

Arkansas Labor Market

August 2014

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Increases to 6.3 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 2,600 in August

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	6.3	6.2	7.7
US Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.2	7.2

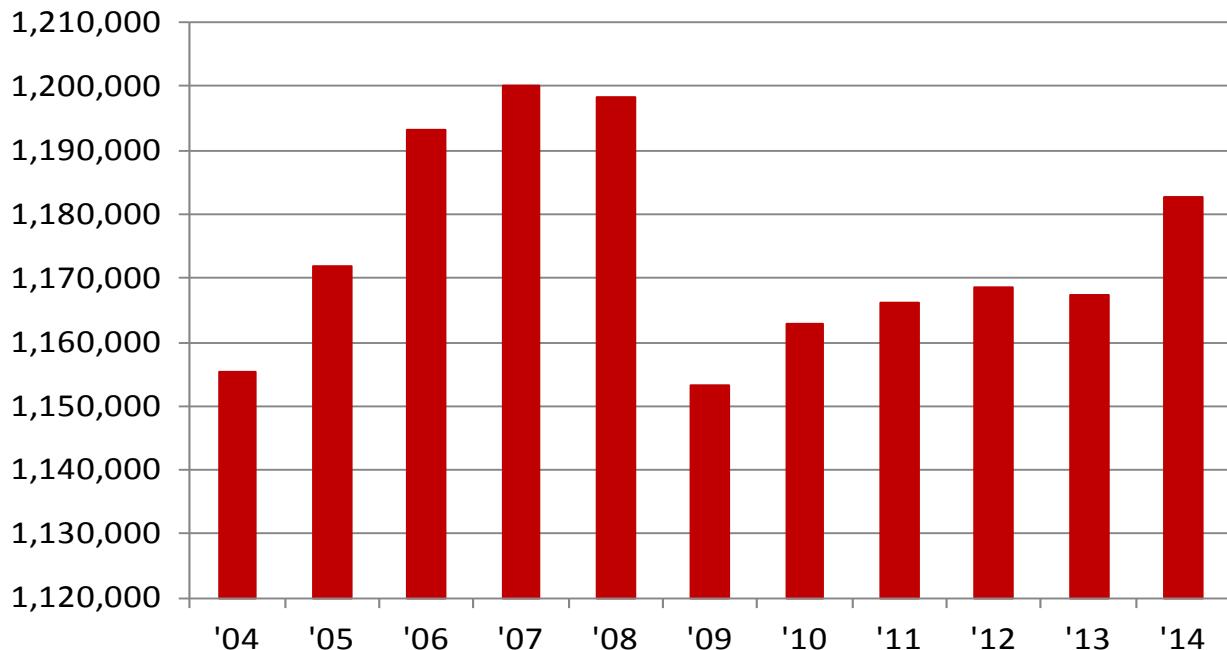
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,182,700	1,180,100	1,167,300
Goods Producing	215,600	214,800	208,600
Service Providing	967,100	965,300	958,700

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State of Arkansas
August: 2004 - 2014



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

July 2014 - August 2014

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 2,600 in August to total 1,182,700. Three major industry sectors added jobs, more than offsetting minor declines in seven sectors. Employment in **government** increased 2,800. Gains in state (+1,500) and local (+1,400) government were related to the start of the 2014-2015 school year. **Educational and health services** added 1,300 jobs. A majority of the expansion occurred in health care and social assistance (+1,100). Employment in **construction** rose 1,300. Hiring was reported in construction of buildings and in heavy/civil engineering.

August 2013 - August 2014

Since August 2013, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 15,400. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, with five sectors adding 2,300 or more jobs, each. Jobs in **construction** increased 3,600, related in part to ongoing heavy and civil engineering projects. **Leisure and hospitality** added 3,200 jobs. Most of the gains were in food services (+2,900). Employment in **manufacturing** rose 3,200. Growth in durable goods manufacturing (+3,300) offset minor losses in nondurable goods manufacturing. **Educational and health services** added 3,100 jobs. A majority of the increase was in health care and social assistance (+2,800). Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 2,300. Administrative and support services, which includes employment services, posted most of the growth (+2,700).

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(NAICS)	Aug 14	Jul 14	Aug 13
Total Nonfarm	1,182,700	1,180,100	1,167,300
Goods Producing	215,600	214,800	208,600
Mining & Logging	10,000	10,100	9,800
Construction	49,900	48,600	46,300
Specialty Trade Contractors	30,600	30,200	29,200
Manufacturing	155,700	156,100	152,500
Durable Goods	78,800	78,700	75,500
Nondurable Goods	76,900	77,400	77,000
Service Providing	967,100	965,300	958,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	242,200	243,000	242,100
Wholesale Trade	48,500	47,800	47,100
Retail Trade	132,300	133,700	133,600
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	61,400	61,500	61,400
Information	13,600	13,800	14,200
Financial Activities	49,400	50,000	49,800
Finance & Insurance	36,000	36,500	36,400
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,400	13,500	13,400
Professional & Business Services	129,500	129,500	127,200
Professional, Scientific & Technical	38,600	39,100	39,600
Management of Companies	31,800	31,700	31,200
Administrative & Support Services	59,100	58,700	56,400
Educational & Health Services	173,500	172,200	170,400
Educational Services	12,400	12,200	12,100
Health Care & Social Assistance	161,100	160,000	158,300
Ambulatory Health Care	49,200	48,600	48,800
Social Assistance	38,900	38,300	36,200
Leisure & Hospitality	111,700	112,200	108,500
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	11,500	11,800	11,400
Accommodation & Food Services	100,200	100,400	97,100
Accommodation Services	11,900	12,300	11,700
Food Services	88,300	88,100	85,400
Other Services	44,200	44,400	43,200
Government	203,000	200,200	203,300
Federal Government	20,000	20,100	20,400
State Government	73,800	72,300	73,200
Local Government	109,200	107,800	109,700

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers

(Manufacturing Industries)

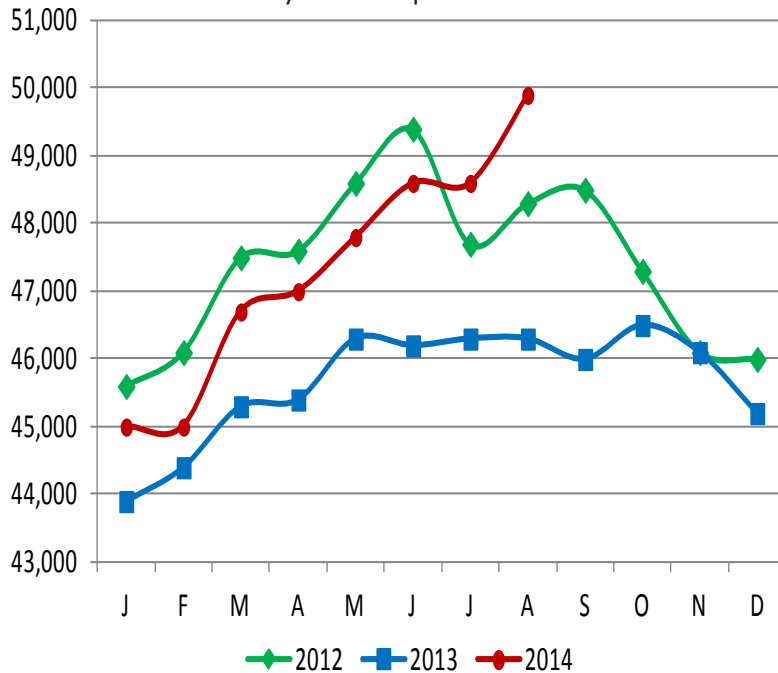
	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 14	Jul 14	Aug 13	Aug 14	Jul 14	Aug 13	Aug 14	Jul 14	Aug 13
Manufacturing	\$674.43	\$654.43	\$651.64	41.3	40.1	41.4	\$16.33	\$16.32	\$15.74
Durable Goods	711.44	695.94	703.91	40.4	39.7	41.8	17.61	17.53	16.84
Nondurable Goods	635.71	613.58	604.75	42.1	40.5	41.0	15.10	15.15	14.75

Spotlight

Seasonal Employment Trends (Part 2 of 2)

As discussed in the July Labor Market Report, employment in some major industry sectors is directly influenced by seasonal trends. When employment from multiple years is compared, these patterns become apparent. Seasonal trends are related to set schedules of operation, holidays, and weather patterns. Last month's Spotlight discussed the seasonal trends seen in state and local government, educational services, and **leisure and hospitality**. In this issue, the seasonality of **construction** and professional-scientific-technical services is highlighted, along with some of the industries that are *indirectly* affected by seasonal movements.

Chart 4. Employment in Construction
January 2012 - September 2014



Employment in the **construction** sector is significantly affected by weather patterns. While construction operations run year round, more projects are commissioned during the spring and summer than in the winter. In general, employment in **construction** begins to increase around February and March, often peaks around June, and then tends to decline after September (see Chart 4). Non-typical weather patterns also influence jobs in construction. Notice that employment in 2012 follows a somewhat different trend than in previous years. This was caused by higher than usual summer temperatures, which affected some construction projects.

Found under the **professional and business services** sector, the professional-scientific-technical services subsector includes a particular type of business that is extremely seasonal-- accounting and tax preparation services. Seasonal hiring

related to tax preparation typically begins in November or December, with employment in the subsector peaking from February to April. Employment tends to remain fairly constant throughout the summer and fall months.

There are also other seasonal businesses, many of which may not be visible when tracking the movement of the major industry sectors as a whole. For example, landscaping services is influenced by weather and the seasons. While employment in landscaping services increases during the spring and summer months, the number of workers is not large enough to impact the movement of the administrative and support services subsector as a whole. Similarly, employment in other services to buildings and dwellings (also under the administrative and support services subsector) tends to increase in the spring and summer. This includes activities such as cleaning swimming pools, driveways, and gutters and power-washing building exteriors.

It is important to keep in mind that some other industries are *indirectly* affected by these seasonal employment fluctuations. The timber industry, for example, relies heavily on the **construction** sector and may experience declines and increases in employment related to construction patterns. Similarly, movement within the retail trade sector will affect both wholesale trade and the transportation of goods. Some industries are indirectly affected by school closures in the summer. Employment in day care services (found under the social assistance subsector) increases in the summer when schools are closed, as does employment at businesses such as day camps and summer sports programs. There are also many non-profit organizations (under **Other Services**) with activities designed for children during the summer months.

Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

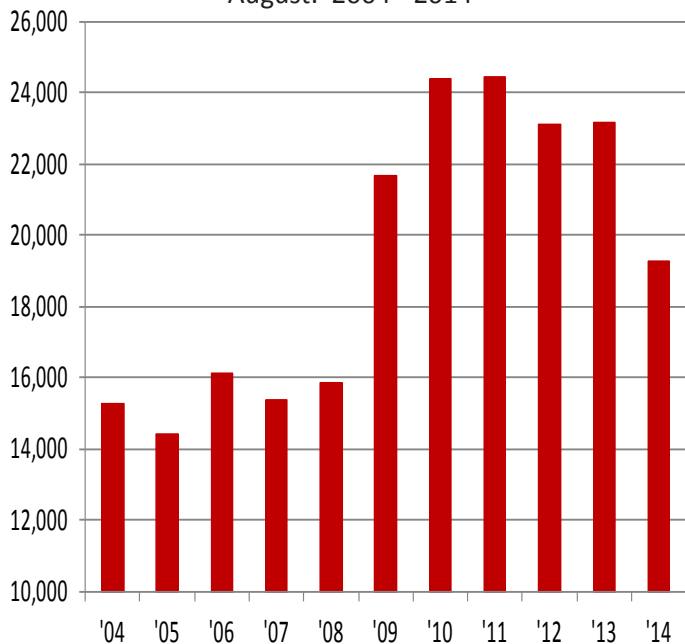
NAICS	Aug 14	Jul 14	Aug 13
Total Nonfarm	346,500	347,600	343,400
Goods Producing	38,300	37,800	36,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	18,300	17,800	16,800
Manufacturing	20,000	20,000	19,700
Service Providing	308,200	309,800	306,900
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	66,100	66,600	66,600
Wholesale Trade	15,600	15,700	15,700
Retail Trade	36,300	36,800	36,800
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,200	14,100	14,100
Information	6,900	6,900	7,300
Financial Activities	20,200	20,300	20,300
Professional & Business Services	44,800	45,900	44,400
Educational & Health Services	51,600	51,500	51,200
Leisure & Hospitality	33,300	34,000	32,300
Other Services	16,100	16,200	15,800
Government	69,200	68,400	69,000
Federal Government	9,400	9,500	9,500
State Government	33,400	32,800	33,100
Local Government	26,400	26,100	26,400

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 14	Jul 14	Aug 13
Civilian Labor Force	335,850	340,625	340,900
Employment	316,550	320,075	317,775
Unemployment	19,300	20,550	23,125
Unemployment Rate	5.7	6.0	6.8

Number of Unemployed
August: 2004 - 2014



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Aug 14	Jul 14	Aug 13
Total Nonfarm	215,500	214,300	212,500
Goods Producing	35,200	35,300	34,900
Mining, Logging & Construction	9,000	9,000	8,400
Manufacturing	26,200	26,300	26,500
Service Providing	180,300	179,000	177,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	46,600	46,700	48,200
Wholesale Trade	10,200	10,200	10,300
Retail Trade	22,400	22,500	22,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,000	14,000	15,000
Information	1,800	1,800	1,900
Financial Activities	6,900	6,900	6,700
Professional & Business Services	41,600	41,600	40,500
Educational & Health Services	24,700	24,400	23,700
Leisure & Hospitality	22,800	22,600	21,900
Other Services	6,400	6,300	6,200
Government	29,500	28,700	28,500
Federal Government	2,500	2,600	2,500
State Government	10,600	9,900	10,000
Local Government	16,400	16,200	16,000

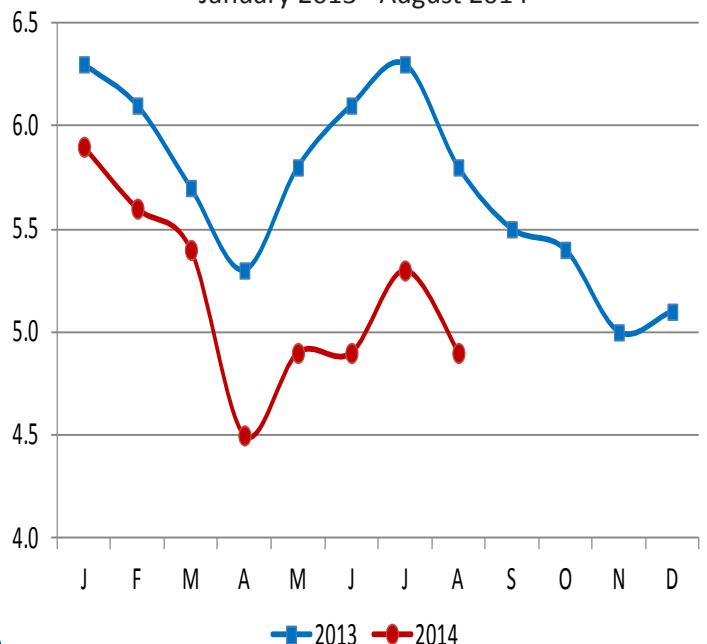
The FSR MSA consists of the following counties:
Benton, Madison, Washington, and McDonald (in Missouri)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 14	Jul 14	Aug 13
Civilian Labor Force	232,100	233,350	234,075
Employment	220,825	221,075	220,550
Unemployment	11,275	12,275	13,525
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.3	5.8

Unemployment Rates

January 2013 - August 2014



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	115,300	113,900	114,900
Goods Producing	24,700	24,800	25,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,700	6,600	7,100
Manufacturing	18,000	18,200	18,400
Service Providing	90,600	89,100	89,400
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	24,300	24,400	23,800
Wholesale Trade	4,100	4,100	4,000
Retail Trade	13,100	13,200	13,000
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	7,100	7,100	6,800
Information	1,300	1,300	1,300
Financial Activities	4,200	4,200	4,200
Professional & Business Services	12,700	12,500	11,900
Educational & Health Services	16,300	16,200	16,700
Leisure & Hospitality	9,900	9,800	9,600
Other Services	4,100	4,200	4,200
Government	17,800	16,500	17,700
Federal Government	1,400	1,400	1,500
State Government	2,900	2,900	2,900
Local Government	13,500	12,200	13,300

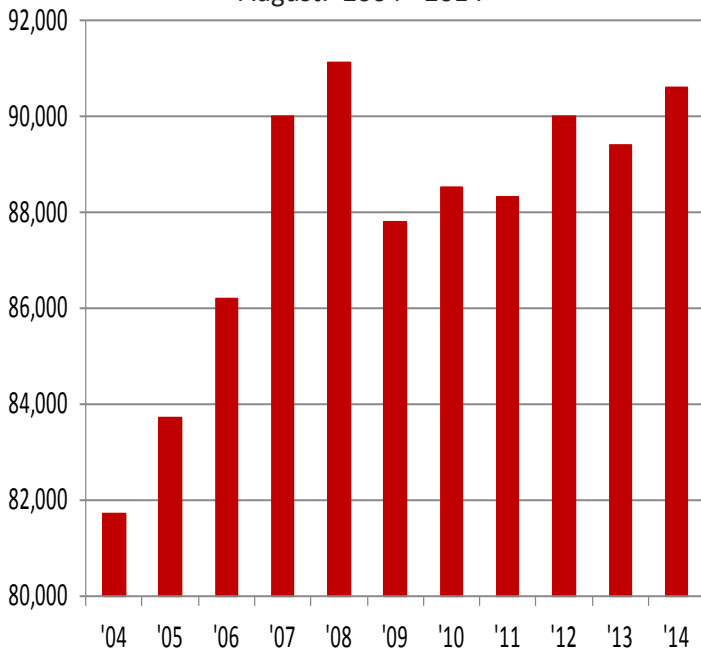
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, Franklin, Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	125,700	125,700	129,925
Employment	118,000	117,700	119,800
Unemployment	7,700	8,000	10,125
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.4	7.8

Jobs in Service Providing Sectors

August: 2004 - 2014



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	37,800	37,800	37,700
Goods Producing	4,700	4,700	4,600
Service Providing	33,100	33,100	33,100
Government	4,500	4,200	4,500

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	40,625	40,975	41,600
Employment	38,000	38,200	38,425
Unemployment	2,625	2,775	3,175
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.8	7.6

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	53,100	52,700	51,500
Goods Producing	8,900	8,900	8,600
Service Providing	44,200	43,800	42,900
Government	8,500	8,300	8,300

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	59,400	59,775	59,350
Employment	56,000	56,100	55,150
Unemployment	3,400	3,675	4,200
Unemployment Rate	5.7	6.1	7.1

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

<u>NAICS</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Total Nonfarm	34,200	34,200	34,500
Goods Producing	6,800	6,800	6,800
Service Providing	27,400	27,400	27,700
Government	9,300	9,100	9,500

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	39,375	39,975	40,900
Employment	36,100	36,275	36,750
Unemployment	3,275	3,700	4,150
Unemployment Rate	8.4	9.2	10.2

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,296,200	1,298,300	1,324,800	-2,100	-28,600	1,307,800	1,319,700	1,327,200	-11,900	-19,400
Employment	1,214,400	1,217,200	1,222,800	-2,800	-8,400	1,226,600	1,231,200	1,227,500	-4,600	-900
Unemployment	81,800	81,100	102,000	700	-20,200	81,200	88,500	99,700	-7,300	-18,500
Unemployment Rate	6.3	6.2	7.7	0.1	-1.4	6.2	6.7	7.5	-0.5	-1.3
U.S. Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.2	7.2	-0.1	-1.1	6.3	6.5	7.3	-0.2	-1.0

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	585,475	602,225	598,100
Employment	535,725	548,975	541,575
Unemployment	49,750	53,250	56,525
Unemployment Rate	8.5	8.8	9.5

Texarkana, Texas

	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
Civilian Labor Force	61,175	61,600	61,900
Employment	57,275	57,575	57,125
Unemployment	3,900	4,025	4,775
Unemployment Rate	6.4	6.5	7.7

Unemployment Rates by County

Between July and August, unemployment rates declined in 73 of Arkansas' 75 counties. The rate in one county increased, while one county remained stable.

In August, twenty-six counties enjoyed jobless rates at or below six percent. No county posted rates at or above ten percent, down from six counties in July.

Compared to August 2013, unemployment rates are down in all 75 counties.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Aug 14</u>	<u>Jul 14</u>	<u>Aug 13</u>
3	Arkansas	4.6	4.8	6.2	70	Lee	9.0	10.2	10.8
73	Ashley	9.2	10.0	11.3	58	Lincoln	8.1	7.8	8.3
30	Baxter	6.4	7.0	7.8	32	Little River	6.5	6.9	8.8
6	Benton	5.1	5.4	5.8	24	Logan	6.0	6.5	8.0
17	Boone	5.8	6.4	7.1	8	Lonoke	5.4	5.6	6.3
57	Bradley	7.8	8.3	8.8	2	Madison	4.3	4.7	5.7
42	Calhoun	6.9	7.6	8.4	34	Marion	6.6	7.1	8.1
1	Carroll	4.1	4.6	4.9	34	Miller	6.6	7.6	7.9
75	Chicot	9.5	10.4	9.9	63	Mississippi	8.5	9.8	11.0
46	Clark	7.0	7.6	9.0	37	Monroe	6.7	6.9	7.8
66	Clay	8.6	9.5	10.5	46	Montgomery	7.0	7.3	7.3
39	Cleburne	6.8	7.4	7.3	24	Nevada	6.0	6.4	7.5
27	Cleveland	6.2	7.0	8.0	37	Newton	6.7	6.7	7.5
55	Columbia	7.7	8.3	9.8	52	Ouachita	7.4	8.1	9.4
20	Conway	5.9	6.6	8.1	29	Perry	6.3	6.5	8.4
13	Craighead	5.6	6.0	6.8	74	Phillips	9.3	9.8	10.8
20	Crawford	5.9	6.6	7.6	42	Pike	6.9	7.7	8.3
70	Crittenden	9.0	10.4	12.0	30	Poinsett	6.4	6.8	8.3
34	Cross	6.6	7.3	7.8	39	Polk	6.8	7.5	7.6
63	Dallas	8.5	9.2	9.6	42	Pope	6.9	7.3	8.1
61	Desha	8.3	9.5	9.4	13	Prairie	5.6	5.9	6.2
68	Drew	8.9	10.0	10.7	24	Pulaski	6.0	6.3	6.9
8	Faulkner	5.4	5.8	7.0	48	Randolph	7.1	8.3	9.1
8	Franklin	5.4	6.5	6.8	72	St. Francis	9.1	9.8	10.9
20	Fulton	5.9	6.6	7.2	7	Saline	5.3	5.6	6.1
32	Garland	6.5	6.8	7.6	5	Scott	5.0	5.5	6.1
8	Grant	5.4	5.9	6.9	17	Searcy	5.8	6.4	7.2
39	Greene	6.8	7.5	8.7	13	Sebastian	5.6	6.2	7.4
17	Hempstead	5.8	6.3	7.3	27	Sevier	6.2	6.4	7.5
12	Hot Spring	5.5	6.0	7.2	63	Sharp	8.5	8.9	10.3
20	Howard	5.9	6.4	7.3	68	Stone	8.9	10.1	10.4
58	Independence	8.1	8.5	9.2	54	Union	7.5	7.9	8.6
50	Izard	7.3	8.3	8.6	48	Van Buren	7.1	7.8	8.9
58	Jackson	8.1	8.8	9.5	3	Washington	4.6	5.0	5.7
67	Jefferson	8.7	9.7	10.7	50	White	7.3	8.1	8.4
42	Johnson	6.9	7.5	8.6	55	Woodruff	7.7	8.1	9.6
61	Lafayette	8.3	9.0	10.7	13	Yell	5.6	6.1	6.3
52	Lawrence	7.4	8.4	8.9					

Lowest Rates

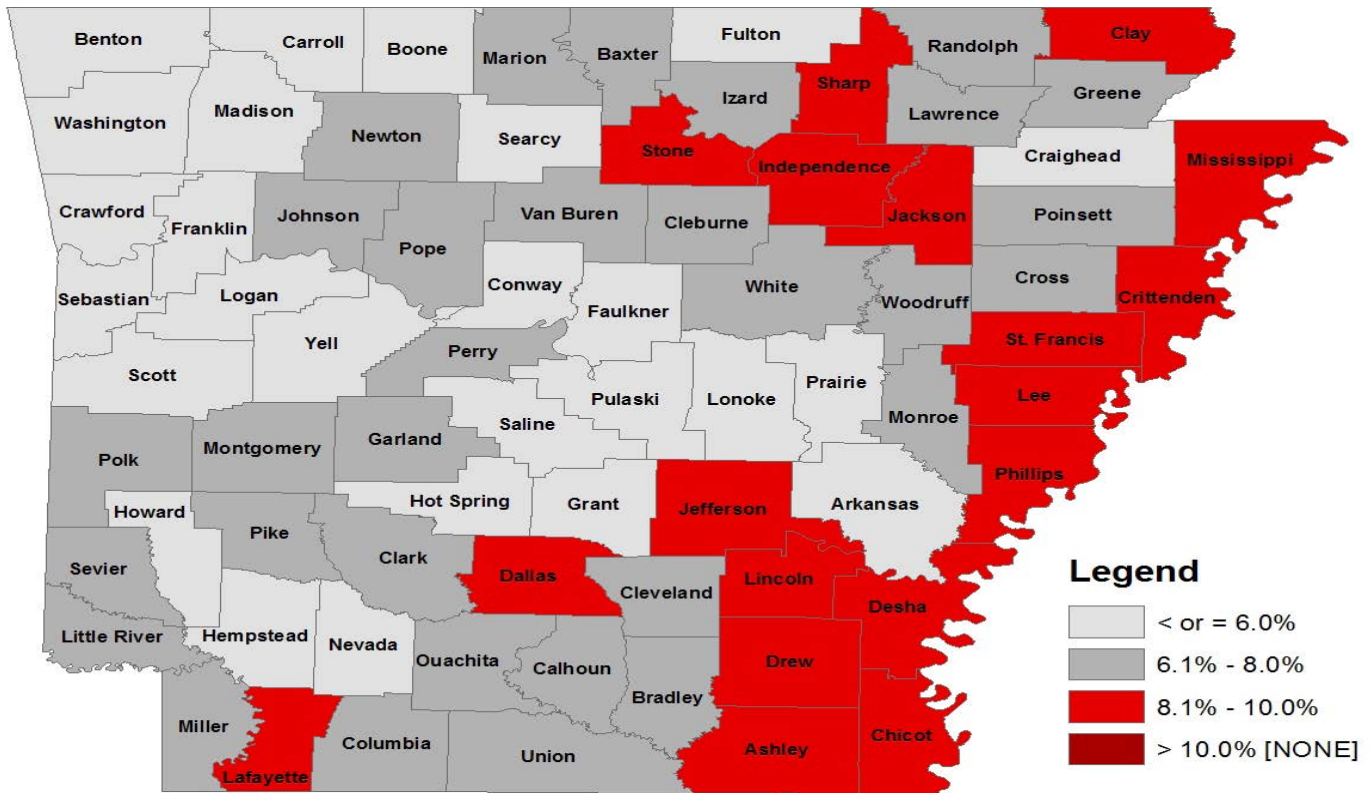
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Carroll	4.1
2	Madison	4.3
3	Arkansas	4.6
3	Washington	4.6
5	Scott	5.0

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	St. Francis	9.1
73	Ashley	9.2
74	Phillips	9.3
75	Chicot	9.5

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

For complete County Labor Force Statistics, please visit our website at www.discover.arkansas.gov



Legend



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 2013 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 5,000 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 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

August 2014

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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