

Arkansas Labor Market

March 2013

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Steady at 7.2 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Increase 10,800 in March

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.2	7.3
US Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.7	8.2

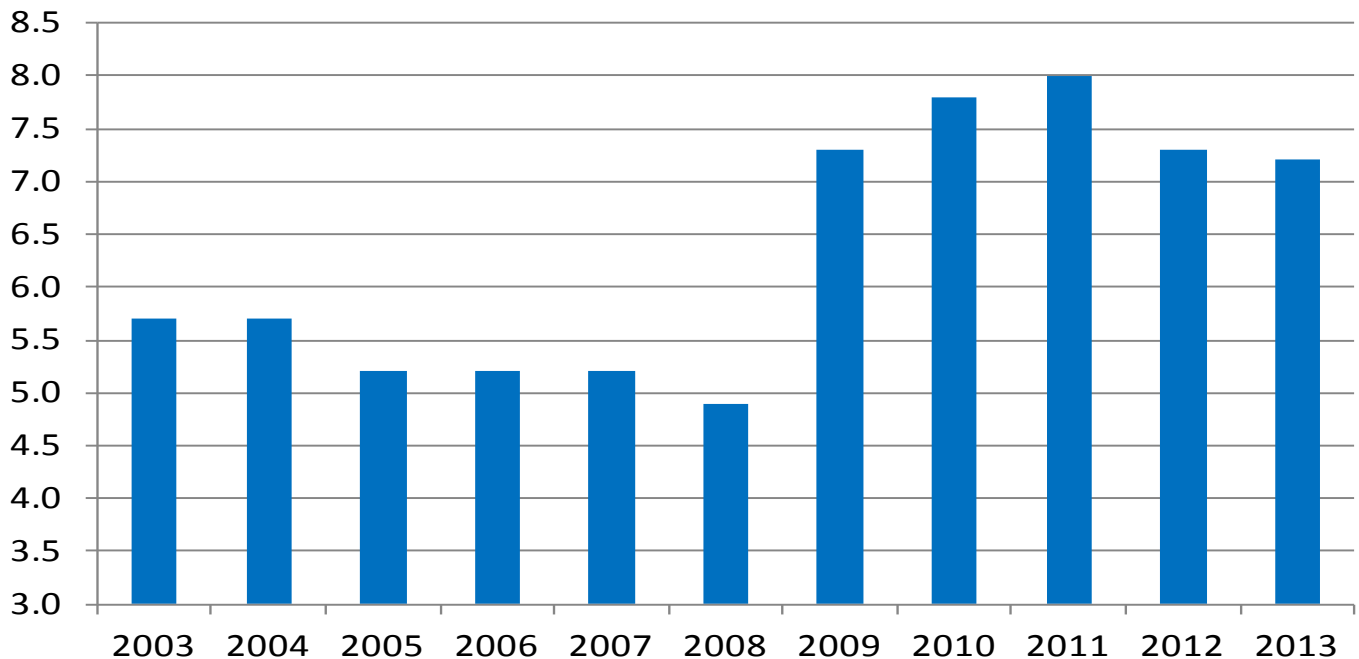
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,181,800	1,171,000	1,178,600
Goods Producing	209,500	208,900	214,900
Service Providing	972,300	962,100	963,700

Unemployment Rate (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas
March: 2003 - 2013



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

February 2013 - March 2013

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll jobs increased 10,800 in March to total 1,181,800. Ten major industry sectors enjoyed gains, with one sector posting a decline. Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 3,300. A majority of the increase occurred in retail trade (+2,200), related in large part to seasonal hiring. **Professional and business services** added 2,900 jobs. Most of the gains were in administrative and support services (+2,500). Jobs in **construction** rose 1,400, a typical seasonal increase. **Educational and health services** added 1,200 jobs, mostly in health care and social assistance (+1,100). Jobs in **manufacturing** declined 900, with a majority of the loss occurring in nondurable goods manufacturing (-600).

March 2012 - March 2013

Since March 2012, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 3,200. Four major industry sectors posted gains, more than offsetting declines in six sectors. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** increased 9,500. The growth mostly occurred in retail trade (+6,400) and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (+2,800). **Educational and health services** added 3,500 jobs. Health care and social assistance reported a majority of the increase (+2,800). Employment in **construction** declined 2,900, partially a result of large project completions. **Leisure and hospitality** decreased 2,000, with a majority of the loss reported in accommodation and food services (-1,900).

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Mar 13	Feb 13	Mar 12
Total Nonfarm	1,181,800	1,171,000	1,178,600
Goods Producing	209,500	208,900	214,900
Mining & Logging	9,900	9,800	11,300
Construction	44,600	43,200	47,500
Specialty Trade Contractors	29,400	28,500	28,600
Manufacturing	155,000	155,900	156,100
Durable Goods	77,400	77,700	77,000
Nondurable Goods	77,600	78,200	79,100
Service Providing	972,300	962,100	963,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	249,000	245,700	239,500
Wholesale Trade	47,400	47,200	47,100
Retail Trade	137,600	135,400	131,200
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	64,000	63,100	61,200
Information	14,500	14,000	14,500
Financial Activities	49,100	48,800	48,700
Finance & Insurance	36,000	35,800	35,600
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,100	13,000	13,100
Professional & Business Services	123,300	120,400	123,000
Professional, Scientific & Technical	39,900	39,600	39,500
Management of Companies	32,000	31,900	30,700
Administrative & Support Services	51,400	48,900	52,800
Educational & Health Services	175,400	174,200	171,900
Educational Services	16,000	15,900	15,300
Health Care & Social Assistance	159,400	158,300	156,600
Ambulatory Health Care	48,600	47,800	47,000
Social Assistance	36,900	36,200	36,400
Leisure & Hospitality	99,600	98,900	101,600
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9,000	8,800	9,100
Accommodation & Food Services	90,600	90,100	92,500
Accommodation Services	10,200	10,000	10,600
Food Services	80,400	80,100	81,900
Other Services	41,600	41,200	43,400
Government	219,800	218,900	221,100
Federal Government	20,100	20,200	20,500
State Government	78,800	78,200	78,100
Local Government	120,900	120,500	122,500

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Mar 13	Feb 13	Mar 12	Mar 13	Feb 13	Mar 12	Mar 13	Feb 13	Mar 12
Manufacturing	\$618.94	\$611.72	\$617.59	40.8	40.7	41.2	\$15.17	\$15.03	\$14.99
Durable Goods	663.56	674.00	684.13	42.4	43.4	42.1	15.65	15.53	16.25
Nondurable Goods	578.79	554.28	554.53	39.4	38.2	40.3	14.69	14.51	13.76

Spotlight

Mass Layoff Statistics Program Discontinued

On March 1, 2013, the Executive Branch of the Federal Government ordered into effect across-the-board spending cuts (commonly referred to as sequestration), as required by the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, as amended. Under this order, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) must cut its current budget by more than \$30 million, 5 percent of the current 2013 appropriation, by September 30, 2013. In order to help achieve these savings and to protect core programs, the BLS will eliminate two programs, including Mass Layoff Statistics, and all “measuring green jobs” products. The final release of Mass Layoff Statistics data will occur on June 21st, with the publication of the May 2013 data.

Mass Layoff Statistics

The Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) Program is a standardized data collection program that uses each state’s unemployment insurance (UI) database to identify and track potential mass layoff events. Once a business has been identified as having a potential layoff, MLS staff members contact the business to assess the situation and collect as much information as possible about the potential event. Data is collected concerning the reasons for the layoff and what type of workers were affected. MLS data are published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and are available at www.bls.gov. Statistics are published at the statewide level only, due to confidentiality.

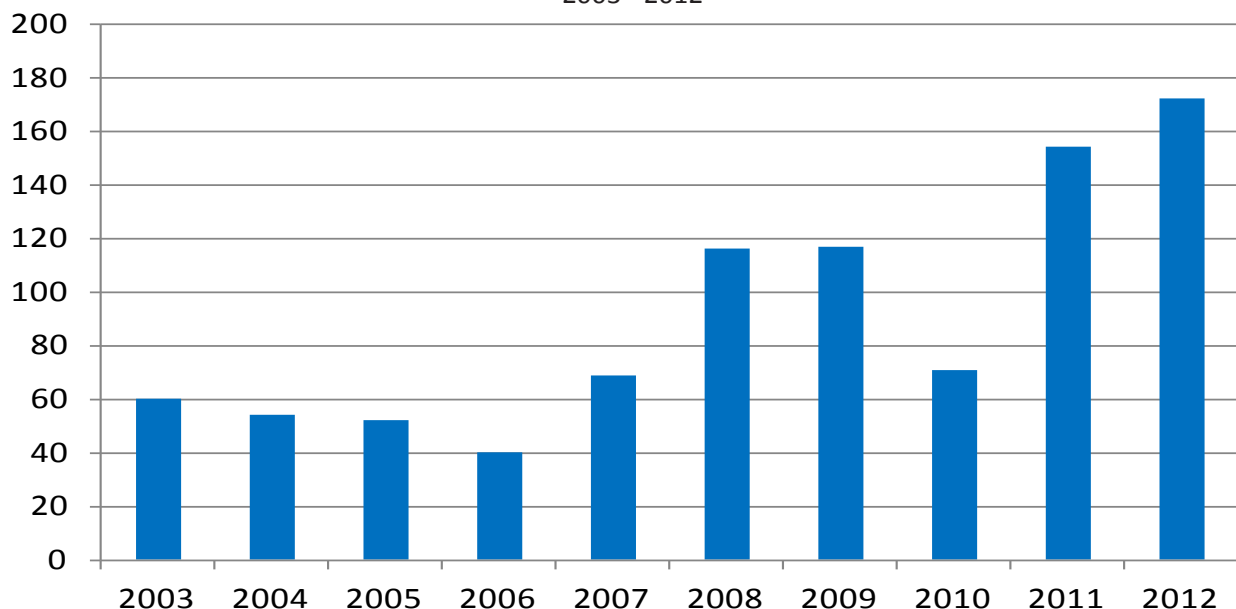
What is a Mass Layoff?

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. If affected workers are laid off for *less than 30 days*, the event is considered a temporary mass layoff event. If affected workers are laid off for *more than 30 days*, the event is considered an extended mass layoff event.

The graph below shows the total mass layoff events in Arkansas by year, from 2003 through 2012. The number of events ranged from a low of 40 in 2006 to a high of 172 in 2012.

Total Mass Layoffs by Year

State of Arkansas
2003 - 2012



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

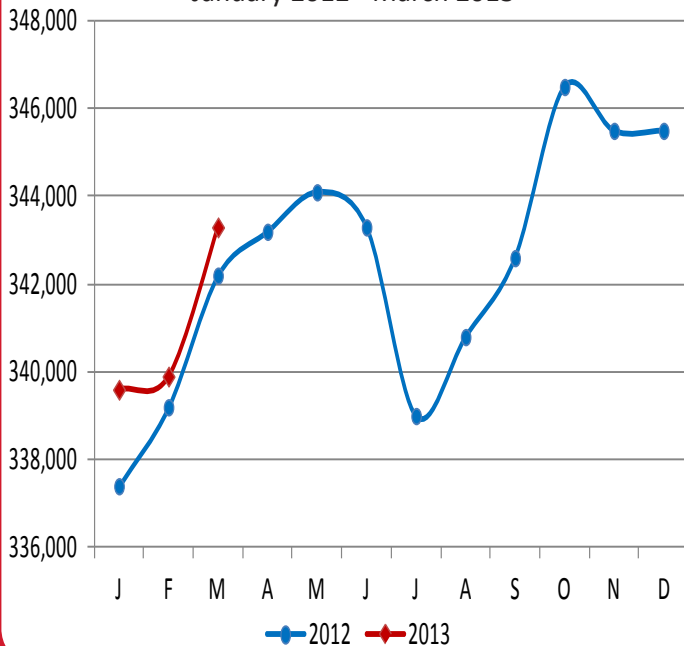
NAICS	Mar 13	Feb 13	Mar 12
Total Nonfarm	343,300	339,900	342,200
Goods Producing	35,800	35,900	37,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	15,900	16,000	17,100
Manufacturing	19,900	19,900	20,200
Service Providing	307,500	304,000	304,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	70,300	69,100	65,500
Wholesale Trade	15,700	15,600	15,700
Retail Trade	40,400	39,400	36,200
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,200	14,100	13,600
Information	7,200	7,100	7,200
Financial Activities	19,700	19,700	20,000
Professional & Business Services	41,900	40,600	43,300
Educational & Health Services	52,500	52,100	51,800
Leisure & Hospitality	29,600	29,300	30,100
Other Services	15,400	15,300	15,500
Government	70,900	70,800	71,500
Federal Government	9,400	9,400	9,400
State Government	33,300	33,200	33,500
Local Government	28,200	28,200	28,600

The LR-NLR-Conway MSA consists of the following counties:
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Mar 13	Feb 13	Mar 12
Civilian Labor Force	335,325	335,625	345,625
Employment	312,800	312,025	322,725
Unemployment	22,525	23,600	22,900
Unemployment Rate	6.7	7.0	6.6

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs
January 2012 - March 2013



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

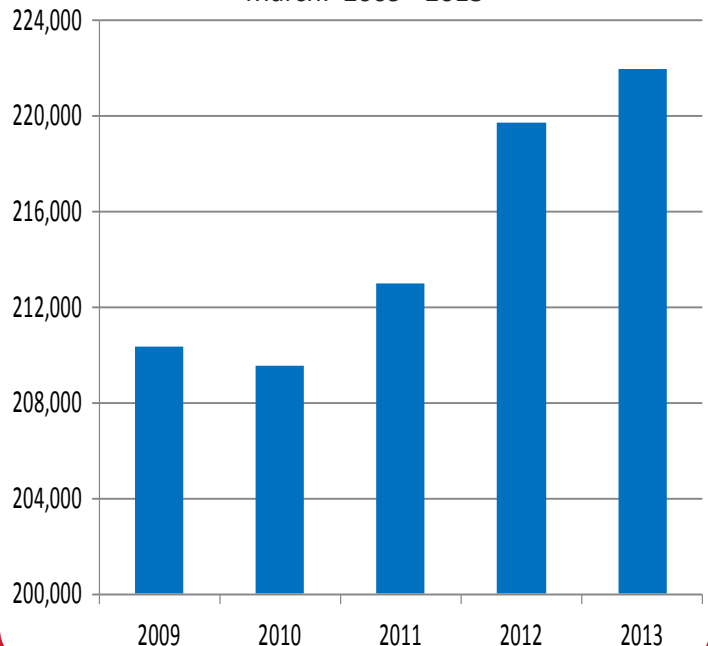
NAICS	Mar 13	Feb 13	Mar 12
Total Nonfarm	217,000	215,300	208,200
Goods Producing	35,400	35,500	34,400
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,400	8,200	7,700
Manufacturing	27,000	27,300	26,700
Service Providing	181,600	179,800	173,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	49,100	48,500	46,900
Wholesale Trade	10,700	10,600	10,200
Retail Trade	23,000	22,600	21,600
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,400	15,300	15,100
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	6,400	6,400	6,200
Professional & Business Services	41,200	40,900	38,700
Educational & Health Services	24,900	24,700	23,600
Leisure & Hospitality	20,500	20,100	19,600
Other Services	6,800	6,800	6,600
Government	30,800	30,500	30,300
Federal Government	2,300	2,300	2,300
State Government	10,700	10,600	10,300
Local Government	17,800	17,600	17,700

The FSR MSA consists of the following counties:
Benton, Madison, Washington, and McDonald (in Missouri)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Mar 13	Feb 13	Mar 12
Civilian Labor Force	234,825	234,900	233,150
Employment	221,975	221,350	219,725
Unemployment	12,850	13,550	13,425
Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.8	5.8

Number of Employed
March: 2009 - 2013



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	117,500	116,000	116,800
Goods Producing	25,100	25,000	26,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,500	6,300	7,000
Manufacturing	18,600	18,700	19,300
Service Providing	92,400	91,000	90,500
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,800	24,500	24,000
Wholesale Trade	4,100	4,100	4,100
Retail Trade	13,100	12,900	13,100
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,600	7,500	6,800
Information	1,400	1,400	1,300
Financial Activities	4,300	4,200	4,200
Professional & Business Services	11,200	10,800	10,800
Educational & Health Services	17,600	17,400	17,100
Leisure & Hospitality	8,800	8,600	8,900
Other Services	4,400	4,300	4,500
Government	19,900	19,800	19,700
Federal Government	1,600	1,600	1,600
State Government	3,200	3,200	3,200
Local Government	15,100	15,000	14,900

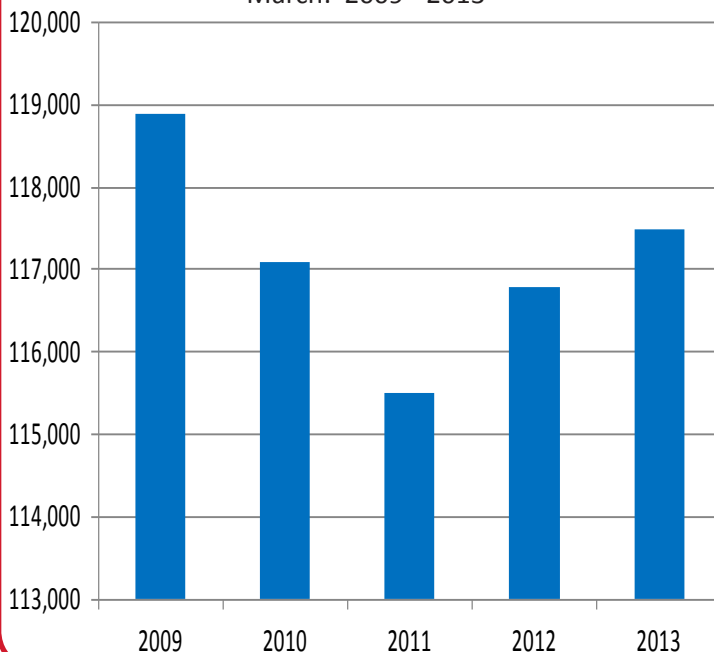
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, Franklin, Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	131,450	130,750	132,900
Employment	121,125	119,825	122,825
Unemployment	10,325	10,925	10,075
Unemployment Rate	7.8	8.4	7.6

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

March: 2009 - 2013



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	38,000	37,400	37,700
Goods Producing	4,100	4,000	4,100
Service Providing	33,900	33,400	33,600
Government	5,200	5,100	5,100

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	41,000	40,925	42,525
Employment	37,850	37,575	39,250
Unemployment	3,150	3,350	3,275
Unemployment Rate	7.7	8.2	7.7

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	52,300	51,800	51,000
Goods Producing	9,200	9,100	8,800
Service Providing	43,100	42,700	42,200
Government	9,100	9,100	8,900

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	59,350	59,225	59,775
Employment	55,225	54,925	55,700
Unemployment	4,125	4,300	4,075
Unemployment Rate	6.9	7.3	6.8

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Total Nonfarm	36,100	35,800	37,000
Goods Producing	7,000	7,000	7,500
Service Providing	29,100	28,800	29,500
Government	10,700	10,600	10,700

The PB MSA consists of the following counties: Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	41,575	41,575	43,775
Employment	37,500	37,350	39,750
Unemployment	4,075	4,225	4,025
Unemployment Rate	9.8	10.1	9.2

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,330,000	1,337,600	1,365,100	-7,600	-35,100	1,320,300	1,319,300	1,361,600	1,000	-41,300
Employment	1,234,000	1,241,600	1,265,800	-7,600	-31,800	1,222,600	1,216,000	1,260,600	6,600	-38,000
Unemployment	96,000	96,000	99,300	0	-3,300	97,700	103,300	101,000	-5,600	-3,300
Unemployment Rate	7.2	7.2	7.3	0.0	-0.1	7.4	7.8	7.4	-0.4	0.0
U.S. Unemployment Rate	7.6	7.7	8.2	-0.1	-0.6	7.6	8.1	8.4	-0.5	-0.8

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	607,300	607,775	610,450
Employment	551,075	551,050	555,075
Unemployment	56,225	56,725	55,375
Unemployment Rate	9.3	9.3	9.1

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
Civilian Labor Force	63,450	63,400	65,200
Employment	59,125	59,000	60,675
Unemployment	4,325	4,400	4,525
Unemployment Rate	6.8	6.9	6.9

Between February and March, unemployment rates declined in 74 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Only Madison County posted a rate increase.

In March, four counties enjoyed jobless rates below six percent. Seventeen counties posted rates at or above ten percent, down from twenty-three counties in February.

Since March 2012, unemployment rates are down in 35 counties. Thirty-one counties posted rate increases over the year, while nine remained the same.

Unemployment Rates by County

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Mar 13</u>	<u>Feb 13</u>	<u>Mar 12</u>
16	Arkansas	6.9	7.7	8.1	72	Lee	11.4	12.3	10.8
75	Ashley	11.9	12.9	13.2	46	Lincoln	8.7	9.7	9.3
37	Baxter	8.1	8.7	8.0	12	Little River	6.8	7.3	6.8
2	Benton	5.5	5.9	5.9	31	Logan	7.6	7.9	7.7
21	Boone	7.1	7.6	7.6	8	Lonoke	6.4	6.7	6.2
54	Bradley	9.4	10.2	11.0	4	Madison	5.9	5.8	5.5
48	Calhoun	8.8	10.6	9.9	40	Marion	8.3	8.9	8.7
3	Carroll	5.8	7.0	5.8	7	Miller	6.2	7.1	6.7
69	Chicot	10.8	11.8	10.6	64	Mississippi	10.3	10.8	9.8
50	Clark	9.0	9.3	9.6	40	Monroe	8.3	9.2	8.5
74	Clay	11.8	12.8	13.2	28	Montgomery	7.5	8.8	7.9
36	Cleburne	7.9	8.4	7.4	19	Nevada	7.0	8.2	7.1
25	Cleveland	7.3	8.0	7.6	12	Newton	6.8	8.3	7.4
44	Columbia	8.5	8.9	8.7	58	Ouachita	9.8	10.0	10.0
44	Conway	8.5	8.7	7.6	55	Perry	9.5	10.2	8.1
12	Craighead	6.8	7.1	6.6	71	Phillips	11.3	12.0	10.9
33	Crawford	7.7	8.1	7.7	42	Pike	8.4	9.1	9.0
59	Crittenden	10.0	10.7	11.0	31	Poinsett	7.6	8.2	7.9
46	Cross	8.7	9.4	8.1	33	Polk	7.7	8.2	8.1
61	Dallas	10.1	10.9	11.0	24	Pope	7.2	7.7	7.0
73	Desha	11.5	12.3	10.6	25	Prairie	7.3	7.8	7.1
66	Drew	10.5	11.2	11.4	12	Pulaski	6.8	7.1	6.7
16	Faulkner	6.9	7.4	6.8	55	Randolph	9.5	10.3	10.1
19	Franklin	7.0	7.3	7.0	70	St. Francis	11.1	11.8	10.8
16	Fulton	6.9	7.4	6.8	6	Saline	6.1	6.4	6.3
33	Garland	7.7	8.2	7.7	9	Scott	6.5	6.8	6.7
10	Grant	6.6	7.1	6.8	39	Searcy	8.2	8.9	8.2
52	Greene	9.1	9.2	9.1	28	Sebastian	7.5	7.8	7.1
21	Hempstead	7.1	7.4	7.1	28	Sevier	7.5	7.8	7.7
21	Hot Spring	7.1	7.4	6.6	63	Sharp	10.2	11.1	10.2
25	Howard	7.3	7.6	7.2	66	Stone	10.5	11.4	9.9
50	Independence	9.0	9.7	8.3	42	Union	8.4	8.8	8.7
37	Izard	8.1	8.9	7.9	53	Van Buren	9.2	9.5	8.8
61	Jackson	10.1	11.4	9.7	1	Washington	5.3	5.6	5.5
64	Jefferson	10.3	10.4	9.4	49	White	8.9	9.2	8.2
11	Johnson	6.7	7.2	6.8	68	Woodruff	10.6	11.9	10.7
59	Lafayette	10.0	10.9	9.4	5	Yell	6.0	6.4	6.2
55	Lawrence	9.5	10.0	9.0					

Lowest Rates

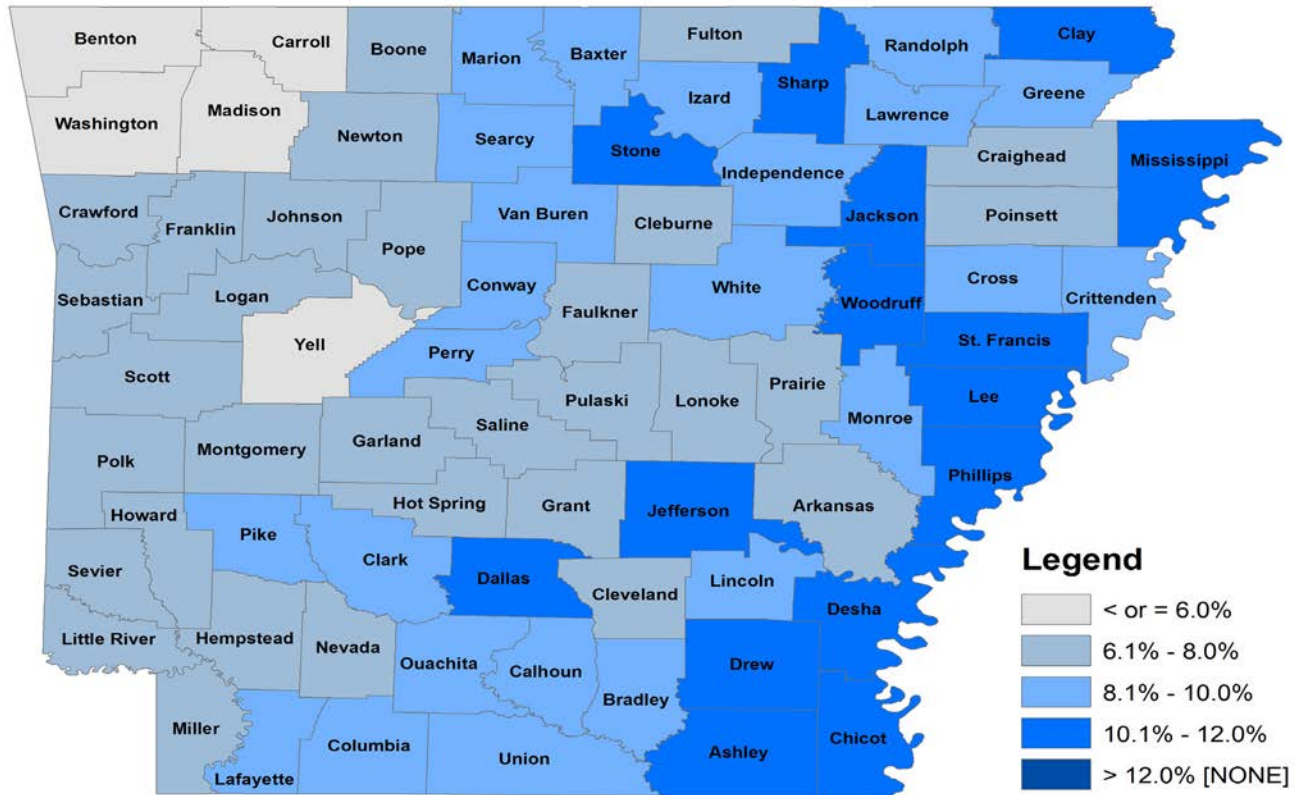
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Washington	5.3
2	Benton	5.5
3	Carroll	5.8
4	Madison	5.9
5	Yell	6.0

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Lee	11.4
73	Desha	11.5
74	Clay	11.8
75	Ashley	11.9

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 2012 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 5,500 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 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, schedule shifts, harvest times, and the opening/closing of schools.

Arkansas Labor Market

March 2013

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.

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

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