Business Services	115,400	115,600	120,900	
Professional, Scientific & Technical	36,800	36,800	40,000	
Management of Companies	26,900	26,700	25,700	
Administrative & Support Services	51,700	52,100	55,200	
Educational & Health Services	171,700	170,600	168,000	
Health Care & Social Assistance	156,000	155,200	153,500	
Ambulatory Health Care	47,400	47,500	46,200	
Social Assistance	35,600	35,300	34,800	
Leisure & Hospitality	106,400	102,700	101,600	
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,100	8,700	10,100	
Accommodation & Food Services	96,300	94,000	91,500	
Accommodation Services	11,500	11,300	11,000	
Food Services	84,800	82,700	80,500	
Other Services	44,300	44,100	44,000	
Government	225,500	225,400	221,800	
Federal Government	20,100	20,200	21,200	
State Government	78,900	78,700	78,900	
Local Government	126,500	126,500	121,700	

Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Manufacturing	\$635.95	\$619.65	\$576.64	42.2	41.2	40.1	\$15.07	\$15.04	\$14.38
Durable Goods	700.81	684.13	642.38	43.1	42.1	40.3	16.26	16.25	15.94
Nondurable Goods	568.56	554.53	517.90	41.2	40.3	39.9	13.80	13.76	12.98

Spotlight

Business Employment Dynamics (BED)

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 are calculated from quarterly reports provided by individual employers. Like QCEW data, BED statistics are produced on a quarterly basis, with longitudinal data dating back to 1992. At this time, BED data are only published at the national and

state level. No statistics currently exist to provide data at the county or city level in Arkansas.

The information produced from BED statistics includes gross job gains and 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. The net change is the difference between gross job gains and gross job losses.

Gross Job Gains and Losses by Quarter (Private Sector)

State of Arkansas
(Seasonally Adjusted)

3 months ended

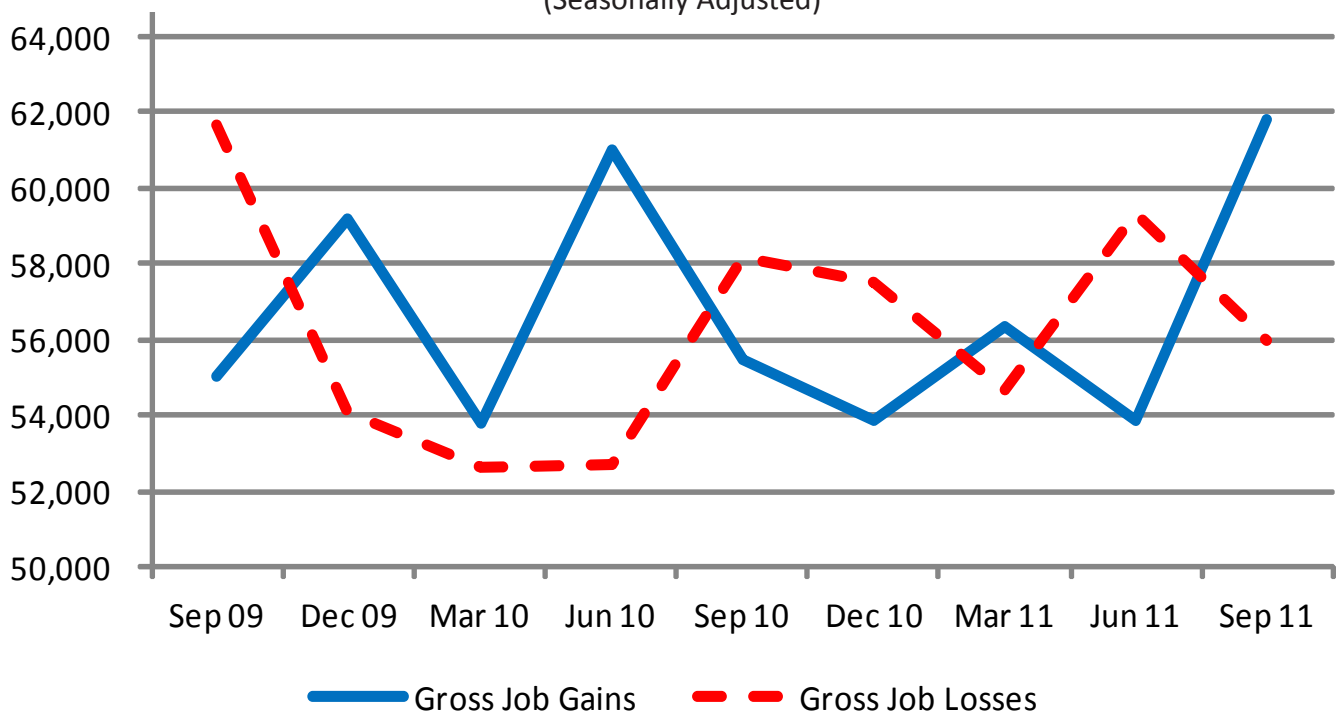
Category	Sep 10	Dec 10	Mar 11	Jun 11	Sep 11*
Employment Levels					
Gross job gains.....	55,487	53,841	56,325	53,865	61,843
Gross job losses....	58,187	57,528	54,661	59,326	55,999
Net Change.....	-2,700	-3,687	1,664	-5,461	5,844

*Most recent BED data available is for 3rd Quarter 2011

The chart below shows gross job gains versus gross job losses for a nine quarter period (3rd Q 2009- 3rd Q 2011).

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

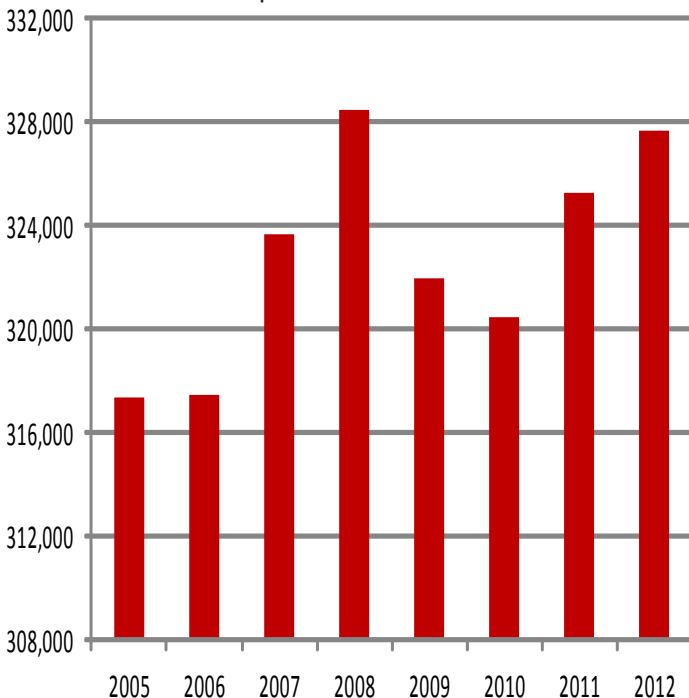
(NAICS)	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Total Nonfarm	337,100	337,600	341,200
Goods Producing	35,800	35,700	36,700
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,800	16,700	16,900
Manufacturing	19,000	19,000	19,800
Service Providing	301,300	301,900	304,500
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	64,600	64,900	65,200
Wholesale Trade	16,200	16,000	16,200
Retail Trade	35,600	36,000	36,400
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	12,800	12,900	12,600
Information	7,300	7,400	7,700
Financial Activities	18,700	18,700	19,100
Professional & Business Services	42,000	42,200	44,600
Educational & Health Services	50,800	50,700	50,600
Leisure & Hospitality	31,200	31,200	30,200
Other Services	15,200	15,100	15,300
Government	71,500	71,700	71,800
Federal Government	9,400	9,300	9,600
State Government	34,100	34,300	33,700
Local Government	28,000	28,100	28,500

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Civilian Labor Force	349,400	350,225	348,500
Employment	327,650	326,700	325,300
Unemployment	21,750	23,525	23,200
Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.7	6.7

Number of Employed
April: 2005 - 2012



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

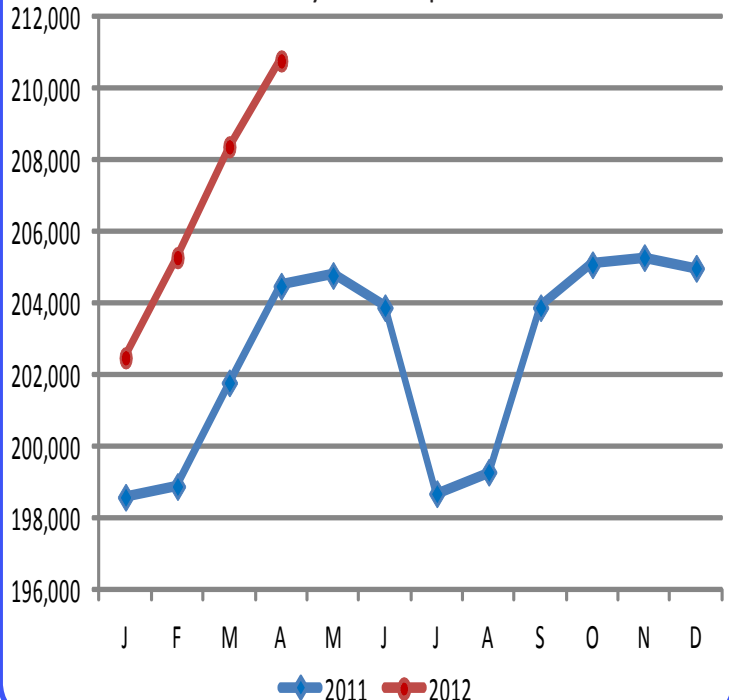
(NAICS)	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Total Nonfarm	210,800	208,400	204,500
Goods Producing	34,800	34,600	35,800
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,500	7,400	7,700
Manufacturing	27,300	27,200	28,100
Service Providing	176,000	173,800	168,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	47,400	47,000	45,900
Wholesale Trade	10,100	10,000	9,800
Retail Trade	21,900	21,700	21,300
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,400	15,300	14,800
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	7,000	7,200
Professional & Business Services	37,700	37,400	35,700
Educational & Health Services	23,900	23,500	22,700
Leisure & Hospitality	20,500	19,500	18,900
Other Services	7,200	7,100	7,000
Government	30,400	30,400	29,400
Federal Government	2,300	2,300	2,400
State Government	10,200	10,300	9,600
Local Government	17,900	17,800	17,400

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Civilian Labor Force	241,225	239,250	231,550
Employment	228,550	225,550	217,925
Unemployment	12,675	13,700	13,625
Unemployment Rate	5.3	5.7	5.9

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
January 2011 - April 2012



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Total Nonfarm	110,200	107,900	115,800
Goods Producing	25,600	25,100	27,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,700	6,500	7,000
Manufacturing	18,900	18,600	20,500
Service Providing	84,600	82,800	88,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,500	22,900	24,200
Wholesale Trade	4,000	3,800	4,100
Retail Trade	12,600	12,300	13,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,900	6,800	7,000
Information	1,100	1,100	1,100
Financial Activities	3,600	3,500	4,200
Professional & Business Services	9,400	9,200	10,400
Educational & Health Services	15,100	14,800	16,300
Leisure & Hospitality	8,600	8,200	8,600
Other Services	4,200	4,100	4,400
Government	19,100	19,000	19,100
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,600
State Government	3,500	3,400	3,400
Local Government	14,000	14,000	14,100

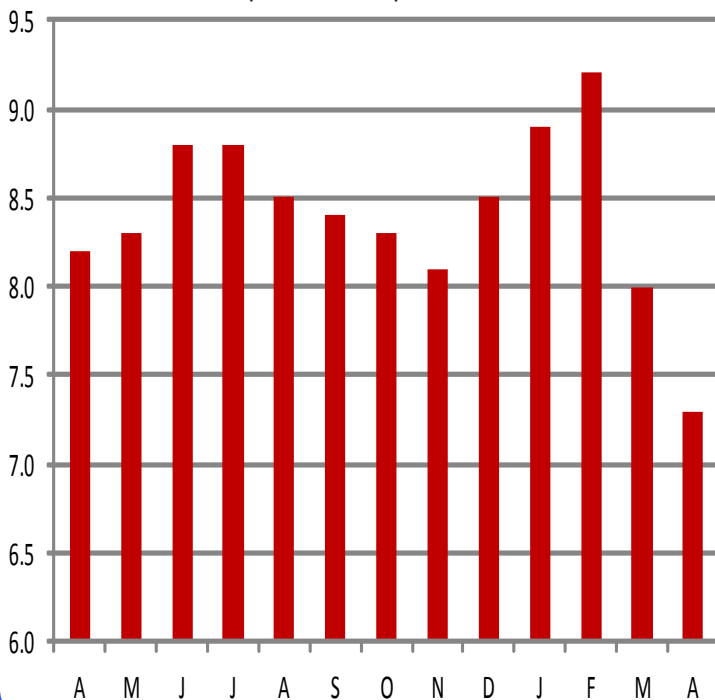
(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian in Arkansas and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Civilian Labor Force	128,225	126,900	133,925
Employment	118,825	116,750	123,000
Unemployment	9,400	10,150	10,925
Unemployment Rate	7.3	8.0	8.2

Unemployment Rates

April 2011 - April 2012



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Total Nonfarm	36,600	36,900	37,800
Goods Producing	4,000	3,900	4,100
Service Providing	32,600	33,000	33,700
Government	5,600	5,600	4,800

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Civilian Labor Force	42,375	42,825	42,850
Employment	39,300	39,475	39,475
Unemployment	3,075	3,350	3,375
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.8	7.9

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Total Nonfarm	49,900	49,400	49,700
Goods Producing	8,500	8,400	8,500
Service Providing	41,400	41,000	41,200
Government	8,600	8,700	8,300

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Civilian Labor Force	59,975	59,825	58,975
Employment	56,075	55,600	54,625
Unemployment	3,900	4,225	4,350
Unemployment Rate	6.5	7.1	7.4

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Total Nonfarm	36,700	36,700	37,500
Goods Producing	7,300	7,200	7,800
Service Providing	29,400	29,500	29,700
Government	10,600	10,500	10,800

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Apr 12	Mar 12	Apr 11
Civilian Labor Force	44,300	44,650	44,525
Employment	40,425	40,450	40,175
Unemployment	3,875	4,200	4,350
Unemployment Rate	8.8	9.4	9.8

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,390,000	1,389,500	1,368,800	500	21,200	1,385,600	1,386,100	1,370,900	-500	14,700
Employment	1,289,400	1,286,100	1,258,700	3,300	30,700	1,290,000	1,282,900	1,265,000	7,100	25,000
Unemployment	100,600	103,400	110,100	-2,800	-9,500	95,600	103,200	105,900	-7,600	-10,300
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.4	8.0	-0.2	-0.8	6.9	7.4	7.7	-0.5	-0.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.1	8.2	9.0	-0.1	-0.9	7.7	8.4	8.7	-0.7	-1.0

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>		<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	614,850	615,475	618,175	Civilian Labor Force	67,700	67,675	66,375
Employment	563,450	561,225	557,650	Employment	63,525	63,200	61,650
Unemployment	51,400	54,250	60,525	Unemployment	4,175	4,475	4,725
Unemployment Rate	8.4	8.8	9.8	Unemployment Rate	6.2	6.6	7.1

Unemployment Rates by County

Between March and April, unemployment rates decreased in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Only Crittenden County posted an over-the-month rate increase. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 4.9 percent in Carroll County to a high of 11.8 percent in Clay County.

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

Compared to April 2011, jobless rates are down in 71 counties. Four counties posted rate increases and none remained the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Apr 12</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Apr 11</u>
39	Arkansas	7.4	8.1	11.4	72	Lee	10.6	10.8	10.9
74	Ashley	11.4	12.4	11.0	55	Lincoln	8.7	9.6	7.9
39	Baxter	7.4	8.0	8.0	19	Little River	6.5	6.9	7.6
5	Benton	5.3	5.8	5.8	41	Logan	7.5	7.8	8.2
23	Boone	6.7	7.6	7.0	7	Lonoke	5.7	6.2	6.3
70	Bradley	10.4	10.8	11.5	2	Madison	5.1	5.5	5.9
59	Calhoun	9.0	9.6	9.3	44	Marion	7.7	8.7	8.6
1	Carroll	4.9	5.7	6.1	4	Miller	5.2	5.4	7.1
64	Chicot	9.5	10.2	12.3	57	Mississippi	8.9	9.6	11.0
59	Clark	9.0	9.6	8.7	44	Monroe	7.7	8.5	8.3
75	Clay	11.8	13.5	13.1	31	Montgomery	7.1	7.7	8.1
23	Cleburne	6.7	7.5	8.0	12	Nevada	6.2	7.3	10.3
25	Cleveland	6.9	7.6	8.4	14	Newton	6.3	7.2	6.7
49	Columbia	8.3	8.7	8.9	57	Ouachita	8.9	9.9	8.8
31	Conway	7.1	7.6	8.0	43	Perry	7.6	8.1	8.4
17	Craighead	6.4	6.8	7.0	68	Phillips	10.2	11.0	10.6
33	Crawford	7.2	8.2	8.1	44	Pike	7.7	8.6	9.5
73	Crittenden	11.1	10.3	13.8	28	Poinsett	7.0	8.1	8.8
36	Cross	7.3	7.9	8.1	28	Polk	7.0	7.5	7.9
67	Dallas	10.1	10.7	11.2	19	Pope	6.5	6.9	7.2
69	Desha	10.3	10.8	12.0	25	Prairie	6.9	7.3	7.7
70	Drew	10.4	11.0	11.4	14	Pulaski	6.3	6.8	6.8
12	Faulkner	6.2	6.8	6.6	63	Randolph	9.4	10.0	9.6
22	Franklin	6.6	7.3	7.2	65	St. Francis	9.9	10.4	10.2
14	Fulton	6.3	7.0	6.7	9	Saline	6.0	6.4	6.2
33	Garland	7.2	7.8	7.9	8	Scott	5.9	6.3	6.4
19	Grant	6.5	7.0	6.9	36	Searcy	7.3	8.2	8.2
53	Greene	8.6	9.5	9.5	28	Sebastian	7.0	7.6	8.1
25	Hempstead	6.9	7.2	8.2	33	Sevier	7.2	7.5	8.1
11	Hot Spring	6.1	6.8	7.3	55	Sharp	8.7	9.8	9.8
17	Howard	6.4	7.0	7.7	53	Stone	8.6	9.7	9.8
47	Independence	7.9	8.3	8.1	51	Union	8.4	8.9	9.5
36	Izard	7.3	8.0	8.7	48	Van Buren	8.1	8.8	9.5
62	Jackson	9.1	9.9	10.6	2	Washington	5.1	5.5	5.8
59	Jefferson	9.0	9.6	10.2	41	White	7.5	8.1	8.7
9	Johnson	6.0	6.6	7.1	65	Woodruff	9.9	10.6	13.6
52	Lafayette	8.5	8.9	9.7	6	Yell	5.5	6.2	6.0
49	Lawrence	8.3	9.1	9.3					

Lowest Rates

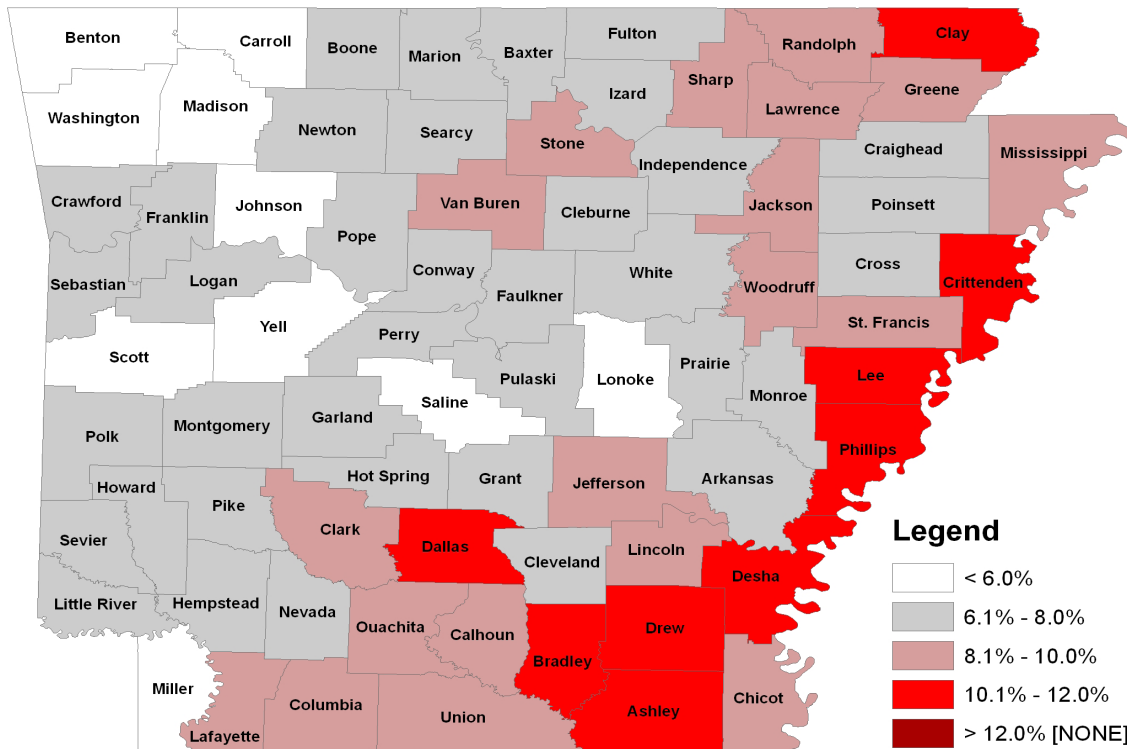
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Carroll	4.9
2	Madison	5.1
2	Washington	5.1
4	Miller	5.2
5	Benton	5.3

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Lee	10.6
73	Crittenden	11.1
74	Ashley	11.4
75	Clay	11.8

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 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

April 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.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.



Voice: 1-800-285-1121

TDD: 1-800-285-1131

Mike Beebe- Governor
Artee Williams- DWS Director

Jobs for People. People for Jobs.
DWS
Department of
WORKFORCEservices

Department of Workforce Services
Bureau of Labor Statistics
P.O. Box 2981
Little Rock, AR 72203-2981