

# Arkansas Labor Market

## September 2012

### Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 7.1 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 12,300 in September

### Employment Quick Facts

#### Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Sep 12</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Sep 11</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.3	8.1
US Unemployment Rate	7.8	8.1	9.0

#### Nonfarm Payroll Summary

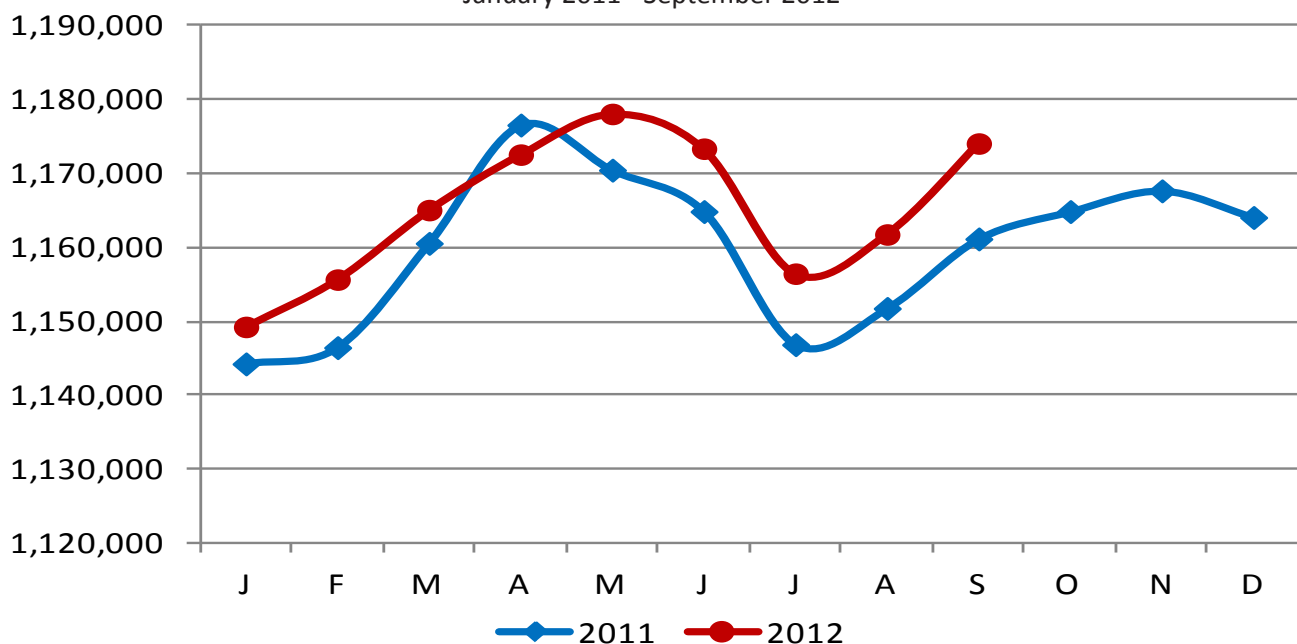
State of Arkansas

	<u>Sep 12</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Sep 11</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,174,100	1,161,800	1,161,200
Goods Producing	213,900	214,000	217,400
Service Providing	960,200	947,800	943,800

#### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State of Arkansas

January 2011 - September 2012



# Nonfarm Payroll Employment

## State of Arkansas

### August 2012 - September 2012

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs rose 12,300 in September to total 1,174,100. Four major industry sectors posted gains, more than offsetting moderate declines in six sectors. **Government** enjoyed a large seasonal increase (+14,200). All gains occurred in state (+5,500) and local (+8,800) government, as public school employment continued to increase. **Educational and health services** added 700 jobs, mostly attributed to private school employment. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** declined 1,100. Retail trade posted a majority of the loss.

### September 2011 - September 2012

Since September 2011, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 12,900. Seven major industry sectors reported growth. **Leisure and hospitality** enjoyed the largest gain (+6,500). Most of the expansion occurred in food services (+5,600). Jobs in **educational and health services** rose 5,300. The largest increase was in the health care and social assistance subsector (+3,600), which includes activities such as individual-family services and general medical-surgical hospitals. **Government** added 2,300 jobs. Local government posted the largest gain (+2,000), mostly related to growth in public education. **Professional and business services** added 1,900 jobs, largely in the professional, scientific, and technical services subsector (+1,300). Increases were attributed to reported growth in management consulting and in architectural-engineering services.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs				
(NAICS)	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11	
Total Nonfarm	1,174,100	1,161,800	1,161,200	
Goods Producing	213,900	214,000	217,400	
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	<b>11,200</b>	<b>11,400</b>	<b>11,100</b>	
<b>Construction</b>	<b>46,600</b>	<b>46,300</b>	<b>49,700</b>	
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,300	27,500	29,700	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>156,100</b>	<b>156,300</b>	<b>156,600</b>	
Durable Goods	81,000	81,300	79,400	
Nondurable Goods	75,100	75,000	77,200	
Service Providing	960,200	947,800	943,800	
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>233,700</b>	<b>234,800</b>	<b>232,800</b>	
Wholesale Trade	46,000	46,200	45,500	
Retail Trade	126,800	128,000	127,100	
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	60,900	60,600	60,200	
<b>Information</b>	<b>14,100</b>	<b>14,100</b>	<b>14,300</b>	
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>46,700</b>	<b>47,400</b>	<b>47,700</b>	
Finance & Insurance	34,300	34,900	34,800	
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,400	12,500	12,900	
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>118,600</b>	<b>119,200</b>	<b>116,700</b>	
Professional, Scientific & Technical	37,000	37,500	35,700	
Management of Companies	27,000	26,900	26,200	
Administrative & Support Services	54,600	54,800	54,800	
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>172,900</b>	<b>172,200</b>	<b>167,600</b>	
Health Care & Social Assistance	156,900	157,000	153,300	
Ambulatory Health Care	47,600	47,400	46,800	
Social Assistance	35,400	35,200	34,200	
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>105,500</b>	<b>105,900</b>	<b>99,000</b>	
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	10,100	11,000	9,600	
Accommodation & Food Services	95,400	94,900	89,400	
Accommodation Services	11,800	12,100	11,400	
Food Services	83,600	82,800	78,000	
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>44,300</b>	<b>44,000</b>	<b>43,600</b>	
<b>Government</b>	<b>224,400</b>	<b>210,200</b>	<b>222,100</b>	
Federal Government	20,200	20,300	20,500	
State Government	78,300	72,800	77,700	
Local Government	125,900	117,100	123,900	

## Hours & Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
<b>Manufacturing</b>	\$647.18	\$637.14	\$616.14	41.7	42.0	42.0	\$15.52	\$15.17	\$14.67
<b>Durable Goods</b>	710.14	687.04	670.64	42.6	42.7	41.5	16.67	16.09	16.16
<b>Nondurable Goods</b>	583.44	584.63	563.55	40.8	41.2	42.5	14.30	14.19	13.26

# Spotlight

## Extended Mass Layoff Events

**Extended Mass Layoff Events  
(By Percent of Total)  
2006 - 2011**

Year	Total Mass Layoffs	Extended Mass Layoffs	% of Total Mass Layoffs
2006	40	13	32.5
2007	69	32	46.4
2008	116	48	41.4
2009	117	49	41.9
2010	71	31	43.7
2011	154	51	33.1

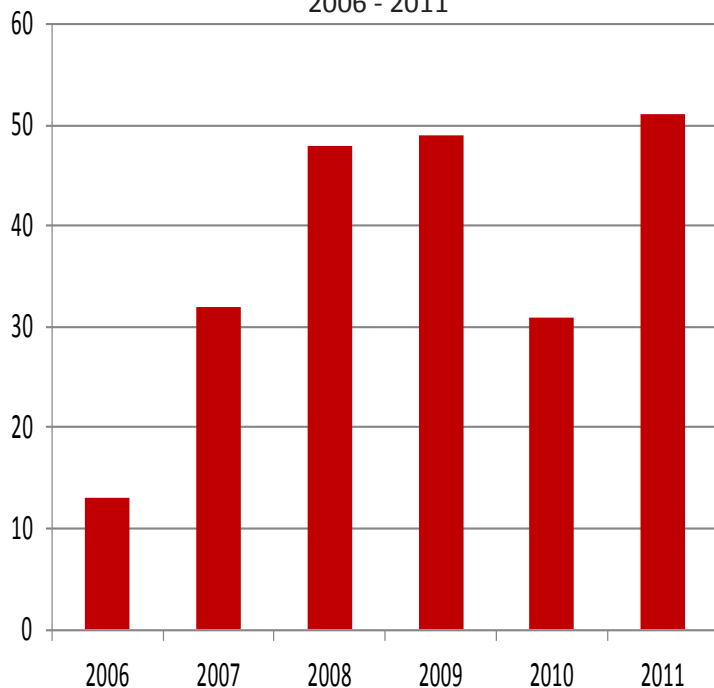
As discussed in previous issues, the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program collects data on mass layoffs that result in workers being separated from their jobs. A mass layoff occurs when at least 50 initial unemployment insurance (UI) claims are filed against a particular business/company during a consecutive 5-week period. The event is considered a temporary mass layoff if the workers are laid off for *less than 30 days*. If the affected workers are laid off for *more than 30 days*, the event is considered an extended mass layoff.

While each state's total mass layoff events are published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, extended mass layoff events are published on a quarterly basis. Because Arkansas is a relatively small state, quarterly extended layoff statistics cannot always be published due to confidentiality issues (if too few layoffs occur, supplying the number might make the business identifiable). For this reason, it is best to view Arkansas' extended mass layoff events as a yearly total.

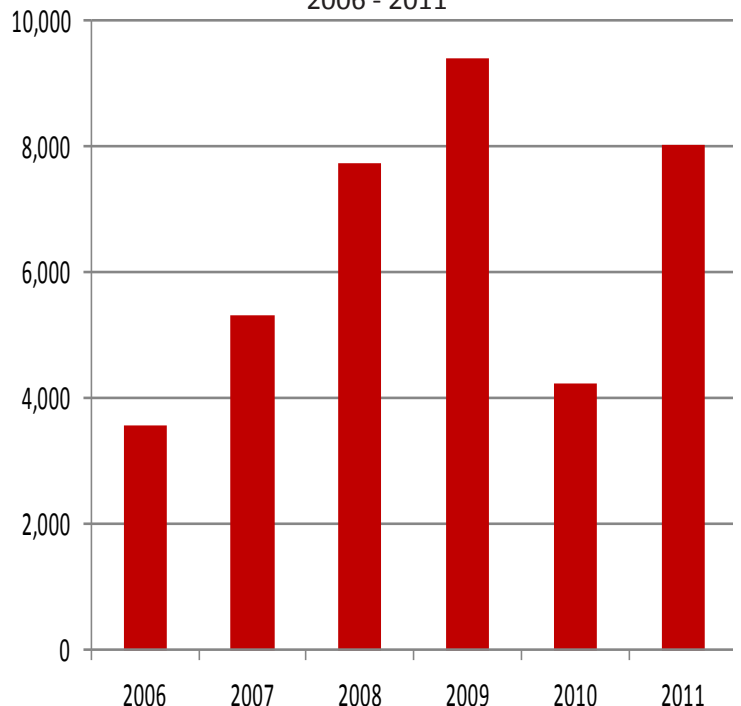
The table to the left shows the total number of mass layoff events in Arkansas compared to the total number of extended mass layoff events. The percentage of total mass layoffs is also provided. Note that extended events, as a percent of total mass layoffs, ranged from a low of 32.5 percent in 2006 to a high of 46.4 percent in 2007.

Below is a graphical representation of total extended mass layoff events from 2006 through 2011 (see Chart 1). Extended events ranged from a low of 13 in 2006 to a high of 51 in 2011. Chart 2 provides the number of total initial UI claims associated with these extended layoff events. Claimant totals ranged from a low of 3,550 in 2006 to a high of 9,407 in 2009.

**Chart 1. Extended Mass Layoff Events  
2006 - 2011**



**Chart 2. Initial Claims Related to Extended Events  
2006 - 2011**



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

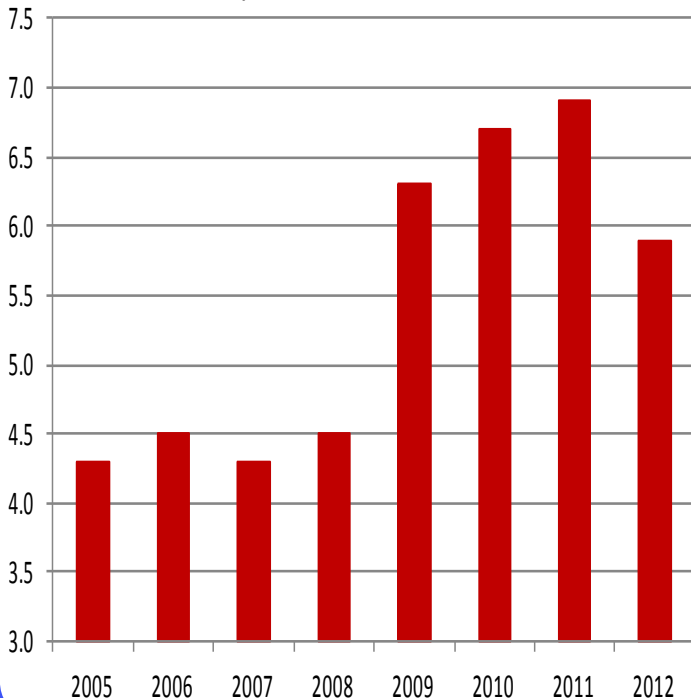
(NAICS)	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Total Nonfarm	338,300	336,900	336,400
Goods Producing	35,300	35,400	36,000
Mining, Logging & Construction	16,300	16,400	16,500
Manufacturing	19,000	19,000	19,500
Service Providing	303,000	301,500	300,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	65,400	65,700	64,300
Wholesale Trade	16,400	16,300	16,100
Retail Trade	35,500	36,300	35,200
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	13,500	13,100	13,000
Information	7,200	7,300	7,500
Financial Activities	18,600	18,700	19,000
Professional & Business Services	43,700	43,400	44,100
Educational & Health Services	51,100	51,200	49,300
Leisure & Hospitality	30,900	31,000	29,900
Other Services	15,300	15,400	15,200
Government	70,800	68,800	71,100
Federal Government	9,400	9,400	9,400
State Government	34,000	33,000	34,100
Local Government	27,400	26,400	27,600

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Civilian Labor Force	349,025	352,325	349,275
Employment	328,300	330,175	325,000
Unemployment	20,725	22,150	24,275
Unemployment Rate	5.9	6.3	6.9

### Unemployment Rates September: 2005 - 2012



## Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

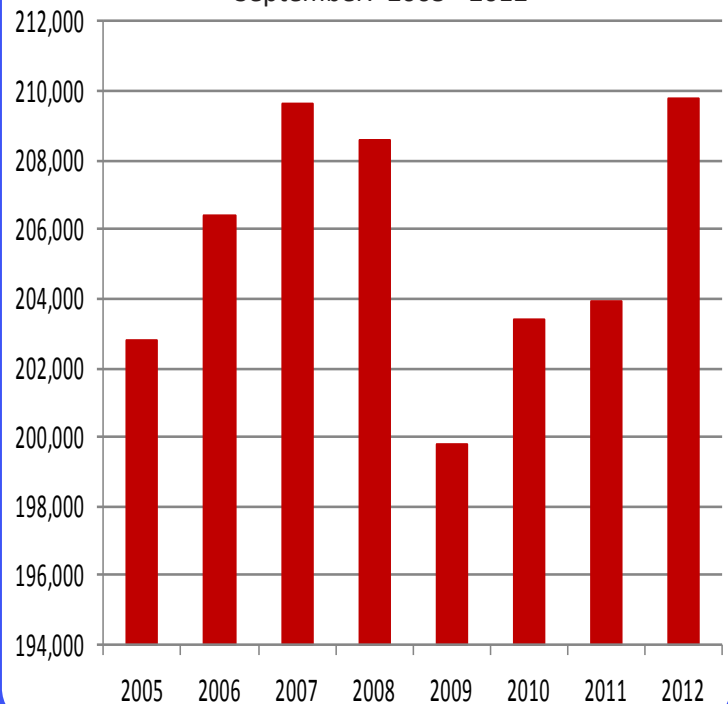
(NAICS)	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Total Nonfarm	209,800	208,600	203,900
Goods Producing	36,000	35,800	35,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,000	8,000	7,800
Manufacturing	28,000	27,800	27,300
Service Providing	173,800	172,800	168,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	46,300	47,000	45,700
Wholesale Trade	10,000	10,200	9,700
Retail Trade	21,600	22,000	21,000
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,700	14,800	15,000
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	7,100	7,100
Professional & Business Services	36,700	37,400	35,800
Educational & Health Services	23,900	23,600	22,700
Leisure & Hospitality	20,400	20,700	19,200
Other Services	7,200	7,300	7,100
Government	30,400	27,800	29,300
Federal Government	2,300	2,300	2,300
State Government	10,700	9,000	10,200
Local Government	17,400	16,500	16,800

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Civilian Labor Force	238,575	240,475	233,800
Employment	226,850	227,775	219,675
Unemployment	11,725	12,700	14,125
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.3	6.0

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs September: 2005 - 2012



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Fort Smith MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

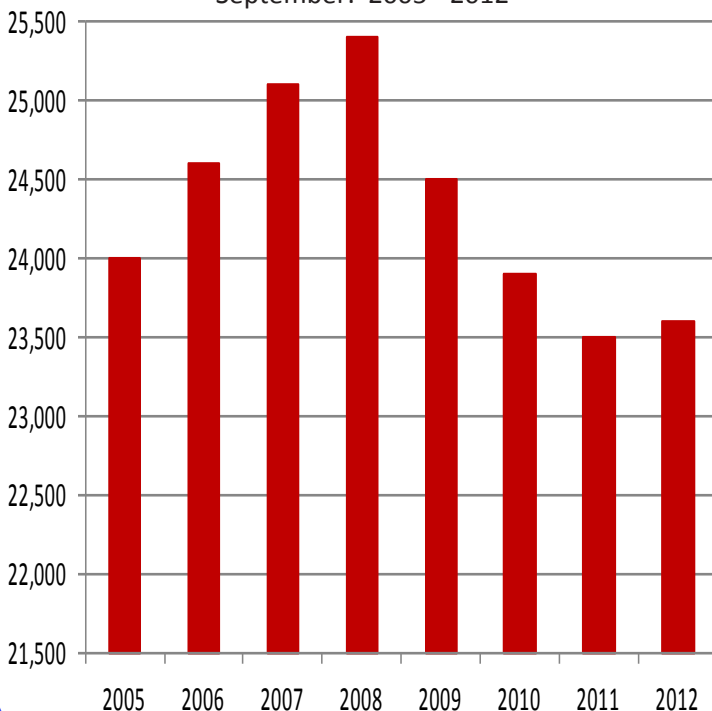
(NAICS)	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Total Nonfarm	111,600	110,100	111,600
Goods Producing	26,500	26,700	25,800
<b>Mining, Logging &amp; Construction</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>19,600</b>	<b>18,800</b>
Service Providing	85,100	83,400	85,800
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>23,600</b>	<b>23,500</b>	<b>23,500</b>
Wholesale Trade	4,000	4,000	3,900
Retail Trade	12,500	12,500	12,600
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,100	7,000	7,000
<b>Information</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,100</b>	<b>1,100</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,600</b>	<b>3,900</b>
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>9,800</b>	<b>9,800</b>
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>15,200</b>	<b>15,900</b>
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>8,500</b>
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>4,300</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>18,900</b>	<b>17,200</b>	<b>18,800</b>
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,600
State Government	3,700	3,200	3,300
Local Government	13,600	12,400	13,900

(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

	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Civilian Labor Force	130,625	129,900	130,475
Employment	120,675	119,625	119,525
Unemployment	9,950	10,275	10,950
Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.9	8.4

**Jobs in Trade-Transportation-Utilities**  
September: 2005 - 2012



## Hot Springs MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Total Nonfarm	36,800	36,600	37,800
Goods Producing	4,000	4,000	4,100
Service Providing	32,800	32,600	33,700
Government	5,800	5,500	5,600

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Civilian Labor Force	42,225	42,550	43,450
Employment	39,350	39,450	40,000
Unemployment	2,875	3,100	3,450
Unemployment Rate	6.8	7.3	7.9

## Jonesboro MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Total Nonfarm	49,800	49,900	48,700
Goods Producing	8,500	8,500	8,600
Service Providing	41,300	41,400	40,100
Government	8,500	8,100	8,600

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Civilian Labor Force	59,625	60,525	58,800
Employment	55,825	56,500	54,475
Unemployment	3,800	4,025	4,325
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.6	7.3

## Pine Bluff MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Total Nonfarm	36,900	36,500	36,700
Goods Producing	7,300	7,300	7,400
Service Providing	29,600	29,200	29,300
Government	10,300	9,800	10,600

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

### Civilian Labor Force Statistics

	Sep 12	Aug 12	Sep 11
Civilian Labor Force	44,100	44,175	44,525
Employment	40,450	40,300	40,100
Unemployment	3,650	3,875	4,425
Unemployment Rate	8.2	8.8	9.9

# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

## State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Sep 12</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Sep 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Sep 12</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Sep 11</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,376,800	1,379,500	1,369,500	-2,700	7,300	1,377,900	1,382,600	1,375,000	-4,700	2,900
Employment	1,278,500	1,279,300	1,259,200	-800	19,300	1,287,800	1,286,300	1,269,400	1,500	18,400
Unemployment	98,300	100,200	110,300	-1,900	-12,000	90,100	96,300	105,600	-6,200	-15,500
Unemployment Rate	7.1	7.3	8.1	-0.2	-1.0	6.5	7.0	7.7	-0.5	-1.2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.8	8.1	9.0	-0.3	-1.2	7.6	8.2	8.8	-0.6	-1.2

## Out-of-State MSAs

### Memphis, Tennessee

	<u>Sep 12</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Sep 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	622,250	626,125	628,200
Employment	569,900	570,325	565,500
Unemployment	52,350	55,800	62,700
Unemployment Rate	8.4	8.9	10.0

### Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Sep 12</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Sep 11</u>
Civilian Labor Force	67,725	67,825	67,200
Employment	63,625	63,300	62,175
Unemployment	4,100	4,525	5,025
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.7	7.5

## Unemployment Rates by County

Between August and September, unemployment rates declined in 72 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Three counties remained the same. Jobless rates ranged from a low of 4.2 percent in Carroll County to a high of 10.7 percent in both Ashley and Clay counties.

In September, sixteen counties enjoyed unemployment rates at or below six percent. Three counties posted rates above ten percent, down from eight counties in August.

Since September 2011, jobless rates are down in 73 Arkansas counties. Both Ashley County and Lafayette County posted over-the-year rate increases.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Sep 12</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Sep 11</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Sep 12</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Sep 11</u>
28	Arkansas	6.6	6.6	9.6	73	Lee	10.4	10.9	10.8
74	Ashley	10.7	11.6	9.9	60	Lincoln	8.6	8.9	9.2
28	Baxter	6.6	7.2	8.0	17	Little River	6.1	6.9	7.4
4	Benton	5.1	5.3	6.1	38	Logan	7.0	7.6	8.2
12	Boone	6.0	6.6	6.9	7	Lonoke	5.6	5.8	6.5
57	Bradley	8.5	9.4	10.1	2	Madison	4.7	4.7	5.5
51	Calhoun	7.8	8.5	9.5	34	Marion	6.9	7.4	8.8
1	Carroll	4.2	4.5	5.3	10	Miller	5.8	6.2	6.5
66	Chicot	9.2	9.5	11.2	62	Mississippi	8.8	9.4	10.3
51	Clark	7.8	8.9	9.5	46	Monroe	7.5	7.8	8.4
74	Clay	10.7	11.4	12.5	28	Montgomery	6.6	6.7	7.9
25	Cleburne	6.5	6.7	7.1	9	Nevada	5.7	7.6	8.2
12	Cleveland	6.0	6.5	7.3	22	Newton	6.3	7.2	7.0
47	Columbia	7.6	8.3	9.3	56	Ouachita	8.3	8.6	9.1
34	Conway	6.9	7.2	7.9	40	Perry	7.1	7.3	8.3
22	Craighead	6.3	6.5	7.1	71	Phillips	9.9	10.6	11.4
34	Crawford	6.9	7.0	8.0	45	Pike	7.3	7.8	8.7
70	Crittenden	9.8	10.8	11.4	34	Poinsett	6.9	7.1	8.4
41	Cross	7.2	7.3	8.4	28	Polk	6.6	7.2	7.8
64	Dallas	9.1	9.8	10.3	17	Pope	6.1	7.0	7.4
64	Desha	9.1	9.3	11.0	25	Prairie	6.5	6.9	7.7
17	Drew	9.3	10.3	11.0	17	Pulaski	6.1	6.5	7.2
67	Faulkner	6.1	6.3	6.8	57	Randolph	8.5	9.2	9.7
21	Franklin	6.2	6.3	7.3	71	St. Francis	9.9	10.1	10.9
12	Fulton	6.0	6.6	7.2	6	Saline	5.4	5.6	6.4
33	Garland	6.8	7.3	7.9	12	Scott	6.0	6.5	6.9
7	Grant	5.6	5.8	6.9	32	Searcy	6.7	7.1	7.8
50	Greene	7.7	8.2	9.8	41	Sebastian	7.2	7.2	7.8
25	Hempstead	6.5	7.0	8.1	41	Sevier	7.2	7.7	7.9
12	Hot Spring	6.0	6.3	7.2	61	Sharp	8.7	9.6	9.6
22	Howard	6.3	7.0	8.0	54	Stone	8.0	8.3	9.5
55	Independence	8.1	8.7	8.8	47	Union	7.6	8.2	9.3
41	Izard	7.2	8.2	8.5	53	Van Buren	7.9	8.4	8.8
62	Jackson	8.8	9.0	9.6	2	Washington	4.7	5.2	5.8
57	Jefferson	8.5	9.0	10.4	38	White	7.0	7.5	8.4
11	Johnson	5.9	7.1	6.8	69	Woodruff	9.7	9.9	10.1
68	Lafayette	9.6	10.2	9.4	4	Yell	5.1	5.8	5.9
47	Lawrence	7.6	8.6	9.0					

### Lowest Rates

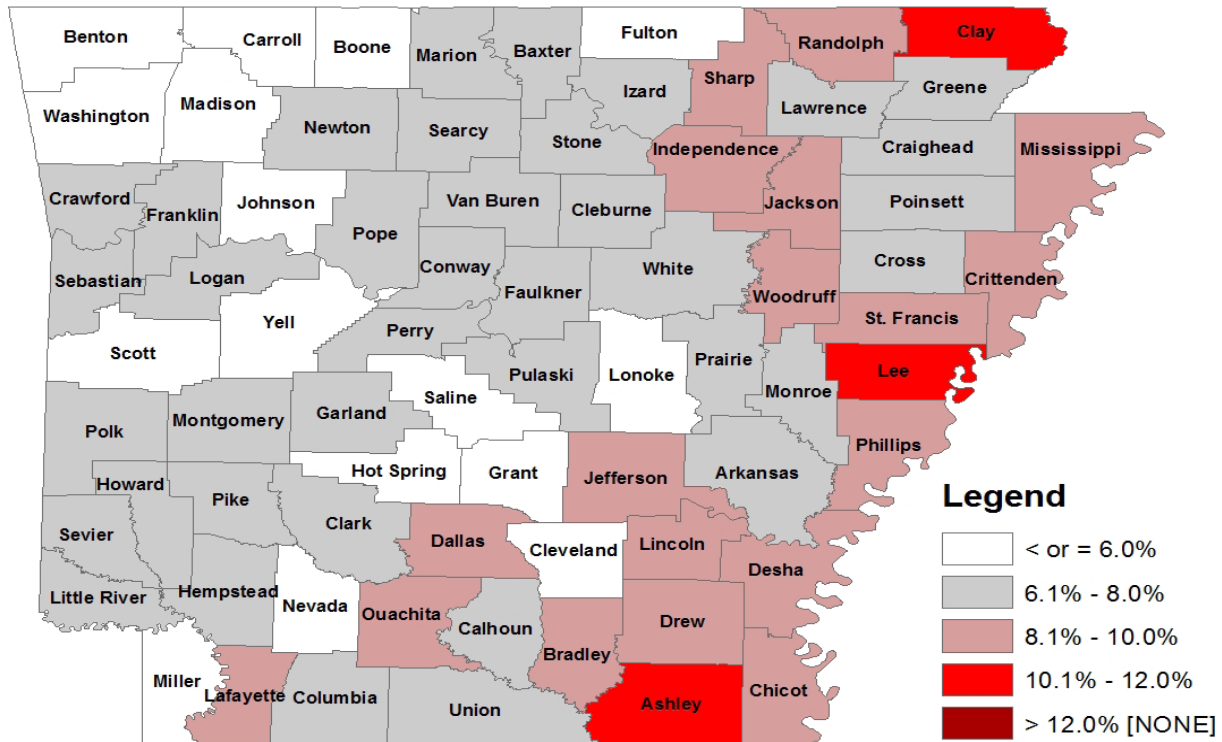
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Carroll	4.2
2	Madison	4.7
2	Washington	4.7
4	Benton	5.1
4	Yell	5.1

### Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
71	Phillips	9.9
71	St. Francis	9.9
73	Lee	10.4
74	Ashley	10.7
74	Clay	10.7

# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

For complete County Labor Force Statistics, please visit our website at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://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

## September 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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