

Arkansas Labor Market

March 2012

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Declines to 7.4 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 10,900 in March

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.6	8.0
US Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.3	8.9

Nonfarm Payroll Summary

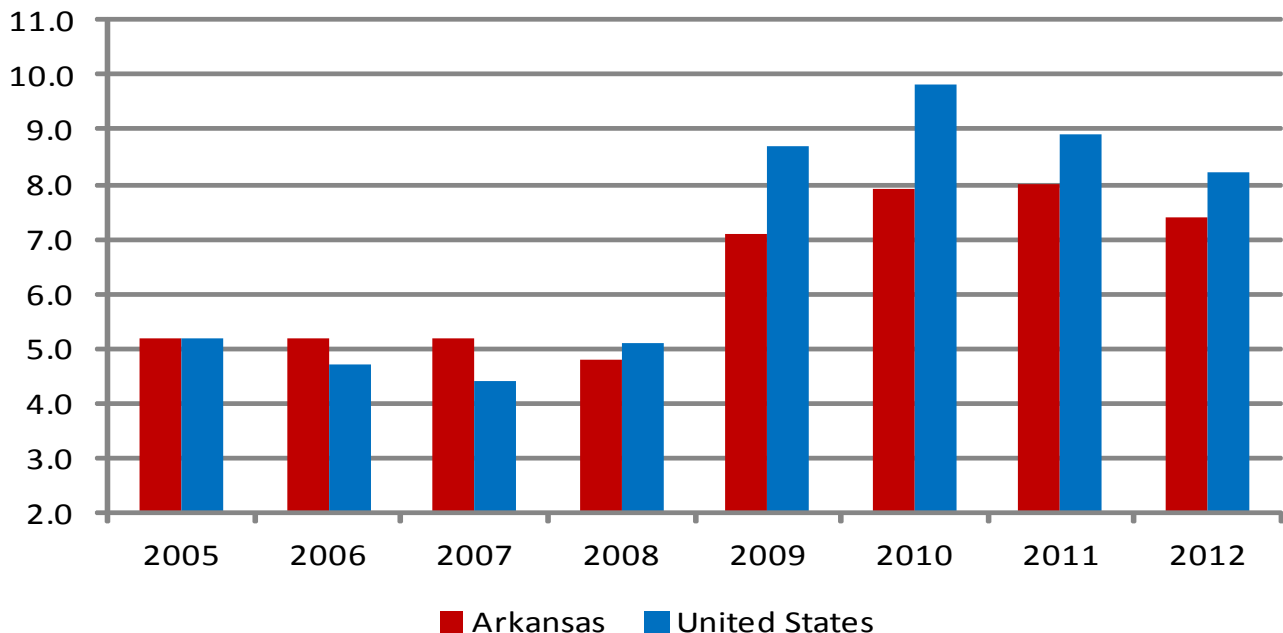
State of Arkansas

	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,166,600	1,155,700	1,160,600
Goods Producing	212,000	210,400	216,500
Service Providing	954,600	945,300	944,100

Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas vs. United States

March: 2005 - 2012



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

February 2012 - March 2012

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 10,900 in March to total 1,166,600. Eight major industry sectors reported gains, as two declined slightly and one remained the same. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the largest increase (+4,900). Most of the growth was attributed to seasonal hiring in accommodation and food services (+4,500). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 3,300 jobs. A majority of the expansions were seasonal, occurring in retail trade (+1,900). Employment in **educational and health services** rose 1,100. All increases were reflected in health care and social assistance.

March 2011 - March 2012

Since March 2011, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 6,000. Seven major industry sectors posted growth, more than offsetting declines in four industries. **Leisure and hospitality** enjoyed the greatest expansion (+5,200). Most of the additions were in food services (+4,400). Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 4,700. Health care and social assistance reported a majority of the gain (+3,700). **Government** added 3,400 jobs. The growth in local (+3,500) and state (+700) government was related to expansions in public education. Employment in **manufacturing** fell 5,000. The losses in nondurable goods (-6,000) more than offset the moderate increases in durable goods (+1,000).

(NAICS)	Nonfarm Payroll Jobs		
	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Total Nonfarm	1,166,600	1,155,700	1,160,600
Goods Producing	212,000	210,400	216,500
Mining & Logging	10,900	10,600	10,700
Construction	45,800	45,300	45,500
Specialty Trade Contractors	28,500	27,600	26,800
Manufacturing	155,300	154,500	160,300
Durable Goods	79,600	79,000	78,600
Nondurable Goods	75,700	75,500	81,700
Service Providing	954,600	945,300	944,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	235,300	232,000	233,900
Wholesale Trade	45,900	45,100	45,800
Retail Trade	128,600	126,700	129,100
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	60,800	60,200	59,000
Information	14,200	14,200	14,900
Financial Activities	46,900	47,000	48,200
Finance & Insurance	34,600	34,800	35,300
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,300	12,200	12,900
Professional & Business Services	115,700	116,300	118,700
Professional, Scientific & Technical	36,800	36,900	39,200
Management of Companies	26,800	26,700	25,600
Administrative & Support Services	52,100	52,700	53,900
Educational & Health Services	171,400	170,300	166,700
Health Care & Social Assistance	155,800	154,600	152,100
Ambulatory Health Care	47,700	47,200	45,600
Social Assistance	35,300	34,900	34,300
Leisure & Hospitality	102,500	97,600	97,300
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8,700	8,300	8,600
Accommodation & Food Services	93,800	89,300	88,700
Accommodation Services	11,200	10,500	10,500
Food Services	82,600	78,800	78,200
Other Services	44,000	43,800	43,200
Government	224,600	224,100	221,200
Federal Government	20,200	20,100	21,000
State Government	78,700	78,000	78,000
Local Government	125,700	126,000	122,200

Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Manufacturing	\$617.59	\$621.90	\$581.40	41.2	40.7	40.8	\$14.99	\$15.28	\$14.25
Durable Goods	684.13	695.84	650.35	42.1	42.3	40.8	16.25	16.45	15.94
Nondurable Goods	550.50	548.57	521.02	40.3	39.1	40.8	13.66	14.03	12.77

Spotlight

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

In addition to the unemployment rate, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) also calculates five additional estimates based on various definitions of 'unemployment'. These are known as Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization and are referred to as U1-U6, with U-3 being the definition used to calculate the official unemployment rate. These measures are calculated using data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey of households (roughly 800 Arkansas households are surveyed each month).

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization are available at the statewide level, but they are not produced on a monthly basis. Estimates are calculated using a four quarter moving average. The most recent data represents an average of 2nd Quarter 2011 through 1st Quarter 2012 (i.e. April 2011-March 2012).

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

State of Arkansas

2nd Quarter 2011 - 1st Quarter 2012 (Average)

U-1	U-2	U-3	U-4	U-5	U-6
4.1%	4.3%	8.3%	8.9%	9.7%	14.2%

The following are the definitions used to calculate each measure of labor underutilization:

U-1 Measure: Persons unemployed for 15 weeks or longer, as a percent of the civilian labor force.

U-2 Measure: Job losers and persons who completed temporary jobs, as a percent of the civilian labor force.

U-3 Measure: Total number of unemployed persons, as a percent of the civilian labor force (this is the definition used for the official unemployment rate).

U-4 Measure: Total number of unemployed and discouraged workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus discouraged workers.

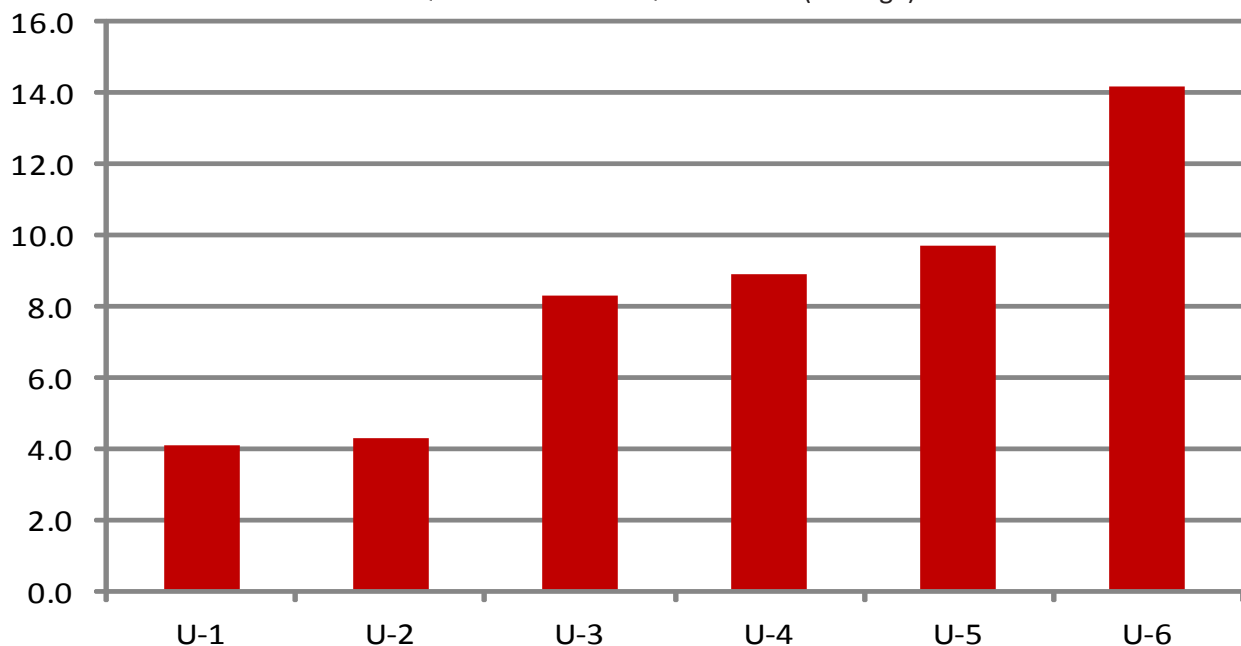
U-5 Measure: Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, and all other marginally attached workers, as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

U-6 Measure: Total number of unemployed, discouraged workers, marginally attached workers, and those employed part-time for economic reasons (not by choice), as a percent of the civilian labor force plus marginally attached workers.

Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization

State of Arkansas

2nd Quarter 2011 - 1st Quarter 2012 (Average)



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

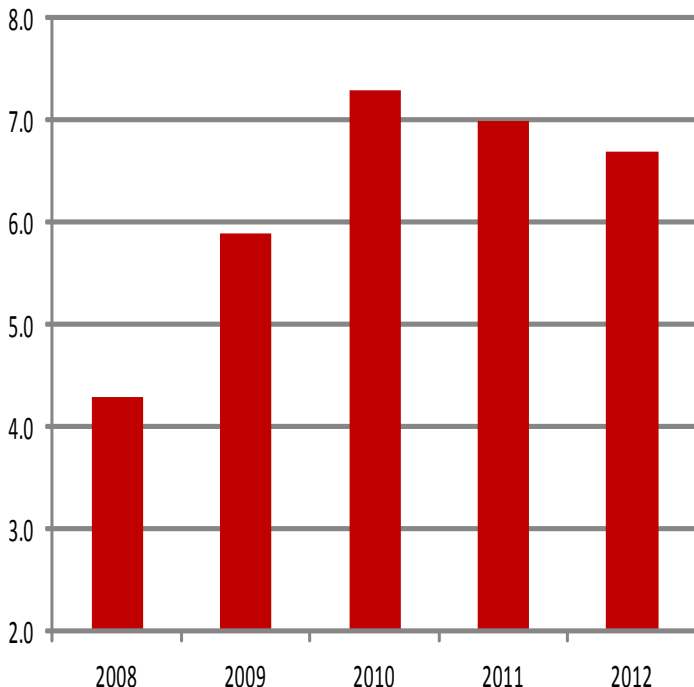
(NAICS)	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Total Nonfarm	337,800	335,700	337,800
Goods Producing	35,700	35,300	36,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,700	16,300	16,400
Manufacturing	19,000	19,000	19,800
Service Providing	302,100	300,400	301,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	65,100	64,700	64,700
Wholesale Trade	16,100	16,000	15,900
Retail Trade	36,100	35,900	36,200
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	12,900	12,800	12,600
Information	7,400	7,400	7,800
Financial Activities	18,700	18,700	19,000
Professional & Business Services	42,200	42,000	43,800
Educational & Health Services	50,900	50,600	50,300
Leisure & Hospitality	31,000	30,200	29,100
Other Services	15,100	15,000	15,100
Government	71,700	71,800	71,800
Federal Government	9,300	9,300	9,500
State Government	34,300	34,100	33,800
Local Government	28,100	28,400	28,500

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Civilian Labor Force	349,825	347,850	346,825
Employment	326,525	322,075	322,450
Unemployment	23,300	25,775	24,375
Unemployment Rate	6.7	7.4	7.0

Unemployment Rates March: 2008 - 2012



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

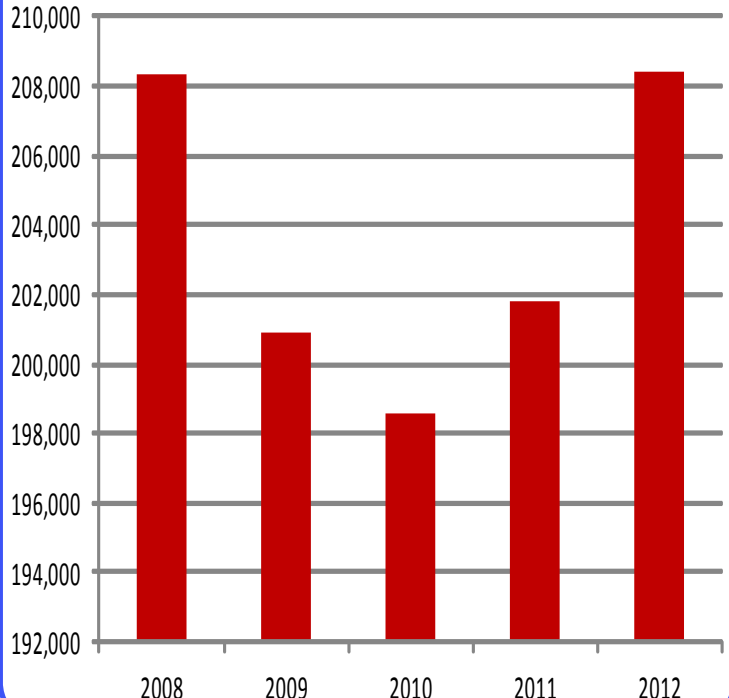
(NAICS)	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Total Nonfarm	208,600	205,300	201,800
Goods Producing	34,800	34,600	35,600
Mining, Logging & Construction	7,600	7,400	7,500
Manufacturing	27,200	27,200	28,100
Service Providing	173,800	170,700	166,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	46,900	45,800	45,200
Wholesale Trade	10,000	9,800	9,700
Retail Trade	21,500	20,900	20,700
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,400	15,100	14,800
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	6,900	7,100
Professional & Business Services	37,600	37,000	35,200
Educational & Health Services	23,600	23,200	22,500
Leisure & Hospitality	19,300	18,500	18,000
Other Services	7,100	7,000	6,800
Government	30,400	30,400	29,500
Federal Government	2,300	2,300	2,400
State Government	10,300	10,300	9,800
Local Government	17,800	17,800	17,300

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Civilian Labor Force	239,425	235,750	229,725
Employment	225,750	220,525	215,325
Unemployment	13,675	15,225	14,400
Unemployment Rate	5.7	6.5	6.3

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs March: 2008 - 2012



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Total Nonfarm	108,200	108,300	115,500
Goods Producing	25,200	25,500	27,400
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,700	6,700	6,700
Manufacturing	18,500	18,800	20,700
Service Providing	83,000	82,800	88,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	22,800	22,800	23,400
Wholesale Trade	3,800	3,800	4,000
Retail Trade	12,200	12,200	12,800
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,600
Information	1,100	1,100	1,100
Financial Activities	3,500	3,500	4,100
Professional & Business Services	9,200	9,200	10,700
Educational & Health Services	15,200	15,300	16,300
Leisure & Hospitality	8,100	7,800	8,500
Other Services	4,100	4,100	4,400
Government	19,000	19,000	19,600
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,600
State Government	3,400	3,400	3,400
Local Government	14,000	14,000	14,600

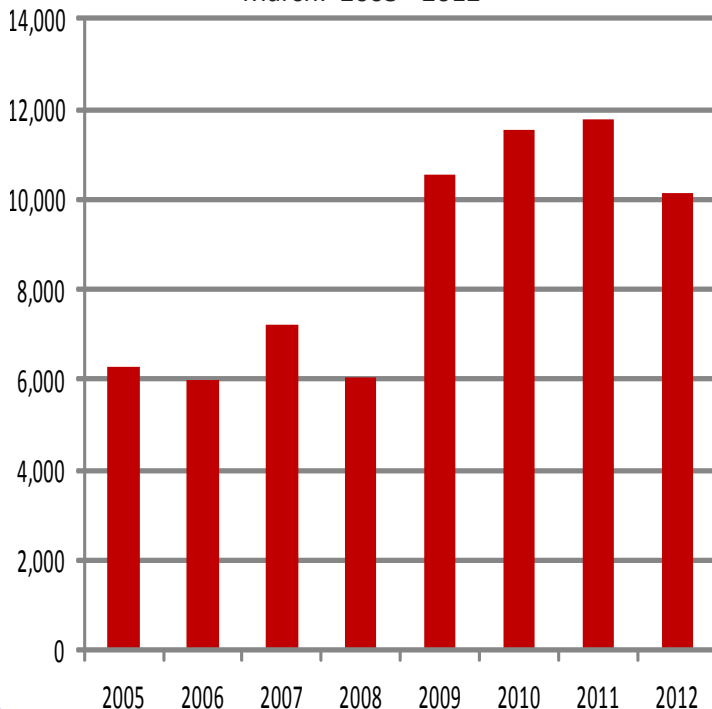
(The following counties make up the Fort Smith MSA: Crawford, Franklin, and Sebastian and LeFlore and Sequoyah in Oklahoma.)

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Civilian Labor Force	126,875	127,600	134,600
Employment	116,750	115,900	122,800
Unemployment	10,125	11,700	11,800
Unemployment Rate	8.0	9.2	8.8

Number of Unemployed

March: 2005 - 2012



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Total Nonfarm	37,000	36,500	37,000
Goods Producing	4,000	3,900	4,000
Service Providing	33,000	32,600	33,000
Government	5,600	5,600	5,100

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Civilian Labor Force	42,825	42,425	42,725
Employment	39,475	38,700	39,050
Unemployment	3,350	3,725	3,675
Unemployment Rate	7.8	8.8	8.6

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Total Nonfarm	49,600	48,500	49,200
Goods Producing	8,500	8,400	8,400
Service Providing	41,100	40,100	40,800
Government	8,700	8,600	8,800

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Civilian Labor Force	59,850	58,925	58,925
Employment	55,650	54,150	54,275
Unemployment	4,200	4,775	4,650
Unemployment Rate	7.0	8.1	7.9

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Total Nonfarm	36,600	36,300	36,700
Goods Producing	7,300	7,200	7,400
Service Providing	29,300	29,100	29,300
Government	10,500	10,600	10,800

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

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Mar 12	Feb 12	Mar 11
Civilian Labor Force	44,425	44,275	44,375
Employment	40,275	39,700	39,825
Unemployment	4,150	4,575	4,550
Unemployment Rate	9.3	10.3	10.3

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>QTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,389,600	1,386,000	1,370,100	3,600	19,500	1,386,200	1,376,300	1,366,100	9,900	20,100
Employment	1,286,200	1,280,700	1,260,100	5,500	26,100	1,283,100	1,261,400	1,254,400	21,700	28,700
Unemployment	103,400	105,300	110,000	-1,900	-6,600	103,100	114,900	111,700	-11,800	-8,600
Unemployment Rate	7.4	7.6	8.0	-0.2	-0.6	7.4	8.3	8.2	-0.9	-0.8
U.S. Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.3	8.9	-0.1	-0.7	8.4	8.7	9.2	-0.3	-0.8

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	616,175	619,950	617,375
Employment	561,775	562,925	555,375
Unemployment	54,400	57,025	62,000
Unemployment Rate	8.8	9.2	10.0

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	67,675	67,875	66,700
Employment	63,200	63,075	61,750
Unemployment	4,475	4,800	4,950
Unemployment Rate	6.6	7.1	7.4

Unemployment Rates by County

Between February and March, unemployment rates declined in all 75 Arkansas counties. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 5.5 percent in Madison and Washington counties to a high of 13.4 percent in Clay County.

In March, five counties enjoyed unemployment rates at or below six percent. Thirteen counties posted rates at or above ten percent, down from twenty-five counties in February.

Compared to March 2011, jobless rates are higher in six counties. Sixty-nine counties posted lower rates than last year, while none were the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Feb 12</u>	<u>Mar 11</u>
35	Arkansas	8.0	8.9	12.5	70	Lee	10.8	12.9	11.6
74	Ashley	12.3	13.6	11.5	54	Lincoln	9.5	10.5	9.3
38	Baxter	8.1	9.3	8.9	16	Little River	6.9	7.9	8.0
4	Benton	5.9	6.6	6.4	34	Logan	7.9	8.5	8.3
27	Boone	7.5	8.9	7.8	7	Lonoke	6.2	7.1	6.9
71	Bradley	10.9	11.9	11.5	1	Madison	5.5	6.5	6.5
58	Calhoun	9.6	9.9	9.3	48	Marion	8.7	10.3	9.9
3	Carroll	5.8	7.6	7.3	5	Miller	6.0	6.4	7.4
65	Chicot	10.5	11.9	13.0	54	Mississippi	9.5	11.0	11.5
54	Clark	9.5	10.3	7.8	45	Monroe	8.5	9.9	9.0
75	Clay	13.4	15.1	14.3	31	Montgomery	7.8	9.1	9.3
24	Cleburne	7.4	8.2	8.8	20	Nevada	7.2	7.8	10.2
31	Cleveland	7.8	8.6	8.0	22	Newton	7.3	8.7	7.9
46	Columbia	8.6	8.9	9.3	59	Ouachita	9.8	10.8	8.9
27	Conway	7.5	8.4	8.6	38	Perry	8.1	9.3	8.4
13	Craighead	6.8	7.7	7.5	71	Phillips	10.9	12.2	11.4
41	Crawford	8.2	8.7	8.5	46	Pike	8.6	10.0	10.0
68	Crittenden	10.7	12.3	13.1	35	Poinsett	8.0	10.0	9.7
35	Cross	8.0	9.0	8.9	30	Polk	7.7	8.6	8.9
66	Dallas	10.6	11.0	11.7	16	Pope	6.9	7.8	7.2
68	Desha	10.7	12.1	12.7	22	Prairie	7.3	8.2	8.2
73	Drew	11.0	12.1	11.6	11	Pulaski	6.7	7.5	7.2
13	Faulkner	6.8	7.5	6.7	63	Randolph	10.0	11.4	10.2
24	Franklin	7.4	7.9	7.7	64	St. Francis	10.3	11.6	11.0
18	Fulton	7.0	8.1	7.4	8	Saline	6.4	7.1	6.7
31	Garland	7.8	8.8	8.6	8	Scott	6.4	7.1	7.2
13	Grant	6.8	7.9	7.5	41	Searcy	8.2	9.3	9.4
53	Greene	9.4	10.3	10.4	29	Sebastian	7.6	8.4	8.5
20	Hempstead	7.2	8.3	9.1	24	Sevier	7.4	8.4	8.4
11	Hot Spring	6.7	7.7	7.8	62	Sharp	9.9	11.4	10.8
18	Howard	7.0	7.9	7.8	59	Stone	9.8	11.7	11.4
44	Independence	8.3	9.3	8.6	50	Union	8.9	9.8	10.0
38	Izard	8.1	9.6	9.5	48	Van Buren	8.7	9.8	10.5
59	Jackson	9.8	11.1	11.2	1	Washington	5.5	6.1	6.0
54	Jefferson	9.5	10.5	10.6	41	White	8.2	9.0	9.0
10	Johnson	6.6	7.4	7.4	66	Woodruff	10.6	12.0	13.9
52	Lafayette	9.2	10.0	10.3	6	Yell	6.1	6.4	6.3
51	Lawrence	9.0	10.5	10.0					

Lowest Rates

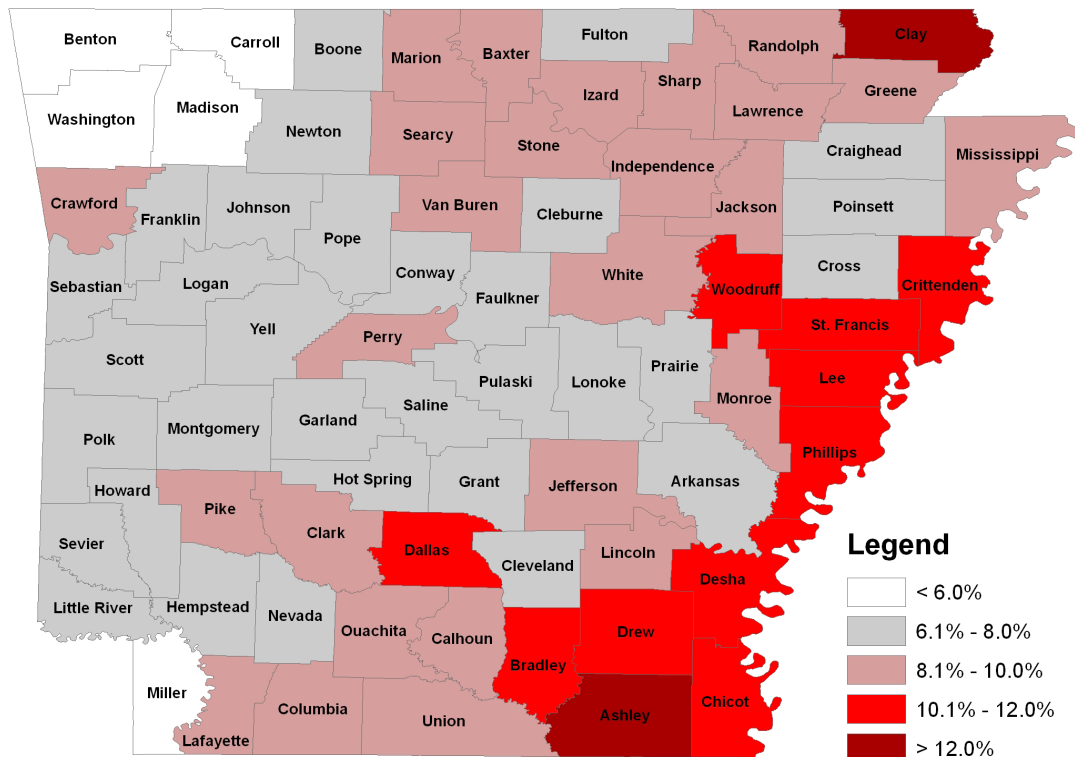
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Madison	5.5
1	Washington	5.5
3	Carroll	5.8
4	Benton	5.9
5	Miller	6.0

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
71	Bradley	10.9
71	Phillips	10.9
73	Drew	11.0
74	Ashley	12.3
75	Clay	13.4

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

March 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.



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