

Arkansas Labor Market

August 2015

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 5.4 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 5,900 in August

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
AR Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.6	5.9
US Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.3	6.1

Nonfarm Payroll Summary

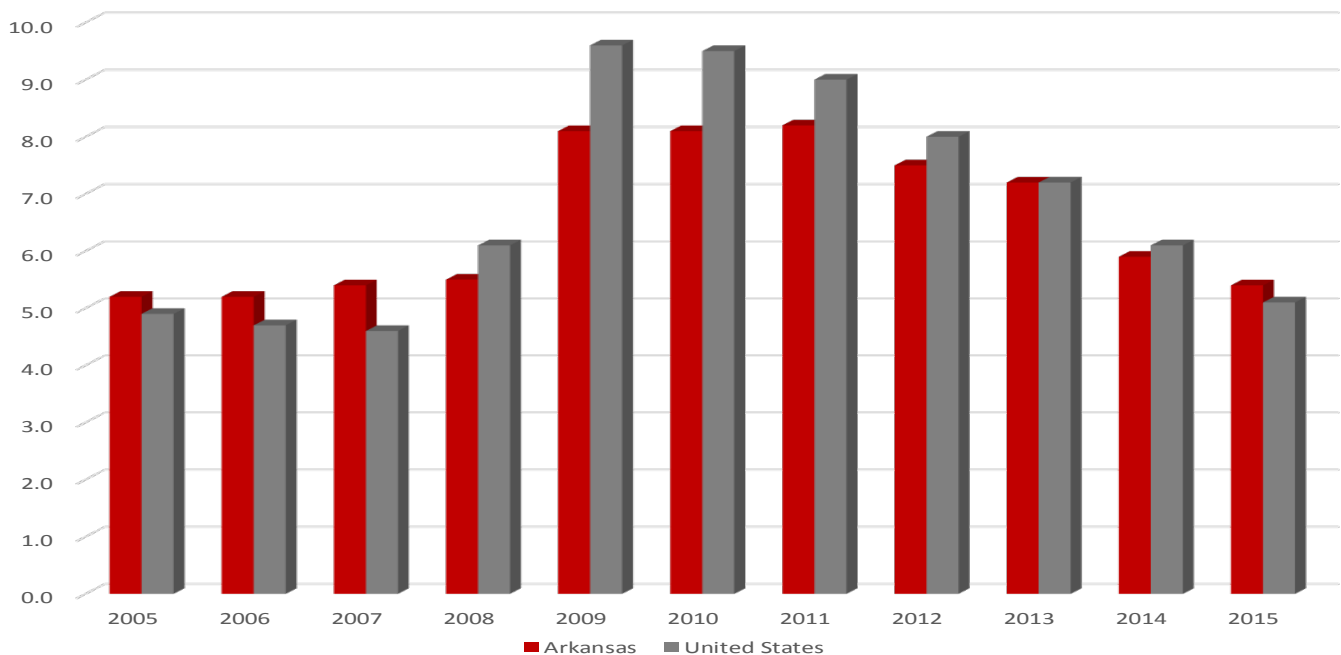
State of Arkansas

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Total Nonfarm	1,206,700	1,200,800	1,181,400
Goods Producing	215,100	215,300	211,100
Service Providing	991,600	985,500	970,300

Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas vs. United States

August: 2005 - 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

July 2015 - August 2015

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas increased 5,900 in August to total 1,206,700. Employment rose in six major industry sectors, while five sectors declined. **Government** added 2,800 jobs. Gains in state (+1,500) and local (+1,400) government reflected the start of the 2015-2016 school year. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 2,600. A majority of the growth was in health care and social assistance (+2,100). Employment in **professional and business services** rose 1,000, with gains seen across all sub-sectors. **Manufacturing** decreased 1,000. Losses occurred in both nondurable goods (-600) and durable goods (-400) manufacturing.

August 2014 - August 2015

Compared to August 2014, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment is up 25,300. Seven major industry sectors posted job growth, while employment in four sectors decreased slightly. Jobs in **professional and business services** rose 8,200. Most of the additions were in administrative and support services (+6,000), which includes employment agencies. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 6,700. A majority of the gains were in health care and social assistance (+5,900). **Construction** added 6,500 jobs, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+5,400). Jobs in **leisure and hospitality** rose 3,700. A majority of the expansion was in food services (+3,500). The largest decline occurred in **manufacturing** (-1,900), mostly attributed to losses in durable goods manufacturing (-1,400).

(NAICS)	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Total Nonfarm	1,206,700	1,200,800	1,181,400
Goods Producing	215,100	215,300	211,100
Mining & Logging	8,400	8,500	9,000
Construction	53,600	52,700	47,100
Specialty Trade Contractors	35,200	33,700	29,800
Manufacturing	153,100	154,100	155,000
Durable Goods	75,500	75,900	76,900
Nondurable Goods	77,600	78,200	78,100
Service Providing	991,600	985,500	970,300
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	247,900	248,300	246,100
Wholesale Trade	48,200	48,600	47,200
Retail Trade	136,500	137,100	136,500
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	63,200	62,600	62,400
Information	13,800	13,900	13,700
Financial Activities	51,400	51,700	50,000
Finance & Insurance	38,200	38,400	36,800
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,200	13,300	13,200
Professional & Business Services	140,700	139,700	132,500
Professional, Scientific & Technical	40,300	40,200	39,900
Management of Companies	34,300	33,900	32,500
Administrative & Support Services	66,100	65,600	60,100
Educational & Health Services	177,200	174,600	170,500
Educational Services	12,300	11,800	11,500
Health Care & Social Assistance	164,900	162,800	159,000
Ambulatory Health Care	51,500	51,300	49,800
Social Assistance	38,700	37,600	36,900
Leisure & Hospitality	114,900	114,700	111,200
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,600	12,800	12,000
Accommodation & Food Services	102,300	101,900	99,200
Accommodation Services	11,300	11,700	11,700
Food Services	91,000	90,200	87,500
Other Services	43,900	43,600	44,200
Government	201,800	199,000	202,100
Federal Government	20,300	20,400	20,200
State Government	74,400	72,900	73,800
Local Government	107,100	105,700	108,100

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Manufacturing	\$675.23	\$662.94	\$669.52	41.4	41.1	41.1	\$16.31	\$16.13	\$16.29
Durable Goods	728.94	707.12	713.61	40.7	40.2	40.5	17.91	17.59	17.62
Nondurable Goods	622.44	620.76	626.91	42.0	42.0	41.6	14.82	14.78	15.07

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.

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 July, and then tends to decline after September (see Chart 4). Non-typical weather patterns also influence jobs in construction. Notice that employment in 2015 follows a somewhat different trend than in previous years. This was caused by a late winter weather event, which affected some construction projects.

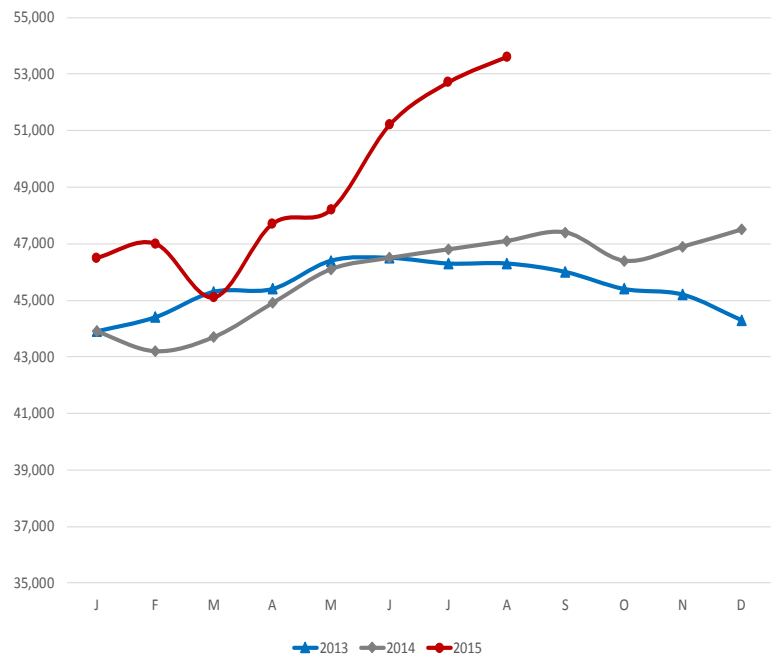
Found under the **professional and business services** sector, the professional-scientific-technical services subsector includes a particular type of business that is extremely seasonal-- accounting and tax preparation services. Seasonal hiring

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.

Chart 4. Employment in Construction
January 2013 - August 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

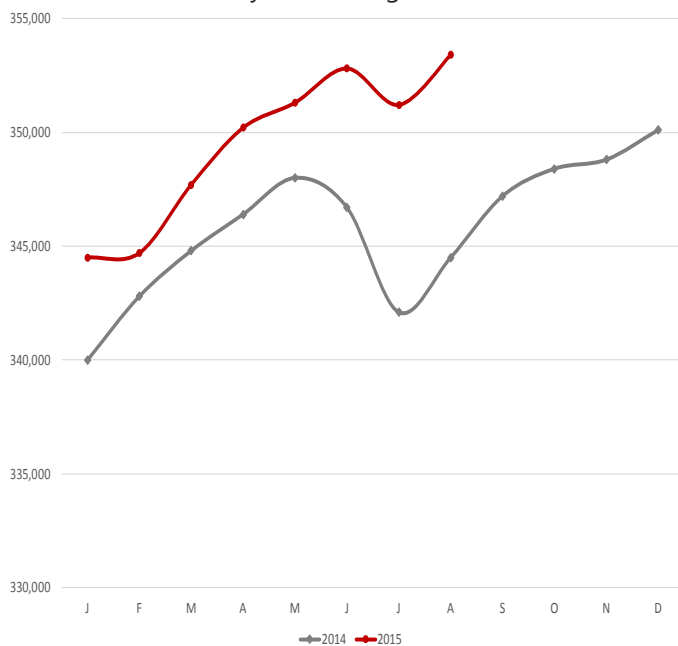
NAICS	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Total Nonfarm	353,400	351,200	344,500
Goods Producing	39,400	39,400	36,800
Mining, Logging & Construction	19,100	19,000	16,700
Manufacturing	20,300	20,400	20,100
Service Providing	314,000	311,800	307,700
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	67,100	66,600	67,000
Wholesale Trade	14,900	15,000	15,100
Retail Trade	38,200	37,700	37,900
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,000	13,900	14,000
Information	6,700	6,600	6,700
Financial Activities	20,900	20,900	20,600
Professional & Business Services	45,500	46,100	44,500
Educational & Health Services	53,200	52,200	50,600
Leisure & Hospitality	34,900	34,400	33,000
Other Services	16,500	16,500	16,400
Government	69,200	68,500	68,900
Federal Government	9,700	9,800	9,500
State Government	33,700	33,200	33,400
Local Government	25,800	25,500	26,000

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Civilian Labor Force	355,925	360,700	342,400
Employment	340,225	342,150	323,825
Unemployment	15,700	18,550	18,575
Unemployment Rate	4.4	5.1	5.4

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs January 2014 - August 2015



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

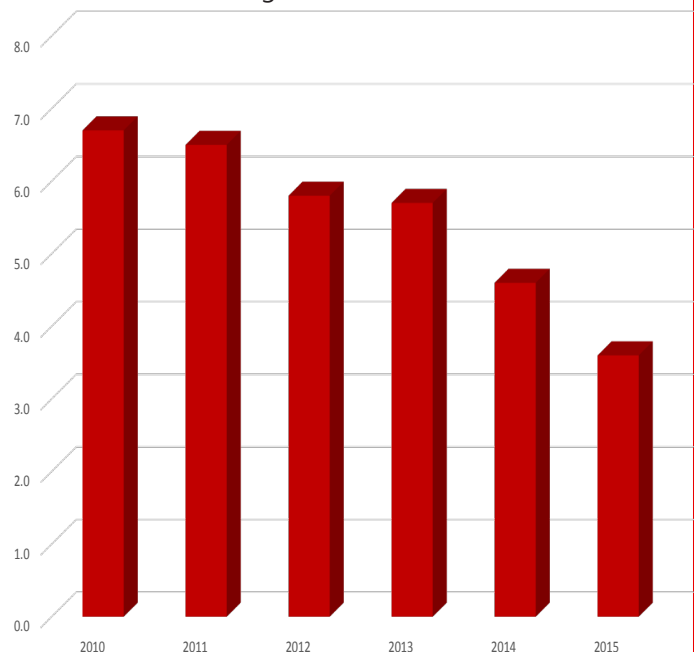
NAICS	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Total Nonfarm	227,600	225,800	223,000
Goods Producing	36,100	36,100	36,200
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,900	8,800	8,800
Manufacturing	27,200	27,300	27,400
Service Providing	191,500	189,700	186,800
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	51,500	51,600	50,800
Wholesale Trade	11,200	11,200	10,900
Retail Trade	24,400	24,600	24,500
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,900	15,800	15,400
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	7,000	7,000	6,800
Professional & Business Services	45,500	45,600	44,800
Educational & Health Services	25,100	24,700	24,200
Leisure & Hospitality	23,500	22,900	22,400
Other Services	6,800	6,700	6,600
Government	30,200	29,300	29,300
Federal Government	2,600	2,600	2,500
State Government	11,300	10,500	10,600
Local Government	16,300	16,200	16,200

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Civilian Labor Force	248,900	252,125	241,075
Employment	239,900	241,200	229,975
Unemployment	9,000	10,925	11,100
Unemployment Rate	3.6	4.3	4.6

Unemployment Rates August: 2010 - 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Total Nonfarm	111,400	110,600	112,200
Goods Producing	24,000	24,300	25,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,100	6,200	6,900
Manufacturing	17,900	18,100	18,200
Service Providing	87,400	86,300	87,100
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,300	23,500	23,400
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,300	4,300
Retail Trade	12,100	12,400	12,300
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,900	6,800	6,800
Information	1,200	1,300	1,200
Financial Activities	3,900	3,900	3,900
Professional & Business Services	13,000	12,800	12,000
Educational & Health Services	16,200	16,100	16,400
Leisure & Hospitality	8,700	8,700	9,300
Other Services	4,400	4,500	4,200
Government	16,700	15,500	16,700
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,300
State Government	2,900	2,900	2,900
Local Government	12,500	11,300	12,500

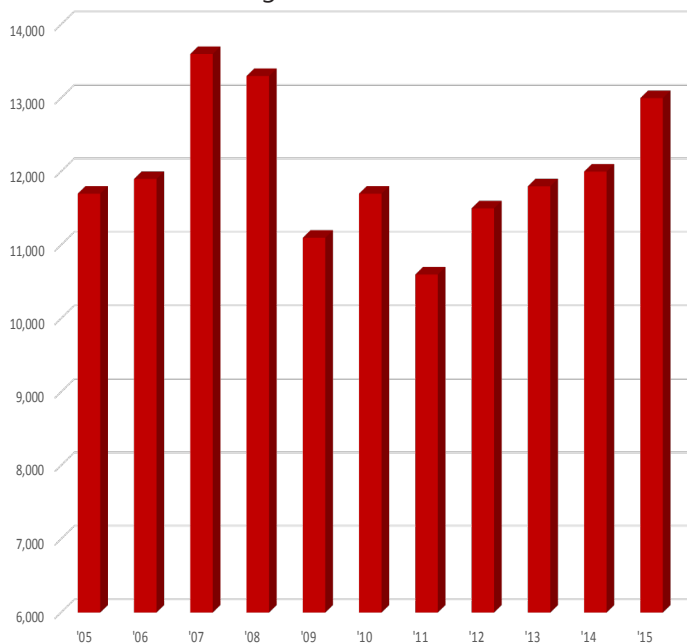
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, and Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Civilian Labor Force	120,900	122,375	119,225
Employment	114,350	115,075	112,150
Unemployment	6,550	7,300	7,075
Unemployment Rate	5.4	6.0	5.9

Jobs in Professional and Business Services

August: 2005 - 2015



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Total Nonfarm	38,900	38,900	38,100
Goods Producing	4,400	4,400	4,400
Service Providing	34,500	34,500	33,700
Government	4,400	4,200	4,500

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Civilian Labor Force	42,050	42,950	40,625
Employment	39,850	40,350	38,100
Unemployment	2,200	2,600	2,525
Unemployment Rate	5.2	6.0	6.2

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Total Nonfarm	55,000	54,700	52,800
Goods Producing	8,900	9,100	8,700
Service Providing	46,100	45,600	44,100
Government	8,500	8,300	8,400

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Civilian Labor Force	62,450	63,425	59,350
Employment	59,675	60,100	56,075
Unemployment	2,775	3,325	3,275
Unemployment Rate	4.4	5.2	5.5

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Total Nonfarm	31,100	31,100	33,500
Goods Producing	5,400	5,400	6,500
Service Providing	25,700	25,700	27,000
Government	8,900	8,800	9,200

The PB MSA consists of the following counties:

Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Civilian Labor Force	34,750	35,525	36,575
Employment	32,150	32,525	33,525
Unemployment	2,600	3,000	3,050
Unemployment Rate	7.5	8.4	8.3

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14	OTM	OTY	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	1,338,300	1,336,900	1,299,800	1,400	38,500	1,335,600	1,348,800	1,302,600	-13,200	33,000
Employment	1,266,200	1,262,300	1,222,800	3,900	43,400	1,268,900	1,269,800	1,224,500	-900	44,400
Unemployment	72,100	74,600	77,000	-2,500	-4,900	66,700	79,000	78,100	-12,300	-11,400
Unemployment Rate	5.4	5.6	5.9	-0.2	-0.5	5.0	5.9	6.0	-0.9	-1.0
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.3	6.1	-0.2	-1.0	5.2	5.6	6.3	-0.4	-1.1

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Civilian Labor Force	609,800	625,975	603,775
Employment	570,525	581,900	555,425
Unemployment	39,275	44,075	48,350
Unemployment Rate	6.4	7.0	8.0

Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
Civilian Labor Force	62,800	63,575	63,725
Employment	59,700	60,075	59,675
Unemployment	3,100	3,500	4,050
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.5	6.4

Unemployment Rates by County

Between July and August, unemployment rates dropped in all 75 Arkansas counties.

In August, forty-seven counties posted jobless rates at or below six percent. No county reported a rate above ten percent, compared to two counties above ten percent last month.

Compared to August 2014, unemployment rates are down in 74 counties. Only one county, Mississippi County, posted an increase over the year.

Rank	County	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14	Rank	County	Aug 15	Jul 15	Aug 14
6	Arkansas	4.1	4.9	5.1	62	Lee	6.8	8.1	7.4
69	Ashley	7.5	9.1	9.1	56	Lincoln	6.4	7.3	7.3
24	Baxter	5.1	6.3	6.5	32	Little River	5.3	6.4	6.5
2	Benton	3.6	4.4	4.7	42	Logan	6.0	7.2	6.2
17	Boone	4.9	5.8	6.0	6	Lonoke	4.1	4.7	5.2
50	Bradley	6.2	7.0	8.5	4	Madison	3.7	4.4	4.7
40	Calhoun	5.9	6.8	6.7	15	Marion	4.8	6.0	6.3
2	Carroll	3.6	4.5	4.4	21	Miller	5.0	6.1	6.0
74	Chicot	8.6	10.2	10.2	75	Mississippi	9.5	10.9	8.9
36	Clark	5.7	6.5	7.3	40	Monroe	5.9	7.0	7.1
50	Clay	6.2	7.7	7.6	54	Montgomery	6.3	7.1	7.5
58	Cleburne	6.6	7.8	7.8	24	Nevada	5.1	6.1	6.2
34	Cleveland	5.6	6.5	6.6	13	Newton	4.7	6.3	6.0
63	Columbia	6.9	7.8	7.3	48	Ouachita	6.1	7.3	7.7
50	Conway	6.2	7.0	6.5	36	Perry	5.7	6.7	7.2
8	Craighead	4.3	5.1	5.3	70	Phillips	7.6	8.8	9.5
28	Crawford	5.2	6.0	5.9	42	Pike	6.0	7.5	6.9
42	Crittenden	6.0	7.0	6.8	28	Poinsett	5.2	6.0	6.6
32	Cross	5.3	6.3	6.3	38	Polk	5.8	6.7	6.6
64	Dallas	7.0	8.2	9.3	34	Pope	5.6	6.6	6.8
67	Desha	7.3	8.8	7.5	10	Prairie	4.4	5.5	5.9
60	Drew	6.7	8.1	8.7	11	Pulaski	4.5	5.3	5.6
12	Faulkner	4.6	5.3	5.4	50	Randolph	6.2	7.6	7.4
21	Franklin	5.0	6.0	5.6	71	St. Francis	7.7	8.8	8.7
17	Fulton	4.9	6.1	5.9	5	Saline	3.9	4.6	4.9
28	Garland	5.2	6.0	6.2	17	Scott	4.9	5.9	5.2
8	Grant	4.3	5.1	5.4	28	Searcy	5.2	6.4	6.1
24	Greene	5.1	6.2	6.2	13	Sebastian	4.7	5.4	5.5
21	Hempstead	5.0	6.0	5.8	42	Sevier	6.0	6.7	6.9
17	Hot Spring	4.9	6.0	5.7	60	Sharp	6.7	7.7	8.3
15	Howard	4.8	5.6	5.3	38	Stone	5.8	7.0	7.6
65	Independence	7.1	7.4	8.1	58	Union	6.6	7.5	7.7
65	Izard	7.1	8.0	7.6	57	Van Buren	6.5	7.7	7.7
68	Jackson	7.4	8.6	8.8	1	Washington	3.5	4.1	4.4
73	Jefferson	7.8	8.8	8.7	42	White	6.0	7.0	6.9
42	Johnson	6.0	7.5	6.9	54	Woodruff	6.3	7.2	7.3
71	Lafayette	7.7	9.4	7.9	24	Yell	5.1	6.3	5.8
48	Lawrence	6.1	7.3	7.3					

Lowest Rates

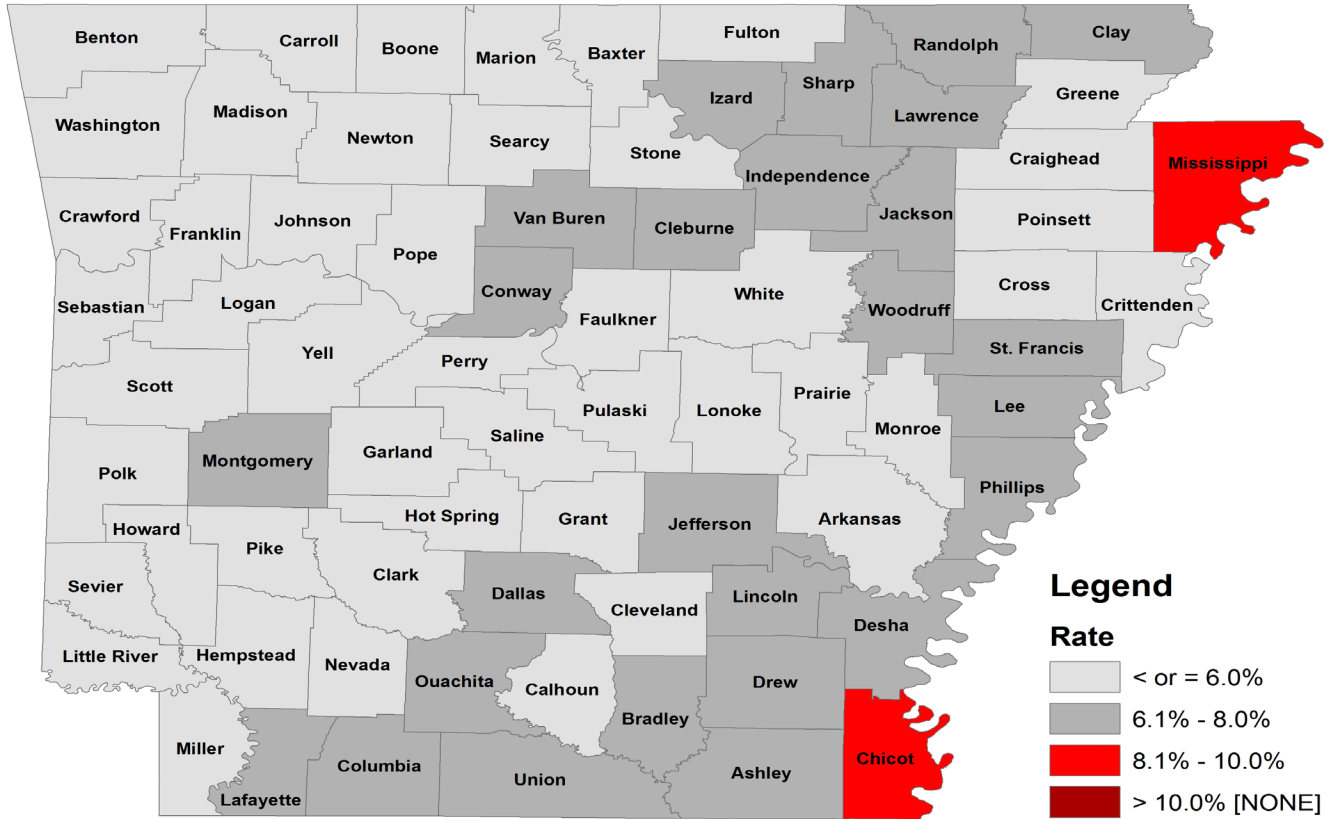
Rank	County	Rate
1	Washington	3.5
2	Benton	3.6
2	Carroll	3.6
4	Madison	3.7
5	Saline	3.9

Highest Rates

Rank	County	Rate
71	Lafayette	7.7
71	St. Francis	7.7
73	Jefferson	7.8
74	Chicot	8.6
75	Mississippi	9.5

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 2014 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 2015

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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