

Arkansas Labor Market

December 2015

Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Drops to 4.8 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 2,600 in December

Employment Quick Facts

Unemployment Rates

Seasonally Adjusted

	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.0	5.7
US Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.0	5.6

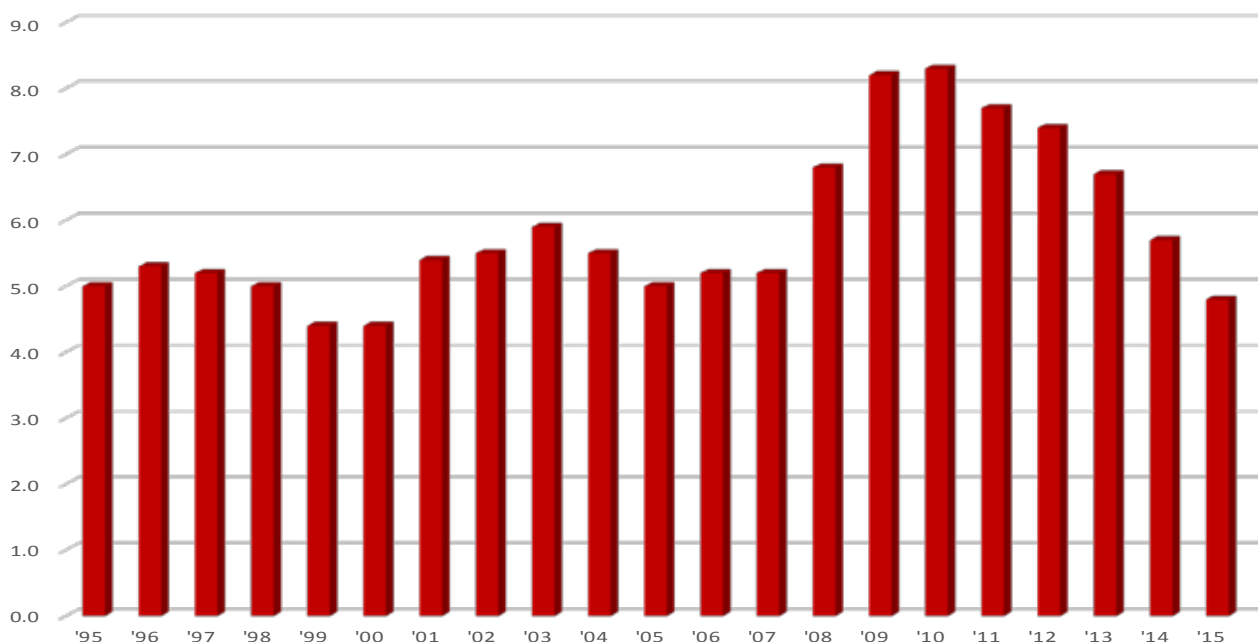
Nonfarm Payroll Summary

State of Arkansas

	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,227,900	1,225,300	1,208,400
Goods Producing	213,800	212,400	213,800
Service Providing	1,014,100	1,012,900	994,600

Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)

State of Arkansas
December: 1995 - 2015



Nonfarm Payroll Employment

State of Arkansas

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

November 2015 - December 2015

Nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas rose 2,600 in December to total 1,227,900. Six major industry sectors added jobs, while five sectors slightly declined. The largest increase occurred in **trade, transportation, and utilities** (+2,500). Gains in retail trade (+1,300) reflected seasonal hiring for the holiday shopping season. **Manufacturing** added 1,300 jobs. A majority of the increase was in nondurable goods manufacturing (+1,000), with hiring reported in food manufacturing.

December 2014 - December 2015

Compared to December 2014, Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment rose 19,500. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, with five adding 1,500 or more jobs, each. Three sectors decreased over the year. Employment in **educational and health services** increased 7,000. Gains in health care and social assistance (+7,400) more than offset minor declines in educational services (-400). **Professional and business services** added 6,400 jobs, with expansions across all three subsectors. Jobs in construction rose 5,300, all in specialty trade contractors (+6,400). Employment in **leisure and hospitality** is up 2,800, mostly in food services (+2,300). **Other services** increased 1,500. The industry includes activities such as laundry services and membership organizations. Employment in **manufacturing** decreased 4,500. Most of the losses were reported in durable goods manufacturing, down 3,800.

(NAICS)	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Total Nonfarm	1,227,900	1,225,300	1,208,400
Goods Producing	213,800	212,400	213,800
Mining & Logging	8,100	8,200	8,900
Construction	52,800	52,600	47,500
Specialty Trade Contractors	36,200	35,200	29,800
Manufacturing	152,900	151,600	157,400
Durable Goods	74,300	74,000	78,100
Nondurable Goods	78,600	77,600	79,300
Service Providing	1,014,100	1,012,900	994,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	253,600	251,100	252,900
Wholesale Trade	47,900	47,800	47,200
Retail Trade	140,700	139,400	140,000
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	65,000	63,900	65,700
Information	14,100	14,000	13,500
Financial Activities	50,700	51,200	49,800
Finance & Insurance	37,700	38,200	37,000
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,000	13,000	12,800
Professional & Business Services	140,200	140,500	133,800
Professional, Scientific & Technical	42,200	41,200	40,300
Management of Companies	35,400	35,000	33,300
Administrative & Support Services	62,600	64,300	60,200
Educational & Health Services	181,400	181,100	174,400
Educational Services	14,200	14,400	14,600
Health Care & Social Assistance	167,200	166,700	159,800
Ambulatory Health Care	52,800	52,100	50,200
Social Assistance	39,300	39,400	37,500
Leisure & Hospitality	111,700	112,300	108,900
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	9,900	10,100	9,500
Accommodation & Food Services	101,800	102,200	99,400
Accommodation Services	10,600	10,900	10,500
Food Services	91,200	91,300	88,900
Other Services	45,400	44,900	43,900
Government	217,000	217,800	217,400
Federal Government	20,700	20,400	20,500
State Government	79,800	80,600	79,200
Local Government	116,500	116,800	117,700

Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

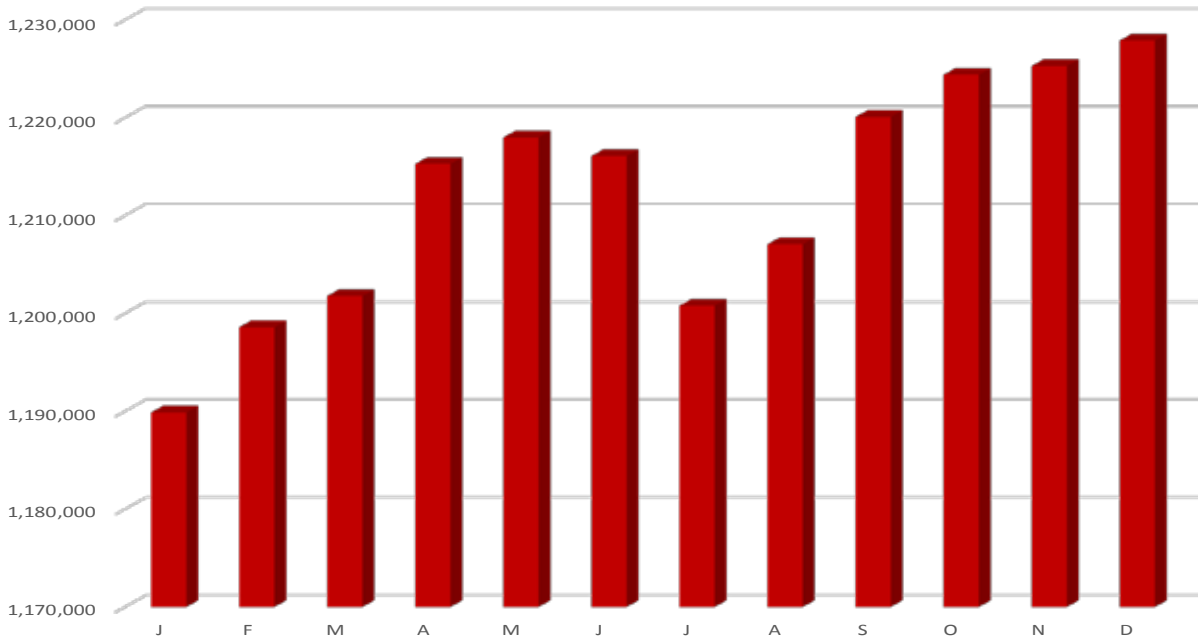
	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Manufacturing	\$667.07	\$663.32	\$678.94	40.7	41.2	41.5	\$16.39	\$16.10	\$16.36
Durable Goods	725.83	708.88	726.38	41.1	40.6	40.9	17.66	17.46	17.76
Nondurable Goods	610.55	620.31	633.61	40.3	41.8	42.1	15.15	14.84	15.05

Spotlight

The Year in Review

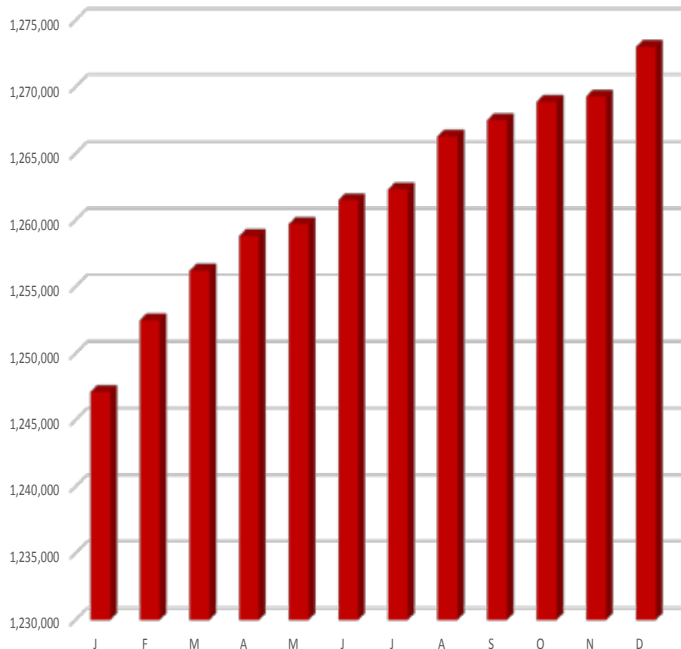
In 2015, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas ranged from a low of 1,189,900 in January to a high of 1,227,900 in December. Arkansas' preliminary annual average nonfarm employment for 2015 is 1,212,100, notably higher than the 2014 average of 1,188,800.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs (Not Seasonally Adjusted)
January 2015 - December 2015

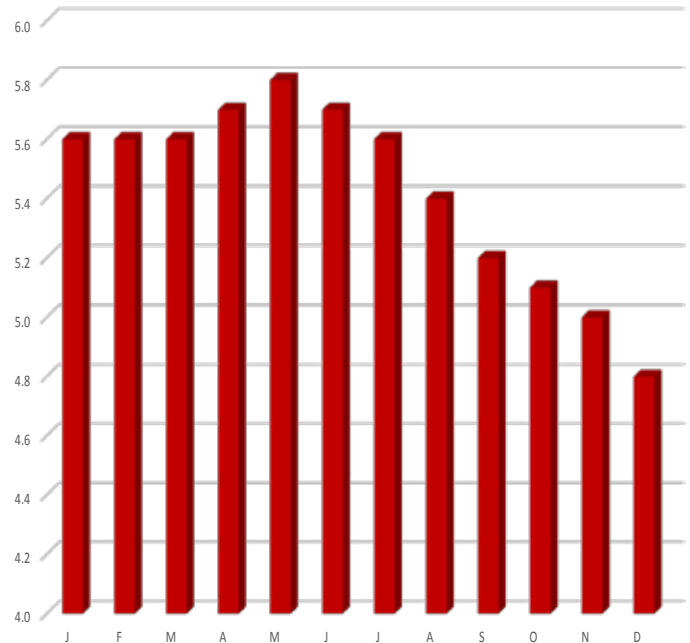


In 2015, the number of employed in Arkansas steadily increased, ranging from a low of 1,247,100 in January to a high of 1,273,000 in December. Dropping throughout the second half of the year, unemployment rates in Arkansas declined from a high of 5.8 percent in May to a low of 4.8 percent in December.

Number of Employed (Seasonally Adjusted)
January 2015 - December 2015



Unemployment Rates (Seasonally Adjusted)
January 2015 - December 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

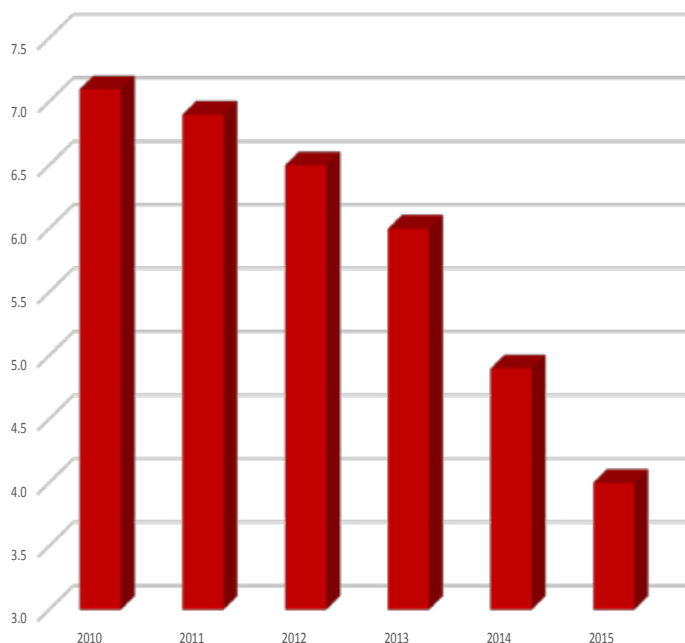
NAICS	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Total Nonfarm	353,900	355,200	350,100
Goods Producing	38,000	38,500	37,500
Mining, Logging & Construction	17,800	18,400	17,100
Manufacturing	20,200	20,100	20,400
Service Providing	315,900	316,700	312,600
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	68,500	67,600	68,700
Wholesale Trade	14,800	14,700	15,000
Retail Trade	39,600	39,100	39,200
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,100	13,800	14,500
Information	6,600	6,600	6,700
Financial Activities	20,900	20,900	20,700
Professional & Business Services	44,900	45,200	44,600
Educational & Health Services	52,800	53,200	51,700
Leisure & Hospitality	33,800	34,900	32,300
Other Services	16,400	16,300	16,100
Government	72,000	72,000	71,800
Federal Government	9,900	9,800	9,700
State Government	34,900	35,000	34,600
Local Government	27,200	27,200	27,500

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Civilian Labor Force	347,725	349,300	338,350
Employment	333,750	335,725	321,750
Unemployment	13,975	13,575	16,600
Unemployment Rate	4.0	3.9	4.9

Unemployment Rates December: 2010 - 2015



Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

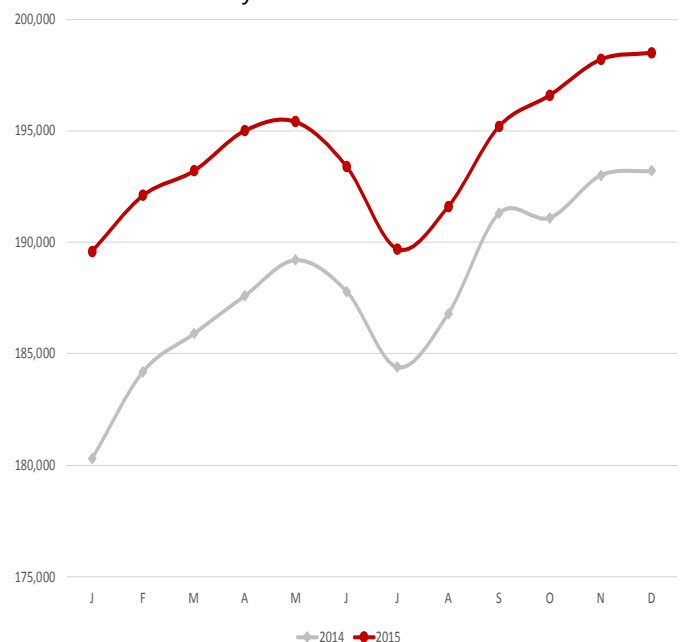
NAICS	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Total Nonfarm	234,100	233,700	229,300
Goods Producing	35,600	35,500	36,100
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,800	8,700	8,500
Manufacturing	26,800	26,800	27,600
Service Providing	198,500	198,200	193,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	53,200	52,400	52,400
Wholesale Trade	11,200	11,200	10,900
Retail Trade	26,100	25,400	25,600
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,900	15,800	15,900
Information	2,000	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	6,900	7,000	6,900
Professional & Business Services	46,000	45,600	45,300
Educational & Health Services	25,900	25,900	25,000
Leisure & Hospitality	23,900	24,100	22,100
Other Services	6,800	6,800	6,600
Government	33,800	34,500	33,000
Federal Government	2,600	2,600	2,600
State Government	13,000	13,700	12,300
Local Government	18,200	18,200	18,100

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Civilian Labor Force	250,350	249,875	241,450
Employment	242,325	242,050	231,800
Unemployment	8,025	7,825	9,650
Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.1	4.0

Jobs in Service Providing Industries January 2014 - December 2015



Metropolitan Statistical Areas

Fort Smith MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

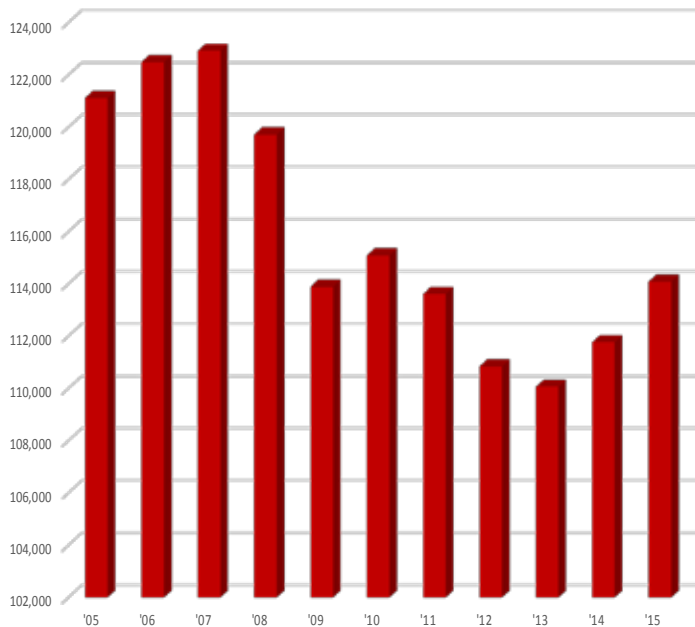
NAICS	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Total Nonfarm	112,600	112,700	113,800
Goods Producing	24,100	23,800	25,300
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,000	6,000	7,000
Manufacturing	18,100	17,800	18,300
Service Providing	88,500	88,900	88,500
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,400	23,300	23,700
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,300	4,300
Retail Trade	12,300	12,300	12,300
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,800	6,700	7,100
Information	1,200	1,200	1,200
Financial Activities	3,800	3,800	3,900
Professional & Business Services	12,500	12,600	12,200
Educational & Health Services	16,700	16,800	16,200
Leisure & Hospitality	8,300	8,500	8,800
Other Services	4,400	4,400	4,200
Government	18,200	18,300	18,300
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,300
State Government	3,200	3,200	3,200
Local Government	13,700	13,800	13,800

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

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Civilian Labor Force	120,225	120,450	118,325
Employment	114,100	114,350	111,800
Unemployment	6,125	6,100	6,525
Unemployment Rate	5.1	5.1	5.5

Number of Employed
December: 2005 - 2015



Hot Springs MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Total Nonfarm	38,600	38,400	38,000
Goods Producing	4,300	4,400	4,300
Service Providing	34,300	34,000	33,700
Government	4,700	4,800	4,800

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Civilian Labor Force	40,850	40,575	39,625
Employment	38,825	38,600	37,250
Unemployment	2,025	1,975	2,375
Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.9	6.0

Jonesboro MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Total Nonfarm	56,500	56,700	54,800
Goods Producing	9,000	9,200	9,000
Service Providing	47,500	47,500	45,800
Government	9,100	9,200	9,000

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Civilian Labor Force	62,875	62,850	60,425
Employment	60,350	60,400	57,375
Unemployment	2,525	2,450	3,050
Unemployment Rate	4.0	3.9	5.1

Pine Bluff MSA

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Total Nonfarm	31,900	32,000	34,300
Goods Producing	5,300	5,400	6,600
Service Providing	26,600	26,600	27,700
Government	9,500	9,500	9,700

The PB MSA consists of the following counties:

Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	Dec 15	Nov 15	Dec 14
Civilian Labor Force	34,775	34,750	36,600
Employment	32,450	32,550	33,875
Unemployment	2,325	2,200	2,725
Unemployment Rate	6.7	6.4	7.4

Civilian Labor Force Statistics

State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>OTM</u>	<u>OTY</u>
Civilian Labor Force	1,337,500	1,336,100	1,312,400	1,400	25,100	1,332,400	1,331,100	1,304,100	1,300	28,300
Employment	1,273,000	1,269,300	1,238,100	3,700	34,900	1,271,000	1,272,100	1,231,900	-1,100	39,100
Unemployment	64,500	66,800	74,300	-2,300	-9,800	61,400	59,000	72,200	2,400	-10,800
Unemployment Rate	4.8	5.0	5.7	-0.2	-0.9	4.6	4.4	5.5	0.2	-0.9
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.0	5.6	0.0	-0.6	4.8	4.8	5.4	0.0	-0.6

Out-of-State MSAs

Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>
Civilian Labor Force	621,675	614,100	602,175
Employment	583,675	576,925	559,875
Unemployment	38,000	37,175	42,300
Unemployment Rate	6.1	6.1	7.0

Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>
Civilian Labor Force	63,075	63,050	64,375
Employment	60,150	60,025	60,925
Unemployment	2,925	3,025	3,450
Unemployment Rate	4.6	4.8	5.3

Unemployment Rates by County

Between November and December, unemployment rates increased in 63 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Three counties declined, while nine others remained stable.

In December, fifty-one counties posted jobless rates at or below six percent. For the fifth straight month, no county reported a rate at or above ten percent.

Compared to December 2014, unemployment rates are down in 73 Arkansas counties. No county posted an over-the-year increase. Two counties-- Calhoun and Columbia-- remained the same.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Dec 15</u>	<u>Nov 15</u>	<u>Dec 14</u>
9	Arkansas	4.1	4.1	4.7	50	Lee	6.0	5.6	7.4
67	Ashley	6.8	6.5	8.4	55	Lincoln	6.2	6.0	6.5
34	Baxter	5.2	4.9	6.3	34	Little River	5.2	5.0	6.9
2	Benton	3.3	3.2	4.1	34	Logan	5.2	5.3	5.4
15	Boone	4.5	4.2	5.5	5	Lonoke	3.8	3.6	4.7
29	Bradley	5.0	5.0	6.9	3	Madison	3.4	3.4	4.2
44	Calhoun	5.6	5.2	5.6	26	Marion	4.9	4.6	5.9
20	Carroll	4.7	3.9	5.7	26	Miller	4.9	4.7	5.5
75	Chicot	7.9	7.7	10.3	73	Mississippi	7.4	8.0	8.0
15	Clark	4.5	4.5	5.6	50	Monroe	6.0	6.3	7.0
72	Clay	7.1	6.3	7.8	60	Montgomery	6.5	6.1	7.7
62	Cleburne	6.6	6.2	7.4	13	Nevada	4.4	4.3	5.4
34	Cleveland	5.2	5.0	6.3	20	Newton	4.7	4.0	5.7
57	Columbia	6.3	5.7	6.3	52	Ouachita	6.1	5.6	6.9
46	Conway	5.7	5.7	6.2	48	Perry	5.8	5.3	7.2
5	Craighead	3.8	3.7	4.8	74	Phillips	7.5	7.4	8.4
24	Crawford	4.8	4.6	5.5	41	Pike	5.3	5.3	8.0
31	Crittenden	5.1	5.0	6.8	31	Poinsett	5.1	4.8	6.1
43	Cross	5.5	5.1	6.3	41	Polk	5.3	5.0	6.1
55	Dallas	6.2	6.0	8.5	34	Pope	5.2	4.7	5.6
67	Desha	6.8	6.6	8.7	17	Prairie	4.6	4.4	5.7
52	Drew	6.1	5.9	7.9	7	Pulaski	4.0	3.9	5.0
11	Faulkner	4.3	4.2	5.0	58	Randolph	6.4	6.0	8.4
20	Franklin	4.7	4.5	5.0	65	St. Francis	6.7	6.3	7.9
29	Fulton	5.0	4.6	5.6	4	Saline	3.6	3.5	4.4
26	Garland	4.9	4.9	6.0	9	Scott	4.1	4.0	4.4
11	Grant	4.3	3.9	4.8	31	Searcy	5.1	4.7	6.4
24	Greene	4.8	4.6	5.7	17	Sebastian	4.6	4.4	5.1
13	Hempstead	4.4	4.3	6.7	44	Sevier	5.6	5.1	7.1
17	Hot Spring	4.6	4.5	5.2	62	Sharp	6.6	6.2	8.0
7	Howard	4.0	3.9	8.4	52	Stone	6.1	5.6	7.4
58	Independence	6.4	6.2	7.0	46	Union	5.7	5.5	6.9
62	Izard	6.6	6.2	7.5	65	Van Buren	6.7	6.2	7.5
71	Jackson	7.0	6.4	9.6	1	Washington	3.0	3.0	3.8
69	Jefferson	6.9	6.6	7.7	49	White	5.9	5.6	6.6
34	Johnson	5.2	4.8	5.9	60	Woodruff	6.5	6.3	7.1
69	Lafayette	6.9	6.9	7.1	20	Yell	4.7	4.4	5.1
34	Lawrence	5.2	4.9	6.7					

Lowest Rates

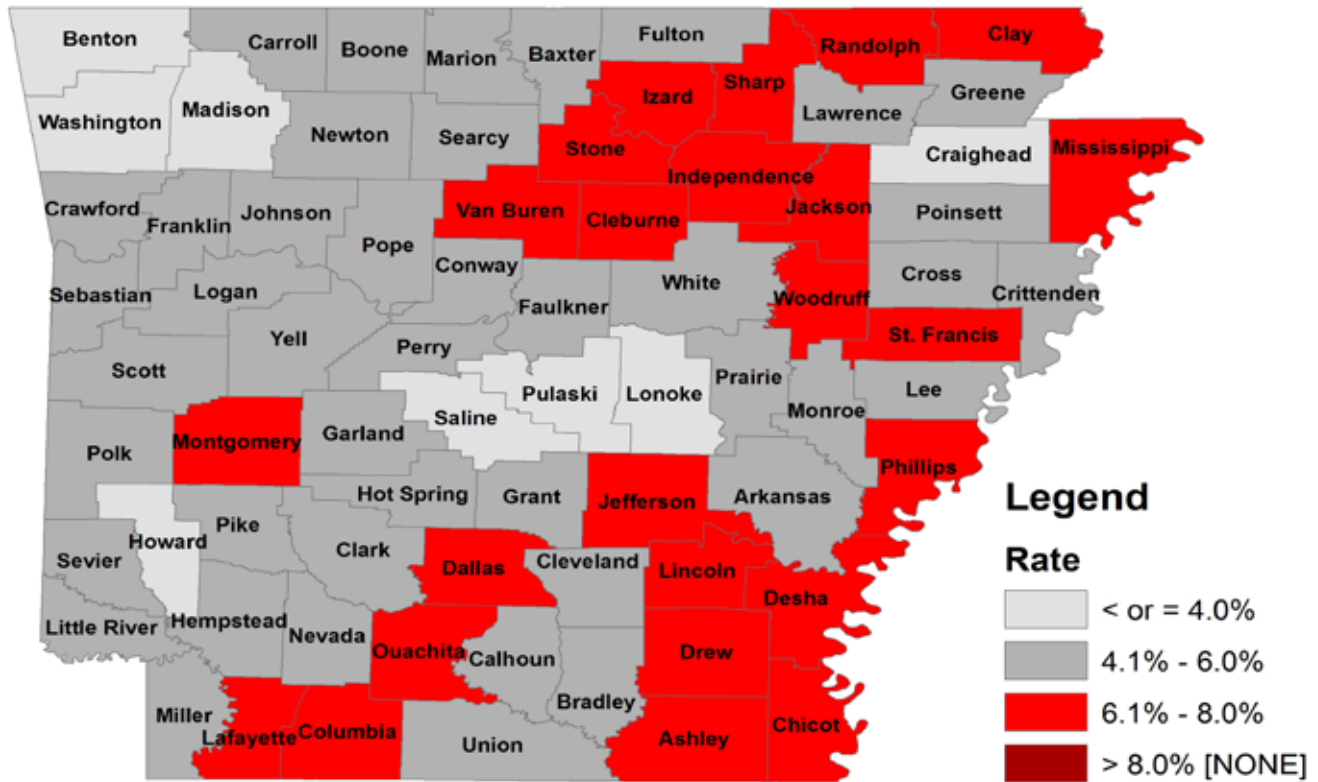
<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
1	Washington	3.0
2	Benton	3.3
3	Madison	3.4
4	Saline	3.6
5	Craighead	3.8
5	Lonoke	3.8

Highest Rates

<u>Rank</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Rate</u>
72	Clay	7.1
73	Mississippi	7.4
74	Phillips	7.5
75	Chicot	7.9

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 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

December 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.

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

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