

# Arkansas Labor Market

## May 2015

### Employment Headlines

Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Remains Stable at 5.7 Percent

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs Up 3,000 in May

### Employment Quick Facts

#### Unemployment Rates

*Seasonally Adjusted*

	<u>May 15</u>	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>May 14</u>
AR Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.7	6.2
US Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.4	6.3

#### Nonfarm Payroll Summary

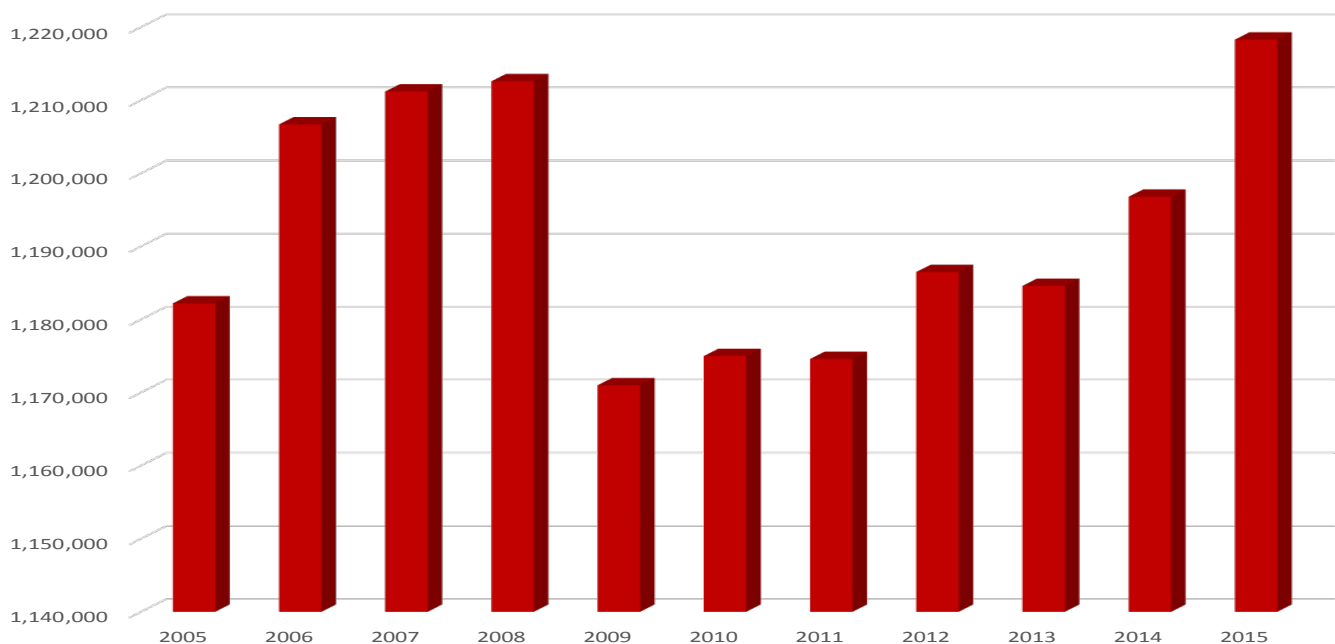
*State of Arkansas*

	<u>May 15</u>	<u>Apr 15</u>	<u>May 14</u>
Total Nonfarm	1,218,300	1,215,300	1,196,800
Goods Producing	211,600	210,800	208,900
Service Providing	1,006,700	1,004,500	987,900

#### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

State of Arkansas

May: 2005 - 2015



# Nonfarm Payroll Employment

## State of Arkansas

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

#### April 2015 - May 2015

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment gained 3,000 in May to total 1,218,300. Six major industry sectors added jobs, while three sectors declined. **Leisure and hospitality** posted the largest increase (+1,400). Most of the gains occurred in arts, entertainment, and recreation (+1,000), a typical seasonal expansion. Jobs in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 1,000. Seasonal hiring in retail trade (+1,100) accounted for a majority of the increase. Employment in **government** declined 1,100. State government (-1,700) losses were related to the start of summer break at state colleges and universities, while local government (+900) added temporary summer employment.

#### May 2014 - May 2015

Compared to May 2014, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas are up 21,500. Eight major industry sectors posted growth, with five sectors adding 2,300 or more jobs, each. Employment in **leisure and hospitality** rose 6,100. Most of the expansion occurred in food services (+5,300). **Trade, transportation, and utilities** gained 5,400 jobs. Additions were posted across all sub-sectors. Jobs in **educational and health services** increased 3,700. All growth was reported in health care and social assistance (+3,800). **Construction** rose 2,300, mostly in specialty trade contractors (+2,200).

(NAICS)	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	1,218,300	1,215,300	1,196,800
<b>Goods Producing</b>	211,600	210,800	208,900
<b>Mining &amp; Logging</b>	8,500	8,500	8,900
<b>Construction</b>	48,400	47,700	46,100
Specialty Trade Contractors	31,100	31,600	28,900
<b>Manufacturing</b>	154,700	154,600	153,900
Durable Goods	76,900	77,000	76,300
Nondurable Goods	77,800	77,600	77,600
<b>Service Providing</b>	1,006,700	1,004,500	987,900
<b>Trade, Transportation &amp; Utilities</b>	249,100	248,100	243,700
Wholesale Trade	48,800	48,700	46,800
Retail Trade	137,500	136,400	135,500
Transport, Warehousing & Utilities	62,800	63,000	61,400
<b>Information</b>	13,700	13,600	13,700
<b>Financial Activities</b>	50,500	50,700	49,800
Finance & Insurance	37,600	37,900	36,800
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	12,900	12,800	13,000
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	138,600	138,000	135,600
Professional, Scientific & Technical	39,800	40,200	40,400
Management of Companies	33,600	33,400	32,100
Administrative & Support Services	65,200	64,400	63,100
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	176,700	176,700	173,000
Educational Services	14,300	14,600	14,400
Health Care & Social Assistance	162,400	162,100	158,600
Ambulatory Health Care	50,300	50,000	49,200
Social Assistance	38,900	38,800	37,200
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	116,800	115,400	110,700
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	12,500	11,500	11,700
Accommodation & Food Services	104,300	103,900	99,000
Accommodation Services	11,200	10,800	11,200
Food Services	93,100	93,100	87,800
<b>Other Services</b>	44,300	43,900	44,000
<b>Government</b>	217,000	218,100	217,400
Federal Government	20,100	20,400	20,100
State Government	78,700	80,400	78,200
Local Government	118,200	117,300	119,100

## Hours and Earnings of Arkansas Production Workers (Manufacturing Industries)

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May 15	Apr 15	May 14	May 15	Apr 15	May 14	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
<b>Manufacturing</b>	\$652.86	\$655.69	\$630.64	40.5	40.4	40.4	\$16.12	\$16.23	\$15.61
Durable Goods	693.62	700.93	676.37	39.5	39.4	41.7	17.56	17.79	16.22
Nondurable Goods	613.37	610.00	588.00	41.5	41.3	39.2	14.78	14.77	15.00

# Spotlight

## Business Employment Dynamics (BED)

Business Employment Dynamics, also known as BED statistics, are a relatively new employment statistic. BED is primarily concerned with tracking employment changes at the establishment level, meaning each individual business location.

BED statistics are linked closely to the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program and are calculated from quarterly reports provided by individual employers. Like QCEW data, BED statistics are produced on a quarterly basis, with longitudinal data dating back to 1992. At this time, BED data is only published at the national and state level. No statistics currently exist to provide data at the county or city levels in Arkansas.

### Gross Job Gains and Losses by Quarter (Private Sector)

State of Arkansas  
(Seasonally Adjusted)

3 months ended

Category	Sep 13	Dec 13	Mar 14	Jun 14	Sep 14*
Employment Levels					
Gross job gains.....	54,835	56,317	55,241	52,907	56,474
Gross job losses....	53,002	52,575	48,156	46,722	50,404
<b>Net Change.....</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>3,742</b>	<b>7,085</b>	<b>6,185</b>	<b>6,070</b>

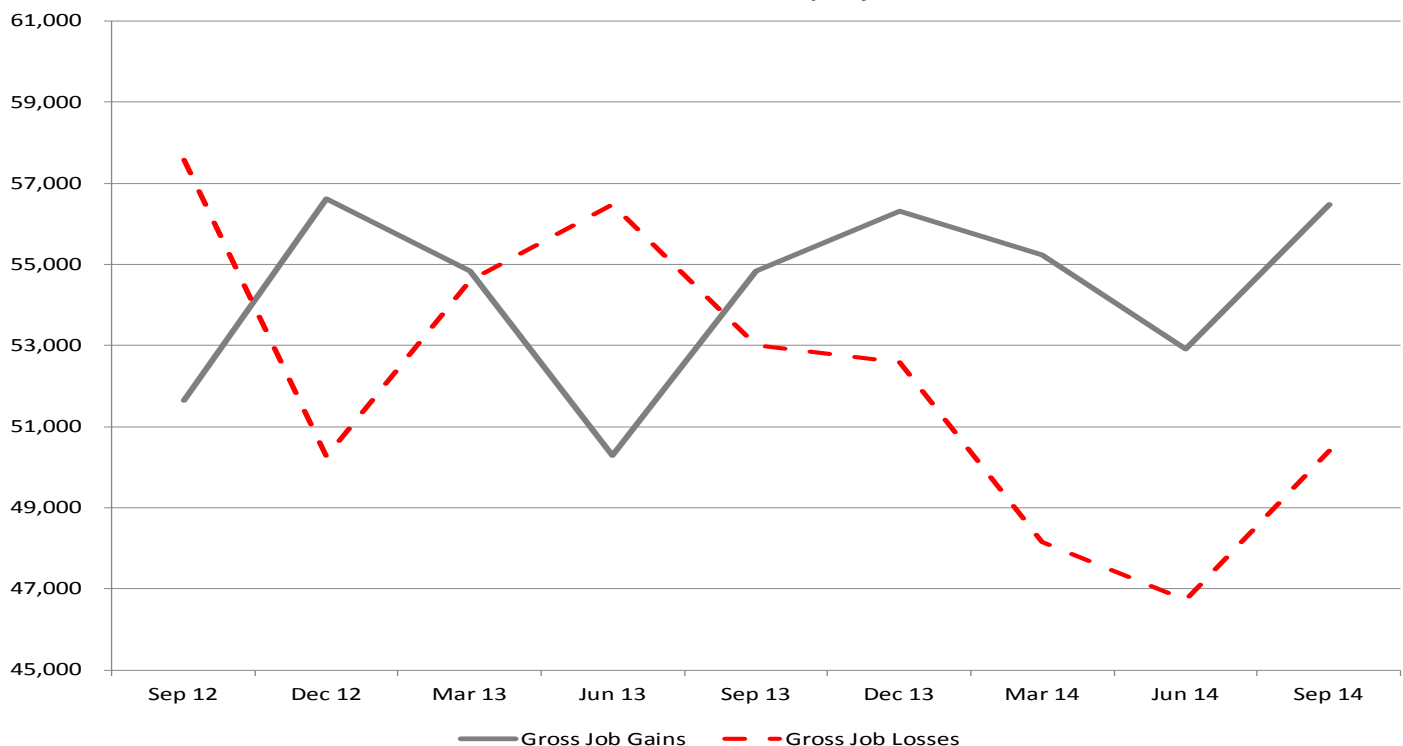
\*Most recent BED data available is for 3rd Quarter 2014

The information produced from BED statistics includes gross job gains and losses at establishments with changes in employment. These employment changes occur when establishments open/expand or close/contract. Gross job gains are a combination of jobs created from both openings of new businesses and expansions at existing businesses. Gross job losses are a combination of jobs lost from both existing businesses that close and those that reduce their number of employees. The net change is the difference between gross job gains and gross job losses.

The chart below shows gross job gains versus gross job losses for a nine quarter period (3rd Q 2012 through 3rd Q 2014).

### Gross Job Gains vs. Gross Job Losses (Private Sector)

State of Arkansas (Seasonally Adjusted)



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Little Rock-North Little Rock-Conway MSA

## Fayetteville-Springdale-Rogers MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Total Nonfarm	351,200	350,200	348,000
Goods Producing	37,800	37,200	35,800
Mining, Logging & Construction	17,500	16,900	15,900
Manufacturing	20,300	20,300	19,900
Service Providing	313,400	313,000	312,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	67,200	67,000	66,700
Wholesale Trade	15,000	15,000	15,100
Retail Trade	38,200	38,000	37,600
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	14,000	14,000	14,000
Information	6,600	6,600	6,600
Financial Activities	20,700	20,600	20,500
Professional & Business Services	45,100	44,700	46,100
Educational & Health Services	51,500	51,900	51,800
Leisure & Hospitality	34,200	33,900	33,200
Other Services	16,400	16,200	16,200
Government	71,700	72,100	71,100
Federal Government	9,800	10,000	9,500
State Government	34,300	34,700	33,900
Local Government	27,600	27,400	27,700

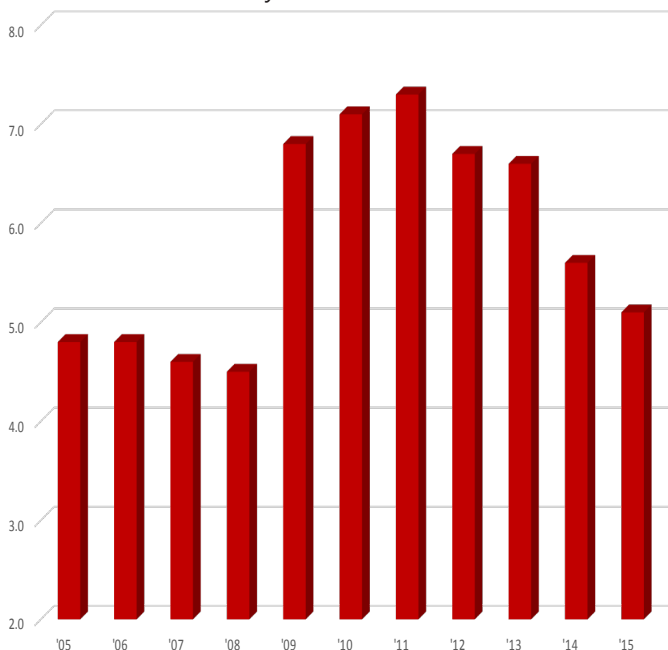
The LR-NLR-Conway MSA consists of the following counties:  
Faulkner, Grant, Lonoke, Perry, Pulaski, and Saline

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Civilian Labor Force	347,525	347,475	338,875
Employment	329,850	330,625	319,900
Unemployment	17,675	16,850	18,975
Unemployment Rate	5.1	4.8	5.6

### Unemployment Rates

May: 2005 - 2015



### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Total Nonfarm	231,400	230,800	225,100
Goods Producing	35,900	35,800	35,900
Mining, Logging & Construction	8,700	8,700	8,600
Manufacturing	27,200	27,100	27,300
Service Providing	195,500	195,000	189,200
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	51,600	51,500	49,400
Wholesale Trade	11,100	11,000	10,500
Retail Trade	24,700	24,700	23,700
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	15,800	15,800	15,200
Information	1,900	1,900	1,900
Financial Activities	6,900	7,000	6,700
Professional & Business Services	46,400	46,700	44,900
Educational & Health Services	25,100	25,100	24,500
Leisure & Hospitality	23,400	22,700	22,400
Other Services	6,700	6,700	6,700
Government	33,500	33,400	32,700
Federal Government	2,600	2,600	2,500
State Government	12,800	12,700	12,100
Local Government	18,100	18,100	18,100

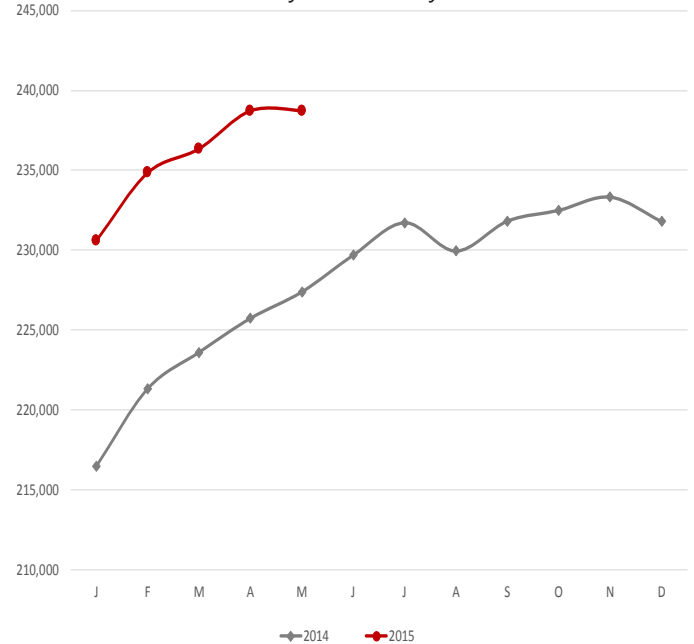
The FSR MSA consists of the following counties:  
Benton, Madison, Washington, and McDonald (in Missouri)

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Civilian Labor Force	249,500	248,650	238,650
Employment	238,725	238,725	227,400
Unemployment	10,775	9,925	11,250
Unemployment Rate	4.3	4.0	4.7

### Number of Employed

January 2014 - May 2015



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas

## Fort Smith MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Total Nonfarm	113,500	113,500	113,600
Goods Producing	24,100	24,200	24,600
Mining, Logging & Construction	6,100	6,100	6,500
Manufacturing	18,000	18,100	18,100
Service Providing	89,400	89,300	89,000
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	23,200	22,700	23,400
Wholesale Trade	4,300	4,300	4,300
Retail Trade	12,100	11,600	12,400
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	6,800	6,800	6,700
Information	1,200	1,200	1,300
Financial Activities	3,900	4,000	3,900
Professional & Business Services	12,900	13,000	12,000
Educational & Health Services	16,500	16,500	16,500
Leisure & Hospitality	8,900	9,100	9,300
Other Services	4,400	4,500	4,200
Government	18,400	18,300	18,400
Federal Government	1,300	1,300	1,300
State Government	3,200	3,200	3,200
Local Government	13,900	13,800	13,900

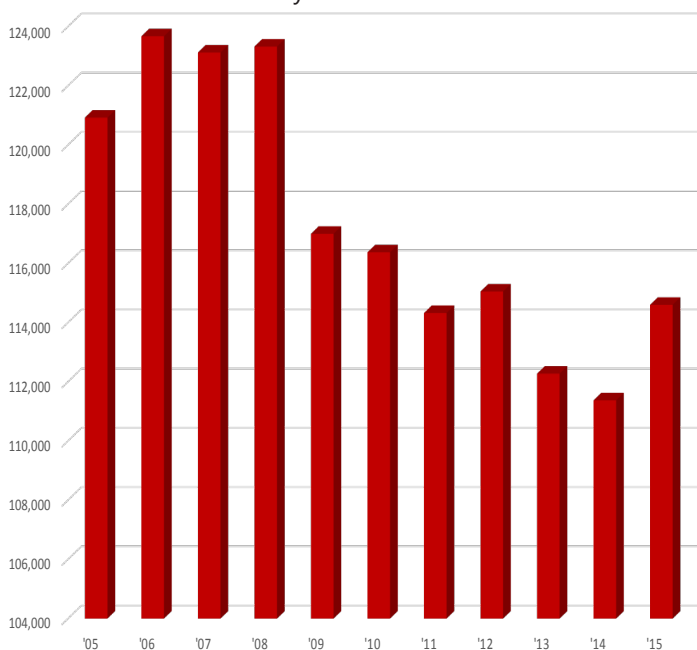
The FS MSA consists of the following counties: Crawford, and Sebastian, and LeFlore and Sequoyah (in Oklahoma)

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Civilian Labor Force	121,775	121,900	118,825
Employment	114,600	114,950	111,400
Unemployment	7,175	6,950	7,425
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.7	6.2

### Number of Employed

May: 2005 - 2015



## Hot Springs MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Total Nonfarm	38,900	38,600	38,400
Goods Producing	4,300	4,300	4,300
Service Providing	34,600	34,300	34,100
Government	4,700	4,700	4,700

The HS MSA consists of the following county: Garland

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Civilian Labor Force	41,350	41,075	40,025
Employment	38,925	38,750	37,525
Unemployment	2,425	2,325	2,500
Unemployment Rate	5.9	5.7	6.3

## Jonesboro MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Total Nonfarm	55,200	55,200	52,900
Goods Producing	8,800	8,800	8,600
Service Providing	46,400	46,400	44,300
Government	9,000	9,100	8,800

The Jonesboro MSA consists of the following counties:

Craighead and Poinsett

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Civilian Labor Force	62,025	61,900	58,600
Employment	58,925	58,950	55,250
Unemployment	3,100	2,950	3,350
Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.8	5.7

## Pine Bluff MSA

### Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

NAICS	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Total Nonfarm	32,600	33,000	34,200
Goods Producing	5,700	6,100	6,400
Service Providing	26,900	26,900	27,800
Government	9,600	9,600	9,900

The PB MSA consists of the following counties:

Cleveland, Jefferson, and Lincoln

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates

	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Civilian Labor Force	35,850	36,150	36,850
Employment	33,075	33,475	33,725
Unemployment	2,775	2,675	3,125
Unemployment Rate	7.7	7.4	8.4

# Civilian Labor Force Statistics

## State of Arkansas

(Seasonally Adjusted)

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	May 15	Apr 15	May 14	OTM	OTY	May 15	Apr 15	May 14	OTM	OTY
Civilian Labor Force	1,336,500	1,335,000	1,293,400	1,500	43,100	1,339,100	1,333,700	1,301,700	5,400	37,400
Employment	1,259,700	1,258,800	1,213,600	900	46,100	1,263,700	1,261,500	1,222,100	2,200	41,600
Unemployment	76,800	76,200	79,800	600	-3,000	75,400	72,200	79,600	3,200	-4,200
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.7	6.2	0.0	-0.5	5.6	5.4	6.1	0.2	-0.5
U.S. Unemployment Rate	5.5	5.4	6.3	0.1	-0.8	5.3	5.1	6.1	0.2	-0.8

## Out-of-State MSAs

### Memphis, Tennessee-Mississippi-Arkansas MSA

	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Civilian Labor Force	618,750	611,825	607,075
Employment	578,025	575,575	562,625
Unemployment	40,725	36,250	44,450
Unemployment Rate	6.6	5.9	7.3

### Texarkana, Texas-Arkansas MSA

	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
Civilian Labor Force	63,800	63,725	64,800
Employment	60,650	60,600	60,825
Unemployment	3,150	3,125	3,975
Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.9	6.2

## Unemployment Rates by County

Between April and May, unemployment rates increased in 49 of Arkansas' 75 counties. Twenty counties posted rate declines, while six were unchanged.

In May, thirty-three counties had jobless rates at or below six percent. For the second straight month, no county reported a rate above ten percent.

Compared to May 2014, unemployment rates are down in 67 Arkansas counties. Rates in five counties were up over-the-year, while three were stable.

Rank	County	May 15	Apr 15	May 14	Rank	County	May 15	Apr 15	May 14
3	Arkansas	4.4	4.3	5.4	49	Lee	6.8	7.2	7.4
68	Ashley	7.9	8.0	8.9	56	Lincoln	7.0	6.8	7.3
35	Baxter	6.2	6.1	6.6	25	Little River	5.8	5.7	6.4
2	Benton	4.3	4.1	4.6	49	Logan	6.8	6.5	6.2
23	Boone	5.7	5.4	6.0	6	Lonoke	4.7	4.5	5.4
47	Bradley	6.7	6.9	8.5	3	Madison	4.4	4.2	5.2
35	Calhoun	6.2	5.9	6.7	25	Marion	5.8	5.9	6.5
5	Carroll	4.6	4.9	4.8	19	Miller	5.5	5.6	6.0
74	Chicot	9.2	9.8	10.3	75	Mississippi	9.5	9.3	9.3
49	Clark	6.8	5.6	7.5	25	Monroe	5.8	5.9	6.1
46	Clay	6.6	6.9	7.2	56	Montgomery	7.0	7.0	8.2
62	Cleburne	7.4	7.5	8.3	15	Nevada	5.4	5.6	5.9
37	Cleveland	6.3	6.4	7.0	13	Newton	5.3	5.0	5.8
62	Columbia	7.4	6.6	7.6	58	Ouachita	7.1	7.2	8.2
47	Conway	6.7	6.4	7.2	38	Perry	6.4	6.4	7.5
9	Craighead	4.9	4.6	5.5	68	Phillips	7.9	7.8	9.2
31	Crawford	5.9	5.7	6.1	38	Pike	6.4	6.1	7.2
40	Crittenden	6.5	6.5	7.0	25	Poinsett	5.8	5.6	6.8
25	Cross	5.8	5.9	6.2	40	Polk	6.5	6.1	6.5
68	Dallas	7.9	7.8	9.5	33	Pope	6.0	5.4	6.2
67	Desha	7.8	8.1	7.8	10	Prairie	5.0	4.9	5.9
62	Drew	7.4	7.2	8.2	12	Pulaski	5.1	4.9	5.7
13	Faulkner	5.3	5.0	5.8	60	Randolph	7.2	7.3	7.6
20	Franklin	5.6	5.5	6.2	66	St. Francis	7.6	7.5	8.6
25	Fulton	5.8	5.4	5.8	7	Saline	4.8	4.6	5.1
31	Garland	5.9	5.7	6.3	23	Scott	5.7	5.4	5.4
10	Grant	5.0	4.8	5.7	40	Searcy	6.5	6.4	6.2
15	Greene	5.4	5.5	6.3	15	Sebastian	5.4	5.4	5.8
15	Hempstead	5.4	5.3	6.0	34	Sevier	6.1	5.9	6.9
20	Hot Spring	5.6	5.3	5.9	62	Sharp	7.4	7.4	8.3
7	Howard	4.8	4.3	5.2	49	Stone	6.8	6.9	7.8
53	Independence	6.9	6.4	7.6	53	Union	6.9	6.7	7.4
58	Izard	7.1	6.9	7.2	60	Van Buren	7.2	7.2	8.0
72	Jackson	8.1	8.4	8.8	1	Washington	4.2	3.8	4.7
71	Jefferson	8.0	7.6	8.8	53	White	6.9	6.7	7.2
40	Johnson	6.5	6.1	6.6	40	Woodruff	6.5	6.7	7.3
73	Lafayette	8.3	8.0	7.7	20	Yell	5.6	5.4	5.7
40	Lawrence	6.5	6.3	7.0					

### Lowest Rates

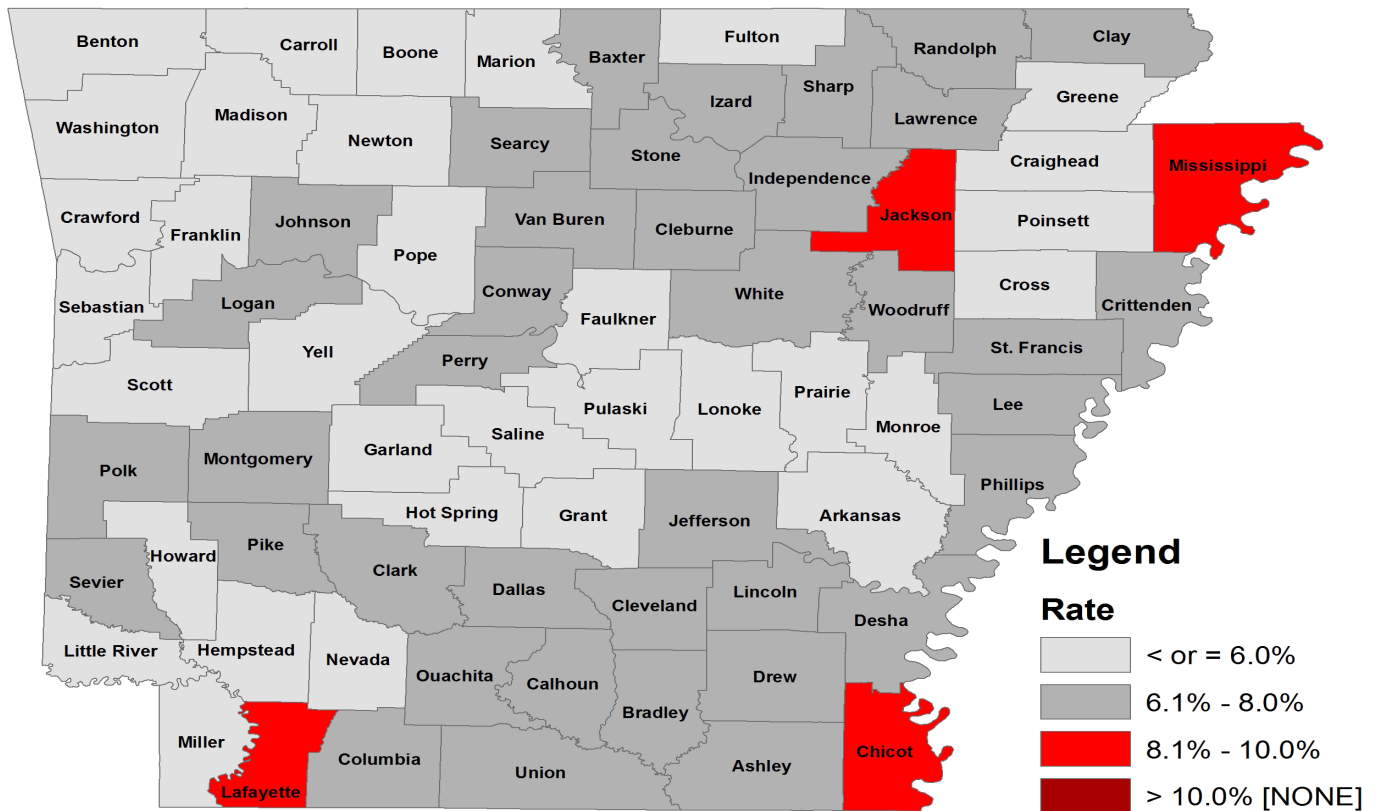
Rank	County	Rate
1	Washington	4.2
2	Benton	4.3
3	Arkansas	4.4
3	Madison	4.4
5	Carroll	4.6

### Highest Rates

Rank	County	Rate
71	Jefferson	8.0
72	Jackson	8.1
73	Lafayette	8.3
74	Chicot	9.2
75	Mississippi	9.5

# 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 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

## May 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.

Voice: 1-800-285-1121

TDD: 1-800-285-1131

Asa Hutchinson- Governor

Daryl Bassett- DWS Director



Department of Workforce Services  
Bureau of Labor Statistics  
P.O. Box 2981  
Little Rock, AR 72203-2981